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November 2019

Done Darlington



Panto sparkle - pages 4 and 5



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Welcome to One Darlington

What a pleasure to have been asked to be guest editor for this festive edition of One Darlington as this is a very special and busy time of year for all at King's Foodbank.

For us it is a time to remember what Christmas is truly about. As Christians we are called to show the love of Jesus to everyone we meet through our actions and to bring hope, dignity, respect and acceptance to families.

We have been blessed to help those most in need in Darlington through our foodbank. The foodbank is a place where anyone who finds themselves in times of hardship can come and receive an emergency bag of food. We would not be able to deliver this vital service without our army of generous donors who give tirelessly throughout the year and help to make Christmas time that little bit more special.

We are always grateful for the donations we receive, especially non-perishables, which help us to make up a well-balanced bag of food. You can leave food in our donation boxes around town, including at Sainsbury's and Co-op stores, or drop them into the King's Centre on Whessoe Road.

Our aim is to make sure that everyone visiting the foodbank leaves feeling that someone really does care about their needs. To find out more visit our website www.kingschurchdarlington.org or see page 8 to see how Darlington Cares is helping us with its annual Christmas gift appeal.

Singing is a great way to bring people together and a new community choir in town is making a real difference to those living with a serious illness. See page 18 for more. You can also find out about a special event for carers in the town on page 35.

To get us all in the mood for Christmas check out pages 14, 15 and 21 for festive events and activities around the town and don't forget the fantastic panto taking to the stage next month – more details on pages 4 and 5.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a truly wonderful Christmas.



Caroline Todd
King's Foodbank

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An audio version of One Darlington is also available at www.onedarlington.org.uk

STRICTLY'S SHIRLEY BALLAS PANTO S

Shirley Ballas, known to millions as the head judge on hit BBC show *Strictly Come Dancing*, is starring in *Jack and the Beanstalk* at Darlington Hippodrome this panto season. We caught up with her for a chat.

Is this your first time performing in Darlington?

It's my first time performing panto in Darlington but I have danced here over the years with different partners, so I've been up to this neck of the woods before.

You played Mother Nature in your panto debut in Liverpool last year, how does it feel to be making a return to panto and to *Jack and the Beanstalk* this year?

My debut last year was the most terrifying experience I've ever had in my entire life because I've never been on stage acting before. My son coming to see me gave me a lot of confidence and then you learn your trade, so I think I'm going to be a lot more relaxed!

With *Strictly* well underway, how will you juggle panto rehearsals with your TV work, as well as getting ready for the festive season?

I take one job at a time and I'm used to multi-tasking, in fact I'm really good at multi-tasking. I don't really think of it as work, I do something I love. It'll overlap by three weeks I think, so for the last three weeks of *Strictly* I'll be up and down the motorway. I've also done all my Christmas shopping!

Starring alongside you this year is Britain's Got Talent winner George Sampson in the title role as Jack. How was it meeting your fellow cast members?

There was automatic chemistry. I think it's just going to be really uplifting. I don't think any two days will be the same, because one day I remember my lines and the next day I don't! It's going to be exciting. It's a great story and what I like about this panto is there's acting, dancing and singing so there's so many things across the board to keep people entertained. People should come to Darlington to be uplifted!

What would your advice be to anyone wanting to pursue a career as a professional dancer or performer?

I started ballet and tap when I was two and I came from a poor background, my mother raised my brother and I with nobody else to help us and she just instilled in me 'always go after your dreams.' She said you've got to keep pushing forward. If you really love something, never give up.



SHIRLEY BRINGS PARKLE

Shirley with fellow cast members – Britain's Got Talent winner G Sampson, with Park Walk as Jack's brother Sam and Dani Taylor as evil villain Fleshcre



Tell us your favourite...

Food

A piece of brown toast with avocado, two poached eggs, pink salt and a cup of black coffee. I can have it for breakfast, lunch or dinner!

Place in the world

Liverpool.

Way to relax

In the gym exercising because I get my own time and I really enjoy working out.

Dance

My favourite dance to watch is an intense paso doble and my favourite to dance are foxtrot and rumba.

Way to spend the festive season

With my boyfriend Danny. I can't wait!

Strictly moment

Of the two full series I've been in I would have to say it was when the Reverend Richard Coles came down on the cloud. It was bonkers!

Jack AND THE beanstalk

**Friday 6 December
to Sunday 5 January.**

Tickets are selling fast so check the latest availability at www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

10 facts for



Christmas trees are grown in Europe each year! Makes sure you check out ours which will soon be appearing in its usual spot, near to the Joseph Pease statue.



The world's biggest snowman was built in Maine, USA. It stood at **122ft** tall. Although our gritters are always ready for action, let's hope we don't see enough snow this winter to break that record!

Check out our snippets of festive trivia – perfect to



The traditional festive pantomime was developed from Italian street theatre in the **16th Century**. It's not too late to pick up some tickets for our very own panto – Jack and the Beanstalk at Darlington Hippodrome. Don't miss our interview with Mother Nature herself, Strictly Come Dancing judge Shirley Ballas, on page 4-5.



With most of us indulging more over Christmas (apparently we consume over **6,000** calories on Christmas Day alone) it's a good idea to try to get moving! Why not enjoy a walk in our parks or nature reserves or pop to the Dolphin Centre for a swim, gym session or class?

Christmas



The first Christmas in Britain was thought to have been celebrated not too far away in York in

521AD.



War II, when people had to shop early to allow for time to post gifts to loved ones abroad. We've got a fantastic choice for shoppers in Darlington this year so make sure you take advantage of late night shopping, starting this month.



... were made with beef and spices! There's plenty of places in Darlington to enjoy traditional festive fayre in the build up to the big day, check out the #LoveDarlo Facebook page for all that's on offer.

amuse your friends and family with on the big day



The first Christmas crackers were invented in London around

1845.

Make sure you check out our Christmas markets where you can pick up all the little extras you need to make your day special.



more than 50 million copies worldwide since

1942.

For a festive sing along why not go along to a church or community carol service?



to deliver all the presents across the world – and you thought you were busy in the run up to Christmas! Whatever you are up to, remember to rest, relax and enjoy this special time of year.

Darlington Cares Christmas appeal



Our Christmas appeal aims to make sure every child in Darlington wakes up to a present on Christmas morning and every family has enough to eat over the festive season.

We need donations of new toys, toiletries, hats and gloves as well as non-perishable food such as tinned meat, trifle and custard mixes, nuts, tinned veg, stuffing, gravy, instant mash, Christmas pudding, UHT milk, chocolates etc.

All donations will be handed out to families in need in our town.

Donations can be left at the Town Hall customer contact centre before Thursday 5 December

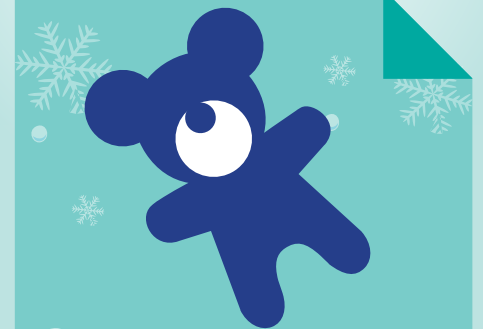
If you would like to arrange a collection call Darlington Cares on 406420 or email

chelsea.johnson@darlington.gov.uk

Last year



23
businesses
collected
donations



You donated
more than
150
boxes of food
and toys



Volunteers spent
18 hours
picking up and
delivering donations



Over
1,000
tins of food
were donated



Over
£400
was collected



Firm friends, then and now, Andrew Watson, left, and David Niquet.

A tale of two cities...

A lasting friendship, formed through Darlington's town twinning programme, is set to celebrate 30 years.

Andrew Watson, 42, first met David Niquet, 43, on his Haughton School exchange visit to twin town Amiens in France.

