

one January 2023
Darlington



**Small
business
success**

Page 17

I'm enjoying **FREE** childcare ...is your 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
406222 (option 7)



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Child under 12? You
could get £2 for every £8
you spend on childcare.

childcarechoice.gov.uk

For information about local childcare,
please contact the Darlington Families'
Information Service on 406222 (option 7)
or email pfis@darlington.gov.uk



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Childcare
Choices



HM Government

Welcome to One Darlington

Welcome to the first One Darlington of 2023 – I hope you had a fantastic Christmas and are looking forward to the year ahead, and all that it may bring.

The decorations have gone back in their boxes for another year and spring will be in the air in just a few short weeks.

In this edition, we put the spotlight on the achievements of our dedicated and hardworking staff in children's services and adult social care.

Everyone in children's services was delighted and proud when Ofsted inspectors gave us an overall rating of good, with outstanding features, following a recent inspection. You can read more about the inspection on page 13.

Elsewhere in the magazine, we continue our series profiling some of the different teams that make up our adult social care department, with a look at the learning disability team. Turn to pages 30 and 31 to find out more.

Together, these two wide-ranging service areas – which help support some of the most vulnerable people in our communities – account for the biggest share of the council's annual budget. You can find out more about the budget, including how to have your say on what's being proposed on pages 24 and 25.

Also in this issue, we look back at the Stronger Communities Awards, which celebrated some of the individuals and organisations that make Darlington such a special place – see pages 8 and 9.

If you're looking for something to blow away any post-festive cobwebs, our expanded clubs and community pages (14 and 15) may have just the thing you're looking for, while there's the usual events listings on the centre pages.

Thank you for reading One Darlington, we hope you enjoy this issue. See you in March!



Chris Bell
Assistant director, children's services

Inside this issue

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One Darlington, Room 106, Town Hall, Darlington.

Email editor@onedarlington.org.uk

Design and production – Xentrall Shared Services.

Distribution – Smart Distribution Solutions.

The next issue will be out in early March. If you haven't received your copy by mid-March, please call 0800 160 1552.

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

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is defined as action that causes harassment, alarm or distress to individuals or a community. It comes in a variety of forms, from the noise and disruption caused by off-road bikes or rowdy behaviour in the streets, to repeated fly-tipping or inconsiderate behaviour to neighbours.

We are asking you to report anti-social behaviour, every time it happens. We want you to feel empowered to report behaviour that is causing you a problem, to help our civic enforcement officers and the police clampdown on the issue.

Although a report may not result in an officer turning up immediately, every contact about ASB is logged and mapped by the team, which allows resources, whether that be officers or technology, to be used where they are needed most.

We want to make sure you know how to report different types of anti-social behaviour, as some incidents will be dealt with by our civic enforcement team, rather than the police.

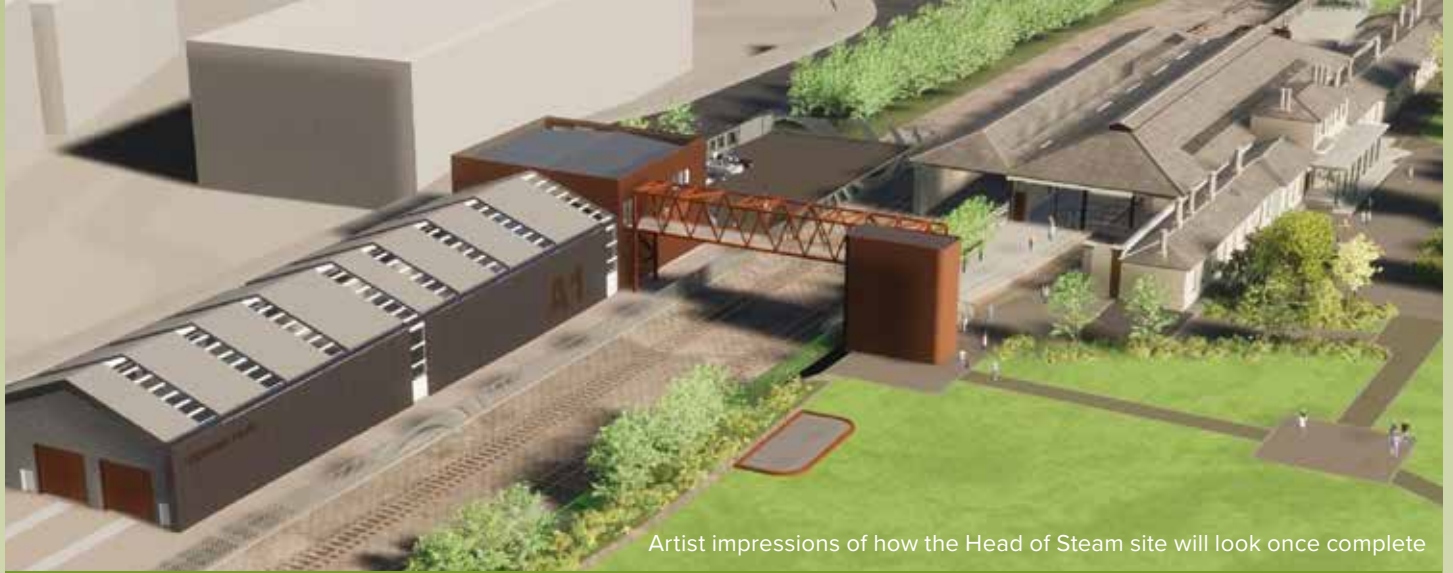
Our webpage dedicated to ASB has been updated and includes detailed information about what is anti-social behaviour as well as the right ways to report it online, anonymously if you want, or over the phone.

