

one
Darlington

September 2020



**Enjoy
our town**

APPRENTICES WANTED



Becoming an apprentice is easy, and Learning & Skills need you! Employers across the Tees Valley are looking to employ new apprentices across a variety of industries.

Apprenticeships allow you to earn a wage whilst you learn your profession. You will be paid at least the Apprenticeship National Minimum Wage (currently £4.15 per hour) as you learn new skills and knowledge and develop behaviours through high quality on and off the job training.

Apprenticeships last a minimum of 12 months and allow you to gain industry recognised qualifications whilst being employed. Learning & Skills offer apprenticeships across Levels 2 to 5 in Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Site Joinery, Adult Care, Leadership and Management, Customer Service, Business Administration, Early Years Education and Teaching Assisting.


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EMAIL l&s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

 **@DarlingtonL_S**

 **DarlingtonL_S**

 **Learning & Skills**

Learning & Skills



I'm enjoying
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2 year old?

Check your child's eligibility for up to 15 hours a week - just have your national insurance number to hand and go online www.darlington.gov.uk/childcarechecker, email pfis@darlington.gov.uk or call Darlington Families Information Team on **01325 406222** (option 7)



Welcome to One Darlington

Welcome to the autumn issue of One Darlington. I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for the kindness and support shown to everyone working in the NHS by the people of Darlington during this extraordinary time.

The goodwill directed to our staff and patients has been both heartwarming and inspiring. It's come in many forms, from children drawing rainbows and local educational establishments, and others, giving us their own supplies of personal protective equipment, to late night pizza deliveries and over 3,300 financial donations. It's been a difficult time for many of us so knowing our teams were in people's thoughts was humbling.

Our charitable funds are used to enhance patient care and wellbeing in all sorts of ways and we'd like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who contributed – every penny and every thoughtful donation helped.

Much of our fundraising traditionally takes place by holding or attending large scale events, which isn't possible at the moment, so we're more dependent than ever on individuals and businesses raising money for us - if you think you can help, we'd love to hear from you. To contact the team, call 743781 or email cddft.charity@nhs.net

The amazing people in local sewing groups have helped supplement our supply of scrubs and also made over 3,000 laundry bags for our clinical staff to take scrubs home to be washed – unbelievable generosity and kindness!

Over the summer we've been gradually reintroducing services that had to pause whilst we focused on caring for patients with Covid-19 you can read more about that on page 18 and 19.

The rest of the town is also reopening and you can find out more about how local businesses and attractions are making it safe for us to visit throughout this edition of the magazine.

Many events had to be cancelled during the summer but there are some fun things planned for the coming months – turn to page 34 to see what's happening and how you can enjoy Darlington again.



Pat Chambers, charity manager at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

Inside this issue

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The next issue of One Darlington will be delivered in early November. If you have not received a copy by the middle of November, please call 406056.

An audio version of One Darlington is also available at www.darlington.gov.uk/onedarlington



#DOYOURBIT DARLINGTON

Get ready to get the flu jab this year

**It's never been more important
#ProtectOurCommunity**

This year due to COVID-19 everything is different, including how we are planning to run our flu clinics.

Instead of going to your GP practice we will be offering **drive-through** clinics at the Northern Echo Arena and for those who can't travel by car, **walk-through** appointments at St. Cuthbert's Church Hall.

This is so we can vaccinate a large number of people and keep both staff and patients safe.

When?

Monday to Saturday
(unless a rugby match is scheduled at the Arena)

**WEEK COMMENCING:
28th September 2020**

8am – 8.30pm Monday to Friday

8am – 5.00pm Saturday

You MUST have an appointment to attend a clinic.



Who is eligible for the flu vaccine?

The flu vaccine is offered free of charge to people who are at risk. You should have the vaccine if you:

are 65 years old or over

have certain medical conditions

are living in a long-stay residential care home or another long-stay care facility

are receiving a carer's allowance, or you're the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill

- live with someone who is at high risk of coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list) or you expect to be with them on most days over winter

Children aged two and over are usually given the vaccine as a nasal spray.

Later in the year, the flu vaccine may be given to 50-64-year-olds. More information will be available later in the autumn. Your GP surgery will be in touch if you are eligible.

However, if you are aged 50-64 in an at-risk group, you should not delay having your flu vaccine.



Where do I need to go?

For drive-through clinics:

Northern Echo Arena (Mowden Park Rugby Club), Neasham Road, DL2 1DL.

For walk-through clinics:

St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, just off the Market Square in Darlington town centre. Buses will drop you off on Tubwell Row or Prebend Row which are a short walk away. There will be a one-way system in place.



How can you help us?

Please do not attend if you have any COVID-19 symptoms on the day.

Please wear a face covering, a short-sleeved top and for drive-through clinics, turn off your car engine when you enter the marquees. Come as close to your appointment time as possible.



How do I make an appointment?

Your GP practice will be in touch via text message or letter when the vaccine is in stock.

The easiest way to book your appointment is via the NHS App which can be accessed through your smartphone or tablet.

If you cannot access the NHS App please call your GP practice and they will advise you.



What if I am housebound, shielding or a care home resident?

If you are truly housebound please let your GP surgery know. Someone will be in touch to arrange a home visit instead.

Attending the drive-through is the safest way for shielding and vulnerable patients to get the flu jab this year. If you don't have access to a car, please call your GP surgery to discuss the best way for you to get the flu vaccine.

Our aim is to vaccinate all care home residents by the end of October as a priority.

How can I get to a 'drive-through' clinic?

Do ask a neighbour, friend or relative who is in your bubble if they can take you. Cars cannot be over two metres high.

You MUST have an appointment to attend.





Here's to the next five years!



Seth Pearson,
director of
One Darlington
Partnership





This issue marks five years since One Darlington was first published. Seth Pearson, director of One Darlington Partnership, underlines the magazine's role in supporting a strong, vibrant community in our borough.

"In the first issue of One Darlington, which came out five years ago this month, we were excited to celebrate everything that is great about Darlington.

