

March 2024

The community magazine of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

# Stockton- on-Tees

## News

[www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton-on-tees-news](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton-on-tees-news)



Stockton-on-Tees  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



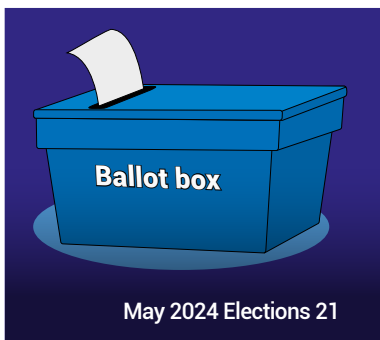
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# Welcome to the March edition of Stockton-on-Tees News.

It is a really challenging time for our communities and our public services. However, we are still ambitious for our Borough and our residents and that's why we are confident that we can work with our communities and partners in new ways through our Powering our Future programme, to reshape what we do to make sure we can continue to improve the lives of our residents whilst also saving money. You can read more about how we are doing this on page 22.

To make sure that we change what we do for the better, it is really important that we involve residents. One of the ways we are doing this already is by setting up a "Making it Real Board." This group is made up of people who have or will, access Council adults and health services. They will have a big say on improving and developing services. They met for the first time a few weeks ago. Turn to page 4 to find out more.

It's a really exciting time for the regeneration of our towns. Turn to pages 10, 11 and 12 to read about the next stage of the Stockton Waterfront development and how Billingham is set to be transformed following £20million of funding from the Government Levelling Up fund.

Its set to be another great year with an exciting line up of events planned across the Borough. Find out what is happening near you in our Enjoy Stockton-on-Tees Guide on pages 16, 17 and 18.

Plans to create an ambitious Care and Health Innovation Zone at Teesdale have taken a step forward with the development of a masterplan for the area. You can find out more about these exciting plans and what's next on page 20.

On Thursday 2 May, the Tees Valley Combined Authority Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner elections will take place in Stockton-on-Tees. Don't forget you need to be registered to vote and you will need to bring an accepted form of ID to the polling station. You can find out more about the election and what you need to know on page 21.

Finally, did you know you can receive Council news direct to your inbox? By signing up to the My Council e-newsletter we will send you all of the latest news, events and happenings across the borough. To learn how to sign up turn to page 24.

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Stockton-on-Tees News is published by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and distributed to households across the Borough free of charge. If you have not received a copy please email [snews@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:snews@stockton.gov.uk) or call **01642 528146**.

Alternatively, if you need to contact Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, please call **01642 393939**.

Stockton-on-Tees News aims to provide information about the Council, its partner organisations, local community groups and businesses. Every effort is made to ensure all information is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. We always welcome your views, comments and feedback about the magazine.

Stockton-on-Tees News is produced by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Communications Team and designed by Twentyseven Design. Pictures are courtesy of Stuart Boulton, Dave Charnley, Gilbert Johnston, Dawn McNamara and others.

Front cover image of Yarm Viaduct courtesy of Phillip Godfrey.

There is an audio version of Stockton-on-Tees News. Email [snews@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:snews@stockton.gov.uk) or call **01642 528146** to request a copy.

**Mike Greene**  
Chief Executive  
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council





## An award winning social work team

The Council has been nationally recognised as a great place to work for social workers. It scooped the 'Supportive Social Work Employer Award' at the recent Social Worker of the Year Awards.

Judges were impressed with comments including, "Employees speak of feeling valued and supported and being given the opportunity to progress through their career at the appropriate pace, with necessary peer support."

To find out about working for us and to keep up to date with the latest vacancies and opportunities to join our team, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/jobs-and-training)

## Extra funding for safer streets

The Stockton Town Centre and Ropner ward areas are benefitting from over £300,000 from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund.

The project aims to reduce levels of neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour.

The Safer Streets project will run until March 2025 and targets areas identified as crime and antisocial behaviour "hotspots" – neighbourhoods disproportionately and persistently affected by the types of crime covered by the fund.

Initiatives will include better street lighting, more CCTV, security measures for homeowners and education and empowerment sessions for vulnerable women and girls.



## Heroic enforcement officers help save man's life

Two enforcement officers have been hailed as heroes after helping save a man's life on Stockton High Street.

Billy Stockton was visiting Stockton town centre before Christmas when he began to feel unwell. After being helped by enforcement officers Graeme Baverstock and Germaine Pereira (pictured), Billy's condition quickly deteriorated and he became unresponsive. Graeme and Germaine acted very quickly, with Germaine administering CPR whilst Graeme ran to collect a nearby defibrillator. After Billy was given several shocks on the defibrillator by Graeme, an ambulance crew arrived on scene.

Remarkably, Billy was already responsive by the time he got into the ambulance. And we are extremely pleased to report that he is now back home and continuing his recovery.

## Better Health at Work Award winners!

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has achieved the Better Health at Work Award (BHAWA), which recognises the efforts of employers in addressing health issues within the workplace, for a tenth consecutive year.

Feedback from the independent assessor said: "The Council has delivered a raft of activities across numerous topics, with a much-needed focus on financial wellbeing. This is alongside things like staff benefit platforms and in-person support at events and frontline workshops. Equality, diversity and inclusion was highlighted as another strong area for the Council, which now has eight diverse and representative network groups."

Awards have also been earned by Trade Interchange (bronze), Stagecoach (maintaining silver), Queensway (continuing excellence), Morrisons, ETC, GXO, Navigator Terminals, Sabic, and Suez (maintaining excellence).

BHAWA is free, flexible, and open to all employers in the Borough. For more information, visit: [www.betterhealthatworkaward.org.uk](http://www.betterhealthatworkaward.org.uk)

# Making it real



The Council will put communities at the heart of decision-making with the creation of a new board to help shape services it delivers.

The 'Making It Real Board' is made up of people with lived experience who have, or will, access Council adults and health services.

And the personal knowledge and first-hand involvement of board members will inform how services are improved and developed as well as 'reality check' any new proposals. As part of the Council's Powering our Future transformation programme the council wants to capture the experiences of communities to help inform how it works with people, the Making it Real Board is one way of doing that.

The development of the Making It Real Board is also being supported by partners, with funding secured from the NHS.

Members of the Making It Real Board

# Become a Shared Lives Carer

For Carolyn Brewster, being a 'Shared Lives' carer is "the best job in the world".

The Shared Lives scheme enables adults with additional needs to live in a supportive, welcoming home with a host family on a short or long-term basis.

And Carolyn said: "If you've got the time, love, patience, and commitment, go for it."

"We do everything like any other family. There are times when it's challenging, but we've got a great Shared Lives team who are only a phone call away if we need anything."

Shared Lives carers receive a generous allowance to open up their home and family life to someone who needs support either long-term or offering respite care.

For more information, and to watch our new Shared Lives video featuring Carolyn, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/shared-lives](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/shared-lives) or call 01642 524494.



# Information at your fingertips

The Stockton Information Directory (SID) has been given a fresh new look.

The online directory is an easy to use one-stop shop with information about services, advice and support for people living in the Borough.

So if you're looking for support with childcare, need signposting to health services, or looking for things to do across the Borough, it is all available on the SID.

Organisations and groups in the Borough can create a listing on the directory for free. Find out more at [www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org](http://www.stocktoninformationdirectory.org)



# Community Partnerships: Here to help

The seven Community Partnerships across Stockton-on-Tees are working to tackle poverty and isolation, and help our communities to be cohesive, strong and welcoming.

Over the last year the Community Partnerships have been running successful "Here to Help" drop-in events where you can get advice and support tailored to you from services and organisations operating in Stockton-on-Tees.

Residents could get advice for themselves, a family member, or someone they know who may be struggling with the cost of living. This included information relating to food prices, energy bills, the cost of renting, mortgage payments and benefits advice.

Following feedback from attendees at these events, in 2024 the team will be hosting 2 larger events with a focus on families and young people, and adults and wellbeing. The first of these bigger events will happen in the summer.



We will bring you more information in the next Stockton-on-Tees News, or you can follow your local Community Partnership on Facebook:

Billingham Communities: [@BillinghamCo](#)

Ingleby Barwick Communities: [@InglebyBarwickCo](#)

Norton Communities: [@NortonCo](#)

Stockton Central Communities: [@StocktonCentralCo](#)

Stockton Rural Communities: [@StocktonRuralCo](#)

Stockton West Communities: [@StocktonWestCo](#)

Thornaby Communities: [@ThornabyCo](#)

## Stockton-on-Tees Talks

A range of resources are available to help children across the Borough develop their communication skills before starting school.

The 'Stockton-on-Tees Talks' programme is led by the Council in partnership with Speech and Language UK and aims to help children with their talking and understanding of words.

Activities include Tots Talking, an eight-week programme delivered from our Family Hubs for parents and carers of two-year-olds. Parents attend weekly one-hour sessions without their child.

Families have described how they feel more confident in supporting their child's early language.

One Mum had a "daunting" feeling before attending, but "was eased by the welcoming environment and friendly parenting workers".

Tots Talking sessions include watching and discussing video clips, top tips, and activity ideas to make and play.

To find your nearest Family Hub and for more information on Stockton-on-Tees Talks:

[www.stockton.gov.uk/family-hubs](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/family-hubs)

[www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton-on-tees-talks](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton-on-tees-talks)





## Holidays Are Fun!

Eligible children across the Borough can enjoy a range of fun, free holiday activities throughout the May half-term and summer school holidays. Sports clubs, arts and crafts, film making, and many more exciting sessions are on offer.

It's an opportunity for children from reception class to Year 11 to try new things, learn new skills, make friends, and enjoy a nutritious meal each day too.

