

Across Town

Cleveland's 'Street Angels' Projects Congratulated



For the second year running, Cleveland's Chief Constable Jacqui Cheer and the Police & Crime Commissioner Barry Copping hosted an event to thank volunteers from Hartlepool Town Pastors, Stockton Town Pastors, Boro Angels, Guisborough Nightlight and Redcar Beacons.

Barry Copping said: "I am delighted to be able to recognise the hard work of all of these tremendous volunteers who are out every weekend, sometimes in the freezing cold and rain, providing support to those in need. "The work which they do assists the police and other emergency services immensely, and in many cases they are able to resolve issues without the need for additional assistance from core services, thereby enabling the police and other emergency services to focus where they are most needed. "I have been out myself with all the projects and seen first hand the commitment and dedication shown by the teams." (continued inside).....

Issue No. 45
December 2014



Care and Compassion in the
Night-Time Environment

STP Celebrates its Fifth Birthday



Our project celebrated its fifth year on patrols on 4th December, with 40 volunteers and guests attending a party at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle. A friend of STP, Cath Ingram, made a wonderful sponge cake in recognition of our achievement, and the STP Board provided a buffet for all by way of thanks for the commitment and passion of volunteers.

STP has given more than 16,600 hours to patrols, and our volunteers have had more than 4,100 separate significant contacts with those using the town's night-time economy. This includes 450 occasions when we have given first aid (90 of these requiring the attendance of an ambulance), and nearly 350 people placed in a taxi or reconciled with family or friends. We picked up 9,000 discarded bottles/glasses or broken glassware, and gave out more than 1,000 pairs of flip-flops. We have given out countless lollipops—more easily measured by the kilogramme.

Our contribution to the town was acknowledged with an award from the town's Mayor in 2013, followed in 2014 by the council's 'Catalyst' board heralding us as the volunteer group of the year as part of the town's achievement awards. Along with other street angels projects across Cleveland, all volunteers were invited to celebration events hosted by Cleveland Police in both 2013 and 2014, in recognition of all that we do in the community.

Our actions are born out of our care and concern for those we meet, and we have learned how important it is to do all of this without judgement and regardless of circumstance. The project has a strong Christian ethos and, although not all of our volunteers share this faith, 20 local congregations are represented within our body of 52 volunteers and we are readily appreciated by many who approach us for both practical and spiritual help. As the night-time economy continues to change, hopefully encouraged by the recent High Street refurbishment, STP hopes to be able to show and share His love for others in this simple yet effective way.

(continued)

"Chief Constable Jacqui Cheer said: "This evening has been arranged as a way of saying thank you to the volunteers and organisers who are involved with Cleveland Street Angels for their hard work, commitment and dedication. The Street Angels 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. They not only provide support to these vulnerable people but they also support the emergency services in many ways and I am very pleased to be able to express my gratitude to them on behalf of Cleveland Police."



Redcar Beacons a Christian Nightlife Initiative Project under the umbrella of Footprints in the Community Charity are holding a Dedication Service at St. Peters Church, Lord Street, Redcar. You are invited to this time of celebration on Saturday 20th December from 2.30pm-3.30pm followed by refreshments.



An Invitation

Why not come along to the newest local 'street angels' project dedication service to share thanks to God for all that He has done in the town in bringing this group of amazing people together?

The invitation is open to all, and it would be a great opportunity for other project volunteers to show their support and meet others who deliver the same care and compassion to those in need in their town.

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STP's Volunteer Coordinators

In order to ensure consistency, support and leadership for our volunteers, STP has a small group of coordinators who take overall responsibility and act as the single point of contact with local services. They meet regularly to discuss practical issues and feed in volunteer concerns to ensure the project runs smoothly. We have recently added to our team, and the current coordinators are:

Ian Bartle, Salvation Army (Ian is currently unwell, and would value your prayers)

Steve Johnson, Saint John the Baptist, Egglecliffe

Sue Mulcaster, Rivers of Life Church, Lightfoot Grove

Paul Miller, Hebron Church

Sam Clark, Tees Valley Community Church, Eaglescliffe

Mike Kennedy, Saint Patrick's Church, Fairfield

Steve Brock, Stockton Baptist Tabernacle (also STP project manager)

STP Board of Trustees—Chair

Revd. Derek Rosamond, who retires from ministry in 2015, is stepping down from his position of Chair of our charity in February. It is perhaps the most important challenge facing STP as we try to find a replacement for him. Derek was present at the initial discussions more than 7 years ago, which led to STP being formed. His strategic links with local communities and the council, alongside his position as Parish Priest for Stockton and as vicar of Saint Pauls Newtown, combined with his strong Christian faith and quiet persistence, has played a significant part in building STP into the strong and compassionate organisation that it currently is. As the night-time economy changes there will be new outreach opportunities and STP will need good Christian leadership as it meets these challenges. It is, I believe, incumbent on the Church in Stockton to provide an able replacement for Derek. Perhaps you could take this to your local church leadership teams for consideration and prayer? Additionally, if you know of someone who might be suitable to take up this position, please would you let me have their details so that I might make contact? *Steve Brock, project manager*