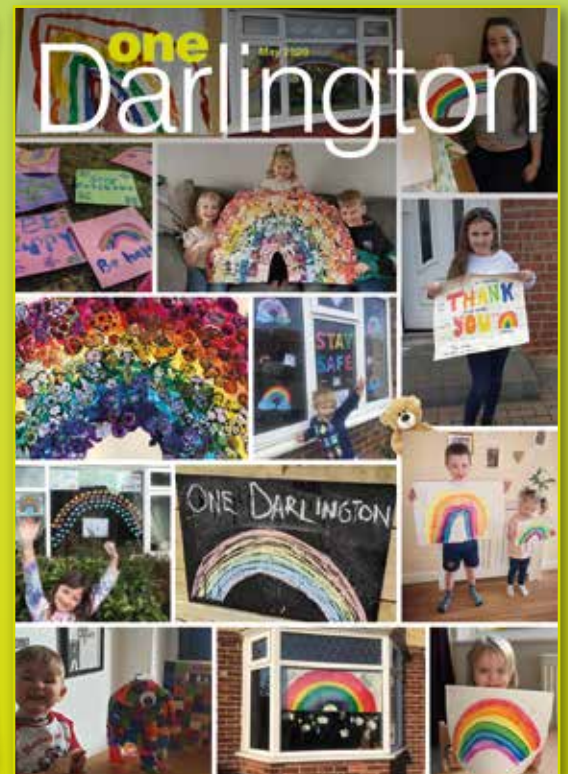
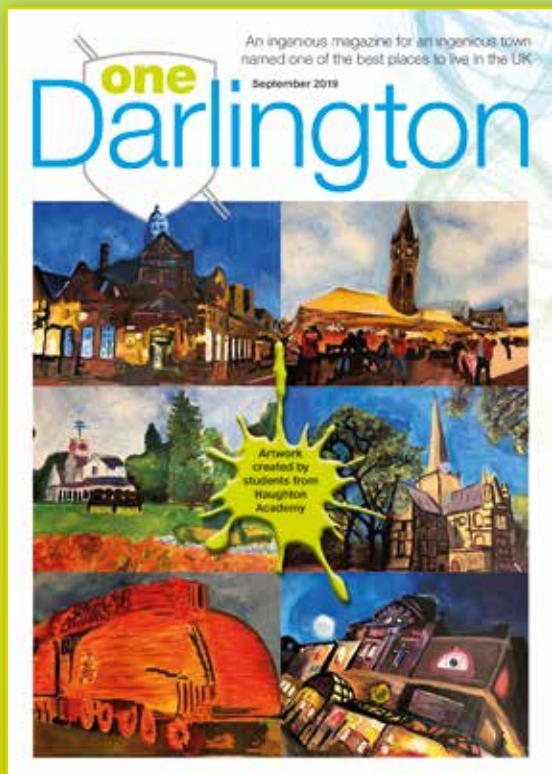
Five years ago, we had recently welcomed the all-conquering All Blacks rugby team to Darlington and in five years' time, we will be right in the middle of our celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the pioneering Stockton and Darlington Railway.

Until then, we look forward to bringing you even more of the best the public, private and voluntary sectors of Darlington have to offer.

We hope you enjoy looking back at some of our favourite front covers from the past five years.

Thank you for reading One Darlington. Please keep picking up the magazine when it is delivered to your door, or when you see it out and about in the community. You can also read it online and hear an audio version at www.darlington.gov.uk/onedarlington"

We'd love to know what you think of One Darlington. You can email editor@onedarlington.org.uk or write to One Darlington, Room 106, Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington DL1 5QT.



Tackling climate emergency



In the latest instalment of our #50faces series – in which we profile some of the behind the scenes heroes who help make the Council tick – we hear from sustainability and climate change lead officer

Margaret Enstone

#50Faces
www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces



“I started in January, so it’s been a very strange time to start a new job! I haven’t been able to get out and about as much as I planned to but I’m looking forward to getting to know the borough better.

I’m responsible for working with staff across all the different departments in the Council to develop a plan for how we’ll deliver our commitment to becoming a carbon neutral council. That could be anything from looking at ways to make building and vehicles more energy efficient to looking at how we complete individual tasks or the materials we use. I’ve heard some great suggestions already.

I’m also here to support colleagues with advice and support on anything sustainability-related and keep everyone up to date with our progress.

I love being able to work in an area that I’m absolutely passionate about. I’ve been working or volunteering on environment and sustainability issues for more than 30 years and I do try to do the things I encourage other people to do, such as walking or using public transport where possible and reducing my single use plastics.

Nobody expects everyone to be perfect, but we are in a climate emergency and it will take all of us doing what we can to get us through it.”

The Council is consulting on its draft tree and woodland strategy for 2021 31. For more information – and to have your say – visit www.darlington.gov.uk/consultations before 18 October.

You can hear more from Margaret – and others from our #50faces series – at www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces

Watch this space...

MAM
marketassetmanagement



Change is coming to Darlington Markets in 2021!

Phase 1 will create a communal eating space with specialist street food traders and live entertainment.

Find out more about the plans for Darlington's iconic market hall at www.darlingtonmarket.co.uk



Take extra care now that schools are back

Many students are returning to school this month for the first time since March.

Councillor Jon Clarke, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, has a message for families.



“All being well, by the time you read this, we will have seen a smooth beginning of term for students across Darlington.

For many, if not most, of our young people, it will be the first time they will have set foot in school in six months. There will be some, such as those who are moving up to senior school, who are experiencing a completely new environment for the first time.

I want to send a message of support and thanks to all of our children and young people, who have been through so much in recent months.

Let’s hope that the coming weeks and months see a return to the stability and routine which we know does children – particularly very young ones – the power of good.

I know schools across the borough have been working incredibly hard over the summer, and before that, to ensure their buildings, playgrounds and facilities are as Covid-secure as possible, so you can send your child back to school with confidence.

I’ve been so proud of the way everyone in Darlington has pulled together in recent months, to help keep the most vulnerable in our society shielded from the virus as much as possible.

One of the ways we’ve helped our young people stay connected and active this summer, has been through the allocation of laptops and sports equipment to eligible families. I’ve been really pleased with how well that has gone.

On the subject of staying active, I want to say a big ‘well done’ to everyone who is embracing active modes of transport, like walking and cycling, to get to school. Every little bit helps when it comes to staying fit and healthy.”

Looking ahead, we all now need to play our part to help keep virus cases down, so please remember to keep washing your hands and maintain social distancing where possible.

You can read more about the steps we’re taking to keep Darlington on the right track on pages 16 and 17.

Contact your councillor

Key: (C) Conservative
(G) Green (I) Independent
(L) Labour (LD) Liberal Democrats

Your councillor is there to listen to you and find out about the issues that are affecting life in your ward. There are no ward surgeries at the moment but you can still email or call your local councillor. Find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk

Emailing councillors

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 (Houghton and Springfield), Ian Bell (Harrowgate Hill) and Anne-Marie Curry (North Road). Their email addresses are shown with their contact details.

BANK TOP AND LASCELLES

Helen Crumbie (L) Tel: 07743 191014. **Wendy Newall (L)** Tel: 251574. **Darrien Wright (I)** Tel: 07724 384264.

BRINKBURN AND FAVERDALE

Scott Durham (C) Tel: 07805 505156. **Rachel Mills (C)** Tel: 482906/07786 077189. **Lisa Preston (C)** Tel: 07793 662154.

COCKERTON

Paul Baldwin (I) Tel: 07515 814007. **Jan Cossins (L)** Tel: 241124. **Eddie Heslop (L)** Tel: 354457.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553. **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059.

EASTBOURNE

Jonathan Dulston (C) Tel: 07775 555251. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629; **Steven Tait (I)** Tel: 07825 303036.

HARROWGATE HILL

Ian Bell (C) Tel: 07581 300111, ian.bell2@darlington.gov.uk; **Jon Clarke (C)** Tel: 07875 057253. **Lynn Paley (L)** Tel: 07963 706171.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 283262. **Andy Scott (L)** Tel: 253707, andrew.scott@darlington.gov.uk; **Nick Wallis (L)** Tel: 07960 247554.

HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Gerald Lee (C) Tel: 314622. **Paul Crudass (C)** Tel: 374537.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Charles Johnson (C) Tel: 463712. **Paul Howell (C)** Tel: 07464 688865.