Their meeting sparked a friendship between both families that has lasted and grown over the years. So much so, four years ago, David moved to Darlington with his wife and family!

David has now settled in the town which was his second home for many years and works for an electronics company, using his language skills to look after international sales. David and Andrew remain firm friends and meet up whenever they can.

Andrew said: "At first I wasn't really interested in the town twinning visit, but I was persuaded to go. David and I just hit it off and he came to Darlington the following year for the first of many visits. Our families met up and that was that; we've had years of shared Christmas and New Year parties, family celebrations and sorrows and lots of wonderful times along the way. They have become our extended family."

David added: "Town twinning has changed my life. I have enjoyed the friendship of Andrew and his family

and now my own family is enjoying life in Darlington. We are busy thinking of the best way to celebrate 30 wonderful years of friendship."

Set up more than 60 years ago, Darlington Town Twinning and International Association (DTTIA) is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to foster international friendships, not only with the official twin towns of Mülheim an der Ruhr and Amiens, but with other towns across the world.

DTTIA chairman Tom Nutt said: "This is a wonderful example of how town twinning can bring our

communities together. I was honoured to be invited to the spring festival in Amiens this year, where I met with potential partner schools. I also travelled to Meharicourt where I laid a poppy wreath from the citizens of Darlington at the grave of Andrew Mynarski VC who was killed after his

plane was hit on 13 June 1944, on a mission from Darlington over Amiens."

Tom unveiled a sign at the newly dedicated Square de Darlington in Amiens, which commemorates the decades of partnership between the two towns.

The association is keen to hear from people, clubs, groups, associations and businesses interested in town twinning. For more information visit www.darlingtontowntwinning.co.uk



Keeping you moving this winter



When we are in the icy grip of bad weather, our winter maintenance team is out at all hours keeping the roads safe.



7 gritters/
snow ploughs
in our fleet of vehicles



190 miles
of priority routes
are gritted



of salt
used for each
gritting run



93
grit bins
across the borough



Once essential routes
are cleared we grit
other busy roads too



Be a good neighbour,
clear drives and
paths if you can

For more information about winter maintenance and gritting,
visit www.darlington.gov.uk/wintergritting

Need health advice quickly?

Help is just around the corner...



Everyone who receives a prescription knows to visit a pharmacy to collect their medication but did you know your community pharmacy can also help with a range of health care matters?

Darlington's 23 pharmacies provide a variety of services, ranging from the treatment of minor ailments and advice about medicines, to stop smoking advice and influenza vaccinations.

PHARMACY FACTS

- Pharmacies are very accessible and there is a good chance you will have at least one within easy reach of your home
- Pharmacy healthcare teams offer professional and convenient clinical support and advice to manage minor health concerns
- Community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are qualified healthcare professionals. Pharmacists train for five years, including one year gaining valuable experience whilst working in a pharmacy
- Pharmacies have consultation rooms if you want to discuss an issue in private
- You don't need to make an appointment to see a member of the pharmacy healthcare team
- Many branches offer extended opening hours in the evenings, at weekends and some Bank Holidays.

Greg Burke, chief officer of County Durham and Darlington Local Pharmaceutical Committee said: "Ease of access to pharmacies, the highly skilled and experienced workforce and the fact that patients can have a one-to-one consultation in private, all contribute to community pharmacies being a vital provider of health services. With winter approaching it is worth taking a second to make a note of the services available from your local community pharmacy - you never know when you might need them."

Community pharmacies also play a major part in relieving pressures on the NHS - visiting a pharmacy for minor health concerns will help free up GP time for more urgent appointments and help reduce non-emergency A&E visits.

To find out more about the services on offer at pharmacies, visit www.durhamlpc.org.uk or www.nhs.uk or pop into any of the town's pharmacies – the healthcare teams will be delighted to help you!



County Durham & Darlington
Local Pharmaceutical
Committee



#50 Faces

www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces

Helping keep families together

In the latest instalment of our #50Faces series, which tells the stories of some of the council's everyday superstars, we hear from an experienced social worker with families' best interests at heart.

Joseph Robb, social worker team manager

"I work in the Keeping Families Together team which works with young people aged ten to 16. Our aim is to support children and families so they can stay at home. I qualified as a social worker in 2013 and have spent most of that time with the council. I started here as a newly qualified social worker, then had the opportunity to move over to family intervention and offer more therapeutic support to young people who might have anger issues or who have things that are not working so well in their lives.

"A typical day for me can be anything from responding to a family's crisis, supporting staff, reflecting on what's happened for a family and how it's impacted on them. I have to be mindful of staff's wellbeing, as well as the family's wellbeing.

"I love working for the council, because, whilst this sounds really cheesy, it feels like a family. It's a small authority, which can have its problems in terms of resources, but it means as a social worker we have to be much more creative, relying on our partner agencies and the strength within our workforce.

"You're definitely recognised for the good work you do. I feel management and senior management are all really approachable. An example of this is I attend monthly meetings with our director for adult and children's services, where I get to offer real feedback about what it's like to be working on the shop floor, as it were.

"Also, you are given lots of opportunities to develop. For instance, I had the opportunity to go for a practice educating course and last year I was shortlisted for a social worker of the year award. All of that would not have been possible without the support from senior management.

"Another thing I love about Darlington is the scope to try new things. So if I come up with an idea for something I feel is a problem for families, I have the scope to go and look at it, do some research and then come back and deliver it to colleagues. An example of this would be violence against parents. We have some teenagers who are physically and emotionally abusive towards their parents. I had the chance to go and do research and now I deliver training on this to colleagues."

To find out more about social care opportunities, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/socialcarecareers

For more information, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces





Let's freeze winter crime



It's that time of year again when the nights are getting darker and the days are getting shorter – Chris Knox, neighbourhood inspector, explains how we can all help tackle crime this winter.

“We know from many years of experience that criminal behaviour tends to change with the seasons. Things like thefts from homes and cars, assaults, antisocial behaviour and criminal damage creep up at this time of year.

“This year, for the first time, we've set up a dedicated team of detectives and uniformed officers to respond to any of these types of offences as they occur, hopefully nipping in the bud any emerging crime trends in Darlington during the winter nights. My message is clear – anyone getting involved in this kind of activity can expect a swift and strong response from us.

“There's been a number of reports recently of young people throwing stones, eggs and conkers at cars. We've had a lot of cracked windscreens and drivers have been really shaken – it could have been a lot worse. This is a stupid and very dangerous thing to do. I'd ask parents to take some responsibility for this behaviour – we will hold you to account if your child is involved. Please check where your child is and what they are up to. This mindless behaviour could well end in tragedy.

“I hope you all enjoy this party season, but please stay safe. Don't drink too much alcohol, remember it can limit your ability to make safe and sensible choices. Before you go out have a plan for getting home with your friends. Don't make your way home alone and look out for your friends to make sure they are safe. Make sure you have your keys, money and phone as well as an emergency contact. I'm not trying to spoil your fun, I just want your Christmas nights out to be remembered for all the right reasons!”

TOP WINTER TIPS

- **Use timer switches on your lights**
- **Make sure your house and car doors and windows are locked**
- **Regularly check your sheds and outhouses are secure**
- **Don't leave loose change, sunglasses, phones on display in your car**
- **Don't put Christmas presents under the tree until the last minute.**

ENJOY DARLINGTON

There are lots of amazing events to make Darlington sparkle this Christmas. To help you make the most of the festive season, shops will stay open later over the Christmas period and parking will be free on Sundays.

The Christmas lights switch on, on Sunday 24 November, promises fun for all the family and is a brilliant way to get into the holiday spirit.

Make sure to take a trip along the ice sculpture trail and immerse yourself in a winter wonderland full of fantastic characters.

Darlington Indoor Market is offering the chance to win a fantastic festive hamper – don't miss your chance to win!



