

Across Town

Issue No. 47, April 2015



Stockton Town Pastors in Yarm

We are all set to provide a presence on Yarm High Street every Friday night from 10pm! Our first evening will be 10th April 2015, and our mobile unit will be parked near to the town hall.

The unit will be staffed by volunteers and there will also be a team of three patrolling the area to offer help to those who are vulnerable and in need.

We will continue to provide a presence in Stockton town centre each Saturday evening and review our activity after three months—but already I suspect we will be remaining in Yarm beyond then. I recently visited most pubs and restaurants in the Yarm High Street (not a drop passed my lips all night!) and was overwhelmed with the positive response to the announcement of our arrival. Many of the door staff already have experience of street angels projects such as ours, and have placed orders with us for a regular supply of lollies.....

Most of the current band of STP volunteers are keen to be involved in our Yarm patrols, but I am hopeful we will be able to attract additional Yarm residents into our project, via presentations to local community groups and churches. If you know of anyone who would like to join us, please let me have their details.

STP AGM and Social Evening

The STP management board met recently—more of which later—and have agreed the date of our next Annual General Meeting: **7pm—9pm on Monday 29th June 2015**, at the Destiny Centre, Norton Road, Norton, Stockton. Please make a note in your diary, as this promises to be a great opportunity to meet new board members and to have fellowship with other volunteers.

There will be a free buffet for all of those attending. The 'business' aspect will be short and most of the time will be spent looking at our future and

recognising the difference we continue to make within our local communities. You will not be disappointed and we will be able to catch up with many who we only see occasionally when out on patrols.

It is also an opportunity to vote in up to three volunteer representatives onto the Board. Ian Bartle and Sam Clark are the current incumbents and will be up for re-election. If you would like to nominate someone please let me know as soon as possible.

Finally in this respect, membership to STP is now due for renewal to all volunteers and board members. You will have to fill in the application form (available at the STP mobile unit or through me) and the subscription is a suggested £1. Although it is not essential for volunteers to also be members almost everyone is, and it allows you to vote at the AGM.

As always, further details of membership and all other STP issues is available to be viewed on our website.

STP Website

This has recently been refreshed but retains the original look. All of our documentation, from constitution to volunteer handbooks and meeting minutes, are available to view, so why not take a look?

I have also re-started the website blog-spot to encourage you to have your say, so please consider airing your views there. Don't forget also that we have Facebook and Twitter accounts where you can post photos etc.—lets get the conversation started.



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Changes to STP Board

We have recently had to say goodbye to our Chair **Derek Rosamond**, who is approaching retirement from his several roles in the church and will shortly be moving home. Derek has been involved in the foundation and running of STP from the very beginning and his wisdom, enthusiasm and passion for the wider Christian church will be greatly missed.

Major **Rosemarie Williams** has also had to stand down, as she is being moved to Norfolk as part of her work with the Salvation Army. We thank her for her commitment to STP and wish her every blessing in her next post.

Additionally, our Stockton Borough Council representative, **James Glancey**, has stepped down from the board as a result of losing his post as provincial projects manager in the council's restructuring process. James is currently job-seeking and may have to move out of the area to secure fresh employment. He has been integral to the partnership working that has been established between the council and STP. We wish you every success for the future James, and thank you for all that you have done for STP in establishing us as a competent and appreciated partner within the council.

However, we have been blessed with new board members:

David Humble is a long-term committed Christian who worships at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle. He is an accountant and has experience of leading and developing charitable boards. David has taken up the role of interim Chair of STP until our AGM in June.

Stuart Levin is an active Christian involved in All Saints Church in Preston-on-Tees, and used to be a volunteer with STP. He works within the council's Democratic Services and will continue to provide a link between STP and Stockton Council.

The only non-trustee is Inspector **Tony Cross**, who is the Stockton policing area representative. Tony is the town centre Neighbourhood Inspector and provides a link between the police and STP.



Current Board Members



David Humble

Interim Chair



Andy Fox

Secretary



Graham Knox

Treasurer



Steve Brock

Project Manager



Jane Harmer

Board Member



Stuart Levin

Board Member



Ian Bartle

Volunteer
Representative



Sam Clark

Volunteer
Representative

Will you allow me to finish with a quote from one of our Lindisfarne College placement students?

"When I walk through a field of sheep all I see are sheep. When I walk through that same field with STP volunteers, I see that you know the sheep by name and you care for their individual needs. You are good shepherds."