HURWORTH

Christy Chou (C) Tel: 405998. **Lorraine Tostevin (C)** Tel: 333382.

MOWDEN

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482. **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998. **Eleanor Lister (L)** Tel: 254091.

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.

PARK EAST

Cyndi Hughes (L) Tel: 480975; **Libby McCollom (L)** Tel: 07910 369887; **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 240750.

PARK WEST

Bob Donoghue (C) Tel: 07767 294194. **Heather Scott (C)** Tel: 468547.

PIERREMONT

Stephen Harker (L) Tel: 380039. **Linda Hughes (L)** Tel: 07904 772387; **Mary Layton (L)** Tel: 350560.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Sam Howarth (L) Tel: 07807 709845. **Hilary Lucas (L)** Tel: 249215.

SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Brian Jones (C) Tel: 332820. **Doris Jones (C)** Tel: 332820. **Deborah Laing (C)** Tel: 07747 863297.

STEPHENSON

Ian Haszeldine (L) Tel: 496548. **Mike Renton (C)** Tel: 07495 697592.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07554 645651. **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. .

MPs' SURGERIES:



Peter Gibson (Darlington MP) can be contacted through his constituency office at 34 Duke Street, Darlington, DL3 7TZ. Call 711711 or email peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk



Paul Howell (Sedgefield MP) can be contacted by email at paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk



Ben Houchen – Tees Valley Mayor
Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park,
Stockton-on-Tees, Tees Valley, TS17 6QY
Tel: 01642 524401 or email
mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Looking for: Foster carers and

Do you have what it takes?



We're looking for kind hearted and caring people to take on the role of foster carers and supported lodgings providers to help change a child's future. If you're considering a lifestyle or career change, this is the perfect opportunity.

Job description:

Foster carers help look after children who have been separated from their biological family. There are many different types of foster care that can work different lifestyles, and all receive a professional fee.

Supported lodgings providers offer a stepping stone between foster care and independent living for young adults aged 16+ who want to learn essential life skills. Like foster carers, they earn a professional fee.

What you need for the role:

- to be a kind and caring person who is patient and compassionate
- a safe and secure place to live (rented) or owned
- a spare room in your home for the child or young person
- to be over the age of 21
- the time and ability to look after a child's needs.

If this describes you, you can help a local child and take your first steps into a rewarding career.

Benefits of becoming a foster carer or supported lodgings provider:

- you will have an incredibly rewarding career, seeing a child or young person develop in your care
- we offer a competitive fee for our carers, making it a great career choice
- you receive professional training before and during your time as a carer
- the team is close knit and eager to lend a helping hand, meaning you're never alone on your journey
- local children are helped by your choices.



Our fostering stories

It's easy to say how rewarding and important being a foster carer or supported lodgings provider is, but Chloe, one of our care leavers, is living proof what a difference it can make.

"I'm Chloe, and I'm 23 years old with a little girl aged two. I found my experience of being a child in care was quite different to others in the local authority as I became looked after later in life at age 15.

I was put on an emergency placement where I was going to spend two nights with a foster family and ended up staying in a settled placement for the best part of four years. I lived in a house with a couple, their son and three other fostered teenage girls, who I had a good strong family relationship with. We had holidays and trips away like any family would and Christmases and birthdays were no different!

I worked from the age of 16 and my foster carers were extremely understanding and supported me to gain good life skills. I owe them both big thanks today as it has helped the way I parent my little girl.

I found that the staff in the background were always there to help. I have had the same personal advisor throughout my looked after time and I would not be the person I am today without them and the support they have given me."

We are keen to recruit people who are willing and able to foster teenagers and sibling groups.

Payment:
Up to £600 a week
APPLY NOW!

A step by step guide to fostering

STEP ONE

Contact the team

A quick call is all it takes to make your first step into fostering.

STEP TWO

Initial preparation and training

You'll have to complete a detailed application form, alongside a 'skills to foster' course where you'll learn more about fostering. Finally, there will be initial checks to ensure that there are no concerns about you caring for a child.

STEP THREE

Assessment

You will have to complete a fostering assessment, and this will help the fostering panel make the decision to approve you as a new foster carer.

Support is available throughout your journey as a foster care hero.

Telephone:

01325 406222 (option 5 Fostering and Supported Lodgings team).

Email:

fostering@darlington.gov.uk or supportedlodgings@darlington.gov.uk

Newcomers are o

Times have been incredibly tough for businesses, both locally and nationally, in recent months as Covid-19 affected trade across the board.

To help support the local economy, the Council has allocated almost £25m of government grants to help local businesses survive what has probably been the worst economic downturn since the Second World War. Teams across the Council worked hard to help those who qualified to access grants and support. Alongside this, the business support team was on hand to offer additional support and advice. They can be contacted via email at business.support@darlington.gov.uk For regular business news direct to your inbox, email businessindarlington@darlington.gov.uk

Despite very difficult trading conditions, entrepreneurs are continuing to take the plunge and invest in Darlington – we meet some of them here.

**New town centre business owner?
Search #LoveDarlo on Facebook
and share your news.**



See page 32 for details of the **virtual Darlington Business Week**, as well as help and advice if you're job hunting.

Cutting edge venture



If you're in need of some TLC, look no further than Wynd Studios. The former Venture Photography building now houses a host of creative businesses including a barber, beautician, tattoo artist, brow salon and an artist studio.

One of the first tenants is James Robson, former co-owner of Hash in the town. He has moved from bartending to barbering and offers a range of services from haircuts to beard trims and shaves in a relaxed atmosphere. You can even pop a record on to the record player to listen to whilst you relax in the chair. Check out the Red Beard Barber on Facebook.

Other new businesses in the town's yards and wynds include a new bakery, Bakerman, on Post House Wynd and a new bar, The Stage Door, in Bucktons Yard.

Also pop into the Cheese and Wine shop in Clarks Yard and meet the new owners!



pen for business!

Boulder, fitter, stronger



Three keen climbers Sam, Freda and Arthur have made giant steps to set up their business together. Located in Unit 5, 110 Eastmount Road, Ibex Bouldering is less than a 10 minute walk from the town centre.

The joint owners, who are all under 30, have worked hard to make their dream a reality, building the climbing wall and refitting the unit themselves.

Freda Cronin said: "We met whilst studying in London, and worked together at a bouldering wall. We all wanted to live in the north, with better access to national parks and climbing as well as a better pace of life. Darlington has proved to be ideal.

"Bouldering and climbing can be costly so we have kept our prices low. We offer a range of classes from the total beginner to improvers including women-only sessions and private classes. We also offer group sessions including for the local college and Scouts. The centre is available for private hire weekday mornings, perfect for team building bookings.

"We have hosted competition nights and hope to repeat these soon. Our aim is to build up the climbing community here in Darlington and set up franchises to spread Ibex across the country."

Find out more at www.ibexbouldering.co.uk, email ibexbouldering@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Sweet taste of success



Andy's Candy Bar, which opened recently, is proving a popular addition to the Duke Street mix. Owner Andy Raine (pictured with his mum Anne) is already considering opening longer hours to keep up with the demand.

With 17 years of experience in the corporate sweets market, Darlington born and bred Andy decided it was time to set down roots in the town centre. He said. "During lockdown, we offered free local delivery of sweets and hampers and donated profits and sweets to local hospitals and charities.