www.darlington.gov.uk/asb



DARLINGTON
Borough Council





Artist impressions of how the Head of Steam site will look once complete

Full steam ahead for Rail Heritage Quarter!

The next stage of the creation of the Rail Heritage Quarter is underway - the Head of Steam Railway Museum has closed its doors until summer 2024 as work begins to transform it into a state of the art visitor attraction.

The Rail Heritage Quarter will be the centrepiece of celebrations for the 2025 bicentenary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway and there are exciting plans in store.

There are several historically significant buildings on the site which will be linked together to create a cluster of attractions, including the Skerne Bridge, the oldest working railway bridge in the world.

Digital technology will bring history to life, including a new immersive ride experience.

The Railway Heritage Quarter will have a café and shop, themed play area, show field, a new live engineering building - which is already making great progress - temporary exhibition and archive space and extended car parking, to attract all visitors of all ages for years to come.

While the Head of Steam building is closed, a number of regular events will be relocated. These include Station Scamps, school holiday activities, adult craft workshops, railway coffee mornings and the dementia café – keep up to date by visiting the Head of Steam website or following the museum on Facebook.

There will also be an outreach education programme, Museum on the Move, and hard hat tours of the site once building work is well-established. Details will be shared in later editions of One Darlington and on the Head of Steam Facebook page.



Have your say in council elections

Voting by post

Council elections take place in Darlington on Thursday 4 May, with all 50 council seats contested. Following the election, with the support of a majority of councillors, a leader and administration will take office for the next four years. Ten areas of Darlington will also have parish council elections.

Standing for election

If you've ever thought about standing for election, you can find out more on the Local Government Association's website www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor

Voting in the elections

To vote in the elections, you must be on the electoral register. If you are already registered, you don't need to do anything.

The easiest way to register to vote is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. It takes five minutes and you will need your date of birth and National Insurance number. You need to register before midnight on Monday 17 April to vote in the next elections.

If you want to vote at a polling station you will need photo ID

Because of changes in law, you must show photo ID at a polling station. Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

- a UK passport, or one from the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state, or a Commonwealth country
- a UK driving licence, or one from the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- a Blue Badge
- a national identity card issued by an EEA state
- an older person's bus pass
- a disabled person's bus pass
- a biometric immigration document
- an identity card bearing the proof of age standards scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- a Ministry of Defence form 90 (defence identity card).

The photo ID document need not be in date, but the photo must be a recognisable likeness to you.

If you don't have any of the photo ID listed, you can apply for a voter authority certificate to take to the polling station. Application forms are available from elections@darlington.gov.uk or call 406444.

If you have previously asked for a postal vote you do not need to do anything. To apply for a postal vote, please use the application form on the next page, or contact the elections team by calling 406444 or email elections@darlington.gov.uk. Completed application forms must be received by 5pm on Tuesday 18 April.

The signature and date of birth you provide on the application form will be checked against the signature and date of birth you put down when you later complete the postal vote paperwork. We check all postal votes received.

More information about the elections can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/election. Click on current and future elections, or by calling 406444 or email elections@darlington.gov.uk



Application Form to Vote by Post

Please complete in **BLACK INK and BLOCK CAPITALS** and return to Elections Team, Room 116, Darlington Borough Council, Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QT. If you need help filling in this form, please phone 01325 406444.

Address where you are registered to vote

About you

First name(s) (in full)

Surname

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss, Dr, Other)

Your Date of Birth

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Day		Month		Year	

Declaration

As far as I know, the details on this form are true and accurate. (You can be fined for making a false statement on this form.)

Signature: Keep within the border and use BLACK INK.

I cannot supply a signature because

Date:

Postal vote for which elections

All elections you are entitled to vote at

Local elections

Parliamentary elections

For how long do you want a postal vote?

Until further notice

For election(s) on

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Day		Month		Year	

For election(s) until

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Day		Month		Year	

Address for postal ballot paper(s)

My address where I'm registered to vote
or

The following address

Reason for sending ballot paper(s) to an alternative address

Have you had help completing this form?