To be eligible, families must be in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, Universal Credit, or experiencing financial difficulties.

Find out more at [www.stockton.gov.uk/haf](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/haf), call 01642 527752 or email [HAF@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@stockton.gov.uk).

The programme is funded by the Department for Education and is delivered by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in partnership with Catalyst.



Mary (right) attending a Knit and Natter session.

## Care in our communities

Every day, home carers visit vulnerable residents across the Borough to help maintain their independence at home.

Home carers help with a range of daily living tasks, such as getting washed and dressed, preparing meals, laundry and shopping.

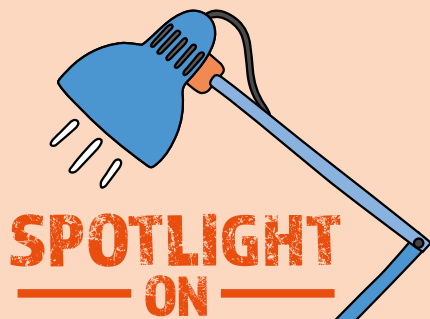
Comfort Call is one of the Council's commissioned providers and can also help people like Mary get out in the community.

Mary has learning disabilities and was keen to make some new friends, so the team referred her to the Council's STEPS service, who supported Mary to attend a local 'Knit and Natter' group and a cooking class.

This has made a big difference to Mary and she has made lots of new friends.

To find out more about adult social care support, contact our First Contact team on [FirstContactAdults@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:FirstContactAdults@stockton.gov.uk), or call 01642 527764.

If you would like a rewarding career in care, find out more at [www.stockton.gov.uk/asc-careers](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/asc-careers)


**HEADLIGHT PROJECT**


Katie Devereux, Project Lead and Counsellor at The Headlight Project.

In every issue of Stockton-on-Tees News we feature one organisation from the Borough's thriving voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector. In this issue, we're looking at The Headlight Project.

The Headlight Project aims to reduce the number of deaths by suicide in the Tees Valley area through therapy, preventative education, and training. We spoke with Katie Devereux, Project Lead and counsellor, about the charity.

"We have an established counselling service for adults and children, and we are currently developing a program of preventative education and training around suicide and suicide prevention," Katie said. "We are keen to develop more prevention services to help our local community with an understanding of suicide, its impact, and what we can do to help ourselves and others when struggling with mental health.

"There are so many things I love about the Headlight Project. I would say that

what I love most is its message of hope. Our charity was born out of the most tragic circumstances when in 2018 our founder Catherine lost her husband Russ to suicide.

"Cath was determined and passionate about setting something up to provide support to people experiencing a similar fate to her own. Out of the darkest of times the Headlight Project was born, with a message of hope at its core which emanates through every fibre of the charity. Our strapline is "A guiding light when the road ahead is dark" and it could not be more fitting to the charity.

"If anyone is unsure whether they can access support from us, I would always encourage them to get in touch for a discussion. If we are not the right service, we can always look to signpost somewhere more appropriate."

You can find out more about the Headlight Project by visiting their website: [www.headlightproject.org](http://www.headlightproject.org).

## Dementia drop-in support

Help and support is available at the Hampton by Hilton hotel for carers of those living with dementia.

Staff are 'Dementia Friends' and give back to the community by hosting a dementia drop-in on the first Wednesday of each month between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

People of all abilities and needs can attend a relaxed meeting in a safe and happy environment.

The Hampton by Hilton was one of the first businesses to be accredited by the Council as Dementia Friendly.

For information about attending the Dementia Drop-in, or help for your business, contact the LiveWell Dementia Hub:

☎ 01642 527363

✉ [dementia.friendly@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:dementia.friendly@stockton.gov.uk)



**adoption**   
TEES VALLEY

## Start or grow your family this year.

Come along to an information event to find out how we can support you to adopt.

Events are held twice monthly and can be booked via [adoptionteesvalley.org.uk](http://adoptionteesvalley.org.uk)

T: 01642 526400 E: [info@adoptionteesvalley.org.uk](mailto:info@adoptionteesvalley.org.uk)

# A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees

A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees is the Council's commitment to tackling inequality and making the Borough a better place to live for everyone. Visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/a-fairer-stockton-on-tees](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/a-fairer-stockton-on-tees) to find out more about the strategy.

## The Bread and Butter Thing

With five hubs now open across the Borough, The Bread and Butter Thing is a great way to save money on your weekly food shop.

The hubs offer three bags of food worth roughly £35 for £8.50, including fresh fruit and veg, chilled food for the fridge, and cupboard staples like cereal. You can also pay £5 for an individual bag or £17 for a six bag 'family' deal.

It's free to join with no commitment. Find your nearest hub and register at [www.stockton.gov.uk/the-bread-and-butter-thing](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/the-bread-and-butter-thing)



Get healthy food for less at The Bread and Butter Thing.



## Community Spaces

Community Spaces are safe, non-judgemental places where everyone is welcome.

Every space offers something different. Drop by your nearest venue to have a chat, access information and support about things like finances and health, get involved with activities and more.

Find your nearest space, opening times and what's on offer at [www.stockton.gov.uk/community-spaces-directory](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/community-spaces-directory)



Keep an eye out for the Community Spaces window sticker in participating venues.

## Reducing Inequalities Support Fund (RISF)

There's lots of work going on across the Borough to help improve the lives of our residents by tackling inequality and poverty.

Catalyst is an organisation that offers a range of specialist support to help other charities in Stockton-on-Tees improve and thrive. They have secured almost half a million pounds

in National Lottery funding to support the work of A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees, and with this developed the Reducing Inequalities Support Fund (RISF).

The RISF offers grants up to £1,000 for organisations looking to expand or cover costs for a service aiming to reduce inequality in the Borough.

If you know a group or organisation that could benefit from the funding, you can find out more at [www.catalyststockton.org/projects/reducing-inequalities](http://www.catalyststockton.org/projects/reducing-inequalities)





# New home energy efficiency scheme

A scheme has launched to provide grants to eligible homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

The Home Energy Efficiency Tees Valley (HEET) programme can provide funding up to £18,000 per household for properties that don't have gas central heating.

Energy efficiency measures may include insulation, upgrading windows to double glazing, and installing new heating and renewable technologies such as air source heat pumps and solar panels. This is all free for qualifying residents.

To be eligible, homes must have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D, E, F or G. You can go to [www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate) to check yours.

HEET is a partnership scheme between Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Darlington Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

For more information and to check eligibility, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/heet](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/heet)



**STOCKTON-ON-TEES**  
FOOD POWER NETWORK

From food banks and community pantries to low-cost hot food services, Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network (SFPN) can help you find food offerings local to you.

SFPN works to fight food waste locally, alleviate food poverty, and help build skills in our communities – like growing sessions and cooking workshops.

You can visit SFPN's community food map at [www.stockton.gov.uk/sfpn-food-map](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/sfpn-food-map) to find services local to you.

You can also find community food venues on SFPN's digital leaflets at [www.stockton.gov.uk/sfpn-leaflets](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/sfpn-leaflets)



**EVENING AND WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS**

**IN ONE OF YOUR LOCAL GP PRACTICES**

**SEE ONE OF OUR FRIENDLY TEAM**

GENERAL PRACTITIONER    HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT  
NURSE PRACTITIONER    PHYSIOTHERAPIST  
PRACTICE NURSE

**FOR NEW CONDITIONS, REGULAR CHECKS, SCREENING AND ADVICE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
[HARTLEPOOLANDSTOCKTONHEALTH.CO.UK/7-DAY](http://HARTLEPOOLANDSTOCKTONHEALTH.CO.UK/7-DAY)



# Transforming the Borough



Artist's impression of the new play area at the Stockton Waterfront development

## Stockton Waterfront

Work has officially started on the construction of Stockton's bold, new urban park, marking the beginning of another major milestone in the Stockton Waterfront development.

The first phase of works includes the construction of a 55m land bridge structure, and extension of the existing Millennium Footbridge, which will provide uninterrupted access to the riverside from the High Street.

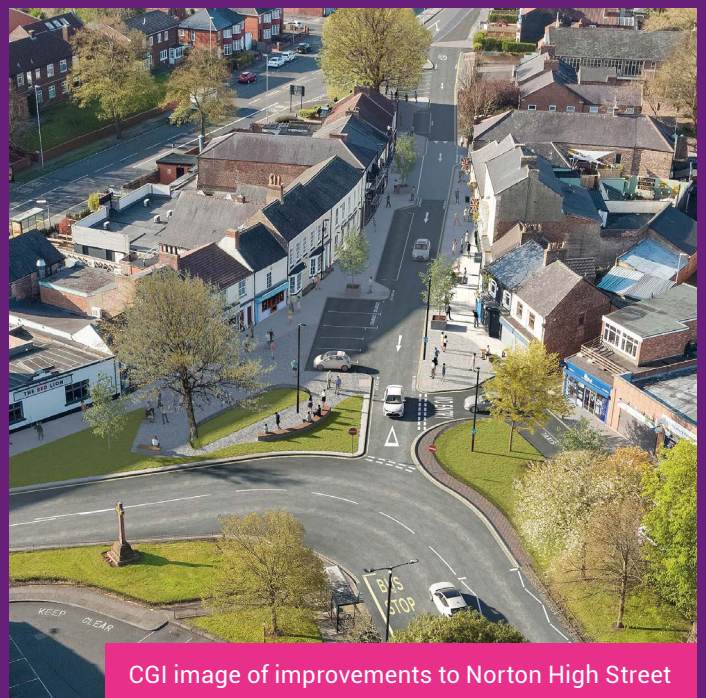
Meanwhile, new images of the transformational public space show a large-scale play area for all ages and a host of flexible spaces across the urban park.

