

Across Town

Stockton Town Pastors Patrols in Yarm



The 'Cannonball' event is on at 'The Keys' in Yarm High Street again during Easter, which can only mean one thing—STP will be patrolling there each Thursday!

The Cannonball attracts a large number of students and their friends who live within the Tees Valley area and are on holiday from university. It is a great opportunity for them to catch up with friends in a safe place and enjoy good music. Unfortunately, many are inexperienced when it comes to the night-time environment and some find themselves in need of support through having drunk too much etc. We are there to look after them, making sure they get home safely and don't come to any harm.

Beryl Nadin (above left) and Fran Wood live in the locality, and they are our stalwart volunteers for the Yarm patrols. Thanks for all that you do, ladies!

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Care and Compassion in the Night-Time Environment



STP have joined 'Pubwatch' in Stockton, and are now able to work more closely with the police and door supervisors to alert others to potential difficulties in the town centre.

Pubwatch is used right across the UK by police, councils & partners and is a tried & proven database solution in the fight against Licensed premises crime & anti-social behaviour.

Once the current Stockton database has been refined, STP will have access to photos of those in the town who are barred from licensed premises so that we might quickly alert police and door staff. As always, we are not there as an enforcement agency, but the facility will allow us to be more closely aware of the potential for danger from certain individuals.

There is also a facility to text message other local members to alert them of the potential for trouble.

The database also has a 'missing persons' section where photographs of those who are missing in our area can be accessed.

Guisborough Churches are looking at the possibility of providing a 'street angels' patrol and drop-in café on Westgate on Friday and Saturday evenings, and have been in contact with Steve Brock for advice and support in getting this initiative off the ground.

An initial meeting has taken place and Redcar & Cleveland Council have expressed a desire to support it. The project is still at an early stage, but your prayers would be greatly appreciated.

For further news on the 120 or so similar project across the UK please visit the Christian Nightlife Initiatives website and read their latest newsletter: www.sa-cni.org.uk

A reminder that the **Christian Police Association National Conference** is being held at Stockton Baptist Tabernacle on 5th & 6th April 2013, with evening services for both days starting at 7.30pm—all are welcome.

Some of the conference delegates will be coming out on patrols with STP on that weekend to experience the many delights that Stockton has to offer.



STP Volunteer Ray Dang has asked to place the following article in the newsletter, and it would be great if you were able to sponsor him in this huge challenge - Good luck with the event, Ray!

“Hello, I am a doctor looking after people with blood diseases. This Spring, I am hoping to set myself a challenge - to swim the distance equivalent to the width of the English Channel (22 miles) in the

excellent pool of my local health club, Total Fitness in Stockton, in aid of the charity Myeloma UK. Myeloma is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow, and is not curable in the majority of patients. However, much can be done to help sufferers to control the disease, alleviate symptoms, and support them and their families through their journey. Myeloma UK is the only charity in the UK that deals exclusively with this disease, and they are a big voice for patients and have done some great work. In short, they provide support for patients, carers and their families, support doctors and health care professionals, provide funding for research, and work with other charities, the government and the pharmaceutical industry to ensure patients have access to the best treatment.

I am planning to cover the 22 miles (1,408 lengths) in the pool over 21 days. Most of these will be covered within my normal working days and weekends, and in real terms, equivalent to an average of 67 lengths in the standard 25m pool every day. I am training very hard already, and very much looking forward to the challenge for this really worthwhile cause.

I am setting the target quite high, at £3,000 in total, and I hope that you will stand with me in raising vital funds for this extremely worthwhile charity.”

You can support me by visiting my Sponsor Me page:

<http://www.sponsorsome.co.uk/raymonddang/channel-swim-challenge.aspx>

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STP's Weekly Prayer Bulletin has proved to be a great success, with many individuals who are not volunteers with us wanting to offer prayer support. As a result, the bulletins will continue beyond the initial 3-month trial period so if you would like to receive a copy please contact Steve Brock who will arrange for it to be sent via email every week, or monthly via the postal system.

If you would like prayer points to be added to the bulletin, just drop Steve an email and he will ensure the item is included.

The initiative has been recognised as a great idea by other ‘street angels’ initiatives, some of which are now following suit. It has been suggested that projects might wish to ‘twin’ with others and I will be contacting Boro Angels and Hartlepool Town Pastors to try and start something locally—watch this space!

STP Presentations to local groups will be taking place on the following dates:

12th April 2pm, Townswomen’s Guild, Grangefield Youth & Community Centre

17th April 10.30am, Stockton Library

24th April 2pm, Evergreens Club, Oakwood Centre, Eaglescliffe.

All are welcome to attend.

Christian Nightlife Initiatives are



hosting their first National Conference on the weekend of

Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September 2013 at Staverton Park, Daventry, Northamptonshire.

Places are still available, and so far there are eight STP volunteers going; additionally several Boro Angels have booked. Transport will be arranged. If you would like to come along then contact Steve Brock for further information. Cost is now £150 per person fully inclusive of meals and facilities/

<http://www.deverevenues.co.uk/>

The Love Stockton Churches Directory

was published on 31st March 2013, and lists 80 Christian churches

across a range of denominations in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, as well as 15 community groups with a link to the Christian community. This is the first multi-denominational directory of its kind, and is aimed at improving links across the Christian faith as well as providing a contact list to which public services such as the police, council and libraries may refer.

The directory is in spread-sheet form and can be found on the STP website under ‘About Us/Churches Involved’