Christmas Lights Switch On Sunday 24 November • 4 - 5.30pm

Watch the town centre glow as hundreds of Christmas lights are switched on by our panto stars.



Christmas Markets Thursday 5 - Saturday 7 December

A festive three-day shopping extravaganza.



Ice Sculpture Trail

Saturday 7 December • 10am - 5pm

Enjoy the thrills and chills of winter as colourful characters are re-imagined in ice.

Big Little Gigs Christmas Fest

Sunday 8 December • 11am – 4pm

Welcome in the festive season with a fun filled family day full of live music in a big tent in the Market Square. 11.30am - ceilidh band; 1pm – festive singalong; 3pm – 80s Christmas gig.



Win a festive hamper

Did you know you can find all the fresh ingredients you need for your Christmas dinner under one roof in the Indoor Market? From fresh fruit and veg to great cuts of meat and fresh fish. Not forgetting cakes and baked goods and all you need to decorate your table.

For your chance to win a festive hamper with Christmas dinner ingredients, simply unscramble the words below, complete the coupon and place it in the entry box in the Indoor Market by Saturday 30 November.

Festive Hamper Entry Coupon

Unscramble the following to reveal a festive treat: **DRIPS MATCH US**

.....

NAME..... ADDRESS.....

..... POST CODE.....

DAY TIME CONTACT NO..... EMAIL.....

Place your entry into the festive post box in the Indoor Market on or before 30 November. **Good luck!**

The first correct entry drawn after this date will win a festive markets hamper.

Please tick here if you would like details of future markets events.

Congratulations to Amy Bush who won the goodie bag competition in the last edition of One Darlington. Thanks to everyone who entered.

more information visit
our #LoveDarlo Facebook page.



We will remember them

Communities across Darlington will fall silent to commemorate Remembrance Day.

A service of remembrance will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Woodland Road, on Sunday 10 November at 10am.

It will be followed by an act of remembrance at the cenotaph, in the grounds of the Memorial Hospital, which will include a two minute silence at 11am and the laying of wreaths.

A service of remembrance will be held at the war graves in West Cemetery, Carmel Road North, at 2.30pm on Sunday 10 November.

There will be a two minute silence at High Row, on Monday 11 November at 11am.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal this year.



Get more involved with our libraries

We are planning to hold meetings for people who want to get more involved in talking to us about the town's libraries. Meetings will be held about every three months and at times when there are particular things to discuss. Everyone will be welcome.

Could you be a Crown Street trustee 

The council is also looking to appoint up to three independent trustees for the Crown Street library building.

The library was left to the people of Darlington in 1885, using funds from the estate of Edward Pease.

The move to appoint trustees, totally independent from the council, is formal recognition of the fact that this is the people's library.

Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/crownstreet for more information and details of how to put yourself forward.

Bid to have town's nightlife recognised



Darlington has applied for Purple Flag status, a standard awarded to those towns and cities across the UK that offer safe and enjoyable nights out.

The council, along with the police and other organisations and town centre businesses, worked together to submit the application.

The Purple Flag standard is an accreditation process similar to the Green Flag award for parks and the Blue Flag for beaches.

It helps people to quickly identify town and city centres that offer an entertaining, varied, safe and enjoyable night out.

As part of the application process the partners have been out and about in the town centre on a Friday evening to assess what's on offer on an evening.

They were specifically looking at how safe and welcoming the town feels, how easy it is to move around and to get home safely, how good the range of leisure and entertainment venues are and how the town looks and feels.

The group received a warm welcome from Darlington Hippodrome, The Forum, Vue Cinema and the Cluedini escape rooms to name just a few of the venues visited.

Our application for Purple Flag status is now being assessed by an expert panel who will decide if we meet all of the necessary criteria to be awarded the Purple Flag status – we're keeping everything crossed!

Pizza the action

Stable Hearth on Duke Street has retained its title as the best pizzeria at the UK Italian Awards and also won the award for the best wine list. Meanwhile Sol Tapas on Duke Street was awarded best Mediterranean establishment (north) at the Food Awards England. Well done to everyone involved!

Ready for work

Carmel College's commitment to preparing young people for work has been shortlisted in a national awards. The college's work with Jacobs Engineering was shortlisted as Partnership of the Year in the Careers & Enterprise Company's Careers Excellence Awards. The Tees Valley Careers Hub, which supports schools and colleges to develop relationships with employers, was also shortlisted as Careers Hub of the Year.

Don't forget
You can read **One Darlington** online at www.darlington.gov.uk/onedarlington

Choir hits the right note



A community choir, open to everyone regardless of their health condition or disability, is hoping to help change the lives of local people.

The Dementia and Friends Choir meets every Monday at 10.30am at the King's Centre offering people with chronic health conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's the chance to get together, meet new people and enjoy the positive health benefits that singing in a choir can bring.

The choir is the brainchild of Stuiie Ellerton, a musician and director of The Northern School of Contemporary Music. He said: "Like many others I was transfixed by the Vicky McClure dementia choir TV documentary where people who were isolated by their condition suddenly became reconnected to the world through music and song. A similar thing happened to a close relative of mine. When her son placed an accordion on her knee, despite suffering severe dementia, she began to play and sing songs from the 40s.

"This, along with the documentary, was a lightbulb moment for me and so the idea to create a local choir was born. Initially for dementia and Alzheimer's sufferers, due to demand it's now expanded to include anyone with physical or mental conditions who feel they may benefit from socialising, celebrating music and singing together. In time, we hope to help raise funds for the King's Centre through concerts and events."

Sessions cost £4 each and refreshments are available. The music is modern (post 1960s) with a focus on having fun. To get involved email Stuiie on thenscm@hotmail.com or call 07973 736964.

Coping at Christmas



Samaritans
make sure there
is always someone
there if you need it.
Call for free on 116 123, email
jo@samaritans.org or pop
into 13 Woodland Road.
Find out more at
www.samaritans.org

Feelings of loneliness and depression can be overwhelming at Christmas with the expectation of festive fun increasing some people's sense of isolation.

Older people are particularly vulnerable to loneliness but anyone, of any age, can have times when they feel they have no one to turn to.

If you know someone on your street who will be alone at this time of year, try to be a good neighbour and offer help where you can. Whether it's popping in for a cup of tea, sending a Christmas card, offering to do some shopping or simply waving when you walk past – the smallest gestures can make a difference.

Age UK North Yorkshire & Darlington run a number of projects to help people who are lonely or need support. Call them on 362832, pop in to Bradbury House, Beaumont Street West or visit www.ageuknyd.org.uk

Kooth provides free, safe and anonymous online support for young people aged 11-24. It gives young people access to online emotional and mental health support. Find it at www.kooth.com

There is a list of foodbanks in the town at www.darlingtoncares.co.uk

Visit www.nhs.uk and search 'mental health helplines'.

FREE 30 Hours

Childcare for 3 & 4 year olds of working families.

Do you earn less than £100,000 a year?

Are both parents, or the sole parent, working the equivalent of at least 16 hours per week at the national minimum wage?

Is your child attending childcare or nursery?

If so, they may be entitled to a further 15 hours of FREE childcare a week.

There's lots to enjoy in Darlington. Here's a taster of what's going on over the next few months....enjoy! Visit www.enjoydarlington.com for more events news.

parkrun - every Saturday, 9am,
South Park. Free 5k run. To register visit
www.parkrun.org.uk/darlingtonssouthpark

juniorparkrun - every Sunday, 9am,
South Park. Free 2k run for ages four-14.
To register visit www.parkrun.org.uk/southpark-juniors

Farmers' market - first Sunday of every month, 10am-3pm, town centre.

NOVEMBER

Norman Cornish display - Monday 4 - Friday 29, Centre for Local Studies, Crown Street Library.

Billionaire Boy - Wednesday 6 to Sunday 10, Darlington Hippodrome.