"We finally opened to the public in August and I commissioned Darlington Dabbers, a special lollipop, to celebrate. We also sell liquorice from across Europe, American imports, traditional British sweets, cakes and shakes – all things sweet in fact. It's a real family affair with three generations helping out seven days a week."

Pop into the shop or find them on Facebook.



Play Your Part

Staying Covid-19 Safe In Darlington



Practice social
distancing whilst
out and about



Wear a face
covering if you
are able to



Wash or sanitise
your hands regularly



Only travel on public
transport if necessary

Doing the right thing in Darlington

After a difficult few months we are delighted that our leisure and cultural services, as well as restaurants, bars and businesses across the borough, are opening their doors once again to welcome you back.

It has been hard for everyone and going out and about does still feel different, but it is reassuring that we are all pulling together to keep one another safe.

By sticking to the guidance and following some simple steps, we are all playing our part in helping to keep Darlington on the right track. Thank you!



Safe to return

Over the summer, our focus has been on restarting services such as outpatients and elective surgery whilst also being prepared for a potential increase in further Covid-19 patients. Here one patient's family explain how her attendance at a routine appointment has given them peace of mind.

When 101-year-old Jean Brown received a letter to attend an appointment in the ophthalmology clinic, her family discussed the risks and benefits of her going to a hospital where Covid-19 patients were also receiving care.

Her son, Martyn, explained: "Mam has been under the care of the ophthalmology, macular degeneration service, for several years, and there's no doubt she has benefited from injections which have helped preserve her sight, particularly in her right eye. However, when she received the appointment we did discuss as a family whether she should attend."

Macular degeneration is a condition that affects the retina, regular injections can help preserve sight for many patients.

Martyn, said: "Our main concern was the risk of mam contracting Covid-19 but, at her age, with limited mobility, losing her sight would make her overall quality of life very poor. As a family, we agreed she should attend - and I'm glad we did. It's a one-stop clinic which can take a couple of hours but it means all the sight tests, photographs etc are done on the same day.

"In the end mam didn't need an injection, so we have the reassurance that she should be ok until her next appointment. It was clear that a lot of work was going in to keeping us all safe – infection control precautions were self-evident and I think any risks were far outweighed by the clinical benefits. We made the right decision in bringing mam for her appointment."

Executive medical director, Jeremy Cundall, wants to reassure everyone that they can, and should, seek medical help if they need it.

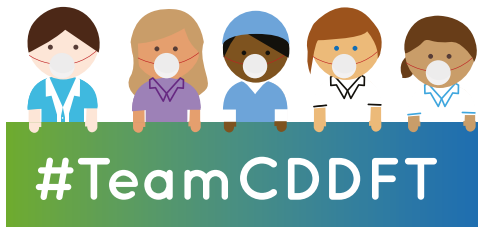
He said: "We're aware some people had appointments cancelled and are grateful to them for their understanding. We're doing all we can



to ensure they receive appropriate care as soon as possible. Some services are offering remote consultations using secure technology, whereby the patient and specialist can talk face to face and in confidence.

"We have strict infection control and social distancing policies with masks compulsory for staff and face coverings for visitors on all our sites. Hand sanitiser is available at our entrances and within departments. We've redesigned waiting areas and restricted lift capacity. Our staff are wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) for all patient contact.

"We want people to seek medical advice rather than risking their condition deteriorating and becoming more difficult to treat. We want to reassure patients and their families that a great deal of work has gone into making sure they will be safe, whether they need to be seen in their own home by one of our community team or need to come into our hospitals for an investigation, procedure or appointment."



Caring for you

A summary of some of the care and services we continued to provide during April – July 2020



County Durham
and Darlington

NHS Foundation Trust

1,512
Number of
babies born



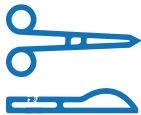
1,683
Number of
booked new
pregnancies



36,578
Number of
Emergency Dept
attendances



1,766
Number of
emergency
surgeries



41,988
Number of
X-rays



5,964
Number of
MRI's



25,344
Number of
patients
admitted



70,408
Number of
patients seen
in the
community



61,434
Outpatient
appointments



LET'S KEEP OUR RAILWA

As the campaign to keep Locomotion No 1 in Darlington gathers pace, The North



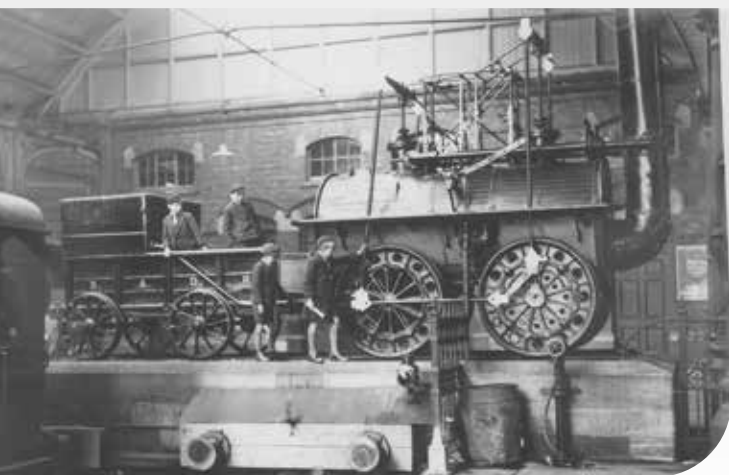
Locomotion No 1 was built at Darlington's instigation with Darlington money and ingenuity, to work on Darlington's railway – the first modern railway in the world, the Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR).

The railway was the brainchild of mill owner Edward Pease, and it was in 1821 in his house on Northgate – now Domino's pizza – that George Stephenson persuaded him to gamble and employ steampower to pull the wagons rather than horsepower. Pease, backed by the Backhouse family of bankers, bankrolled the railway, and provided the finance to set up Stephenson's son, Robert, as a locomotive-builder in Newcastle.

It was there that Locomotion No 1 was built, and brought down to south Durham in bits, to be assembled in time to pull the railway's opening train on 27 September, 1825. After a sketchy beginning, the S&DR proved that this new-fangled steam technology could work on an industrial scale, moving minerals – primarily coal – and then people cost-effectively, efficiently and, eventually, reliably. Locomotion No 1 did have a worrying habit of blowing up in its earliest years, killing its driver in 1828.

The successful S&DR became the blueprint for all the world's railways that came afterwards; in those early railway years, the world beat a path to Darlington's door to see how it was done. When Locomotion's working life came to an end, Joseph Pease – Edward's son – appreciated its place in history, saved it from the scrapyard and then looked for the most suitable venue for it to be displayed as a monument to the railway that changed the world.

He, of course, chose Darlington, and on 20 May, 1857, paid £50 for it to be placed on a pedestal at North Road station, close to the Skerne Bridge, the famous £5-note bridge, which was the largest piece of infrastructure on



Help keep Loco in Darlington
www.darlington.gov.uk

Y HERITAGE ON TRACK!

rn Echo's Chris Lloyd explores its place at the heart of Darlington's cultural identity

the original line and is now at the heart of Darlington's Railway quarter.