Name and Address of helper

For office use only

Stronger Communities

The achievements of some of Darlington's most inspiring volunteers, community groups, athletes, students and businesses were recognised at the annual Stronger Community Awards.

The awards, hosted by the council and sponsored by local businesses and organisations, celebrated all that is great about Darlington.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees!

Award Winners Stronger Communities

- 1 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**, sponsored by Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College – Andrew Ormrod
- 2 BRINGING SUCCESS TO DARLINGTON**, sponsored by Darlington Building Society – Bennett Saws
- 3 BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY**, sponsored by EE – Redde Northgate
- 4 CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS**, sponsored by Creative Darlington – Tracks
- 5 CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY**, sponsored by Darlington Economic Campus – Eastbourne Park Community Hub
- 6 CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT**, sponsored by Banks Group – 13th Darlington Scouts
- 7 CONTRIBUTION TO SPORT**, sponsored by Darlington Football Club – Denis Slater
- 8 EXCEPTIONAL CARE**, sponsored by HSBC – the council's leaving care team
- 9 EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT**, sponsored by Teesside University, Danniella Noble and Sofiiia Nikolaiets
- 10 EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEER**, sponsored by the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner – Age UK kitchen volunteers
- 11 EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG VOLUNTEER**, sponsored by Darlington Borough Council – Charlie Richardson
- 12 INDEPENDENT TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**, sponsored by Darlington Borough Council – Hartbeeps
- 13 PERFORMANCE IN SPORT**, sponsored by Healthy Darlington – Ian Barnes
- 14 PUBLIC SERVICE HERO**, sponsored by Blue Light Services – the council's building stronger families team
- 15 VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**, sponsored by Darlington College – Alex Smith - collected on his behalf by Gemma Evans
- 16 STRONGER COMMUNITIES SPECIAL AWARD** – Jonathan Holmes
- 17 YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** – Johnson Durham - award collected on his behalf by Cllr Eddie Heslop
- 18 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** – Kay Sandham



1.



5.



9.



15.

Awards 2022



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



2.



3.



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13.



14.



16.



17.



18.

New year, new beginnings



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Council leader Jonathan Dulston reflects on last year's events and looks ahead to all that lies in store for 2023.

Welcome to the January edition of One Darlington. I hope you enjoyed a peaceful Christmas with your loved ones and share my sense of optimism as we look forward to the year ahead.

Before we get to what promises to be an exciting year of progress in Darlington, let's take a moment to look back on the momentous year that was 2022.

It was a year that none of us will forget in a hurry, and the passing of Her Majesty the Queen in September will come to be the event that defined 2022 in years to come.

It was so strange, on Christmas Day, not to be sitting down to the Queen's Speech on TV after our dinner, she was such a huge presence in all our lives for so many years.

One of my favourite memories from 2022 was watching the England Lionesses show the men's team how it's done by winning the European Championship.

In Darlington, it was a year of fantastic events, with the South Park fireworks spectacular in November enjoyed by thousands of you.

We were also delighted to see the council's children's services team receive an inspection rating from Ofsted of good with outstanding elements – you can read more about that on page 13.

As we turn the page and look forward to 2023, there are many exciting projects that will either come to fruition or make significant progress this year.

I'm looking forward to the King's Coronation in May, when the Market Square will once again become a sea of red, white and blue as we celebrate new beginnings.

Elsewhere, we'll continue to see the major developments at Bank Top Station, the Head of Steam and Darlington Library really starting to take shape in the months ahead.

So there's a lot to look forward to, and I look forward to sharing updates with you on all of those things and more as the year unfolds.

Thank you for reading, and I wish you a happy and prosperous 2023.

Happy New Year

Jonathan



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. Scheduled ward surgeries are detailed below, but you can email or call your local councillor.

Find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk/your-council/democracy

Emailing councillors

To email your councillor, their email address is **firstname.lastname@darlington.gov.uk**

For example, if you want to email Jonathan Dulston, type jonathan.dulston@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 or 07814 448320. **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: 406444. Cockerton Methodist Church, Friday 13 January, 10 February and 10 March, 10-11am. Cockerton Club, Friday 27 January and 24 February, 10am-12noon.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553. **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School, Monday 16 January and 13 February, 6-7pm.

EASTBOURNE

Jonathan Dulston (C) Tel: 07775 555251. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 25 January and 22 February, 3-4pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 11 January, 8 February and 8 March 6-7pm. **Steven Tait (I)** Tel: 07825 303036. Firthmoor Community Centre, Thursday 19 January and 16 February, 6-7pm.

