

Across Town



STOCKTON TOWN PASTORS

Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment
Registered Charity No. 1143017

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**STREET ANGELS AWARDED
DOWNING STREET ACCOLADE**

**BIG SOCIETY
AWARDS** 2012



Christian Nightlife Initiatives (CNI) started in Halifax almost 7 years ago, and now offers support and guidance to more than 100 other night-time economy based projects throughout the UK—including Stockton Town Pastors.

Congratulating CNI founder Paul Blakey MBE on the award, the Prime Minister David Cameron said: *"Street Angels shows what can be achieved when communities come together and work hand in hand with their local services to make their towns, estates and streets safer places. Paul and his army of volunteers embody the principals of Big Society, with people standing up and taking an active role in building the type of community they want to live in – one that looks out for the vulnerable and says no to the drunken, loutish, criminal behaviour that can too often blight communities. I'm delighted this approach has been used to tackle the very same issues in other towns and cities, as far away as Australia. It really shows just how important and universal the Big Society message is."*

Accepting the award, Paul Blakey MBE, said: *"To be awarded the Big Society Award is an amazing accolade for the thousands of volunteers who invest time and skills into over one hundred local areas across the UK week in and week out. The fact that in many of these towns and cities violent crime and sexual assaults have reduced significantly and that the night-time economy has become a better place that can be enjoyed by all is proof that volunteering works and can have a massive positive impact. As our local projects, motivated by their Christian faith, partner with statutory bodies and others who care about the wider community, we become Big Society in action! From a local project meeting needs in Halifax to one that is now at work across the UK and beyond, Street Angels - Christian Nightlife Initiatives is thrilled to accept the Big Society Award and thank the Prime Minister for this recognition."*



Paul Blakey and his wife Jean



Additionally, **Hartlepool Town Pastors** won a Hartlepool Mail Pride of Hartlepool award in the Community Group section in March for their dedication and selflessness in braving the streets in all weathers. The kind-hearted group offer a helping hand to those worse for wear, even providing flip-flops to girls struggling in high heels and have been known to give their coats to those shivering in

taxi queues. Receiving the award, the Chair of HTP the Revd. Colin Sawtell said, *"It is wonderful that the contribution made by all of our volunteers in helping others is recognised in such a way, and we are grateful for the close working relationship we have developed with the police and council."*

STP PATROLS IN YARM are going well, with volunteers being kept busy on Wednesday evenings between 10pm and 3am during the Easter period, offering help to those who find themselves in need .



STP project manager Steve Brock said, *“We were approached by the police and local council to assist in helping students and their friends attending the out-of-term-time ‘Cannonball’ event at The Keys pub in Yarm, because youngsters were finding themselves in a distressed state after an evening of partying. We have an excellent working relationship with police, door staff and taxi drivers and are able to deal quickly with those who find themselves vulnerable. Many of those attending the events are taking the time to thank us for helping themselves and friends.”*

The Yarm operation has attracted additional volunteers from Yarm churches, and the project will be evaluated after the Easter period to determine if STP will continue to provide help at future ‘Cannonball’ events, which are likely to take place once more during the Summer break.

Cleveland's Christian Police Association (CPA) ‘Coact’ Event took place at Low Worsall village hall on 10th March 2012. Sergeant Brian McCarthy, Branch Leader of Cleveland CPA said: *“The event was ranked 'excellent' by virtually all of the 70 delegates attending. It was aimed at saying thank you to all of the ‘Coact’ partners who are making the difference in Cleveland, whilst providing a synergistic opportunity for partners to speed network and identify opportunities to support each other and build upon existing good work.”*

CPA Assistant Director Paul Bright led worship, and updated our partners with some ‘Coact’ news from around the country on each of the 7 ‘Coact’ strands. Local policing Inspector Andy Fox shared a brand new film, which he had initiated, aimed at embedding the government’s Prevent Strategy into communities, and informing on the dangers of radicalisation in any community. Retired Inspector Steve Brock and CNI Chief Executive Paul Blakey MBE spoke about the growing work of CNI Network in the region, which encompasses the work of Street Angels and Town Pastors operating in over 100 places around the country. Cleveland CPA’s next two years’ effort was put to a vote and the group decided that it should concentrate on mentoring young people and working with ex-offenders., working alongside other local groups with similar aims.



Photo L-R;
Paul Bright, CPA Assistant Director
Inspector Andy Fox, Billingham
Mike Quinnell, CPA Regional Coordinator NE
Sergeant Brian McCarthy, Cleveland Branch Leader
Steve Brock, Regional Co-ordinator CNI Network

Hartlepool Town Pastors who walk the streets at night pounded 18-miles of pavement to raise cash. The group of volunteers help keep Hartlepool safe at night by offering help and assistance to those enjoying a night out and a drink. On Saturday 31st March they walked 18 miles from Hartlepool to Middlesbrough to raise vital funds that will go towards helping revellers, who can be left vulnerable in the town's nightspots. The four-strong party set off at 12.15pm from Whitby Street in Hartlepool and arrived at Middlesbrough Bus Station five hours later after heading along Tees Road and through Port Clarence.



HTP volunteers Melissa Richardson (left) and Lisa McCabe receiving a Hartlepool Mail 'Pride of Hartlepool' award for their fundraising walk.

Town Pastor Melissa Richardson said: *"We just decided to do something a bit different to raise some money. We had a really good time doing it— It was great. It took five hours, which was a bit longer than we thought, but we had fun. We haven't collected the money in yet, but we should hopefully raise a good amount."*

STP Volunteers witnessed a violent assault in West Row in March, resulting in two males being seriously injured. The ferocity of the attack shook volunteers, who called for police assistance. Fortunately, the attackers ran off upon seeing the reflective jackets and we were able to render first aid and later assist officers responding to the call.

Inspector Andy Fox is reviewing the incident in terms of CCTV communication and volunteer engagement, and will be carrying out a debrief with any STP volunteers—involved or otherwise—who would like to attend the session, which is scheduled for 7pm on Monday 16th April 2012 at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle. This will include updates on the condition of victims, criminal investigation and any changes to CCTV & STP radio protocol. If you would like to attend then please let Steve Brock know.

The Olympic Torch Relay

passes through Stockton-on-Tees on its 70 day tour of the UK in advance of the start of London Olympics. The route can be found using the following link: www.london2012.com/olympic-torch-relay-map



The torch passes through our area on Sunday 17th June, on day 28 of the journey, and Stockton Town Pastors will be helping at locations along the route as well as the evening party in Middlesbrough between 6pm and 8pm the same day. Publicity as the torch progresses around the country is likely to draw large crowds of spectators, so watch out for further local information nearer the time.

If you would like to volunteer with STP to cover the event in our region please contact Steve Brock—details below.

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