The main play area's design has been influenced by the industrial heritage of the site, with two timber towers that are connected by walkways. Wheelchair accessible elements and a variety of features will make the play space as accessible as possible.

For more information, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton/impact](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/stockton/impact)

## A series of improvements to Norton High Street began at the end of February.

The plans include the creation of a northbound one-way system at the southern section of Norton High Street and improvements to extend pedestrianised areas. They will create more flexible spaces and allow new opportunities for further growth to an already thriving area, such as leisure activities, pop-up markets and outdoor seating. As part of this, six additional car or taxi spaces will be created on the High Street too. During the phases of work, a number of changes to the High Street will be in place. Find out more about the phases of work and the change in traffic flow at [www.stockton.gov.uk/norton/high-street](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/norton/high-street)



CGI image of improvements to Norton High Street



## Yarm Town Hall Heritage Centre completion

Yarm Town Hall Heritage Centre has officially opened following its refurbishment and transformation into an exhibition space.

The heritage centre will showcase a major new exhibition called 'Island in a River' featuring community memories and unique artefacts, which will be permanently on display, led by Artist Matthew Rosier and North Yorkshire-based media arts organisation Mediale.

The objects displayed inside the exhibition centrepiece include a replica iron age canoe, replica tenth century Viking Helmet and a lion statue from legendary nightclub Tall Trees.

At night, the exhibition will transform into a video installation projecting a looping holographic film of the River Tees and its many users, celebrating the powerful connection between the town and the river.

The external refurbishment and exhibition work was funded as part of the Council's successful application for £20million from the Levelling Up Fund for the Stockton South constituency, and has been led in partnership with Yarm Town Council.

## Dragon Fort feature completes impressive upgrades to Romano Park

Improvement works to Romano Park in Ingleby Barwick have been completed, including a revamped play area with a unique, 'dragon fort' feature, which is the first of its kind.

Children from Barley Fields Primary School gave the play area their seal of approval at the official opening back in January. The dragon's features include a climbing wall, net and rock climber, a slide, balancing discs and intricate play panels.

A community growing area on the site and a planting scheme with trees, shrubs and benches are also part of the overall improvements. There is also improved access to the platform near the Barwick Pond nature reserve and a re-marking of the Multi Use Games Area.



## Billingham receives £20million of Levelling Up funding

Billingham has been awarded £20million from the Government's Levelling Up Fund in a major boost to the Council's regeneration plans for the town centre.

The bid formed part of the ongoing town centres investment programme led by the Council, with a masterplan for Billingham currently being prepared to explore potential redevelopment opportunities in the town.

The masterplan will build on the previous findings from the 'Let's Talk About Our Towns' public consultation in 2020, assess potential opportunities for future development and consider how they can be delivered alongside the owners of the town centre.

Turn to page 12 to read about the exciting redevelopment starting at Preston Park Museum and Grounds.



Jeremy Barnett, Operations Director at Galliford Try and The Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees Councillor Jim Beall

## Transforming Preston Park Museum and Grounds

**Work has officially started on a new, modern extension to Preston Park Museum which will create a space for nationally significant touring exhibitions and loans.**

The Mayor of Stockton-on-Tees, Councillor Jim Beall unveiled a plaque to commemorate work beginning before putting the first spade in the ground.

He said: "I am delighted to be on site to mark the start of this ambitious project at Preston Park, the Council's jewel in the crown.

"This development will create an inspiring visitor experience fit for future generations, improving cultural experiences and at the same time celebrating the importance of our heritage.

"It's brilliant that the new extension will enable nationally significant touring exhibitions and loans to come to our Borough for our communities to experience and enjoy."

Work to the extension of the car park behind Butterfly World to provide almost 100 additional spaces will begin in the spring. Wider park improvements, including a new café and toilets, repurposing of the aviary and new interpretation to highlight the Stockton & Darlington Railway story along the original trackbed will be available in the coming months.

## 60,000 and counting...Join the library community today

**If you're not one of them, you're missing out. Join today - it's free!**

As a member of the library, you can:

- Browse, reserve books, download eBooks and eAudiobooks and keep track of your library loans. Did you know, we loan over 300,000 books a year across our libraries!
- Read digital newspapers and magazines from the UK and all around the world.
- Use computer suites with free access to the internet, email and scanning facilities, as well as free one-to-one tutoring sessions.
- Download the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Library App to get the latest information straight to your phone, including library locations, opening hours, upcoming events and more. You can also use it to reserve or renew books.
- Access our home library, mobile library and hospital library services, for people who may not be able to get to one of our library buildings.

To find out more about how to join the library, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/join-library](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/join-library)



## Special events marked with memorial lighting schedule

Newport Bridge, Stockton Town Centre and Stockton Riverside will once again light up for good causes and important anniversaries throughout the year.

The popular memorial lighting scheme shows the Borough's support for a range of nationally-recognised special occasions and good causes, such as Autism Acceptance Day and Show Racism the Red Card.

The 2024 schedule has some new additions including Cleveland Scouts 50th Anniversary and National Care Leavers' Week.

To see the full 2024 lighting schedule, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/memorial-lighting](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/memorial-lighting)

## Improvements to your waste and recycling collections

Household waste and recycling collections are to be improved across Stockton-on-Tees to better meet residents' needs, help the environment and save money in the long term.

Members of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Cabinet have approved recommendations from an extensive scrutiny review carried out by a cross party committee of Councillors.

It means weekly recycling collections and the introduction of a new weekly food waste collection in line with national legislation which will make this compulsory from 2026. Residual waste will be collected fortnightly and the Council's green waste collection will be reviewed in line with updated Government guidance.

Assistant Director for Community Services and Transport, Craig Willows, said: "Residents won't see any changes until April 2026 but before then we will engage with residents about recycling equipment like bags, boxes and food caddies to ensure that our residents can effectively access the new service changes that will be delivered across the borough."

Learn more about the changes at [www.stockton.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-improvements](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-improvements)

## Green waste and Easter collection dates

There won't be any changes to waste and recycling collections this Easter.

Fortnightly green waste collections also return from 8 April until 28 October.

To check all kerbside collections from your home, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-and-recycling](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-and-recycling), sign up to My Council at [www.stockton.gov.uk/my-council](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/my-council), or call 01642 393939.



# Protecting our natural environment

In the last edition of Stockton-on-Tees News we updated you on our ambitious ten-year Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy and how we are working to achieve the four key aims of the plan.

They are:

1. Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as a Council
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment
3. Use all resources efficiently and minimise waste
4. Adapt to the impact of climate change



Climate coalitions

The Council has set up four climate coalitions:

- Business • Communities • Creative • Youth

The aim of each coalition is to bring people and organisations together and work collaboratively to help the Borough to deliver the Government's 'net zero target'. That means achieving a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it.

Each coalition is tasked with forming an action plan of activities to help reach the target and create the best possible environment for the next generation.

For more information or to join one of our climate coalition groups, email [environmentalstrategy@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalstrategy@stockton.gov.uk) or visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/climate-coalitions](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/climate-coalitions)



Trees in Stockton-on-Tees

Last winter's 'Trees in Stockton-on-Tees' initiative saw many more local school groups, volunteers, organisations and businesses plant thousands of trees across the Borough.

Green-fingered youngsters from St Mark's Primary School donned their wellies to help plant 350 tree whips and 12 fruit trees to add to the thousands of trees already planted across the Borough.

This is the third wave of the ambitious project which aims to plant around 24,000 new trees across Stockton-on-Tees, working alongside UK charity Trees for Cities and other partners, to improve communities and help tackle climate change.

To read the full Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/our-plans](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-plans)



The Borough's first Youth COP

Young people across the Borough have been inspired into helping look after our planet at Stockton-on-Tees' very first 'Youth COP' event.

The special event coincided with COP 28, the United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Dubai.

COP stands for "Conference of the Parties", where the "parties" are the countries that signed up to the UN climate agreement in 1992.

The Youth COP event at Arc was organised by the Youth Climate Coalition, chaired by our multi award-winning youth-led movement Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF).

To find out more, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/youth-climate-coalition](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/youth-climate-coalition)

## Innovation brings UK's lowest carbon emission roads to the Borough

**Billingham became the UK's first area to get new environmentally sustainable roads, thanks to a partnership between the Council and Tarmac.**

Laid by Tarmac, Marsh House Avenue and Whitehouse Road are now the UK's lowest carbon emission roads after they were resurfaced with recycled material made from old roads. The surfaces were also mixed at lower temperatures to save carbon.

The cutting-edge technology used, which included a fossil fuel alternative to power the manufacturing plant used to make the asphalt, has reduced carbon emissions on the project by up to 80 per cent compared to traditional methods.

# LOVE EXPLORING™

## Download the free app

The free Love Exploring App provides virtual adventures across the Borough with interactive characters to discover and mapped nature and heritage trails to explore.

Download the app on your smartphone or tablet and head to participating locations across the Borough to start.

## Explore fantasy worlds...

Discover the worlds of fantasy characters, including fairies, dinosaurs, and creepy crawlies, which come to life on screen.

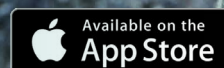
This Easter, dinosaurs are waiting to be discovered. From the T-Rex, that stands the size of a school bus, to the turkey-sized Velociraptor, there's so much to learn.

## Explore wellbeing trails...

Experience the positive health benefits of walking outside with mapped trails.

Whether it's a mindfulness walk through Preston Park, or a heritage walk along Stockton High Street for the Heritage Trail, the Borough is waiting to be discovered.