The Afternoon Lectures: Railway and Remembrance - A talk by Ian McInnes - Saturday 9, 1.45pm, Head of Steam.

Ghurkha Concert - Tuesday 12, 7-9.30pm, Dolphin Centre. Call 406000 for details and to book.

Purple Tuesday - Tuesday 12, 11am - 2pm, Queen Street Shopping Centre. Music, coffee morning and information from Darlington Association on Disability, Alzheimer's Society, Age UK and Darlington Hippodrome.



Curtains - Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16, Darlington Hippodrome.

Charles and Mary Farrow, survivors of war, victims of flu - a talk by Dr Gillian Hunt - Thursday 14, 2pm, Crown Street Library. Tickets £2 in advance from 349630.



NERA meeting: Stainmore part 22 - a talk by John Midcalf - Saturday 16, 1.30pm, Head of Steam.

The Mick Shoulder Quintet - Friday 22, 7.30pm, Opus 4 Jazz Club, The Travellers Rest, Cockerton. Tickets £8 at the door. Tel 382676.



The Woman in Black - Monday 18 to Saturday 23, Darlington Hippodrome.

Darlington Vinyl and Vintage Fair - Saturday 23, 10am-4pm, Indoor Market.

History Wardrobe presents: Ready for Action - Sunday 24, 1.30pm, Head of Steam. Tickets £12.50 via www.eventbrite.co.uk

Dog's Trust check and chip - Wednesday 27, 11am-3pm, Firthmoor Community Centre. Free dog advice and health check. Call 406250.

Red Hall Dance Company showcase - Friday 29 & Saturday 30, 7.30pm, Hummersknott School. Tickets call Sarah on 07807 054580.

WINTER

There's lots planned in Darlington over the Christmas period. Dates are December unless stated. The fun starts with the grand Christmas lights switch on and there's also the return of the popular ice sculpture trail. See page 14 15 for details.

Countdown to Christmas - Saturday 30 November, 11am 3pm, Queen Street Shopping Centre. Children's crafts, including writing a letter to Santa.

Darlington Christmas Markets - Thursday 5, 4 9pm; Friday 6, 10am 7pm; Saturday 7, 10am 7pm.

Christmas Carols Monday 25 - Thursday 28 November, 10.30am & 1.30pm daily, Queen Street Shopping Centre. In aid of St Teresa's Hospice.



ENJOY TEES VALLEY

FESTIVE FUN...

**Jack & The Beanstalk – Friday 6
December to Sunday 5 January,**
Darlington Hippodrome.

Vintage Belles – Friday 6, 7.30pm,
The Forum, Borough Road. Get in
the mood for Christmas.

**The Polar Bears Go Up
Friday 6 – Tuesday 24,**
The Hullabaloo.

**Meet Olaf the ice sculpture and
Christmas crafts – Saturday 7,**
11am 3pm, Queen Street Shopping
Centre.

**Santa at the Station - Saturday
14 & Sunday 15; Saturday 21
& Sunday 22,** Head of Steam.
Booking is essential via
www.eventbrite.co.uk

Christmas crafts – Saturday 21,
11am 4pm, Queen Street Shopping
Centre.



**There's lots to see and do across the Tees Valley.
Visit www.enjoyteesvalley.com for full details.**

DECEMBER

**Bookplates display – Monday 2 –
Tuesday 31,** Centre for Local Studies,
Darlington Library.



**Limehouse Lizzy – Thursday 12,
7.30pm,** The Forum, Borough Road. Phil
Lynott/Thin Lizzy tribute act. Tickets £13.
Advance booking advised. Call 363135.

**The Ruth Lambert Quartet – Friday 20,
7.30pm,** Opus 4 Jazz Club, The Travellers
Rest, Cockerton. Tickets £8 on the door.
Tel 382676.

CONTACTS

Darlington Hippodrome box office open
10am-8pm (6pm on non-performance
days); Cornmill Centre ground floor open
10am-4pm Monday to Saturday; call
405405 10am-8pm Monday-Saturday
(6pm on non-performance days); or visit
www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

The Hullabaloo – call 405405 or visit
www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk

Head of Steam – Darlington Railway
Museum – call 405060, visit
www.head-of-steam.co.uk or email
headofsteam@darlington.gov.uk
Entrance fees apply in most cases.

Darlington Libraries – call 349610.

Dolphin Centre – call 406000 or email
healthydarlington@darlington.gov.uk

Using digital technology to improve care



Care home residents across Darlington are benefiting from digital technology which is ensuring they get the right medical treatment at the earliest opportunity.

We were one of the first NHS trusts to recognise the potential benefits of digital technology. Digital health specialists, Healthcall Solutions Ltd, have combined their digital product, Health Call, with the clinical expertise of our medical and other health specialists to provide the best possible care for patients. This award-winning work has been so successful, that around 18 months ago the trust offered shares to neighbouring NHS acute trusts in return for active participation and collaboration.

The latest ambitious project using Health Call is The Digital Care Home, a joint initiative between the trust, Durham and Darlington councils, the clinical commissioning groups of North Durham and Darlington; Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgfield and Healthcall Solutions Ltd.

Malcolm Walker, managing director for community services at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, explains: "It can sometimes be difficult to tell when an elderly care home resident is starting to become unwell as there may be no obvious signs. This can mean that the first

indication something is wrong is when the resident has become really quite unwell resulting in the care home staff, understandably, requesting a GP or district nurse visit, or phoning for an ambulance.

"An emergency admission to hospital for this group of patients can be stressful and even distressing. Unfamiliar routines, food and environments can be difficult to adapt to, especially for patients with dementia, but also for any frail elderly person. The negative impact can sometimes be long term.

"Health Call equips care home staff with the skills and technology to help identify patients who are starting to become unwell. We train the staff to take basic but vital patient observations, such as blood pressure, pulse, oxygen saturations, temperature and respiratory rates. They then use the technology to report the results electronically via the Health Call app, and through to the electronic patient record.

"The system recognises results outside the normal range and flags them for the attention of the local nursing team. They may request the observations are repeated, should be taken more regularly, or advise the care home staff to take other action. Sometimes an elderly patient might start to become unwell slowly and gradually, with no very obvious signs to cause concern.

"It's very reassuring to know we'll get a call with advice and, if necessary, a visit very quickly once the nurses have reviewed the readings."

– Marie Nicholson

Front row: Mrs Catherine Simpson; Jenny Palmer, senior carer; Mr John Parker
 Standing: Amy Mayos, senior carer; Marie Nicholson, registered manager; Cath Horn, deputy manager.



There has been a reduction in admission rates by between 20 – 30%

“Taking their observations routinely, helps identify early when this is happening, meaning there is an improved chance of avoiding a crisis for the patient, and therefore reducing the need for 999 phone calls and a visit to A&E, or a hospital admission.

“We’re delighted with how successful Digital Care Home is proving to be and it’s exciting to be pioneers in a project that’s already having huge benefits. We’re very grateful to our health and social care partners, including GPs and, of course, the care home owners and staff, for their collaboration and for sharing our vision in recognising the benefits for our patients.”

Marie Nicholson, registered manager at The Gardens Care Home, Pond Field Close, said:

“We’ve been using this technology as part of the care we give residents for over six months now and it’s become part of our daily routine. We take baseline observations for all our residents and complete them for new residents, submitting the readings to their patient records. Some of our residents aren’t able to tell us if they’re feeling unwell but because many of us have worked here for a long time and get to know our

residents very well, if we suspect they’re under the weather, we can take their observations and submit them at any time. It’s very reassuring to know we’ll get a call with advice and, if necessary, a visit very quickly once the nurses have reviewed the readings.

“Our residents and their families are reassured by this additional aspect of the care we give them

and it has also reduced hospital admissions. This process means we can identify deteriorations early and address them before they get any worse. It has also given us additional skills, empowering us to enhance our commitment to our residents.”