HARROWGATE HILL

Ian Bell (C) Tel: 07581 300111, ian.bell2@darlington.gov.uk. **Jon Clarke (C)** Tel: 07875 057253. **Lynn Paley (I)** Tel: 07963 706171. By appointment only at Harrowgate CIU Ltd, Wednesday 11 January, 8 February and 8 March, 6-7pm.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 07947 016598. **Andy Scott (L)** Tel: 253707, andrew.scott@darlington.gov.uk. **Nick Wallis (L)** Tel: 07960 247554. Asda foyer, Saturday 4 February and 4 March, 10-11am.

HEIGHTINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Gerald Lee (C) Tel: 314622. **Paul Crudass (C)** Tel: 374537. High Coniscliffe Church Hall, Saturday 4 February, 10-11am and Heighington Village Hall, Saturday 4 March, 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Charles Johnson (C) Tel: 463712. **Jack Sowerby (C)** Tel: 07730 480295.

HURWORTH

Christy Chou (C) Tel: 405998. **Lorraine Tostevin (C)** Tel: 333382. By appointment only at Hurworth Grange Library, Monday 6 February and 6 March, 6-7pm.

MOWDEN

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482. **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106. Mowden Junior School, Monday 9 January, 6 February and 6 March, 6.30-7.30pm.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998. **Eleanor Lister (L)** Tel: 406444.

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. Morrisons café, Tuesday 10 January and 14 February, 6-7pm. St Thomas Aquinas Church, Tuesday 24 January and 28 February, 1-2pm.

PARK EAST

Cyndi Hughes (L) Tel: 480975. **Libby McCollom (L)** Tel: 07910 369887. **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 240750. St Columba's Church, Friday 17 February, 6-7pm. St Augustine's Parish Centre, Tuesday 7 March, 6.30-7.15pm.

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)** 491802 or 07460 980776. Reid Street Primary School, Wednesday 1 February and 1 March, 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Hilary Lucas (L) Tel: 249215. Red Hall Community Centre, Wednesday 11 January, 8 February and 8 March, 6-7pm. **David Willis (C)** Tel: 07451 214343.

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: 07807 381613. **Mike Renton (C)** Tel: 07495 697592. Wesley Court, Tuesday 28 February, 6-7pm. St James the Great Church, Tuesday 31 January, 6-7pm.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07554 645651. **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. The Shuttle & Loom, Saturday 28 January and 25 February, 11am-noon.

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 or through his constituency office at Unit 2, Sydney House, Ricknall Avenue, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6AS or call 790580.



Ben Houchen – TEES VALLEY MAYOR

Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park, Stockton-on-Tees, Tees Valley, TS17 6QY
Call 01642 524401 or email mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Amy and Ella get busy with climate change

Making town centre safer

New radios have been given to pubs and shops to ensure the town centre is safe. The council's CCTV team has taken over the radio scheme that supports Pub and Shop Watch members. Scheme members have been given new radios and a training pack so they know what support is available from the CCTV team and police. Town centre businesses that want to join can call 406212 or email chris.stokoe@darlington.gov.uk

Fundraising for prostate cancer testing

The Darlington Lions book shop on Blackwellgate is looking for donations of books to raise funds for its work, including raising awareness of prostate cancer. At the last testing session, 130 men took advantage of a free cancer test. Most tested normal but 17 were highlighted as being of concern. Fundraising is ongoing to hold further events. Book donations can be dropped off or email dave.simmons64@hotmail.co.uk to arrange collection.