To find out more, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/love-exploring](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/love-exploring)



# ENJOY STOCKTON-ON-TEES

There is a packed calendar of events happening across Stockton-on-Tees this spring and summer. This guide showcases some of the unmissable events you can enjoy.

Further information and more events can be found at [www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/visit/whats-on](http://www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/visit/whats-on)



## Stockton Calling

📅 **Saturday 30 March**

📍 **Various venues across Stockton**

The day-long music festival returns to venues across Stockton with a jam-packed line up. Promoted by ARC, KU Promotions, and Tees Music Alliance.

[www.stocktoncalling.co.uk](http://www.stocktoncalling.co.uk)



## Tees Regatta

📅 **Saturday 11 May**

📍 **River Tees Watersports Centre**

A spectacular day of rowing on the River Tees as Tees Rowing Club host their annual multi-laned Regatta. Frequent races run throughout the day, starting from Tees Barrage and racing 850m through Infinity Bridge to the finish line at the River Tees Watersports Centre.

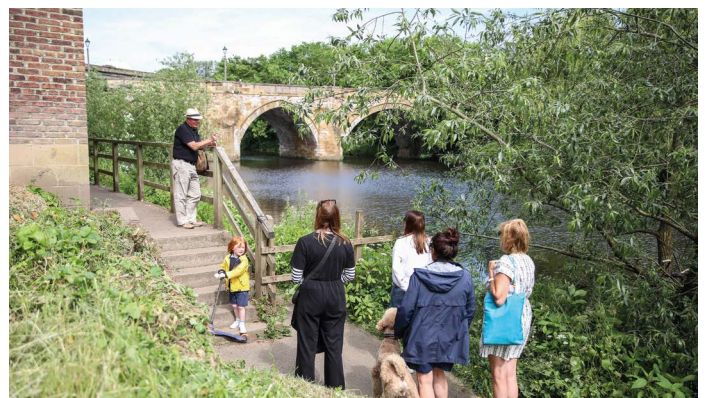


## Yard Sessions

📅 **Saturday 27 April, Saturday 25 May & Saturday 29 June**

📍 **Cultural Quarter, Stockton Town Centre**

Brought to you by Hope & Union, Wasps Nest & the Independent business' of Stockton's Cultural Quarter. A new market full of food, drink and entertainment for a fun family day, with the evening after party strictly 18+.



## Tees Heritage Walk

📅 **Sunday 12 May**

📍 **Along the River Tees**

Walk for your chosen charity or a cause close to your heart, with one way and return route options ranging from 1 to 12.8 miles. £5 per entry, or £10 per family.

[www.erimusrotary.org](http://www.erimusrotary.org)





### Love your Local Market

📅 **Saturday 18 May**  
📍 **Stockton High Street**

Celebrate Stockton's market culture and heritage at the annual Love your Local Market event. There will be free face painting and crafts for children, along with a host of free activities around the market with lots of chances to win prizes and market vouchers plus a chance to grab a photo and meet a popular children's character or two!



### Armed Forces Day

📅 **Thursday 27 June**  
📍 **Stockton High Street**

To celebrate Armed Forces Day, visit Stockton High Street to find out about the past, present, and future of the Armed Forces with the military and partner organisations.



### EID Fusion Festival

📅 **Sunday 2 June**  
📍 **Ropner Park**

Enjoy live music, food and craft stalls, inflatables, and fun activities for all the family. EID Fusion brings together communities from all ethnicities, religions, and cultures for a day-long celebration.



### Ingleby Barwick Family Fun Weekend

📅 **Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July**  
📍 **Myton Pub, Ingleby Barwick**

Ingleby Barwick's annual Family Fun Weekend returns with plenty of entertainment for all ages, including a large funfair, entertainment, and crafts as well as refreshments.



### D-Day Commemorations

📅 **Thursday 6 June**  
📍 **Stockton High Street**

Join us as we mark the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings which happened on 6 June 1944. We will light a beacon at 9.15pm on 6 June 2024 in celebration of the 'light of peace' that emerged out of the darkness of war and remember the bravery and sacrifice of those people who helped to secure the peace and freedom we enjoy today.



### Stockton Pop up Pride

📅 **Saturday 27 July - From 11am**  
📍 **ARC Stockton, The Globe and Wellington Square**

A celebration of the Tees Valley's LGBTQIA+ community, with fun, free and low cost activities for all ages.



### Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF)

📅 Friday 2 – Sunday 4 August  
📍 Stockton Town Centre

Enjoy a weekend full of street theatre, music, dance, and outdoor arts as Stockton International Riverside Festival returns to Stockton High Street. The Community Carnival will also return on Sunday 4 August.  
[www.sirf.co.uk](http://www.sirf.co.uk)



### Big Kid Circus

📅 Wednesday 7 - Sunday 11 August  
📍 Trinity Green, Stockton

Big Kid Circus proudly boasts a truly diverse ensemble of performers hailing from every corner of the globe. Come along and enjoy an evening full of entertainment.  
[www.bigkidcircus.co.uk](http://www.bigkidcircus.co.uk)



### Thornaby Show

📅 Sunday 1 September  
📍 Harold Wilson Recreation Centre, Thornaby

Thornaby will host its annual show with a fun-filled day for all the family.



### Billingham Carnival and Horticultural Show

📅 Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September  
📍 John Whitehead Park, Billingham

Visit John Whitehead Park in Billingham for the town's annual show where you can enjoy a range of free activities. Not forgetting the dog show competitions.



### Festival of Thrift

📅 Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September  
📍 Billingham

ThriftFest returns to Billingham bringing a weekend celebration of sustainable living. Swap your clothes, eat in the open air, fix your bike or toaster and grab some ethical shopping.  
[www.festivalofthrift.co.uk](http://www.festivalofthrift.co.uk)



# STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY BICENTENARY FESTIVAL 2025

The S&DR200 festival in 2025 celebrates 200 years of the journey that changed the world.

To keep on track with the latest festival news and find out how you can get involved, sign up to our e-newsletter by emailing [info@sdr200.co.uk](mailto:info@sdr200.co.uk)

# Vianet Group PLC

Did you know a third of the Tees Valley's digital businesses are located in Stockton-on-Tees? Vianet Group plc are just one of the companies who are thriving here.

Vianet is a cloud-based technology business with an award-winning portfolio providing services like payment solutions, inventory management, energy saving solutions, actionable insights, market data and much more.

Established in 1995 in Thornaby and now based in Surtees Business Park, the company has been listed on the AIM stock market since 2006 and is going from strength to strength.

The Group has over 200,000 connected devices in the hospitality and unattended retail vending sector here in the UK and overseas. Vianet's recent achievements include a £5.4million funding package secured from HSBC UK to expand into new markets.

The business also acquired Beverage Metrics, a US-based beverage management platform, in May 2023, taking their hospitality sector offering to the next level and accelerating their services into the US market.

James Dickson, CEO and Chairman of Vianet Group, said: "We have some very exciting innovative solutions for new markets and sectors, and we have high hopes for expansion into new spaces like the US."

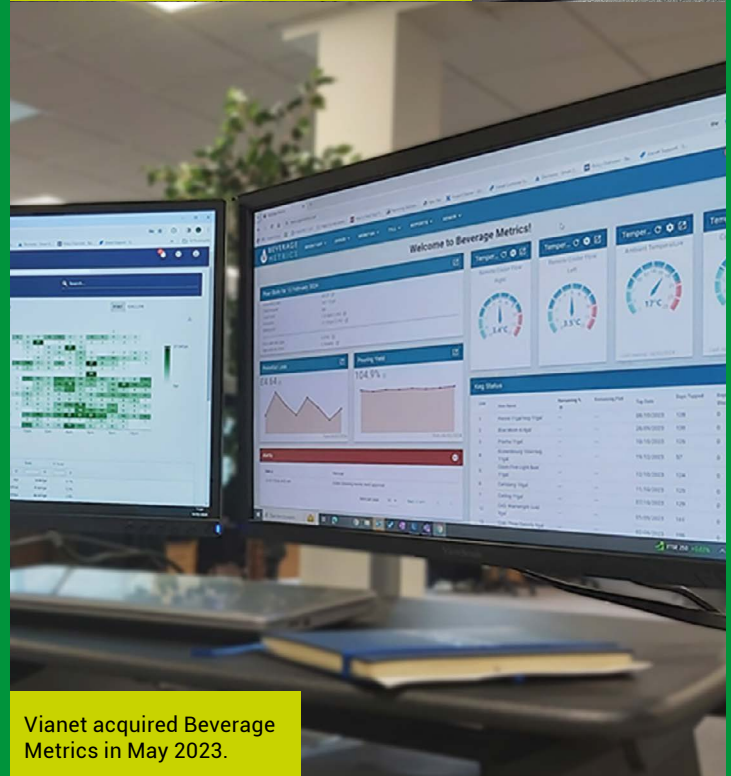
"However, being able to provide career opportunities in a local business is also something close to our heart. Stockton-on-Tees has a thriving community with hardworking people, and knowing that we provide secure local employment with many development and growth prospects is something we are very proud of."

Find out more about what Vianet Group can offer by visiting [vianetplc.com](http://vianetplc.com)

Learn more about what support is available for businesses in the Borough by visiting [www.investstocktonontees.co.uk](http://www.investstocktonontees.co.uk)



Vianet is located in Surtees Business Park.



Vianet acquired Beverage Metrics in May 2023.

# LEARNING THAT LASTS

New **courses**.  
New **learning**.  
New **you**.