Malcolm Walker said: “The project is already showing measureable results with a reduction in the number of visits from our specialist teams and community specialist

practitioners to the care homes by up to 36% and a reduction in admission rates by between 20-30%. We’re now rolling the system out across all care homes in County Durham and Darlington and there are also plans to roll it out across the North East and North Cumbria.”

Health Call equips care home staff with the skills and technology to help identify patients who are starting to become unwell.

Find us on social media!



Fostering

with Darlington Borough Council



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Why foster with the council?

As a foster carer or supported lodgings provider, you'll work as part of a team with fostering social workers, children's social workers and other professionals. We want to place Darlington children and young people with local families.

Who makes a good foster carer?

Anyone who is over 21 and in good health can consider fostering whether you have your own children or not. If you work, depending on the needs of the child and who else is able to support you, you can continue with your employment whilst fostering. Whatever your cultural, ethnic, religious background or sexuality, you can become a foster carer – you will just need to demonstrate you can support a child from a different background to yours.

Do I need to be qualified?

No particular qualifications are needed. You need to be caring and compassionate, and able to understand the difficulties a child may have experienced so you can help and support them. Foster carers can make a real difference in the lives of children – we see this every day with the work our foster carers do.

What types of foster care are there?

We approve people to provide specific types of fostering, including short term, long term, respite and short breaks. Many carers also provide placements in emergency situations. Depending on the type of care you are approved to provide, you may look after a child for a few days or months, or provide long term foster care for children until they move to independent living.

What are supported lodgings?

This is accommodation, provided in your home, for a young person aged between 16 and 21 years who is leaving care and needs support to develop skills in budgeting, cooking, managing household tasks etc. to prepare them for living on their own. Supported lodging providers receive training and have access to help and support.

How much can I earn from becoming a foster carer/supported lodgings provider?

As a foster carer, the amount of money you receive will depend on the age of the child/children in your care and your knowledge and experience of working with children. All carers receive a weekly amount to cover the cost of the child's needs, along with a professional fee. The payment structure for supported lodgings is not the same as for foster carers. You receive one payment per week, and the young person makes a contribution too.



For more information, including frequently asked questions, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering
email fostering@darlington.gov.uk or call 406222.

Men's Shed project needs you!



A not-for-profit organisation, which helps people in Darlington gain the skills they need to find work, is looking for help to set up an innovative project.

Morrison Trust, is working in partnership with the Care and Share group, to set up a Men's Shed – a space where men can meet to share and develop their IT skills in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.

It is hoped the project will give men who feel isolated because they are out of work the chance to socialise and meet like-minded people in the area.

Sarah Bentley, Acting Chief Executive at Morrison Trust, said: "Having the right skills to find a job is important, but if you have been out of work for a while it can also start to affect your confidence, self-esteem and mental health. We know from the high suicide rates among men nationally that they often find it hard to talk about their feelings and can feel they have nowhere to turn.

"We want the Men's Shed to be a safe place where men can meet up, have a chat and a cuppa and learn some practical IT skills to help them find work."



To get the project off the ground, Sarah would like to hear from anyone with an interest in, or experience of IT, for example, programming, computer repair, gaming, IT security and building computers.

She said: "It would be great to get a group of men together who would be willing to share their knowledge and expertise. I also want to hear from anyone who wants to learn how to get the most out of their computer and other tech and thinks they could benefit from the Men's Shed."

To find out more call 387700 or email info@morrisontrust.org.uk

New neighbourhood police chief

Say hello to Steve Ball, our new neighbourhood chief inspector.

Steve's job is to make sure the neighbourhood policing teams in the town tackle the issues that matter to you as well as keeping the streets safe and crime down.

To find out more, search Darlington Police on Facebook.

A big welcome to Darlington Steve!



Council services over Christmas and New Year

Don't forget, even when our offices are closed, you can access a lot of services and information on our website: www.darlington.gov.uk

CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTRE

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Tuesday 24 December – 8.30am-2pm

Friday 27 December – closed for face-to-face enquiries but calls will be answered 8.30am-4.15pm

Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 December – 8.30am-4.45pm

Thursday 2 January – 9.30am-4.45pm

Friday 3 January – 8.30am-4.15pm

IN AN EMERGENCY

Call 405000 to hear out of hours information for different services

CROWN STREET AND COCKERTON LIBRARIES

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

All other times as normal except 9am-1pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

DOLPHIN CENTRE

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Tuesday 24 December and Friday 27 December 6.30am-4.30pm

Saturday 28 December and Sunday 29 December 8am-4.30pm

Monday 30 December and Tuesday 31 December 6.30am-4.30pm

On all days the pool, gym and soft play will close at 4pm

EASTBOURNE SPORTS COMPLEX

Please call 405400 to check details

BIN COLLECTIONS

See back page

BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS

There will be no bulky waste collections from Monday 23 December until Monday 6 January

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day (bad weather may lead to other closures)

SAVE TIME, DO IT ONLINE!

You can access and pay for many council services online. If you don't have a computer there are PCs in the Town Hall which are free to use:

Council tenants' rent account and report repairs

www.darlington.gov.uk/tenantsaccount

Housing benefit claim

www.darlington.gov.uk/benefits

Council tax support

www.darlington.gov.uk/counciltax

Vacancies

www.darlington.gov.uk/jobs

Report antisocial behaviour

www.darlington.gov.uk/asbform

If the service you want is not online you can contact us on the following numbers:

- Street Scene 405111
- Transport (including parking) 405222
- Civic enforcement and antisocial behaviour 406999
- Council housing and homelessness 405333
- Housing benefit 405444
- Council tax 405555
- Adult social care 406111
- Children and families social care 406222
- Complaints, comments and compliments 406777
- Lifeline services 406888

Please visit www.darlington.gov.uk/contactus for other numbers

CHRISTMAS at The Hullabaloo

The Polar Bears and Unicorn Theatre present

The Polar Bears Go Up

A fun and highly enjoyable Christmas treat
for young adventurers aged 2-5

Tickets
£8 - £10

"Enthralling adventure delivered with charm,
wit and a sense of wonder" ★★★★★ The Stage

Friday 6 - Tuesday 24 December 2019

For 2-5 year olds and their families

Box Office: 01325 405 405
theatrehullabaloo.org.uk



The Hullabaloo Borough Road Darlington DL1 1SG



Thanks for your views!

In our last edition, we asked for your views on our town centre strategy and we've been overwhelmed by your response.

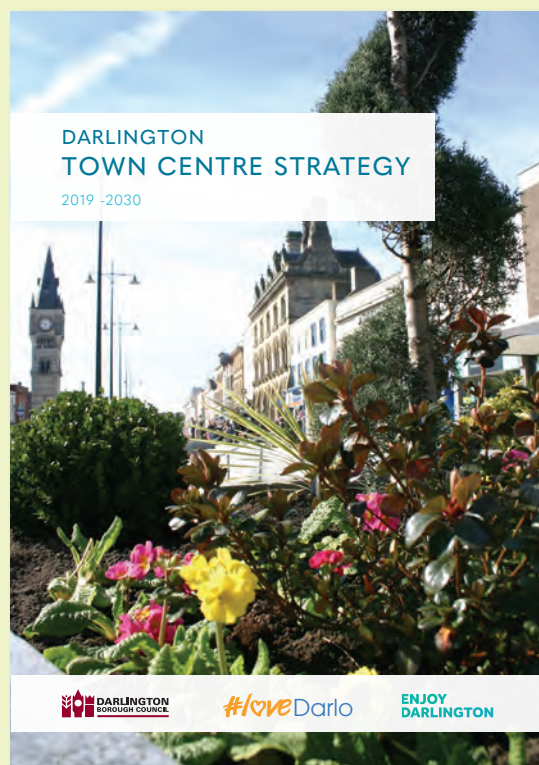
We've heard from more than 500 people who've either completed our online survey or attended one of the seven focus groups we hosted to talk about the proposed plan for improving our town.