For the last 163 years, Locomotion No 1 has called Darlington home. It left on a couple of occasions – in 1876, it visited Chicago and Philadelphia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the US railways it had inspired, and in 1889, it was exhibited in Paris. Locomotion No 1 was truly a global superstar.

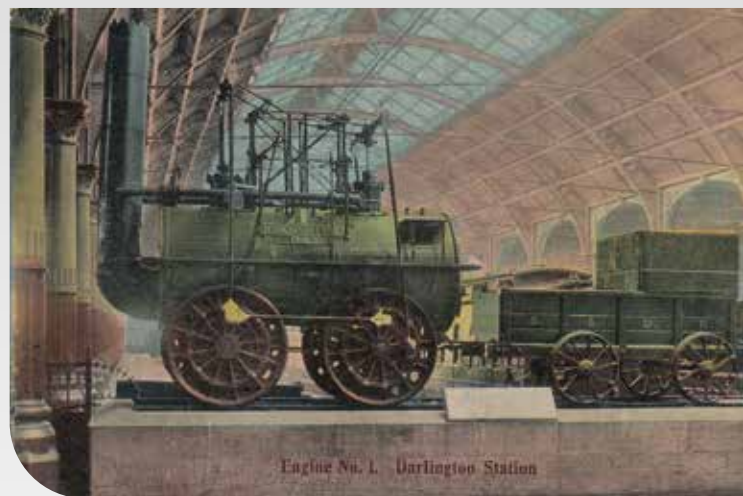
But it always returned to its home, its plinth in Darlington. In 1892, that plinth was moved to Bank Top station so that Darlington could capitalise on its high profile. Once again, despite its age, Locomotion No 1 was back at the heart of the railway network.

During the Second World War, when the Germans appeared to be targeting railways due to their strategic importance, the engine was moved to a secret location for its safety (it was hidden up Weardale, but, shhhh, don't tell anyone).

Having avoided the Luftwaffe, Locomotion returned to Darlington, and in 1975, the town showed its appreciation by building its railway museum around it. The council recognised it as the town's defining image – its icon – and placed it on its badge.

But now, with the railway's 200th anniversary on the horizon when Locomotion No 1 should again be the centre of global attention, the engine's rightful place in its hometown is under threat. It could be torn away in the spring.

That hometown is Darlington, the town whose money, foresight and ingenuity launched it onto the world stage back in 1825, and the town which has cared for it and cherished it for the last 163 years. It does not seem right and it does not seem fair – will you join the campaign to save our loco?



ton. Sign the petition at
www.darlington.gov.uk/saveourloco



News in brief

Digital Tenancy is live

Are you one of the growing number of council tenants who have signed up to Digital Tenancy? More than 1,200 tenants have already switched, gaining quick and easy access to their account 24/7 via a smartphone, tablet, laptop or PC. You can manage your account online, check your rent balance, make online payments and report repairs. A new repairs appointment system is also on the way so you can book appointments at a time that suits you! To sign up to Digital Tenancy, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/tenantsaccount

Park help needed

South Park Foundation aims to ensure the park stays vibrant, and is preserved, protected and enhanced for future generations. The group is looking for new members. If you would like to help support South Park, email southparkfoundation@gmail.com or find the group on Facebook.

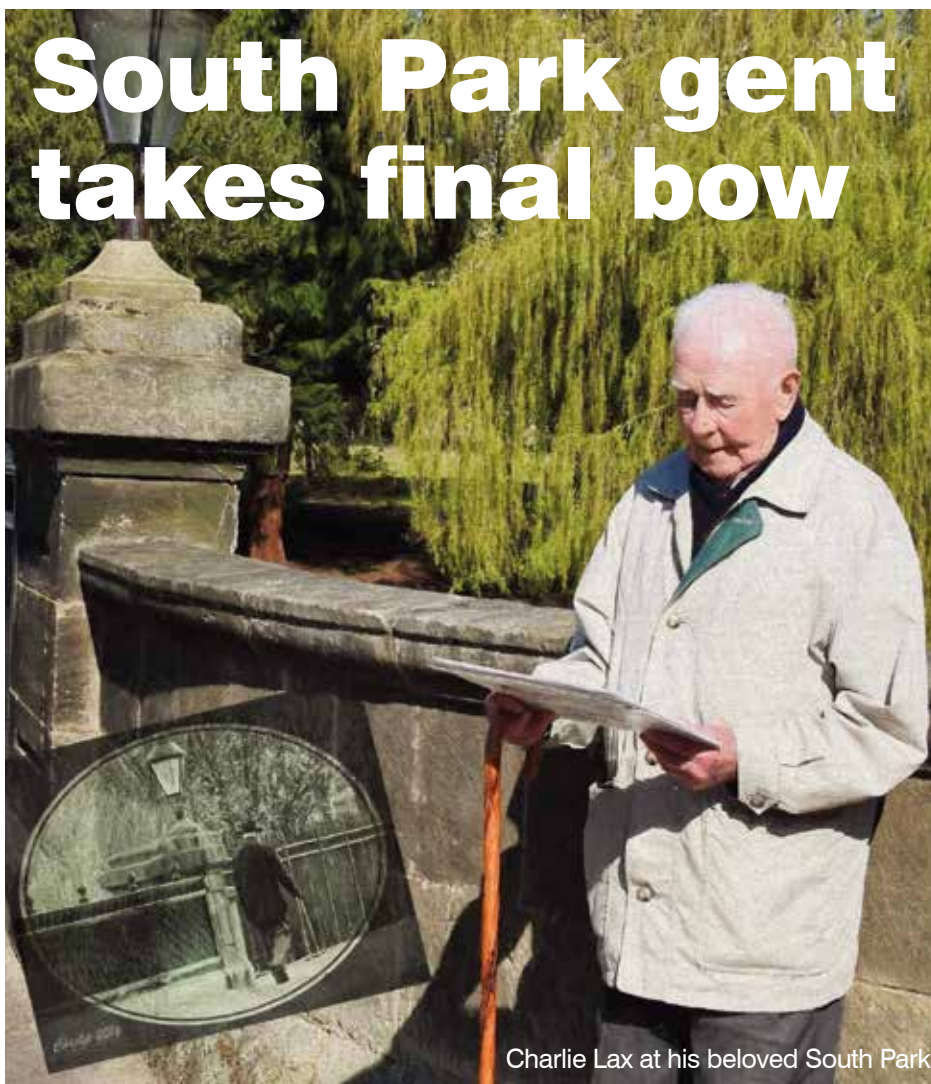
Library app launched

It's now even easier to keep up to date with news and events from Darlington Library using the new app. The app allows you to manage your account from home, check loans and renew books. You can also search the library catalogue and reserve books at the click of a button. Find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk/library

Dementia group

Dementia Friendly Darlington wants to use people's experiences to help make the borough a place where those with dementia have a voice, feel confident and are actively involved in the community. For information email belinda.williams@alzheimers.org.uk, call 0748137521 or search Dementia Friendly Darlington on Facebook.

South Park gent takes final bow



Charlie Lax at his beloved South Park

Tributes have been paid to a well-known and regular visitor to South Park, who sadly passed away last month aged 94.