Find out more:

[www.slss.ac.uk](http://www.slss.ac.uk)



Illustrative example of the proposed regeneration work



## Do you live, work, or visit central Stockton?

We want to hear your views for long-term plans for the regeneration of central Stockton.

Working with partners BDP, the Council has been developing a Stockton Central Area Blueprint since autumn 2023. Now in its final stages, it's your last chance feedback on the proposals.

You can have a say through the third and final phase of consultation until 25 March 2024.

Be the first to know about potential plans for central Stockton and leave comments on the blueprint online by visiting <https://stocktonblueprint.commonplace.is/>

## Two years of success stories

Since opening in February 2022, the Stockton-on-Tees Employment and Training Hub has helped more than 750 people find paid employment by collaborating with businesses like Amazon, B&M and Nifco to name but a few - that's more than one person into a job every day, including weekends!

It has supported people looking for a career change and those new to employment or looking for work related training too.

Based in Wellington Square, Stockton, the purpose-built facility is packed with a range of resources including bespoke training rooms, event spaces and IT pods, making it a hive of activity and a "one stop shop" for everything employment and training related.



There's already eight jobs fairs scheduled for the rest of 2024. Make sure you don't miss any by searching for Stockton Employment and Training Hub on Facebook and following the page for updates.

Whether you're exploring career options, fine-tuning your CV, or preparing for interviews, the Hub's dedicated team is here to assist Monday to Friday, from 10am to 4pm. You don't need an appointment to visit, just drop in or contact the Hub on **01642 528392**.

## Care and Health Zone Masterplanner appointed

Plans to create a nationally significant social care and health zone at Teesdale Business Park and the nearby Tees Marshalling Yards have taken a step forward.

The Council has appointed Arup Group Ltd to develop a masterplan for the area which will make up the Care and Health Innovation Zone.

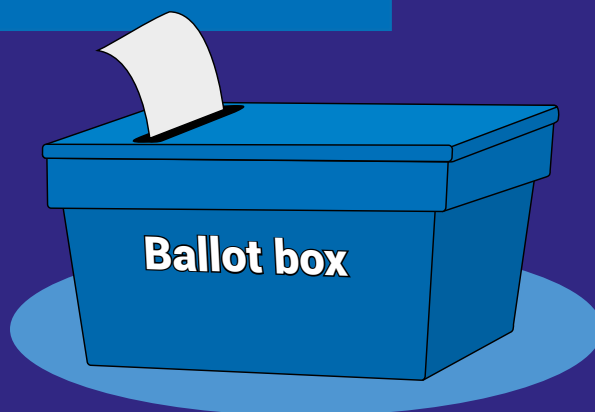
The masterplan will take into account uses for the site and will consider social care and health services, sector-specific businesses, research, teaching and learning facilities and housing to meet local needs.

It will also provide a long-term strategy for the site and consider the best way to transform it into a vibrant and successful place, whilst contributing to the reduction of health inequalities in the Borough and Tees Valley.

# May 2024 Elections

On Thursday 2 May 2024 there will be two elections taking place in Stockton-on-Tees:

- Police and Crime Commissioner for the Cleveland Police Area
- Tees Valley Combined Authority Mayoral



You can read about the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Tees Valley Combined Authority Mayor by visiting [www.stockton.gov.uk/2024-election-roles](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/2024-election-roles).

## What you need to know

### First-past-the-post

Both elections now use the first-past-the-post voting system, where you vote for a single candidate, and the candidate with the most votes wins the election.

### Register to vote

You must be registered to vote at these elections. It's quick and easy to register to vote online by visiting [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). You need to have done this by midnight on Tuesday 16 April 2024. If you can't register online, please contact our Voter Registration Helpline on **01642 526196** and we will arrange a paper application for you.



### Voting in person

You can find out where your polling station is by checking your poll card, which will be delivered to you in advance of the election, or by checking on [www.wheredoivote.co.uk](http://www.wheredoivote.co.uk). The polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on polling day.

Please note that you will need a valid form of photo ID to vote in person. You can check the accepted forms of ID on [www.stockton.gov.uk/voter-id](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/voter-id). If you haven't got a valid photo ID, you'll need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC). You can apply for a free VAC on the Government's website: [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate). You'll need to do this before 5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024.



### Voting by post or by proxy

You can apply for a postal vote and join 47,000 others in the Borough who have already registered. With a postal vote, all you need to do is pop your vote in a Royal Mail post box. If you want a postal vote for these elections, make sure you apply early. This must be done before 5pm on Wednesday 17 April. You can apply at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote).

Voting by proxy means that you appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf and it is a convenient way of voting if you are unable to get to the polling station. You can apply at [www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote). If you are unable to apply online please contact the Voter Registration Helpline on **01642 526196** to register a proxy vote before 5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024.

# New ways of working to power the Borough's future

Councillors met last month to agree the budget for the coming financial year and set the Medium Term Financial Plan up to 2029.

A Council Tax increase of 4.95 per cent, which is made up of 2.95 per cent on core Council services and 2 per cent on the Government's adult social care levy was agreed.

Increased demand for Council services, uncertain funding streams and high levels of inflation mean the Council needs to spend £9million less by 2026/27.

Despite these challenges, the Council is confident that by working with its partners and communities in different ways it can put in place new approaches which will not only save money, but also reshape what it does for the better and in the best interests of residents.

It's exploring new ways of working through a planned programme of transformation called 'Powering our Future'.

A key strand of 'Powering our Future' is the ambitious regeneration plans in each of the Borough's town centres, which continue to progress very well and will attract more businesses leading to a growth in business rates as well as generating employment opportunities. You can read more about the progress of the regeneration schemes on pages 10 and 11.

Meanwhile 14 transformation reviews are underway across a number of different areas of the authority, including administration and business services, waste collection, children in our care and fleet management. Although all of these reviews won't come to a conclusion at the same time, the Council expects to start seeing the results of the new ways of working next financial year.

It was also agreed that homes stood empty and substantially unfurnished for one to five years would be charged a 100 per cent Council Tax premium - and this would go up to 200 per cent for five to 10 years and 300 per cent for anything over 10 years. This is to encourage empty homes to be brought back in to use.

The Council is also looking more broadly at how it can work more closely with the communities in the Borough and its partners to change the way it works to ensure residents are at the heart of everything it does. An example of how this is working already is through the 'Making it Real Board', you can read about that on page 4.



The Employment and Training Hub: helping to generate employment opportunities.

## Local Plan to be reviewed

The Council's current Local Plan sets out policies and proposals to guide planning decisions and establishes a framework for sustainable economic growth and development in the Borough which includes areas for new housing, employment land, new infrastructure and enhancement of our natural and historic environment.

In January, Council made the decision to begin the preparatory work for a new Local Plan. The process to create a new plan will not formally commence until government reforms of the planning system are brought in to force. Until that point work will focus on evidence gathering and targeted engagement. In the intervening period the current Local Plan remains in force and will be used to make decisions on planning applications.

Opportunities for residents and businesses to comment on the Local Plan will be provided and we will provide details of how those with an interest can register their interest soon.



# Stockton-on-Tees Residents Survey



## Thanks for your views!

A big thank you to everyone who completed our residents survey. More than 2,600 people took the time to answer our questions, giving us a great representation geographically and across different communities.

The questions were based on the well-researched Measures of National Wellbeing launched by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which will allow us to compare Stockton-on-Tees to the regional and national picture released by the ONS on a quarterly basis.

The results locally will inform how we work with our communities and help to shape the future of the Borough to make sure it is a great place for everyone to live and

work. You will see more information on this on the coming months.

This isn't the end of the conversation. There will be more opportunities to speak with us and share your views in the future, so please keep an eye on Stockton-on-Tees News News and the Council's social media feeds if you're interested in getting involved.

**Hundreds  
of opportunities  
to change  
your future**

**Make  
a  
difference**

**Work for your  
local council**

Find a career that suits your strengths – hundreds of different roles available from social media to social care.

Make a difference in your area, visit

[northeastjobs.org.uk](http://northeastjobs.org.uk)





# Get the latest news with the My Council E-Newsletter

Did you know you can get the latest news from the Council straight to your inbox?

The free My Council e-newsletter already has more than 20,000 residents signed up – and it's very easy to join them

All you need to do is register for a My Council account by visiting [www.stockton.gov.uk/register](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/register) and remember to select to receive the e-newsletter.

## Check your Council Tax details

Have you had a change of address or have your circumstances changed?

If you:

- are moving or have moved
- are a landlord whose tenants have changed
- have had somebody move in or out of your property

You need to let us know as these changes may affect your Council Tax.

Find out more and let us know any changes by visiting [www.stockton.gov.uk/change-of-address-or-circumstances](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/change-of-address-or-circumstances)

## Customer Services Live Chat

A new webchat service has launched for your Care For Your Area enquiries, such as reporting litter, fly tipping or a missed bin collection.

Available 24 hours a day on the Council's website, simply type your query into the webchat box and it will direct you to the relevant online service.

The live chat can also help put you in touch with customer services agents during contact centre opening hours.



To get started, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk), search for 'contact customer services' and look out for the webchat logo (pictured left).





# Day in the

**Paige**  
Deputy Team  
Manager of Adult  
Safeguarding

# LIFE

"The most rewarding part of my job is making a difference to the lives of residents. Seeing smiles appear on the faces of individuals who never imagined their circumstances could change and improve, brings me fulfilment."

Paige is the Deputy Team Manager of Adult Safeguarding and has worked for the Council since 2017. Her day-to-day role sees her receive referrals from different agencies with concerns of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

"The team receive referrals from a range of partner agencies including the Police, health services, care and support organisations and Council commissioned services including domestic abuse service, Harbour, and substance recovery service, Change Grow Live, and many more. From there, we will assess the individual's circumstances and work with other agencies to support the person to feel safe and protected from harm."