The findings of the survey and focus groups will be discussed at Cabinet and ultimately used to inform the development of the town centre over the coming years – this shows just how important it is for you to have your say.

In a nutshell, the strategy aims to improve the attractiveness of the town centre, celebrate Darlington's heritage, support economic growth, improve health and wellbeing and make Darlington a great place to live, work and visit.

Four key areas of the town have been identified for the majority of the development work; the Victorian indoor market, Skinnergate and the Yards, Northgate and Crown Street.

Don't miss the January edition of One Darlington where the results of the survey and the next steps for the town centre strategy will be revealed.



Blooming great!

We've been celebrating winning best in class in the city centre category of this year's Northumbria in Bloom awards.

Gold awards were also presented to Hash Bar and Kitchen; The Old Yard Tapas Bar; the Atisha Kadampa Buddhist Centre and Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum. Silver gilt awards were presented to South Park and Eastbourne Park.

Thank you to all the businesses and volunteers who helped us scoop this prestigious award. Look out for how you can get involved in the 2020 competition in the new year!



Some of those involved in making Darlington bloom this year

Arson is FIRE CRIME

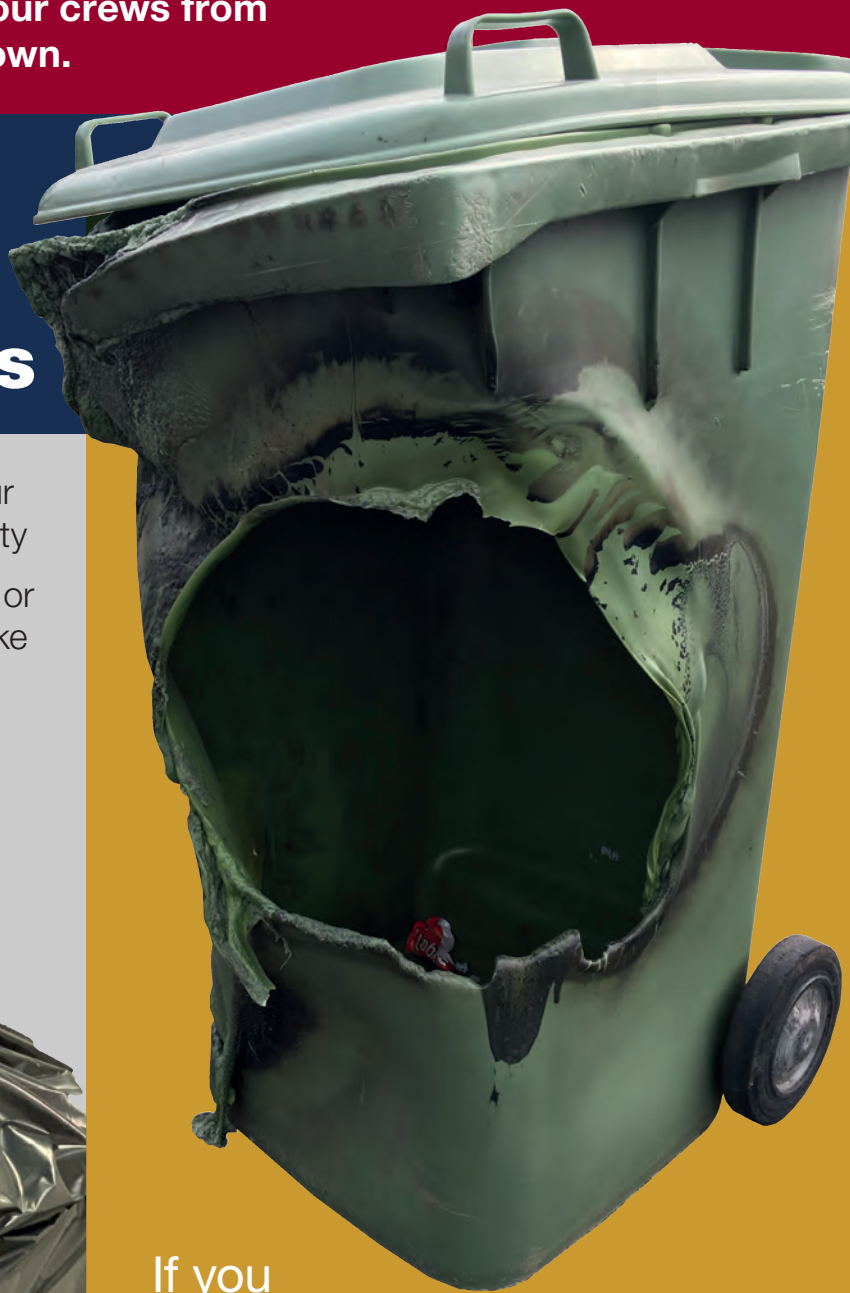
We have seen a rise in the number of bin and rubbish fires in Darlington recently. These delay our crews from attending real emergencies in the town.

Rubbish that is left out can be used to start fires

- Only put your bin out the night before your collection day and take it in once it's empty
- Make sure your bin is secure in your yard or garden. Consider using a padlock or a bike lock
- Flatten cardboard in your recycling bin so the lid closes and it can't be seen
- Only use reputable waste companies to get rid of any extra rubbish.



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service



If you have any information about deliberate fire setting in your area, call anonymously on...

FireStoppers.
0800 169 5558

www.ddfire.gov.uk



We're keeping Darlington moving!

I'm leading the march on securing new jobs and investment in Darlington and beyond – but this doesn't mean anything if local people don't have access to the opportunities we're creating.



Ben Houchen
Tees Valley Mayor

People in rural or more isolated areas of Darlington may have this exact problem - trouble getting to work or education or simply problems getting about.

If successful, there is the potential to extend the service into other rural or isolated areas.

That's why we've announced a three-year pilot for a new "Uber-style" demand-responsive bus service. It covers rural areas of Darlington, Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland and will allow passengers to book a journey in advance on either a smartphone app, via a website or over the telephone.

The technology will also help provide more public transport options for passengers going to and from Teesside International Airport. This will be ever more important as our ten-year rescue plan continues to develop.

We then match passengers travelling in the same direction and schedule vehicles in real-time to find the best route for their trip.

The airport is already going from strength to strength with the first holiday flights to Spain in seven years coming next summer, and multiple daily flights to the award-winning Amsterdam Schiphol airport, serving more than 200 destinations.

The service will use small high-quality minibuses and, unlike a traditional bus service, there are no fixed routes – important when not all of our residents live on or near bus routes. Instead journeys are determined by where passengers want to go within a predefined geographical service area.

Travel to important destinations such as Teesside International will be easier than ever when the pilot begins early next year. This is just one part of a wider Strategic Transport Plan to keep Darlington – and all of the Tees Valley – moving.



Have your say!

You still have time to have your say on a plan that outlines proposals for the future of travel in Tees Valley.

Cllr Heather Scott OBE, Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet Lead for Transport and leader of Darlington Borough Council, unveiled the Combined Authority's draft Strategic Transport Plan this summer, which includes £257million of schemes to improve transport in the region.

The plan is currently out for public consultation and covers all forms of transport, from roads, rail and air to buses and sustainable travel such as walking and cycling routes. It looks at major themes of national rail, major roads, connecting centres, unlocking key sites, and local journeys while delivering social equity and protecting and enhancing the environment.

As well as detailing upgrades to the transport network to allow people to get around quicker and smoother than ever before, the plan also

considers the freight needs of businesses.

A high-quality, efficient, reliable and well-connected transport network will enhance all of the work the Combined Authority is doing across business and investment, culture and tourism, and education, employment and skills.