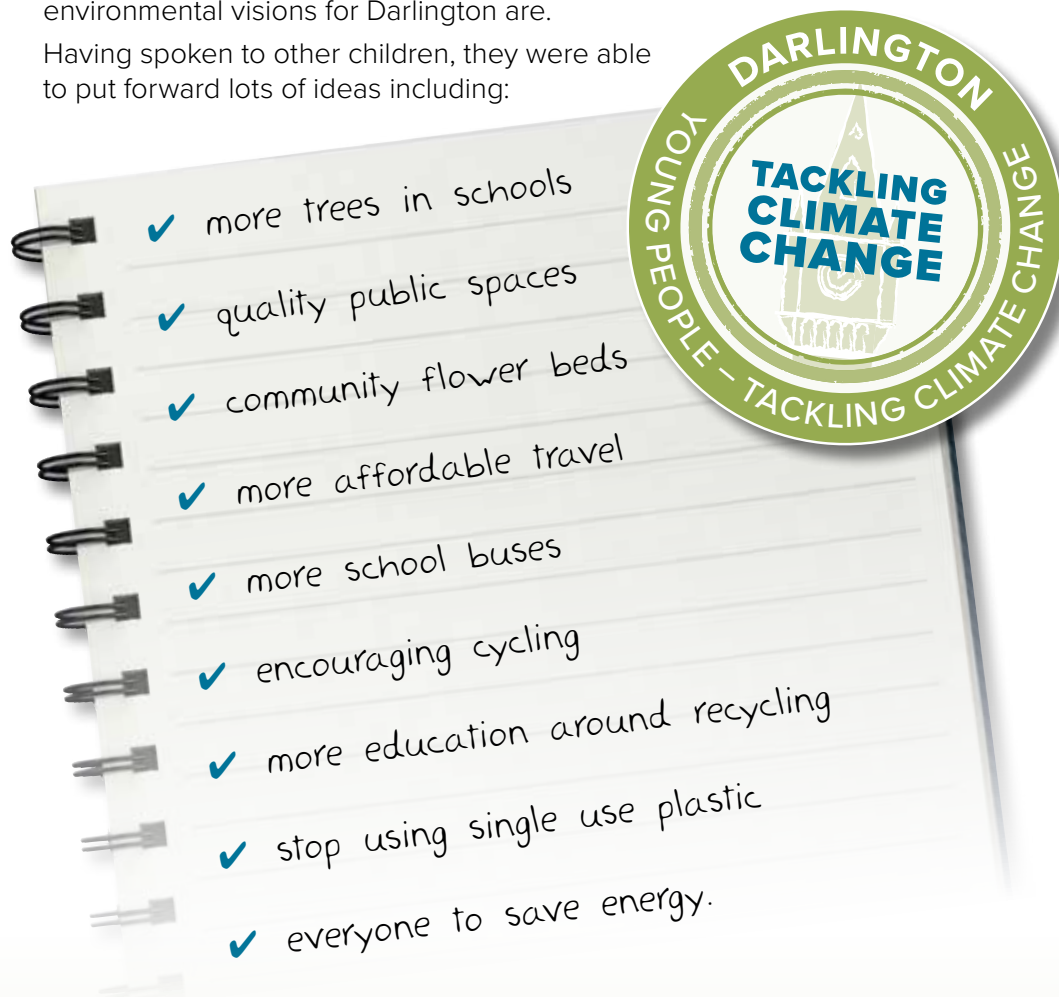
Number Forty open!

Don't forget if you are in the town centre on a Friday and Saturday night and you need help or feel vulnerable you can pop into Number Forty on Skinnergate between 9pm and 3am. Volunteers and trained security staff are on hand to offer support and practical help.

Darlington's first Junior Member of Youth Parliament and her deputy have been busy working towards fulfilling their election pledges.

Amy Edwards and her deputy Ella Wallace, both 10, attended a cross party climate change working group meeting to explain to councillors what their environmental visions for Darlington are.

Having spoken to other children, they were able to put forward lots of ideas including:



Amy, a pupil at Hurworth primary school, said: "It was really interesting to see the group at work and have the chance to put forward the things that young people, like myself, want to see happening in our town. I think it is really important that everyone, including children, gets involved in what's going on and tries to make changes for the better."

To encourage more young people to get involved with tackling climate change, there is a new dedicated area on the Sustainable Darlington webpage. It includes ideas on activities, getting involved with tackling climate change, learning resources for schools, links to recycling and selling sites and a young person's blog.

Find it at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable



Amy Edwards



Children's services staff celebrating their success with Leader of the council, Jonathan Dulston and cabinet member for children and young people Jon Clarke

Children's services rated officially good!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Children's services have been rated good overall and outstanding in one area, by Ofsted, following its latest inspection.

The Ofsted report, praising services, follows a two-week inspection, of all children's services, including safeguarding, children in care, care leavers, fostering and adoption. All services were found to be good overall, however inspectors rated the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers outstanding.

Families are at the heart of our services

The report praises:

- the progress made to build a child focused service, providing effective help and protection and care to children and families across all levels of need, vulnerability, and risk
- strong political support, challenge, leadership, and accountability at every level
- good social work with professional, curious, and caring social workers
- detailed assessments ensuring the right help is provided at the right time so needs are met.

Councillor Jon Clarke, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "We are delighted with our latest Ofsted report. It is such a great read with so much positive feedback.

"In 2015, Ofsted rated children's services in Darlington as inadequate, and in 2018 as requires improvement, so for

all services to improve to good overall, and outstanding in one area, is a phenomenal achievement, bearing in mind we have had a pandemic, which made delivering services extremely challenging.

"We have an amazing team, and this latest report recognises the hard work and change of culture undertaken to ensure our most vulnerable children and families are always at the heart of all our work.

"We have such a great network of agencies who want children to experience the best of life in Darlington. It is critical to us that the children and families we support are given the opportunity to have their say on the services provided, and I am so pleased this was recognised.

"It is heart-warming for children leaving care to tell inspectors, due to being in care, they have been provided with many opportunities and skills they will carry with them their entire life.

"I meet regularly with staff and young people who use our services, and time after time, I am blown away by the respect, trust and great working relationships that are formed.

"Staff have undoubtedly climbed a mountain to achieve such fantastic results, they are amazing! However, we recognise there is always more to do, we are ambitious for the future and committed to continue to deliver the best services for all our children and young people to ensure they have the best experiences and aspire to their dreams and plans for their future."