Paige enjoys supporting people from a wide range of backgrounds and finds helping them be safe and happy after difficult circumstances extremely rewarding. She appreciates that no two days are the same in her role and helping those in need achieve the "impossible" is why she loves her job.

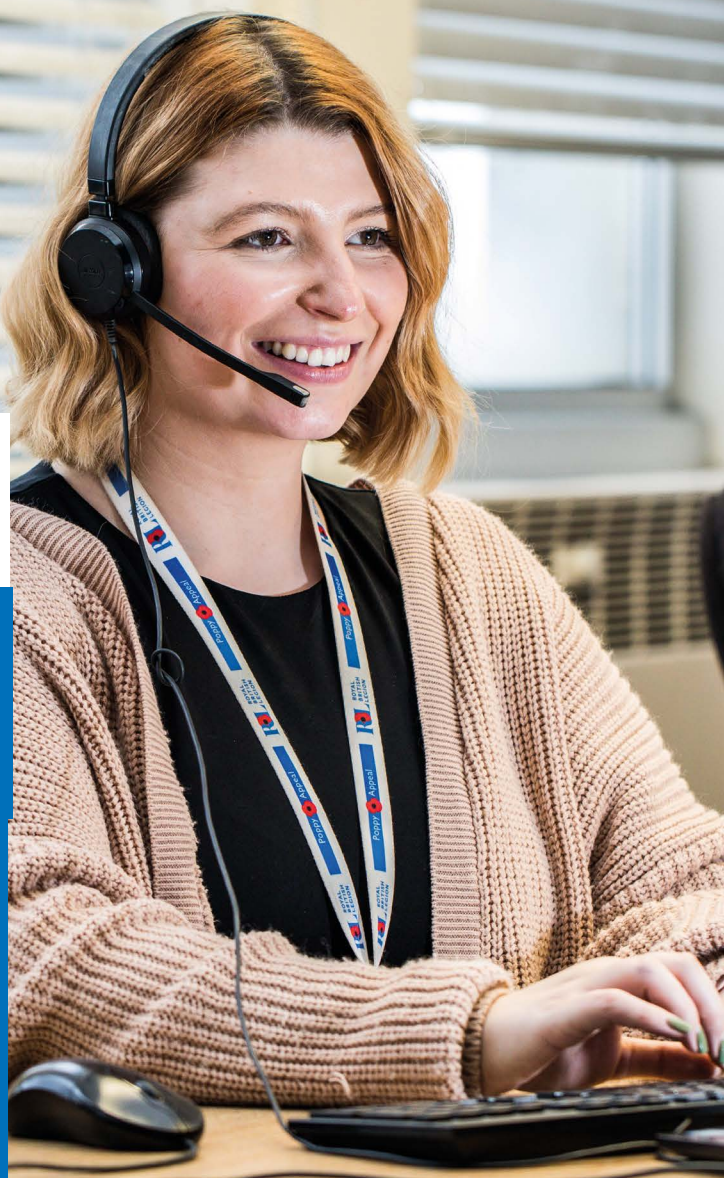
"The focus of the team is to ensure that people's voices are heard, and their views are respected. To maintain an open line of communication with those requiring support is crucial."

In the next five years, Paige wants to continue to build on the strengths of the team and promote the service to make people aware that the service is here to help. Currently, she's studying to become an Approved Mental Health Professional which will deepen her knowledge and help her to carry out further functions under the Mental Health Act in order to safeguard people.

"I am grateful to have a brilliant team supporting me as I pursue further development. Being a point of contact for vulnerable adults is a crucial responsibility and my studies are allowing me to enhance my knowledge so I can help guide the team in providing the very best safeguarding support."

If you have a concern about an adult contact our First Contact team on **01642 527764** or outside normal office hours contact the Emergency Duty team on **01642 524552**.

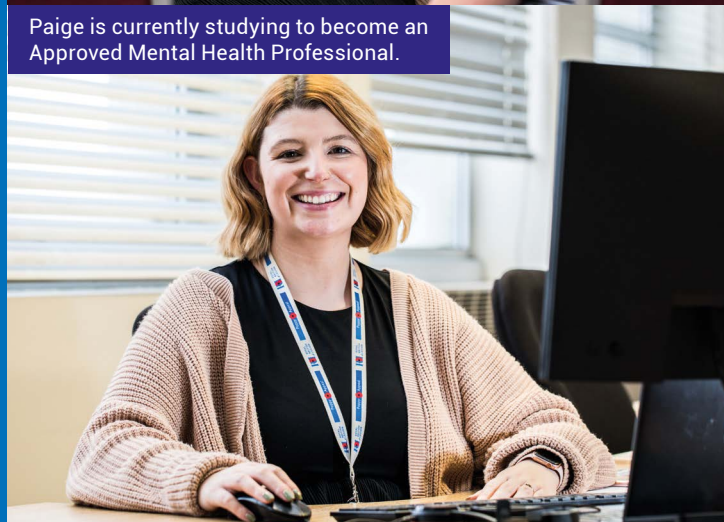
If you would like to explore a career in adult social care visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/asc-careers](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/asc-careers)



Paige supports people from a wide range of backgrounds.



Paige is currently studying to become an Approved Mental Health Professional.



# Ward Surgeries

There are 27 wards across Stockton-on-Tees with between one and three councillors representing each ward.

If you want to discuss any issues with your local councillors you can find their contact and ward surgery details until July 2024 in the following pages. For more information visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/councillors)

## Billingham Central



**Councillor Ann McCoy**  
 ☎ 01642 535604  
 ✉ [ann.mccoy@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:ann.mccoy@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Barry Woodhouse**  
 ☎ 01642 371638  
 ✉ [barry.woodhouse@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:barry.woodhouse@stockton.gov.uk)

**3 April 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
 Billingham Youth and Community Centre

**1 May 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
 Billingham Youth and Community Centre

**5 June 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
 Billingham Youth and Community Centre

**3 July 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
 Billingham Youth and Community Centre

## Billingham East



**Councillor Michelle Bendelow**  
 ☎ 07823372398  
 ✉ [michelle.bendelow@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.bendelow@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Mick Stoker**  
 ☎ 07917587620  
 ✉ [mick.stoker@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:mick.stoker@stockton.gov.uk)

**12 April 2024** 4.30pm - 6pm  
 New Life Family Centre

**10 May 2024** 4.30pm - 6pm  
 New Life Family Centre

**14 June 2024** 4.30pm - 6pm  
 New Life Family Centre

**12 July 2024** 4.30pm - 6pm  
 New Life Family Centre

## Billingham North



**Councillor Marc Besford**  
 ☎ 07818586592  
 ✉ [Marc.Besford@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Marc.Besford@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Clare Gamble**  
 ☎ 07818584050  
 ✉ [clare.gamble@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:clare.gamble@stockton.gov.uk)

**4 April 2024** 7pm - 8pm  
 High Grange Community Centre

**9 May 2024** 7pm - 8pm  
 High Grange Community Centre

**No June Surgery**

**4 July 2024** 7pm - 8pm  
 High Grange Community Centre

## Billingham South



**Councillor Katie Weston**  
 ☎ 07963434815  
 ✉ [Katie.Weston@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.Weston@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Paul Weston**  
 ☎ 07717727692  
 ✉ [paul.weston@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:paul.weston@stockton.gov.uk)

**2 April 2024** 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
 St Cuthberts Hall

**7 May 2024** 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
 Port Clarence Community Centre

**4 June 2024** 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
 Billingham Town Football Club

**2 July 2024** 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
 St Cuthberts Hall

## Billingham West & Wolviston



**Councillor David Reynard**  
 ☎ 07823513359  
 ✉ [david.reynard@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:david.reynard@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Marcus Vickers**  
 ☎ 07823514929  
 ✉ [marcus.vickers@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:marcus.vickers@stockton.gov.uk)

## Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree



**Councillor Hugo Stratton**  
 ☎ 07384797722  
 ✉ [hugo.stratton@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:hugo.stratton@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Emily Tate**  
 ☎ 07823444348  
 ✉ [emily.tate@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:emily.tate@stockton.gov.uk)

**There is no need to wait for ward surgeries. Councillor Tate and Councillor Stratton can be contacted at any time with any ward concern you may have.**

## Eaglescliffe East



**Councillor Stefan Houghton**  
 ☎ 07766361716  
 ✉ [stefan.houghton@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:stefan.houghton@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor James Taylor**  
 ☎ 07823794173  
 ✉ [jim.taylor@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:jim.taylor@stockton.gov.uk)

**2 April 2024** 4pm - 5pm  
 Parkmore Hotel

**2 May 2024** 4pm - 5pm  
 Sir Thomas Brown, Sunningdale Drive

**5 June 2024** 8pm - 9pm  
 Preston & Eaglescliffe Social Club

**2 July 2024** 4pm - 5pm  
 Parkmore Hotel

## Eaglescliffe West



**Councillor Diane Clarke**  
 ☎ 07823792726  
 ✉ [diane.clarke@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:diane.clarke@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Laura Tunney**  
 ☎ 07920750692  
 ✉ [laura.tunney@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:laura.tunney@stockton.gov.uk)

## Fairfield



**Councillor Alex Griffiths**  
 ☎ 07823511632  
 ✉ [alex.griffiths@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:alex.griffiths@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Stephen Richardson**  
 ☎ 07929354541  
 ✉ [stephen.richardson@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.richardson@stockton.gov.uk)