Cllr Heather Scott OBE, Combined Authority Cabinet Lead for Transport

To make sure this plan works for all of our residents and businesses, across our town centres and rural villages, everyone is urged to read and respond to the consultation.

To have your say, visit the consultation website at teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/consultations before November 20. Hard copies of the questionnaire can be found at Darlington Town Hall reception and in Crown Street Library.



Cycling & Walking



Bus



Rail



Road



Freight



Air



**Help us
keep our
community
clean.**

If someone takes your waste, ask for their waste carrier registration number and check it on the Environment Agency public register or by calling **03708 506 506**

“We claimed and are now so much better off!”

“We were really struggling to make ends meet after my husband John had to give up work following a stroke.

Because I was still working full time, in addition to looking after him, I didn't think we would be able to get any help but after seeing an advert for #DarloMillions I got in touch.

Turns out that we're entitled to nearly £140 a week in support!

Now we manage a lot better and I would wholeheartedly advise anyone else who's struggling to take five minutes to check – it's ok to claim.”



To find out if you, or someone you know is entitled to claim visit www.onedarlington.org.uk/darlo-millions

For advice or help to make a claim

email darlomillions@darlingtoncab.co.uk

or call 734999.



Fighting rural crime together

We need your local knowledge and expertise to help tackle rural crime across the borough.

Although our rural crime rate is relatively low, there are unique challenges in the countryside and we need to work together to deal with them.

Residents, working hand-in-hand with their local police officers, can make a real difference to the safety of our communities.

This way of working is the focus of the latest police rural statement which sets out how rural crime should be tackled.

Over the last 12 months, by working together with the community and our partners, we have made some great

progress towards improving policing and community safety in our rural areas including:

- the introduction of Police Community Safety Volunteers who provide a visible policing presence across the borough
- a fleet of drones, which is being used by officers to spot and track crimes
- officers being specially trained to deal with wildlife crimes.

We would encourage everyone to report crimes and incidents they are concerned about. Reports help us to know what is happening in an area and allow us to react and help solve issues.

You can report anything of concern:

- **anonymously through Crimestoppers' rural crime line 0800 783 0137 or online at forms.theilink.co.uk/ruralcrimereportingline**
- **by calling 101 or, in an emergency, 999.**

The rural policing statement 2020 is on our website at www.durham-pcc.gov.uk



Support for stroke survivors

Exercise After Stroke sessions offer an important opportunity for stroke survivors to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

The sessions are part of the stroke rehabilitation programme based at Eastbourne Sports Complex.

Each session involves group activities ran by qualified instructors. Exercises are tailored to individuals taking part so that everyone gets the most out of every session.

The Exercise After Stroke participants are this edition's Move More Stars!

For more information on attending these sessions, speak to your GP or physiotherapist about a referral or call 406366 for more details.

Move More Star



Stroke survivors take part in a class at Eastbourne

Healthy 
Darlington
eat well, move more, live longer

Anyone can be a Carer

A 40 year old man caring for his partner with terminal cancer, an 80 year old woman looking after her husband with dementia or a neighbour supporting a friend with mental ill health – anyone can be a carer.

If you are supporting someone with an illness, disability, mental ill health or an addiction, Darlington Carers Support is here to help **YOU**. We provide:

- someone to offload to and talk about how you are feeling
- help to find your way through the maze of services available for you and the person you care for
- support with benefits and access to grants for essential equipment or to help you get a break
- advice on employment rights and advice if you work or want to get back into work.

Every carer who registers with us can join a discount card scheme giving access to discounts from shops and services across Darlington and County Durham

For more information visit our website www.dccarers.org call 0300 030 1215 or email admin@darlingtoncarers.org

Caring For Your Future

Join us on Friday 22 November, 10am-noon at ARQ Darlington on the ground floor of the Cornmill Shopping Centre for a cuppa and to find out about all the support we can offer.

The Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Nick Wallis will be there alongside:

- a solicitor offering advice on **wills, trusts and power of attorney**
- Citizens' Advice Darlington to help with **welfare benefits**
- St Teresa's Hospice with information about **hospice care**
- other services including **Young Carers, NECA drug and alcohol support and the Alzheimer's Society.**



Charity number: 1069278
Company Number: 3534933

Council Cabinet Column



Adult services provides care and support to the most vulnerable adults in our communities and we often work with people who are experiencing significant life challenges. This includes people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, physical disabilities, sensory impairments and older people with long term conditions.

Our adult services team's main aim is to support people to maximise their independence. They concentrate on a person's strengths, supporting them to lead, and be in control, of their day-to-day life. This positive approach improves a person's quality of life and mental wellbeing, which in turn has a positive effect not only on them but on their families and our communities.

In Darlington, over 90% of adults with learning disabilities are supported in their own homes or with their family. We have reduced the number of people placed in permanent residential care as we support them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. We recognise that people are generally happier and healthier at home.

We have also set up a cross party working group to scrutinise autism provision and services across the borough. The group will hold partners and providers to account, championing best practice and building on good work so residents with autism and neurodiversity can feel safe and included in our communities and can thrive.

Our dedicated adult services workforce provide a range of safeguarding, social work and occupational therapy services, respite and day opportunities for people with learning disabilities (rated as 'good' by the Care Quality Commission). We are also investing in our reablement services, which support our older people to regain or develop new skills and confidence, helping them to remain independent at home, improving their quality of life.

We are among the very best councils in the country (consistently within the top 10 nationally) in ensuring that adults who need support are discharged from hospital, with a support plan in place, as soon as their medical treatment has ended.

As a council we intend to continue to build on our strong work in adult services and I look forward to updating you with our progress in the New Year.

Councillor Rachel Mills
Cabinet member for adult social care



Ward surgeries

Your councillor is there to listen to you and find out about the issues affecting life in your ward. You can email, telephone or meet your councillor at regular ward surgeries.

Find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk

Emailing councillors

If you wish to email your councillor, their email address is **firstname.lastname@darlington.gov.uk**

For example, if you want to email Heather Scott, type in heather.scott@darlington.gov.uk

The only exceptions are Andy Scott (Haughton and Springfield), Ian Bell (Harrowgate Hill) and Anne-Marie Curry (North Road). Their email addresses are shown with their ward surgery details.

BANK TOP AND LASCELLES

Helen Crumbie (L) Tel: 462642; **Wendy Newall (L)** Tel: 251574. King William Street Community Centre – Fri 15 Nov and 20 Dec – 5-6pm. Cleveland Bridge Social & Athletic Club – Sat 9 Nov and 14 Dec – 12-1pm. **Darrien Wright (I)** Tel: 07724 384264. Dance Wright Studio, Ridsdale Street – Thu 14 Nov and 12 Dec – 5.30-6.30pm.

BRINKBURN AND FAVERDALE

Scott Durham (C) Tel: 07805 505156; **Rachel Mills (C)** Tel: 482906/07786 077189; **Lisa Preston (C)** Tel: 07793 662154. The Brinkburn pub – Mon 11 Nov and 9 Dec – 6-7pm. The White Heifer That Travelled – Tue 19 Nov and 17 Dec – 6-7pm.

COCKERTON

Paul Baldwin (L) Tel: 362690; **Jan Cossins (L)** Tel: 241124; **Eddie Heslop (L)** Tel: 354457. Windsor Court – Tue 12 Nov and 10 Dec – 10-11am. Cockerton Library – Thu 14 Nov and 12 Dec – 6-7pm.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553; **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School – Thu 14 Nov and 12 Dec – 6-7pm.

EASTBOURNE

Jonathan Dulston (C) Tel: 07944 344646; Firthmoor Community Centre – Wed 27 Nov and 18 Dec – 3-4pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629; **Steven Tait (I)** Tel: 07825 303036. Firthmoor Community Centre – Mon 18 Nov – 5-6pm and Mon 16 Dec – 1-2pm.