Hundreds of people knew Charlie Lax, known to many as the South Park gent, who became a 'legend on the lamppost' as regular updates on his health were posted by his family during lockdown around the popular park.

His wife Rita said: "Charlie was out walking around the park in all weathers for about 15 years. He really loved the park. Once or twice I nearly sent a search party, he would be out for hours!"

In the few months before his death, failing health meant he could no longer do his regular walk.

His family continued to post updates on his condition, with updates tied to lampposts, for his friends in the park to read.

Charlie and Rita were married for more than 62 years and spent all their married life in Darlington.

Rita first saw Charlie when he walked into the office where she worked and it was almost love at first sight, she recalls. Charlie worked in the building trade in his father's firm, William Lax and Son, which he took over until his retirement in 1992.

He leaves two children, Richard and Margaret, as well as two grandchildren, Nick and Dan.

Providing a **Lifeline** for older residents during lockdown and beyond



Lockdown was hard for us all, even more so for our older residents who had to self-isolate.

Our 50+ housing scheme managers support more than 1,600 tenants living in sheltered and extra care accommodation while the Lifeline response service has about 4,000 clients across the borough.

Throughout lockdown, the teams worked tirelessly around the clock to continue to deliver services and keep everyone's spirits up.

Scheme managers focussed their attention on offering the reassurance and daily support that tenants' families usually provide. They also came up with a range of activities to help ease the long days of isolation and increased daily contact to include evenings and weekends.

Lifeline response staff continued to attend emergency calls at people's homes, install technology to support hospital discharges and provided help to the most vulnerable people referred to adult social care.

Our staff and customers' health, safety and wellbeing has been paramount and so we worked quickly to introduce safe systems and to communicate with our clients and their families when the lockdown first started.



A VE Day-themed afternoon tea for residents at Rockwell House



Lifeline staff on duty

We continue to adapt the way we work around government and follow public health guidance. We are working hard to reopening our housing schemes to enable 'support bubbles' to visit their loved ones and for activities to start again in the communal gardens.

Lifeline would like to thank everyone for their support and patience throughout what has been a challenging time for us all.

For more information about Lifeline and Telecare call 406888 or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/lifeline

To find out more about our sheltered and extra care housing schemes visit www.darlington.gov.uk/50+



Between March and end of July

- The Lifeline response service attended 3,086 emergency call outs, installed Lifeline/Telecare equipment for 193 people, to help 72 hospital discharges and 121 social care referrals; and made 9,297 daily welfare calls.
- Scheme managers made 50,099 daily welfare calls, held over 891 socially distanced activities and had 9,492 various interactions with tenants, families and other services.



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

Our Safe and Wellbeing visits are back!

From the 1st of August crews have resumed Safe and Wellbeing Visits.



The visit involves your local crew coming to your home to offer bespoke fire safety advice and installation of smoke alarms where needed.

With your permission they can also offer referrals to a range of health partners too.

Why not give our Community Safety Team a call on the number below and they will be happy to book an appointment convenient for you.



0345 223 4221

Hipp hipp hooray!

Welcome back to your theatre



The doors of Darlington Hippodrome re-opened this month, marking the start of a season of activities for everyone to enjoy.

Activities for September include classic film screenings in the auditorium, a book group session, drawing workshops and regular dance and fitness classes for all ages.

If you want to learn more about the workings of the theatre, backstage tours are available as well as a ghost tour for those who feel brave enough.

The Hippodrome Friday evening quiz has been a regular feature on Facebook since March. This will now take place in the Hippo Lounge every other week to a limited live audience but will still be streamed on Facebook for all to enjoy.

See What's On for full details

– turn to page 34

Visitors can be assured all possible measures have been put in place to make a trip to the theatre safe and enjoyable. Capacity at all events will have to be restricted, so please to book as soon as possible.

For full details of all the events taking place please visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call the box office on 405405.



Funding boost for community safety



Areas of Darlington are set to receive help to cut crime and improve community safety after securing funding from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund.

Earlier this year, the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner submitted two bids to the £25m scheme, in partnership with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and Durham Police. It was recently announced that both bids – worth almost £800,000 – had been successful.

The funding is designed to help those areas which suffer from so called acquisitive crimes such as theft, robbery and fraud, and has been welcomed by the Acting Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Steve White.

He said: "It is fantastic that we have been successful in our bids for both County Durham and Darlington. It will help to make a real difference as we work with our partners to address acquisitive crime in key hotspot areas in County Durham and Darlington.

"If we work together with our local communities to prevent crime from happening in the first place, we can help to reduce demand on our front line services, reduce the number of victims and make our communities safer."

The money will be used to support victims of crime and their properties by equipping them with security tools and deterrents (locks etc.), and tailored crime prevention advice, with the aim of making them feel safer and preventing them from being victimised.

Detective Chief Inspector Lee Gosling, from Durham Constabulary, said: "Burglary can be one of the most devastating crimes for victims – the impact on individuals, families and communities is significant. Preventing this type of crime from happening in the first place and keeping people safe is our top priority.

"The Safer Streets funding will allow us to try an innovative and targeted approach in Northgate and North Road, with the aim of making the areas safer places to live, improve residents' quality of life and increase community cohesion."





Facing homelessness? You have options

Lockdown created challenges for us all, but our dedicated housing options team managed to keep the homelessness service going to ensure support for those with housing issues and with nowhere to go.

Although the team was unable to see clients face to face, working from home they spoke to 320 people over the phone, with a variety of queries including those with nowhere to stay that night, issues with landlords, or falling out with friends and family.

They also carried out 119 planned appointments with people threatened with homelessness; placed 139 people into emergency accommodation and helped 15 households into longer term temporary accommodation. All of these people have since been helped to find somewhere to stay longer term.

While Darlington currently has very few people sleeping rough, there is a high proportion of people who are at risk of homelessness. It is those people who find they have run out of options, and who we have supported during lockdown.

Although lockdown has now started to ease, the problems of homelessness have not gone away and we anticipate demand for the service will increase once courts are able to start evictions again, as well as those people suffering as a result of increases in domestic abuse and relationship breakdown.

If you have any housing issues please call 405333 and ask for the housing options team. The sooner you get in touch, the easier it is support you.

For more information visit www.darlington.gov.uk/homeslessness

Get back on your feet with Darlington BEAT

With businesses reopening and life slowly getting back to normal, it's the perfect time to health check your finances.

Many people have been furloughed, lost their job, or suffered reduced income during the pandemic. Darlington BEAT (Benefits Entitlement Action Team) can help.



Have you:

- Faced redundancy or lack of business?
- Faced health problems, including disabilities, which made it hard to work?
- Had to self-isolate due to coronavirus symptoms with a zero hour contract?
- Had your statutory sick pay from shielding paused in August?
- Had to balance work with supporting someone who is long term sick or disabled?

All of these can have a massive impact on your finances – but Darlington BEAT can help! You could be entitled to thousands of pounds of unclaimed benefits.

A lot of people are reluctant to claim benefits because they think it's wrong or that they're not entitled to the money. Truth is, claiming benefits just means getting what you're owed to help you look after your family, or to make up for losses that were beyond your control. Not only does claiming help you, but it also helps the town as more money goes back into the local economy.

There's no reason not to call – it could change your life.