**Councillor Susan Scott**  
 ☎ 07818538695  
 ✉ [Susan.Scott@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.Scott@stockton.gov.uk)

**3 April 2024** 4pm - 4.30pm  
 Fairfield Library

**8 May 2024** 4pm - 4.30pm  
 Fairfield Library

## Fairfield Continued

**5 June 2024** 4pm - 4.30pm  
Fairfield Library  
**3 July 2024** 4pm - 4.30pm  
Fairfield Library

## Grangefield



**Councillor Carol Clark**  
☎ 01642 675688  
✉ carol.clark@stockton.gov.uk

**11 March 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St Pauls Church, Bishopton Road  
**18 March 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St John's Church, Durham Road  
**4 April 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Grays Road Institute  
**8 April 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St Pauls Church, Bishopton Road  
**15 April 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St John's Church, Durham Road  
**2 May 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Grays Road Institute  
**13 May 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St Pauls Church, Bishopton Road  
**20 May 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St John's Church, Durham Road  
**6 June 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Grays Road Institute  
**10 June 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St Pauls Church, Bishopton Road  
**17 June 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St John's Church, Durham Road  
**4 July 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Grays Road Institute  
**8 July 2024** 12pm - 1pm  
St Pauls Church, Bishopton Road

## Hardwick and Salters Lane



**Councillor Nigel Cooke**  
☎ 01642 589442  
✉ nigel.cooke@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE**  
☎ 01642 526231  
✉ norma.stephenson@stockton.gov.uk

**13 April 2024** 9.30am - 10.30am  
Salters Lane Community Centre  
**13 April 2024** 11am - 12pm  
Hardwick in Partnership  
**11 May 2024** 9.30am - 10.30am  
Salters Lane Community Centre  
**11 May 2024** 11am - 12pm  
Hardwick in Partnership  
**8 June 2024** 9.30am - 10.30am  
Salters Lane Community Centre  
**8 June 2024** 11am - 12pm  
Hardwick in Partnership  
**13 July 2024** 9.30am - 10.30am  
Salters Lane Community Centre  
**13 July 2024** 11am - 12pm  
Hardwick in Partnership

## Hartburn



**Councillor Jason French**  
☎ 07917265479  
✉ jason.french@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Lynn Hall**  
☎ 07825582527  
✉ lynn.hall2@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Niall Innes**  
☎ 07467443549  
✉ niall.innes@stockton.gov.uk

**8 April 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Parkwood Hotel  
**13 May 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Parkwood Hotel  
**3 June 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Parkwood Hotel  
**1 July 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Parkwood Hotel

## Ingleby Barwick North



**Councillor Ted Strike**  
☎ 07818587455  
✉ ted.strike@stockton.gov.uk

**12 March 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
The Rings Community Hub  
**9 April 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
The Rings Community Hub  
**14 May 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
The Rings Community Hub  
**11 June 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
The Rings Community Hub  
**9 July 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
The Rings Community Hub



**Councillor Alan Watson**  
☎ 01642 761543  
✉ alan.watson@stockton.gov.uk  
☎ 07818587334



**Councillor Sally Ann Watson**  
☎ 01642 61543  
✉ sallyann.watson@stockton.gov.uk  
☎ 07795012445

**27 March 2024** 6.30 - 7.30pm  
The Rings Community Hub  
**24 April 2024** 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
The Rings Community Hub  
**29 May 2024** 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
The Rings Community Hub  
**26 June 2024** 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
The Rings Community Hub  
**No July Surgery**

## Ingleby Barwick South



**Councillor Stefan Barnes**  
☎ 07818511568  
✉ stefan.barnes@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Kevin Faulks**  
☎ 07717 27663  
✉ kevin.faulks@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Ross Patterson**  
☎ 01642 764865  
✉ ross.patterson@stockton.gov.uk

**2 April 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Activ8 IB Leisure Centre  
**7 May 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Activ8 IB Leisure Centre  
**4 June 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Activ8 IB Leisure Centre  
**2 July 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Activ8 IB Leisure Centre

## Mandale & Victoria



**Councillor Richard Eglington**  
☎ 07823533362  
✉ richard.eglington@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Nathan Gale**  
☎ 07818588681  
✉ Nathan.Gale@stockton.gov.uk

**28 March 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Virtual Surgery  
**1 April 2024** 1pm  
Victoria Park Community Hall  
**30 May 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
Virtual Ward Surgery  
**3 June 2024** 1pm  
Victoria Park Community Hall  
**1 July 2024** 1pm  
Victoria Park Community Hall

## Newtown



**Councillor Marilyn Surtees**  
☎ 07920750678  
✉ m.surtees@stockton.gov.uk

**19 March 2024** 6.15pm  
Primrose Hill Community Centre  
**2 April 2024** 6pm  
Newtown Resource Centre  
**7 May 2024** 6pm  
Primrose Hill Community Centre  
**4 June 2024** 6pm  
Newtown Resource Centre  
**2 July 2024** 6pm  
Primrose Hill Community Centre

## Northern Parishes



**Councillor John Gardner**  
 ☎ 01740645357  
 ✉ john.gardner@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Vanessa Sewell**  
 ☎ 07823680302  
 ✉ vanessa.sewell@stockton.gov.uk

## Norton Central



**Councillor Lisa Evans**  
 ☎ 01642 614522  
 ✉ Lisa.Evans@stockton.gov.uk  
 📠 07917587617



**Councillor Steve Nelson**  
 ☎ 01642 534417  
 ✉ steve.nelson@stockton.gov.uk

**10 April 2024** 6pm Norton Library  
**1 May 2024** 6pm Norton Library  
**5 June 2024** 6pm Norton Library  
**3 July 2024** 6pm Norton Library

## Norton North



**Councillor Tony Riordan**  
 ☎ 07825352193  
 ✉ tony.riordan@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Hilary Vickers**  
 ☎ 07818587115  
 ✉ hilary.vickers@stockton.gov.uk

**7 March 2024** 10am - 12pm  
 The Glebe Community Centre  
**7 March 2024** 6pm  
 Moline Cross  
**4 April 2024** 10am - 12pm  
 The Glebe Community Centre  
**4 April 2024** 6pm  
 Moline Cross  
**2 May 2024** 10am - 12pm  
 The Glebe Community Centre  
**2 May 2024** 6pm  
 Moline Cross  
**6 June 2024** 10am - 12pm  
 The Glebe Community Centre  
**6 June 2024** 6pm  
 Moline Cross  
**4 July 2024** 10am - 12pm  
 The Glebe Community Centre  
**4 July 2024** 6pm  
 Moline Cross

## Norton South



**Councillor Bob Cook**  
 ☎ 01642 890058  
 ✉ robert.cook@stockton.gov.uk

## Norton South Continued



**Councillor Eileen Johnson**  
 ☎ 07939521146  
 ✉ eileen.johnson@stockton.gov.uk

**27 March 2024** 5pm - 6pm  
 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road  
**10 April 2024** 5pm - 6pm  
 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road  
**24 April 2024** 5pm - 6pm  
 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road  
**8 May 2024** 5pm - 6pm  
 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road  
**29 May 2024** 5pm - 6pm  
 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road  
**12 June 2024** 5pm - 6pm  
 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road  
**26 June 2024** 5pm - 6pm  
 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road  
**10 July 2024** 5pm - 6pm  
 Albany Resource Centre, Surrey Road

## Ropner



**Councillor Shakeel Hussain**  
 ☎ 07818586721  
 ✉ Shakeel.Hussain@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Muhammed Mubeen**  
 ☎ 07818586781  
 ✉ Sufi.Mubeen@stockton.gov.uk

**11 March 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
 Encounter Church, Oxbridge Lane  
**No April Surgery**  
**13 May 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
 Encounter Church, Oxbridge Lane  
**10 June 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
 Stockton Family Hub  
**8 July 2024** 6pm - 7pm  
 Encounter Church, Oxbridge Lane

## Roseworth



**Councillor Jim Beall**  
 ☎ 01642 871759  
 ✉ jim.beall@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Barbara Inman**  
 ☎ 01642 582644  
 ✉ barbara.inman@stockton.gov.uk

**12 March 2024** 4.30pm  
 Redhill Family Hub  
**9 April 2024** 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
 Redhill Family Centre  
**14 May 2024** 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
 Redhill Family Centre  
**11 June 2024** 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
 Redhill Family Centre  
**9 July 2024** 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
 Redhill Family Centre

## Southern Villages



**Councillor Elsi Hampton**  
 ☎ 07823327996  
 ✉ elsi.hampton@stockton.gov.uk

## Stainsby Hill



**Councillor Ray Godwin**  
 ☎ 07825352158  
 ✉ ray.godwin@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Sylvia Walmsley**  
 ☎ 07825582518  
 ✉ sylvia.walmsley@stockton.gov.uk

## Stockton Town Centre



**Councillor Pauline Beall**  
 ☎ 01642 871759  
 ✉ pauline.beall@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Paul Rowling**  
 ☎ 07823535455  
 ✉ paul.rowling@stockton.gov.uk

**26 March 2024** 5pm  
 Stockton Central Library  
**30 April 2024** 5.15pm  
 Stockton Central Library  
**28 May 2024** 5.15pm  
 Stockton Central Library  
**25 June 2024** 5.15pm  
 Stockton Central Library

## Village



**Councillor Ian Dalgarno**  
 ☎ 01642 882985  
 ✉ ian.dalgarno@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Mick Moore**  
 ☎ 01642 764381  
 ✉ mick.moore@stockton.gov.uk

## Yarm



**Councillor Dan Fagan**  
 ☎ 07471022580  
 ✉ dan.fagan@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor Andrew Sherris**  
 ☎ 07825352188  
 ✉ andrew.sherris@stockton.gov.uk



**Councillor John Coulson**  
 ☎ 07818586520  
 ✉ John.Coulson@stockton.gov.uk

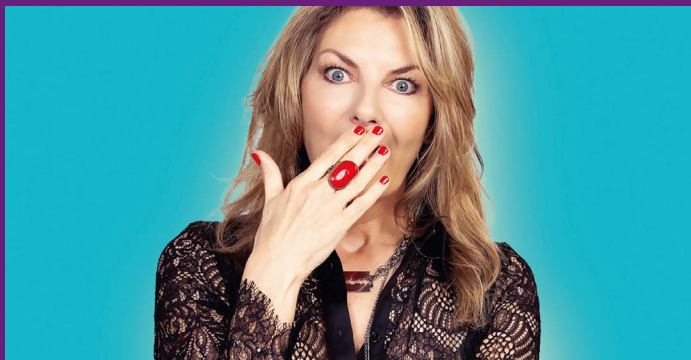
# What's On

A look at what's going on across Stockton-on-Tees from March 2024 until the next issue of Stockton-on-Tees News in July 2024.