To read the full report, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/ofsted

What are your p

Whether you're thinking of becoming more active, taking up a new hobby, making some new friends or playing a bigger part in your community, the new year is an ideal time to get started. Read on for some inspiration.

Get more active

There's lots of sports clubs across the town. You can search for one that interests you at www.darlington.gov.uk/healthydarlington or you could try one of these.

Fencing at the Dolphin Centre. The club meets every Monday evening, 5.30-9pm and welcomes everyone aged eight years and over. Call 07834 884194 or search on Twitter @BD4Fencing.

Darlington Storm basketball club welcomes players, volunteers, and coaches of all ages from six upwards. The club has around 500 members signed up and is keen to welcome more. Find them on Facebook or visit www.darlingtonstorm.co.uk

Up and Running has a free 5k run group every Monday evening at 6pm. Meet at 18 Bondgate. Contact Daniel on 367723.



St Cuthbert's Church is looking to welcome new members to join its friendly choir. The choir rehearses on Friday evenings and provide music for worship on Sunday mornings. All voice types are welcome, but especially tenors and basses. Email choir.stcuthbertsdarlington@gmail.com or search for St Cuthbert's Church Darlington on Facebook.

3rd Darlington Girls' Brigade meets on Tuesday evenings 6.15-7.30pm at The Well Methodist Church, North Rd, during term time. It is a uniformed Christian organisation for girls between five and 17. Activities include games, crafts and cookery as well as encouraging the girls to develop life skills in a caring Christian environment. New members welcome, email 3rddarlingtongb@gmail.com

Women's Peer Support Group meets the first Monday of each month 1-2.30pm at the Community Hub in Eastbourne Park. The group helps female survivors of domestic abuse to support and empower each other and offers a safe space to discuss worries, concerns and experiences with others who understand. Drop in or to find out more, contact 364486 or email contactus@familyhelp.co.uk.

A poster for the Women's Peer Support Group. It features a yellow speech bubble at the top with the text "WOMEN'S PEER SUPPORT GROUP". Below this is a row of colorful illustrations of diverse women's faces. Underneath the illustrations is the hashtag "#STRONGERTOGETHER". The text continues: "Eastbourne Park Community Hub Every First Monday of each Month 1.00pm - 2.30pm". At the bottom, it says "Family Help Darlington CID is hosting a new Peer Support Group for women designed to help female survivors support and empower one another." and provides contact information: "Drop in or to find out more, please contact us: Tel No: 01325 364486 Email: contactus@familyhelp.org.uk". The Family Help logo is in the bottom right corner.

WOMEN'S PEER SUPPORT GROUP

#STRONGERTOGETHER

Eastbourne Park Community Hub
Every First Monday of each Month
1.00pm - 2.30pm

Family Help Darlington CID is hosting a new Peer Support Group for women designed to help female survivors support and empower one another.

Drop in or to find out more, please contact us:
Tel No: 01325 364486
Email: contactus@familyhelp.org.uk

Family Help
Helping you help others

Plans for 2023?

Be a friend to your community

Join the Friends of Fryer's Field

Help make a difference to your local area with The Friends of Fryer's Field - a volunteer group which aims to look after and improve the popular recreation ground left in 1930 to the community by Frederic Fryer who had the local grocery shop in Haughton le Skerne. The group holds regular get-together/workdays on the third Sunday of each month from April to October running from 10am until noon.

Since it began in 2018, the group has worked with the council and other organisations to improve the area. Improvements include better streetlighting, unique red benches from Cleveland Bridge, replacement swings from the National Lottery, a new cinder path from Willmott Dixon and work to refurbish the football pitch with the help of Red Hall Community Association. Wildflower and new shrub planting has also helped to improve the look of the grounds.

The group holds an annual general meeting every year on the field when the community can have a say on future needs and activities. Plans include path improvements and there is a constant need for litter pickers and help with general upkeep. New members are always welcome, look out for Friends of Fryer's Field Recreation Ground - Haughton le Skerne on Facebook.



Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway

The group works on many projects which celebrate our amazing railway heritage and is looking for people to get involved in supporting the 200th anniversary of the start of the modern railway network in 2025. Find out more at: www.sdr1825.org.uk or message its Facebook page – Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. Meetings are for members only, normally monthly, on a Thursday, 7pm in venues across Darlington.

Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway



If you want to see your club or community group featured on this page, email details to editor@onedarlington.org.uk

You can also add your club details to our online page at www.darlington.gov.uk/clubs

Delivering quality homes for our tenants



We are the largest social housing provider in Darlington, with more than 5,291 homes, and are proud of the high standards we offer.

But we are not complacent, and as well as day to day maintenance, each year we invest in improvements and energy efficiency measures to reduce our

carbon impact and help our tenants reduce their energy consumption.