DarloMillions is now part of Darlington **BEAT (Benefits Entitlement Action Team)**.

Call the BEAT line on **0800 048 7023** at the following times:

Monday 9.30am–4.30pm
Tuesday 9.30am–4.30pm
Wednesday 1–8pm

Thursday 9.30am–4.30pm
Friday 9.30am–1pm
Saturday 9.30am–1pm

Outside of these times please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can. You can also email us at **BEAT@darlingtoncab.co.uk**

citizens
advice

Darlington

Supported by



Recycle Right

Help us reach our target of reusing, recycling or composting 50% of your household waste by 2025!



There are two systems in place, depending on where you live, you can check which system you should use online at www.darlington.gov.uk - click on 'Find your bin day' and enter your postcode.

Find out more about why it pays to #RecycleRight at www.darlington.gov.uk/recycleright

Bin and box

A guide to what you can put in your recycling bin and box



- **Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles**
(give them a rinse. Please no bottle lids or pumps and no black plastic)
- **Cans, aerosols and clean tin foil**



- **Paper and cardboard**
(remove plastic windows and any decoration)



- **Glass bottles and jars**
(give them a rinse)

No thanks Please do not put any of these items in your recycling bin or box

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black bags/carrier bags/bags for life | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clothes/shoes/textiles | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kitchen roll/tissues/wipes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Takeaway boxes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coat hangers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nappies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crisp packets/sweet & biscuit wrappers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Batteries/lightbulbs |

Bag and box

A guide to what you can put in your recycling bag and box



- **Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles**
(give them a rinse. Please no bottle lids or pumps and no black plastic)
- **Cans, aerosols and clean tin foil**



- **Paper and cardboard**
(remove plastic windows and any decoration)



- **Glass bottles and jars**
(give them a rinse)

No thanks Please do not put any of these items in your recycling bin or box

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black bags/carrier bags/bags for life | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clothes/shoes/textiles | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kitchen roll/tissues/wipes |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nappies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crisp packets/sweet & biscuit wrappers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Batteries/lightbulbs |

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WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET DARLINGTON MOVING

The transformation of Darlington station is vital to provide thousands of passengers in our region the faster, more frequent and better quality services that they deserve. It will make getting to and from the town easier than ever, and also boost services across Teesside and Hartlepool.

We have already committed £25million to the project, which will see the station redeveloped, creating two new platforms for local services, another platform for southbound long-distance services and improvements to accessibility. This will increase the current two trains per hour across the region to a possible eight.

To show commitment to our fantastic businesses and creating good quality jobs for local people, we want our companies to come forward to learn how

they can help. We want local workers to feel the benefit and be part of this huge project, as well as the developments at Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Teesside Airport stations.

That's why we are doing all we can to put local businesses from across the region at the front of the queue for work on these amazing projects. Work available will include building & stone masonry, groundworks, joinery, roofing, glazing, electrical, scaffolding & steel fabrication packages, painting, security, and more.

Businesses can sign up by visiting www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/stationprocurement.

We're also looking for input from local people into the Darlington Northern Link Road.

The scheme is currently at concept design stage, but we would like to hear from local people and stakeholders on the latest plans for the proposed road.

Our plans will improve the route from the A1(M) to Teesport, giving traffic an alternative to local roads and in doing so improving journey times for everyone.

The public information period is due to start in the autumn and you can get all of the latest information on how to have your say by visiting www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/consultations

We're ready to get Darlington moving, and the way we're doing it will put local people first.

Ben Houchen
Tees Valley Mayor

MAYOR LAUNCHES TEESWORKS AND 12-MONTH SITE PLAN

As well as getting local people and firms involved with our transport schemes, we are calling on our businesses to keep up to date with the opportunities taking place at the former SSI steelworks site.

I recently announced our new name for the site – Teesworks – and laid out my 12-month plan for 400 jobs and almost £400million worth of investment in the area.

The hundreds of jobs we are creating and the investment we are bringing in will help us change the skyline of our region forever in the biggest demolition programme we have ever seen. This is a site with a proud history and one which has touched the lives of so many of us and we can make it a site they are proud of again.

I want our brilliant companies to be the first to take advantage of all we're doing to regenerate the site and that's why we've launched a new website, containing job opportunities for local people and ways companies can work with us.

For more details, visit www.teesworks.co.uk

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen with Steve Gibson, vice chairman of the Development Corporation, and Chris Musgrave, delivery partner



Unemployed or facing redundancy? **Help is out there...**



If you're unemployed, facing redundancy or looking for a career change, help is available.

There is are free training, courses and advice to suit everyone, regardless of your experience, education or career plan.

- The Council's Learning & Skills team offers free online courses that can help prepare you for the world of work
- Routes to Work supports unemployed people aged 30 and over
- If you're aged 16-29, check out the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). They can help you with employment, education or training
- If you want to find out more about local careers in warehousing and distribution, there are free workshops on offer to help. Email PatrickRobinson@darlington.ac.uk or call 503042.

Find out more, as well as information about the National Careers Service, at www.darlington.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers and turn to page 33 for news from another project supporting people into work.

Darlington Business Week goes virtual



Darlington's fourth Business Week is going virtual this year as businesses continue to adjust to new ways of working.

The Council's business investment team has brought together a wide range of local companies, partners and business support organisations to deliver a timetable of events, all hosted online. The free sessions, from 5-9 October, will help local businesses build resilience, learn how to diversify and grasp new opportunities and engage with new and existing customers.

For the first time, there will be specialist support workshops from Save the High Street and Business Doctors to help those sectors hardest hit by the pandemic – retail, leisure, hospitality and personal services. There will also be updates on developments around HR and health and safety.

Business Week will bring together professional skills and experience from local companies, as well as the Tees Valley Combined Authority, TEDCO, Darlington College and NEPO.

For more details and how to book visit www.investindarlington.co.uk/events

Has the current situation impacted your opportunities?

If you're 29+ and out of work, we can provide free 1-1 support to move you closer to work in areas such as:

- Health and wellbeing
- Money worries
- Work or volunteering placements
- Job skills such as CV writing or computer skills

We can also provide free childcare whilst you are on programme*

*Subject to eligibility

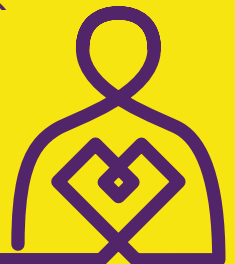


Contact us

By phone:
01325 525 100

By email:
stepforward@niconsortium.org

Visit our website:
www.sfteesvalley.co.uk



Step Forward Tees Valley is funded by the European Social Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund



Inspire change and thrive

SEPTEMBER

Backstage tour and lunch – Thursday 17, 11am-12.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Socially distanced heritage tours of the theatre following its restoration. Cost £8 per person, must be booked in advance.

Darlo Drum Festival – Saturday 19, 11am-4pm, town centre. Live performances from internationally acclaimed groups, supported by drumming workshops online throughout the day. Visit www.harambeepasadia.com



Vegan Market – Saturday 19, all day, Darlington Market. A variety of stalls and street food traders specialising in vegan fare.

Backstage tour and cream tea – Saturday 19, 2-3.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Socially distanced heritage tours of the theatre. Cost £8 per person, must be booked in advance.

