

# Across Town

## STP Trustee Receives Award

With all of the recent publicity given to street angels from Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough and Guisborough via the celebration evening hosted by Cleveland's Chief Constable and Crime Commissioner, it is easy to overlook the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.



'Catalyst' is Stockton's voluntary and community sector enterprise (VCSE), supporting and empowering local organisations to achieve their objectives. At its annual award ceremony in October 2013, Stockton Town Pastors trustee Andy Fox was presented with the VCSEs 'Trustee Award' - selected from amongst more than 200 other local organisations!

Andy joined the STP steering group at its inception in 2008 and played a significant role in its development, becoming a trustee in 2011 when STP was awarded charitable status.

He has remained committed to developing the project so that it is now considered an integral part of the town's night-time economy strategic plan. Additionally, he is actively involved in the training of its 60 volunteers. He is about to retire from the police service, but will remain an active trustee with STP—he has even submitted a volunteer application so we will be seeing him out on the streets of Stockton as well!. Many congratulations, Andy, on your award and forthcoming retirement.

As per STP's AGM on 23rd October 2013, the full STP Board of Trustees is:

Revd. Derek Rosamond (Chair)

Revd. Jim Wright

Major Rosemarie Williams

Graham Knox (Treasurer)

Jan Knox

James Glancey

Andy Fox (Secretary)

Steve Brock (Project Manager)

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Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment

## Cleveland's 'Street Angels' Projects Celebration

Cleveland Police Chief Constable Jacqui Cheer and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping hosted a celebration evening at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle on 23rd October, in appreciation for the work that each of its 100 volunteers do across the area.

Welcoming more than 250 people to the event, Mrs Cheer said "[Street Angels in Cleveland] provide a highly visible presence in our towns late at night on busy weekends when people who are using the night time facilities are potentially at their most vulnerable and when our officers are usually at their busiest".

The Crime Commissioner Mr Copping added "The work carried out by the Street Angels is absolutely invaluable. They provide support and advice to those who are vulnerable, perhaps impaired through drink or drugs, or in need of first aid or those who are simply in need of someone to talk to."

Volunteers were also presented with 'Certificate of Appreciation' awards signed by both the Chief Constable and Commissioner in recognition of all that they do for their communities.

The evening also saw Street Angels—Christian Nightlife Initiatives founder and Chief Executive, Paul Blakey MBE, providing an update on of the street angels concept continues to grow across the UK and even into Spain, as town and cities recognise the value of Christians who show and share Jesus's love in a practical way within the night-time environment.

We were entertained by Halifax street angels Trevor and Helen Bendrien who led song worship and revealed their hilarious 'Flip-Flops and Lollipops' song to an unsuspecting audience! Will it make No. 1 in the charts for Christmas 2013, that is the question—work is underway to record it professionally so don't go purchasing any early music gifts just yet.....

## Stockton Christmas Tree Festival

Saint Paul's in Newtown is once again hosting its Christmas tree decorating competition, running between 14th and 31st December 2013. This year's theme will be 'Christmas Carols' and project manager Steve Brock is looking for help in producing a winning entry—please contact him if you would like to help in the design.

## 'Club Angels' Update

STP volunteers Sue and Emily Mulcaster visited the Leeds Club Angels project last month to look at the possibility of us developing a similar project in Stockton. Volunteers are located inside the nightclub and look after those who are vulnerable, rather than spending time wandering the streets outside to deal with them afterwards. Stockton's 'Ku Bar' hosts a students evening every Tuesday which is filled with students, and we are now looking at the possibility of providing a similar service there.

You will recall that we have 18-months experience in providing a presence at student events with the 'Cannonball' events at The Keys in Yarm, and this approach may offer a more appropriate response. Of course, an operating base within the Stockton High Street area remains the top priority and work continues in this respect, offering revellers access to an easily accessible 'safe haven'.

Each of these issues will be open for discussion at our next STP social event in early December, when we will be celebrating our 4th birthday!

## A Message from Boro Angels

*"We were stopped by a very grateful young man, appreciative of the work the projects do. Apparently he had recently been out in Stockton, got in a state and Stockton Town Pastors had come to the rescue. I said I'd pass on his thanks—Alma"*

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## Street Angels Working Protocol

All four 'street angels' projects in the Cleveland area have signed a protocol with Cleveland Police, and are amongst the first in the UK to do so. The protocol will now be offered to other similar projects across the country.

Cleveland Police recognises the independence of [street angels] and offers them all possible assistance in respect of child and adult safeguarding matters and the safe surrender of drugs and weapons in order to reduce crime and the risk of injury. A single point-of-contact has been identified in order to ensure close cooperation when the need arises.

At the same time, Cleveland Police accepts the need to maintain a clear understanding regarding its relationship with [street angels] so that the risks faced by them in their pastoral work are not increased by any perception that they work with, or indeed for, the police or are in anyway an enforcement agency.

Stockton Town Pastors project manager Steve Brock said, *"this important agreement offers safeguards to volunteers who might find themselves engaged in difficult decisions whilst on patrols, ensuring access to police guidance and support when it is necessary but without affecting the valuable independent nature of our engagement with those in need. We are pleased that other police forces and street angels projects are considering implementation in order to strengthen their partnership links."*

A full copy of the protocol can be found on the STP website under the 'Downloads/STP documents' tab.

## Guisborough Night Light Shines!



Street angels started patrols for the first time in Guisborough in October. Their 'Facebook' site reports: *"It was quite an exhilarating experience! We got to meet a lot of people and I thought our presence was much appreciated by both the pub security men and the folks we met and chatted to on the street. The tea and coffee 'party' with the family of 7 outside Sunnyfield*

*House was quite surreal . . . and the arrival of the Cleveland Archdeacon who came to say 'hello!'"*