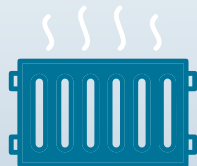
Demand for our properties is high, so we're also continuing to invest in more new-build council homes, with work on our latest development in Neasham Road now well underway.



£3.69
per week average, below inflation rent increase proposed



£5.5m
for repairs and maintenance



£5.3m
for replacement heating systems, windows and doors, kitchens and bathrooms



£1m
for energy efficiency measures to reduce tenants' energy consumption and tackle climate change



£15.6m
to support new-build council housing programme

This work will contribute to the council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2050.

We want to encourage residents and businesses to join us on our journey towards a greener future.

For more information about council housing visit www.darlington.gov.uk/housing



A great place to do business

The hard work, creativity and commitment of small businesses in the town has been recognised with Darlington ranked as the fourth most entrepreneurial town in the UK.

The number of small businesses in the town with up to 49 employees increased by 210 in 2022 - this goes against the national trend which has seen the number of small businesses in the country decrease by 83,000.

We took the opportunity to meet the people behind two of our most successful town centre businesses:

House of Zana

Amber Kotrri started House of Zana in 2018 as an online business specialising in handmade garments. She opened her first shop in Grange Road in November 2019.

During the pandemic she adapted her skills to make scrubs for NHS workers and is now dedicating herself to growing her business.

House of Zana has a strong ethical basis. Amber knows her suppliers and ensures everything is connected from her initial designs to the final products.

Amber said: “The council and community are so supportive. There is a lot happening in the area and a lot of excitement around. I grew up here but only really appreciated the town when I returned home after travels. A big factor of success here is the people who support our businesses.”

Amber plans to launch her wholesale business later this year and expand internationally.



Hash and Hatch Luncheonette

Jasmin and Phil Robson expanded their 17 year old business, Hash Bar and Kitchen, to open Hatch Luncheonette in 2018 and Hatch To Go in 2021.

All three businesses are in the town centre, providing food, drinks and takeaways.

Jasmin said: “We use a lot of local suppliers for our take out shop and in our retail and gift area where we try to concentrate on sourcing local independent brands. The council has been approachable and open to ideas, for example expanding our outside seating, and that has helped us to grow. The town centre is also compact, meaning businesses are within easy reach for customers. We love helping Darlington become a better place to visit, as we live here.”



Artist's impression of new look station

Funding boost for rail

A huge injection of government money to the tune of £93m is ensuring ambitious plans to transform the station and the areas either side are well on track.

The funding from the Department for Transport is in addition to £33m committed by Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and £0.98m from the Towns Fund that will make Darlington a transport hub for the region.

We're supporting TVCA, Network Rail, LNER and other partners to transform the station area.

Once complete, this development will totally transform how people access and use the station. Additional platforms, tracks and signalling will increase rail capacity. A new station building, car parking and a transport interchange will be built on Neasham Road. Plans are also in place to create an attractive pedestrianised area, transport facilities and safety improvements on the Victoria Road side of the existing station building.

Hoardings now enclose the whole Neasham Road side of the site, giving a sense of the huge scale of the project.





Station development plans

Some demolition work has already taken place and familiar buildings such as the Grey Horse pub, the East End Club, garages and take aways will soon make way for this exciting development.

Work to remove roads and underground services within the site area will also take place over coming months to prepare the ground for the new build.

This will include a new station building and platform along with a multi storey car park and a travel hub to make accessing the station by foot and cycle easier, alongside better connections to bus services.

On the Victoria Road side of the station, future demolitions are proposed beginning with Hogan's pub followed by a property on Pensbury Street. This will be the first phase of work to smooth out the sharp bend in front of the station building to

create wider paved areas making the station safer for pedestrians.

Work is also well underway on the temporary car park on the site of the old cattle market. Once complete this will replace the existing LNER car park on the Neasham Road side of the station. The temporary car park will be in use until the new multi storey car park opens.

Work on the existing station building and track work will start in 2023. All work on the project is set to be completed in 2025.

Some footpaths along Neasham Road have already been closed and diversions are in place - please follow the signs and avoid walking along busy roads. As work progresses there will be further road and footpath closures. We will try to keep disruption to a minimum.

For more information visit teesvalley-ca.gov.uk and darlington.gov.uk/station



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Enjoy what's on in

Start the new year by checking out the great events on offer throughout the town! Please be aware the events may be subject to change/postponement. You should always check with event organisers/venues before travelling. For more details of what's on visit enjoydarlington.co.uk or follow Darlington Borough Council on Facebook.

Want to be in the next edition of One Darlington?

Email your events for March and April to communications@darlington.gov.uk

parkrun and junior parkrun – weekends, South Park. A free, weekly, timed run, walk or jog. The 5km event is on Saturdays at 9am. The 2km event, for those aged 4-14, is on Sundays at 9am.

