

Across Town



Issue No. 33

June 2013

Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment



Historic Stockton Walk

STP Social Evening

The George pub, High Street

7pm Thursday 11th July 2013

How often have you looked at the various monuments, plaques and brass plates around the town, or lifted your eyes beyond shop window level, and wondered about the town's magnificent past?

Well, now is the time to find out more about the Stockton of yesteryear with a guided tour by the town's historian, Mark Rowland-Jones, who has kindly offered to lead us on a walk to explore our history.

We are meeting up at The George pub on the High Street (just up from Glam) at 7pm on Thursday 11th July 2013, and the walk will start at 7.30pm prompt—don't forget an umbrella just in case the weather is against us. We will return for 9pm, when a buffet will have been prepared for us—there will be a small cost, to cover the cost of food.

If you would like to come please book your place early with Steve Brock the project manager—first come will be guaranteed places, and remember numbers will be restricted to 30 or so in order to accommodate the tour. Of course, family and friends are welcome to join us in the pub from 9pm onwards so please pass on the invitation to others.



Stockton Town Pastors are engaged with the town's pub and club licensees through the 'Pubwatch' project, which plays a vital part in making licensed premises and the wider area a safer place to work and socialise by encouraging businesses, the council and police to work closely together and share information. Members share a database of people who are banned by the scheme from licensed premises in the town, and the group meets regularly to review these banning orders and address other matters which involve mainly the night-time economy.

Over the three and a half years that STP has been providing a presence in the town we have built up a strong and friendly relationship with door supervisors, and this now extends to the pub owners and managers through 'pubwatch'. In that time we have seen crime and antisocial behaviour drop more significantly than the national average, making the town a safer place to be.

At a recent 'pubwatch' meeting the Chair, John Taylor, said *"STP volunteers are appreciated for all they do, from giving flip-flops and water to those in need to administering first aid. They take a lot of pressure off the police and door staff and are always a friendly face."*

Pubwatch members are so glad of our help that they have asked what they might do to support us, and STP project manager Steve Brock has been tasked to go to the next meeting in August with some ideas!

Initial thoughts are perhaps an STP fundraising weekend involving premises collecting donations and giving out STP leaflets. Steve Brock said *"On patrols we focus on those who are vulnerable and in need, yet we tend to forget that our presence affects so many others. It is brilliant that the licensing trade values and wants to help our project and I am open to suggestions as to how we might develop this bond."*

STP News:

Bank Holiday Changes—It has been recognised for some time that, on Bank Holidays, the town is very busy on a Sunday evening with people preferring to come out then, rather than Saturday. Police and door staff have confirmed this, and the STP Board have agreed to trial Friday and Sunday evening patrols, rather than Friday and Saturday. The next Bank Holiday weekend is 24th—26th August and, although we will work Friday the 23rd as normal, we will do patrols on Sunday the 25th instead of the Saturday. Please would you bear this in mind when putting your name down for availability? We will then make a decision on future bank holiday working, based on our experience. As a matter of interest, almost all other Street Angels projects in the UK have already adopted this as they recognise the greater need is on a Sunday.

Training—Conflict management courses are being arranged (along with crime scene and licensing for those doing the Open College Network accredited training) and dates will be released shortly. These will all be on a Thursday evening 7pm—9pm, and we will once again be joined by volunteers from Hartlepool Town Pastors (HTP) and Boro Angels (BA). If you would like to attend any of these sessions as a refresher then please contact Steve Brock.

Hartlepool and Middlesbrough—both HTP and BA have offered our volunteers to go out on patrols with them. If you would like to do this then please contact Steve Brock—it is great to experience working in a different town and wonderful to see just how this work is being carried out with the same levels of care and compassion wherever you are!

First Aid—A reminder that our next one-day course is on Saturday 22nd June at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle, 9am start. Those in need of training have already been notified.

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www.stocktontownpastors.co.uk

STP Volunteers 'Assisting Police With Enquiries!'



We are most grateful to Cleveland Police for continuing to provide us with training in respect of 'conflict management' and 'initial actions at crime scenes,' which is invaluable to our volunteers in terms of increasing our safety and raising awareness.

The police also provide specific training courses for their own staff in respect of criminal investigations, and we have been asked by them if our volunteers would like to act as witnesses and suspects during their training, adding a sense of realism to students as they practice their interview techniques!

Those wishing to take part will be paid £10 per day to meet travelling expenses—all courses will be held at Cleveland Police HQ, Ladgate Lane, Middlesbrough—and will be fully briefed beforehand. Training dates are set for the third week in July.

If you would like to volunteer to help the police in training in this way, please contact Steve Brock stating whether you would like to 'act' as a witness or a 'suspect' (or both); along with your availability.



Christian Nightlife Initiative News

CNI Conference—plans for this event are going well, with a full range of activities arranged for the 30th August—1st September, at the De Vere hotel in Daventry. Currently there are 9 STP volunteers attending, with one from Hartlepool and a number for Middlesbrough. It is still not too late to book—just contact Steve Brock—or you may wish to volunteer for STP yourself that night as it seems we may be short! It will be great to meet up with street angels from across the UK and, if our experiences at a similar event in Edinburgh last year is anything to go by, it will be a lot of fun too!

Bridlington Street Angels—Start patrols on 15th June and have a commissioning service at a local church before going out onto the street for the first time! They have been supported in their development by CNI and we ask that you pray for them in terms of safety, acceptance and importantly that they are blessed as we have been, by doing this work.

Guisborough Town Pastors—the project is still in development, with a meeting involving police, council and churches taking place on 12th June. Please hold them in your prayers as they prepare to roll out this work.