This is just a selection of fantastic events to enjoy in the Borough. You can find out more at [www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/visit/whats-on](http://www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/visit/whats-on)

All listings were correct at the time of going to print. Please check with the event organiser for the latest updates.

## MARCH



### Jo Caulfield: Here Comes Trouble

📅 Friday 22 March  
🕒 8pm  
📍 ARC, Stockton Arts Centre

Here Comes Trouble is 90 minutes of razor-sharp observations and scandalous one-liners, as Jo gets her claws into everything (and everyone) that annoys her.

[www.arconline.co.uk](http://www.arconline.co.uk)



### Blood Brothers

📅 Tuesday 26 – Saturday 30 March 2024  
🕒 2.30pm and 7.30pm  
📍 Forum Theatre, Billingham

Willy Russell's legendary musical tells the captivating and moving tale of twins separated at birth, who grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with tragic consequences.

[www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk](http://www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk)



### Seven Drunken Nights - The Story of the Dubliners

📅 Friday 29 March  
🕒 7.30pm  
📍 Stockton Globe

In partnership with Tourism Ireland and in association with legendary Irish pub O'Donoghue's, Seven Drunken Nights tells the story of a career spanning 50 years.

[www.stocktonglobe.co.uk](http://www.stocktonglobe.co.uk)

## APRIL

### Aled Jones: Full Circle

📅 Tuesday 2 April  
🕒 7.30pm  
📍 Forum Theatre, Billingham

Selling over seven million albums, Aled was the original, classical crossover star. His recording of Walking in the Air, from the animated film The Snowman, firmly established him as a household name and has become an integral part of the nation's festivities. Now, after 40 years he's looking back on a remarkable career with a one-man show. It's time to come Full Circle.

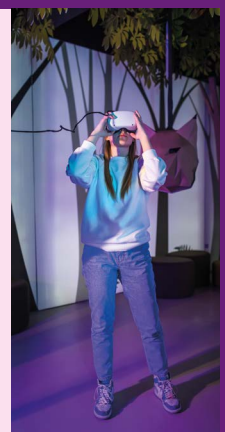
[www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk](http://www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk)

### Digital Games

📅 Thursday 11 April  
🕒 2pm – 3.30pm  
📍 Maker Station, Stockton Central Library

All big kids love games, from Sphero soccer to virtual reality (VR). Have fun with 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' using Oculus Go VR Goggles.

To book a free place, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/book-library-event](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/book-library-event) or call into your local library.



## Whitney – Queen of the Night

📅 Thursday 11 April  
 🕒 7.30pm  
 📍 Princess Alexandra Auditorium, Yarm

Experience the ultimate tribute to the remarkable musical repertoire of Whitney Houston in an electrifying production that honours her timeless songs with sensational vocalists and a full live band.

[www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)



## Johannes Radebe: House of JoJo

📅 Friday 12 April  
 🕒 7.30pm  
 📍 Stockton Globe

Join TV dance sensation Johannes Radebe and a host of eclectic characters in this brand-new theatrical celebration jam-packed with roof-raising music, dazzling costumes and world class dance.

[www.stocktonglobe.co.uk](http://www.stocktonglobe.co.uk)



## Pet Needs

📅 Tuesday 16 April  
 🕒 7.30pm  
 📍 The Georgian Theatre, Stockton

Having attracted attention with their relentless live shows and powerful studio releases, Pet Needs have recently completed an extensive UK, US and European tour supporting Frank Turner. Now they're performing in Stockton!

[www.georgiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.georgiantheatre.co.uk)

## Celebrating World Book Night: Inside the World of Bridgerton

📅 Tuesday 23 April  
 🕒 6.30pm - 8pm  
 📍 Norton Library



Regency expert and bestselling novelist Catherine Curzon explores the historical inspirations behind the worldwide phenomenon, Bridgerton. £5 a ticket.

To book a place, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/book-library-event](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/book-library-event) or call into your local library.



## The Urban Voodoo Machine

📅 Friday 26 April  
 🕒 8pm  
 📍 The Georgian Theatre, Stockton

The sprawling London collective The Urban Voodoo Machine will be bringing their Gypsy Blues Bop'N'Stroll back to The Georgian Theatre this April.

[www.georgiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.georgiantheatre.co.uk)

## MAY



## Newton Faulkner: Feels Like Home Tour 2

📅 Thursday 2 May  
 🕒 8pm  
 📍 ARC, Stockton Arts Centre

It's been two years since Newton Faulkner's Feels Like Home part 1 tour – and he's back for Feels Like Home part 2. This time it's personal.

[www.arconline.co.uk](http://www.arconline.co.uk)

## The Serial Killer Next Door with Emma Kenny

📅 Friday 17 May  
 🕒 7.30pm  
 📍 Stockton Globe

One of the UK's most notable psychological therapists and crime commentators Emma Kenny will take you on a journey looking at what ingredients of possibility lead to body counts by serial killers.

[www.stocktonglobe.co.uk](http://www.stocktonglobe.co.uk)

## CIRQUE – The Greatest Show

📅 Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 May  
🕒 3pm and 7pm  
📍 Princess Alexandra Auditorium, Yarm

Where Musical Theatre Meets Circus, it's time to step into the light. Escape with us for a night like no other, where we take you into a world where the very best of musical theatre showstoppers meets jaw-dropping circus spectacular.

[www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)

JUNE



## Crossing the Tees book festival

📅 Saturday 8 – Saturday 15 June  
📍 Libraries across the Tees Valley

Crossing the Tees Book Festival returns to the Tees Valley from Saturday 8 to Saturday 15 June. This year's programme includes author of 'Vera' and 'Shetland' series' Ann Cleeves, a Writers Retreat and Local Authors Panel.

For full details on the festival visit, [www.crossingthetees.org](http://www.crossingthetees.org)



## Luke Wright's Silver Jubilee

📅 Thursday 13 June  
🕒 8pm  
📍 ARC, Stockton Arts Centre

Over 25 years, Luke Wright has built up a reputation for being one of Britain's most popular live poets.

[www.arconline.co.uk](http://www.arconline.co.uk)

## The Wedding Present

📅 Saturday 15 June  
🕒 8pm  
📍 The Georgian Theatre, Stockton

The Wedding Present can boast 18 Top 40 singles since forming in 1985 – and will be visiting The Georgian Theatre in June.

[www.georgiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.georgiantheatre.co.uk)



## Peppa Pig

📅 Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 June  
🕒 Various times  
📍 Forum Theatre, Billingham

Join Peppa, along with her family and friends as they go to the zoo and the beach for a special party.

[www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk](http://www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk)

## Patterson Potters and Pottery: a talk by Tony Patterson

📅 Wednesday 24 June  
🕒 10.30am – 12pm  
📍 Stockton Reference Library  
Free

From researching a local family's history to venturing far and wide for Patterson pottery, this talk takes us on a journey much farther afield than initially anticipated.

To book a place, visit [www.stockton.gov.uk/book-library-event](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/book-library-event) or call into your local library.



## Illegal Eagles – 2024 UK Tour

📅 Saturday 29 June  
🕒 7.30pm  
📍 Princess Alexandra Auditorium, Yarm

Celebrating over 50 years since the formation of the legendary West Coast Country Rock band The Eagles in 1971, The Illegal Eagles make a welcome return with a brand-new production, promising more of their trademark musical prowess, acute attention to detail and incredible showmanship.

[www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)

## For more events across the Borough visit:

ARC

📍 [www.arconline.co.uk](http://www.arconline.co.uk)  
☎ 01642 525199

Forum Theatre Billingham

📍 [www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk](http://www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk)  
☎ 01642 552663

The Georgian Theatre

📍 [www.georgiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.georgiantheatre.co.uk)  
☎ 01642 674115

Stockton Globe

📍 [www.stocktonglobe.co.uk](http://www.stocktonglobe.co.uk)  
☎ 0843 904 0071

Visit Tees Valley

📍 [www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/visit/whats-on/](http://www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/visit/whats-on/)

The Princess Alexandra Auditorium

📍 [www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)  
✉ [box-office@yarmschool.org](mailto:box-office@yarmschool.org)

For more information on all events, follow us on social media [f](https://www.facebook.com/stocktoncouncil) [x](https://www.x.com/stocktoncouncil) [i](https://www.instagram.com/stocktoncouncil) @stocktoncouncil

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**REMEMBER TO**  
1- Register to vote  
2- Check my  
photo ID  
3- Vote at a  
polling station!

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

or call 0800 328 0280

