

# Across Town

## Project Manager's Thoughts

With so much going on, I find it helpful to take stock occasionally. Why do so many people volunteer with STP and why do so many stay with us? What drives *me* to continue, and what benefits do we bring to the wider community?

Volunteers will say they do this in order to make a difference, and that it is in the service of others. Those of us with a Christian faith believe we are called to do this as a practical way of showing Christ's love for all of mankind, regardless of the circumstances in which people find themselves, and without judgement.

What is abundantly clear is that the close fellowship built up within the growing number of volunteers is a blessing to all, with care and prayer abundant throughout. I am reminded of what Jesus said to his disciples in John 13:34—"A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

Indeed this same love is extended to all of those we meet, whether it be the police, council staff, taxi drivers, door supervisors or those we help or just engage in general conversation.

We have seen relationships across the whole community flourish, finances to secure a mobile unit secured and received awards from many, including the Chiefs of Police, Mayor and 'Catalyst' community enterprise sector.

All of this dovetails seamlessly into the wider 'Love Stockton' Church initiative, which continues to grow as it recognises and meets the needs of the lost and lonely in our town. What better reason to continue to show and share His love to all that we meet?

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## STP Events for Autumn 2014

Would you believe it—STP will be five years old in December! How quickly time has flown and what a huge amount we have achieved. We are planning a birthday party to celebrate; additionally the Police and Crime Commissioner has also invited all local street angels project volunteers to Cleveland Police Headquarters to say thank-you for the contributions and reassurance we bring to five towns in the Tees Valley.

There are also training dates for new volunteers and for those in need of refreshers etc, and of course Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks continue—these have replaced the CRB checks. All of this ensures that volunteers are kept up to date, and provides reassurance to the public and those we work alongside that we take seriously our role as true carers within our communities.

Volunteers needing initial or refresher training will be contacted individually, but if this includes you then please would you try to meet these needs as, particularly in respect of training, we rely heavily upon the goodwill of others in providing their time.

**20th November (Thursday)—Conflict Management** training, 7pm—9.30pm at Cleveland Police HQ, delivered by Mr Stuart Malcolm

**22nd November (Saturday) - First Aid** training, 9am—3.30pm at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle, once again delivered free to us via council-secured funding, by Barbara Broadbelt

**27th November (Thursday) - Police & Crime Commissioners Celebration** Event, 6pm—9pm at Cleveland Police HQ, Ladgate Lane, Middlesbrough—buffet to be included. This will be a great evening and an opportunity to meet up with other project volunteers.

**4th December (Thursday) - STP Birthday Celebration**, 7pm—9.30pm at The George pub, Stockton High Street. Buffet provided free by the owners.

Leadership, radio procedure, sexual offence and other similar awareness evenings to be arranged for early in 2015—further details to follow.

## STP Fundraising Day



Our fundraising day on Saturday 27th September in Stockton High Street went very well, and we were blessed with wonderful weather. Our mobile unit attracted many visitors and we have received two invitations to talk to local community groups. We may also have two new recruits as a result, and we raised a magnificent £107.12p—enough to buy 143 pairs of flip-flops or 1,945 lollies—should keep us going for a couple of weeks! Many thanks to the 10 volunteers who helped out on the day—and of course to the public for their generosity.

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### STP Mobile Unit

Our van goes in for refurbishment on 13th October, for routine maintenance but also for dents and scrapes to be attended to—most of which were present when we bought the vehicle. In addition, the air-operated door will be fixed. All this will bring the van up to a high standard, reflecting wider STP project values.

Opportunities for drivers willing to undergo familiarisation training remain, so if you would like to join this group with additional responsibilities, please contact the project manager.

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### VIP's on Patrol With STP

Stockton's Mayor, Councillor Barbara Inman, will be coming out on patrols with STP in October. You may recall that she officially 'launched' our mobile unit this Easter, and has expressed a real interest in our work. Additionally, Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping will be making a separate visit to us this month.

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Redcar Beacons are due to start patrols on Friday 31st October. Training and administrative necessities are going well, and start-up funding has been secured by way of individual donations and grants. They will fall under the umbrella of Redcar's 'Footprints' food bank charity which is a part of the Trussell Trust group, and operate from a 'Lifeline Project' building on the High Street. More volunteers are needed, so if you know of anyone who would like to become involved with them please contact Steve Brock for further details.

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### STP Board Members Needed

Our project has always retained a strong Christian ethos and this will continue to be a part of our constitution, but we are in need of strategic leadership as we continue to grow. In the almost 5 years that our project has been going we have become an integral part of the police and council's strategy to deal with problems within the night-time economy and are represented on a range of community, business and public service forums.

If you would like to be considered for an invitation onto the Board, or know of anyone who would be suitable, please contact the project manager Steve Brock.

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**Would you like to help the Police train officers in how to interview people?** For more than a year STP volunteers have been acting as 'witnesses' and 'suspects' in an Investigative Interview training programme, and more courses are planned for October November and December. Each session will take about 1.5 hours, and you will receive £10 towards expenses. This is great fun as well as being educational—if you are an STP volunteer and would like to take part please contact Steve Brock.

**Last call for visiting Lambeth Palace**—Street Angels Christian Nightlife Initiatives have arranged a tour of the Archbishop of Canterbury's official residence, followed by high tea, on Monday 20th October 2014. If you would like to go, please contact Steve Brock. You will have to make your own travel and accommodation arrangements, and there is a small charge to cover refreshment—All are welcome.