HARROWGATE HILL

Ian Bell (C) Tel: 07497 404448, ian.bell2@darlington.gov.uk; **Jon Clarke (C)** Tel: 07875 057253. Whessoe Parish Hall – Wed 13 Nov and 11 Dec – 6-7pm. **Lynn Paley (L)** Tel: 07963 706171. Harrowgate CIU Ltd – Wed 13 Nov and 8 Jan – 6-7pm.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 283262; **Andy Scott (L)** Tel: 253707, andrew.scott@darlington.gov.uk; **Nick Wallis (L)** Tel: 07960 247554. Salvation Army, Thompson St – Wed 13 Nov and 11 Dec – 6-7pm. Asda foyer Sat 7 Dec and 4 Jan – 10-11am.

HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Gerald Lee (C) Tel: 314622; **Paul Crudass (C)** Tel: 374537. Heighington Village Hall – Sat 7 Dec – 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Charles Johnson (C) Tel: 463712; **Paul Howell (C)** Tel: 07464 688865. By appointment using contact details above.

HURWORTH

Christy Chou (C) Tel: 405998; **Lorraine Tostevin (C)** Tel: 333382. Hurworth Grange Community Library, Hurworth Road – Thu 7 Nov, 12 Dec and 2 Jan – 6-7pm.

MOWDEN

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482; **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138. Mowden Junior School – Mon 4 Nov, 2 Dec and 6 Jan – 6.30-7.30pm.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998; **Eleanor Lister (L)** Tel: 254091. Corporation Road Primary School – Wed 6 Nov and 4 Dec – 6-7pm.

NORTH ROAD

Hilary Allen (LD) Tel: 480277; **Nigel Boddy (LD)** Tel: 07583 174104; **Anne-Marie Curry (LD)** Tel: 07531 304050, annemarie.curry@darlington.gov.uk St Thomas Aquinas Church – Wed 20 Nov – 6-7pm. Morrisons North Road café – Wed 13 Nov and 11 Dec – 1-2pm.

PARK EAST

Cyndi Hughes (L) Tel: 480975; **Libby McCollom (L)** Tel: 07910 369887; **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 240750. The Forum Music Centre – Tue 12 Nov and 10 Dec – 6-7pm. St Columba's Church, Clifton Road – Fri 15 Nov and 20 Dec – 6-7pm. St Augustine's Parish Centre – Tue 5 Nov, 3 Dec and 7 Jan – 6.30-7.15pm.

PARK WEST

Bob Donoghue (C) Tel: 07767 294194; **Heather Scott (C)** Tel: 468547. 9 Ayton Drive – Fri 15 Nov and 20 Dec – 5-6pm. By appointment using contact details above.

PIERREMONT

Stephen Harker (L) Tel: 380039; **Linda Hughes (L)** Tel: 07904 772387; **Mary Layton (L)** Tel: 350560. Reid Street Primary School – Wed 6 Nov and 4 Dec – 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Sam Howarth (L) Tel: 07807 709845; **Hilary Lucas (L)** Tel: 249215. Red Hall Community Centre, Headingley Crescent – Wed 13 Nov and 11 Dec – 6-7pm. Heathfield Primary School – Wed 27 Nov – 6-7pm.

SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Brian Jones (C) Tel: 332820; **Doris Jones (C)** Tel: 332820; **Deborah Laing (C)** Tel: 07747 863297. By Appointment using contact details above.

STEPHENSON

Ian Haszeldine (L) Tel: 496548. St James the Great – Wed 13 Nov and 11 Dec – 6-7pm. **Mike Renton (C)** Tel: 07495 697592. St James the Great Church – Wed 27 Nov – 6-7.30pm.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07554 645651; **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. Whinfield Primary School – Sat 7 Dec – 10am-noon.

MPs' SURGERIES:



Jenny Chapman (Darlington MP)

will be holding surgeries at her constituency office at 40a Coniscliffe Road, DL3 7RG on alternate Fridays, 9.30-11am. Call 382345 for an appointment.



Phil Wilson (Sedgefield MP)

has a constituency office at 4 Beveridge Walkway, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4EE. For a dedicated surgery call 321603 or email phil.wilson.mp@parliament.uk



Ben Houchen – Tees Valley Mayor

Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park, Stockton-on-Tees, Tees Valley, TS17 6QY
Tel: 01642 524401
Email mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Clubs and Societies

Joining a club is a great way to get involved in the local community, have fun and meet new people. Here we feature stories of clubs that make a difference to their community.

Take a look at what else is available at www.darlington.gov.uk/clubs



From stitch to stage to mark anniversary

Darlington Embroiderers' Guild celebrated its 40th anniversary this year with a special exhibition at Darlington Hippodrome.

Over the last year, members of the guild attended tours of the theatre to take inspiration from its story, characters and building.

Members then produced a piece of embroidery that reflected their own interest or connection to the theatre.

The panels are on display until 27 November in the theatre's Catherine Cookson Heritage Gallery, from 10am Monday to Saturday. Entry is free. Darlington Embroiderers' Guild meets on the first Saturday of the month, 2pm at Elm Ridge Methodist Church. For details visit www.darlingtonembroiderersguild.co.uk

Red Hall Partnership was re-established in February with a group of residents keen to provide social activities for their community. They have organised an Easter Fair, family trips and a circus event. They are now planning Christmas activities including a visit to the Hippodrome to see the panto and a day trip to Beamish, following a successful grant application. For more information please search Red Hall Partnership on Facebook.

A new youth club at Skerne Park Community Centre is proving a big hit with youngsters. Organised by Sue Irvine and Marie Windale, the club offers games, arts and crafts, cooking activities and more for three to eight-year-olds. Sue and Marie are also working hard to improve the centre, increase bookings, and organise family day trips and events. To find out more, search for the centre on Facebook.

International Community Group hosts a weekly support group at McNay Street Centre, 11am-noon; apart from the first Friday of the month when it's held at Corporation Road Primary School. For adults and children, the sessions give people the chance to make new friends, learn new skills and find out what's on in the area.



Darlington South Park Foundation aims to preserve, protect and enhance the vibrant park for future generations. The group is looking for new members. Applications are being sought from both individuals and organisations to ensure there is a range of skills and backgrounds on the board. Anyone interested is asked to complete a short form about themselves. The closing date for applications is Friday 29 November at 5pm and informal chats will be held in early December. For more information email southparkfoundation@gmail.com or call Judith on 01642 815663. You can also find the group on Facebook.

If you would like us to feature your club or society, email communications@darlington.gov.uk

RECYCLE THE RIGHT WAY THIS CHRISTMAS



YES

Cards and envelopes
(no glitter or decorations)

Cardboard tubes from wrapping paper
and inside crackers

Wrapping paper
(not metallic/glittery and remove tape)

Glass and plastic bottles and cans
(no lids)

Chocolates/sweet tins

Food boxes (party food, mince pies etc)



Gift bags

Decorations

Containers, boxes or trays
with food on them

Plastic bags

CUT OUT AND KEEP



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

The garden waste service stops for the winter at the end of November and will start again in April. You will be able to sign up for next year's collections from early 2020.

Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/gardenwaste for more information.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BIN COLLECTIONS



Usual collection date	Revised collection date
Tuesday 24 December	➤ As normal
Wednesday 25 December	➤ Friday 27 December
Thursday 26 December	➤ Saturday 28 December
Friday 27 December	➤ Monday 30 December
Tuesday 31 December	➤ As normal
Wednesday 1 January	➤ Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	➤ Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	➤ Saturday 4 January
Tuesday 7 January	➤ As normal

Please put your bins out for collection by 7am as collection times may change over the festive period.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

St Teresa's Hospice and the Rotary Club will be collecting Christmas trees for a donation on Saturday 4 January.

For more information and to book your collection visit www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk or call 254321 before noon on Thursday 2 January.