Urban drawing workshop with Brian Ramsey – Monday 21, 7.30-9.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Local artist Brian Ramsey will take you through his technique for capturing architectural details in line and wash from the theatre stage. Bring along your own sketchbook and art materials. Tickets are £25 to be booked in advance.

Hippodrome book group – Wednesday 23, 10am-noon, Darlington Hippodrome. A relaxed and informal discussion of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah. Entry is free but must be booked in advance. Use your ticket to borrow a copy of the book from Crown Street Library.



Pease Pudding Market – Wednesday 23, 4-9pm, Market Square. The award-winning evening street food market returns.

Ghost Tour – Thursday 24, 9-10.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Join senior house manager Andy as he leads a socially distanced tour of the theatre's haunted past. Tickets are £8 in advance, to include a drink.



Record Fair – Saturday 26, all day, Darlington Market. The popular specialist market celebrates all things vinyl.

OCTOBER

Farmers market – Saturday 3, all day, Darlington Market. Independent traders from around the region visit the town.



#LoveDarlo Restaurant Week – Sunday 4 to Saturday 10, full details opposite.

Pease Pudding Market – Wednesday 7 and 21, 4-9pm, Market Square. Evening street food market.

Record Fair – Saturday 24, all day, Darlington Market. Specialist market event.

CONTACTS

Darlington Hippodrome box office open 10am-8pm (6pm on non-performance days); Cornmill Centre ground floor open 10am-4pm Monday and Saturday only; 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

ENJOY TEES VALLEY

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

Keeping your streets clean and tidy!



Before

Our Street Scene and Community Safety teams are out and about in all weathers, making sure our streets, back lanes and public spaces are in great shape.

In the four weeks to August 21 alone, we...

- **Cleared 228 fly-tips.** Of these 135 were in back lanes and 93 in other areas
- **Issued 36 fines totalling £12,075.** These were for environmental offences including fly tipping, littering, dog fouling and an abandoned vehicle.



After

Uniform exchange success!

Throughout August, as the new term approached, the council and Darlington Cares joined forces to give families a helping hand to get hold of school uniform.

You responded to requests for help in your thousands – with a mixture of blazers, shirts, trousers, skirts, jumpers, cardigans and PE kit being donated.

This was then professionally cleaned before being made available for collection.

Thank you to everyone who donated!



Let's tackle hate crime **together**

The Council works with partners and communities to identify and reduce community tensions and to try to improve the lives of everyone who lives in, works in or visits Darlington. We would really value your help with our efforts to make meaningful change.

Please share with us any experiences you have of racism, homophobia, disability discrimination – or any other form of hate crime – and let us know how you think we can stop these crimes in our borough.

What is a hate crime?

Any illegal act that targets a person because of the offender's hostility or prejudice towards them or a group of people.

Tell us your story and make a difference

Contact andrew.allison@darlington.gov.uk or call 07384 797779



Hate Crime. Recognise It. Report It.

If you witness or are a victim of Hate Crime, call 101 or visit report-it.org.uk or call 999 in an emergency

HATE HURTS

County Durham & Darlington: United Against Hate Crime

Prepare to be bowled over



Work is continuing on the Dolphin Centre's latest attraction - a five-lane, ten-pin bowling alley, which is set to open in early December.

The ambitious project will also see the soft play area extended.

Meanwhile, we're delighted to be able to welcome visitors back to the centre where the pool is now open for adult lane swimming, aquatic classes and family sessions.

The gym is also open for members and casual users, with inductions and junior sessions also available, while classes return this month including Pilates, spinning, circuits and Tai Chi. The badminton club has also reopened and our courts are available to book Monday-Friday afternoons.



Those looking for a bite to eat can also join us in The Bistro and 16 Horsemarket, open seven days a week, with tables bookable on our website.

For more information and bookings, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/healthydarlington click on 'Dolphin Centre'. Please take the time to view the online videos for procedures to follow before heading to the pool, gym and Bistro.

Helping youngsters move more



Healthy Darlington



eat well, move more, live longer

School games organiser Aly Raw is dedicated to helping children get motivated to keep active.

Being cooped up indoors can take a toll on our mental health. Regular exercise can help with our ability to cope with stressful situations, and dealing with change and fear. With the help of various social media platforms, Aly has helped keep children and young people active by providing weekly timetables with daily activities during the recent pandemic.

On a personal basis, Aly kept herself active during lockdown, managing 10 miles and 20,000 steps every day! She enjoyed walking her dog and reconnecting with nature.

Move More Star



Clubs and Societies

Welcome back to our Clubs and Societies page - it's been a while!

This year has seen many changes in how we live our lives and has meant that many local clubs and societies have been unable to meet in their usual way.

If you have news on how your club/society is meeting, virtual or otherwise, email editor@onedarlington.org.uk and we'll try and include you in the next issue. In the meantime, if your club is looking for a place to meet up in person, here's some news for you.

Clubs, groups and private parties are all welcome to enjoy the new-look Whessoe Parish Hall.

Originally a Nissen hut, the current hall was built during the 1980s but had little work done to improve or update it until recently. Over the past year the hall has undergone a full refurbishment with help from Sport England, National Lottery and the Banks Group and is now wheelchair accessible. Other improvements include new flooring, heating, lighting, sound system, blinds, furniture, improved hall and kitchen facilities, gender neutral toilets and baby change facilities.

The hall has a small meeting room and a fully equipped kitchen making it ideal for parties and celebrations as well as club meetings that wish to offer refreshments. It can accommodate about 60 people and hire charges start from as little as £8 an hour (for block bookings). There is free parking and a garden area.

Conveniently situated on the A167 not far from the White Horse pub, it is hoped the hall will become a social hub for the local community. Adjustments have been made to make the venue Covid-safe and plans are already in place to restart the popular quiz nights (23 October). A Christmas lights switch on and family party night is planned for 5 December.

Groups and clubs are already returning to the hall and new classes and clubs are starting up. These include Great Paws Dog Training, Darlington Dolls DC Squad, Kellen Dance Academy, Darlington Divas Women's Institute and more. New classes and groups are welcome to book.

To book, or just have a look around, contact clerk Bill Goldfinch on 07818 427740 or email whessoeparishclerk@gmail.com



Photo taken before social distancing started



We are **WATCHING** YOU!

If you...
don't pick up your
**DOG
WASTE**



New rules for dogs... and their owners!

If you have a dog you must follow the rules on responsible ownership or face a fine!

A new public spaces protection order came into force earlier this month setting out exactly what dog owners must do. Rules include:

- picking up your dog's waste
- keeping your dog on a lead in specified areas
- putting and keeping your dog on a lead when told by an authorised officer
- keeping your dog out of certain areas (including children's play areas and areas for sporting recreation)
- keeping your dog on a lead in East, North and West cemeteries.

If you break the rules, you could be fined £100.

More details and maps of specific areas covered can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/communitysafety under 'dog warden'.

DINE OUT IN YOUR DARLING TOWN

EAT LOCAL SUPPORT LOCAL

#L Darlo

RESTAURANT WEEK

SUN 4 - SAT 10

OCTOBER 2020

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OR**

3 COURSES FOR £15 OR LESS

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