January

Darlington Jazz Club, Jan Spencelayh and her trio – Tuesday 10, 7pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £10 on the door.

Beyond the Barricade – Wednesday 11, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £14.50 - £29.

Tribute to The Carpenters – Thursday 12, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £16.50 - £32.

Fastlove – Friday 13, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. George Michael tribute! Tickets £16.50 - £32.

RnB Club The James Oliver Band – Friday 13, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £13.50.

The Bryan Adams Experience – Saturday 14, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £11.50.

Fleeting Rumours – Friday 20, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studio. Tickets £15.50.

Hey Duggee – Friday 20 – Sunday 22, various times, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £14 - £21.

Watercolour painting group – Friday 20, 2-3.30pm, Cockerton Library. £5 book via www.eventbrite.co.uk.

Darlington Orchestra winter concert – Saturday 21, 7.30pm, Central Hall, the Dolphin Centre. Tickets £7 (£5 concessions) from the Dolphin Centre or by calling 406000. Tickets on the door – cash only. Visit www.darlington-orchestra.org.uk.

Total Stone Roses (18+) – Saturday 21, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £15.50.

Chinese New Year – Saturday 21, Market Place. Dragon dancing, crafts and face painting.

The Rainbow Screen Tiny Shrimps – Tuesday 24, 6.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £3.

Buffy Revamped – Wednesday 25, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Comedian Brenden Murphy covers seven seasons of Buddy the Vampire Slayer in seventy minutes. Tickets £14.50 - £25.

Coppelia – Thursday 26, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. A light-hearted ballet of mistaken identity and confused lovers. Tickets £16 - £46.

Giselle – Friday 27, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Poignant ballet about a heart-rending tale of love. Tickets £16 - £46.

Beatlemania – Friday 27, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £12.50.

Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony – 27 January, 7pm, St Aidan's C of E Academy.

Rock of Ages – Friday 27, 10.30-11.30am, Cockerton Library. A trip down memory lane through music. Free must book by calling 461320.

The Killerz – Saturday 28, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £13.50.

Swan Lake – Saturday 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. The greatest romantic ballet. Tickets £16 - £46.

The Nutcracker – Sunday 29, 2.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. The most famous fantasy ballet brought to life. Tickets £16 - £46.

The Story of Guitar Heroes – Tuesday 31, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £16.50 - £30.

Original band night with Sonderminds and more – Tuesday 31, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £6.50.

February

The Glenn Miller & Big Band Spectacular – Wednesday 1, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £16.50 - £30.

Open mic night – Wednesday 1, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Free entry.

Queenz – the show with balls – Thursday 2, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Drag extravaganza. Tickets £14.50 - £29.

Gruffalo – Thursday 2, 9.15-10.15am, and **Meg and Mog** 10.30-11.30am, Cockerton Library. Interactive story-telling for ages 2-4. £3.50 per child. Tickets via www.eventbrite.co.uk.

Steve Norman of Spandau Ballet and his band and The Sleeves – Thursday 2, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets standing £32.50/soundcheck experience £65.

Quadrophenia night – Friday 3, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £12.50.

80s Live! – Friday 3, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £16.50 - £32.

Steve Steinman's Vampires Rock – Ghost Train – Saturday 4, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £18.50 - £38.50.

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club – Saturday 4, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £18.50 - £38.50.

Darlington Film Club – Tuesday 7, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £3.

RnB Club presents The Wilson Brothers – Friday 10, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £13.50.

Black Ice (tribute to AC/DC) – Saturday 11, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £10.50.

Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through Menopause – Tuesday 14 – Wednesday 15, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £17 - £34.

Darlington Jazz Club – Tuesday 14, 7pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £10.

Rebecca Downes – Friday 17, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £12.

Watercolour painting group – Friday 17, 2-3.30pm, Cockerton Library. £5 book via www.eventbrite.co.uk

Bon Jovi Forever – Saturday 18, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £14.50.

Restaurant week – Saturday 18-Sunday 26, restaurants throughout the town will be offering special deals. Visit enjoydarlington.co.uk for details.

Children's crafts – Monday 20-Saturday 25, during opening hours, Cockerton Library. Free crafts for age 4+. No booking required.

Barcode bots – Monday 20, 2.30-3.30pm, Cockerton Library. Basic coding for children aged 6-9. £5 per child. Book on www.eventbrite.co.uk from 30 January.

That'll Be The Day – Tuesday 21, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Rock 'n' roll show. Tickets £14.50 - £29.

Riotous rhymes with Imagine Me – Tuesday 21, 9.30-10.30am, Cockerton Library. Drama fun for children aged 2-4. £3.50 per child. Book on www.eventbrite.co.uk from 30 January.

Roald Dahl drama workshop – Tuesday 21, 11am-12.30pm, Cockerton Library. Drama fun for children aged 7-11. £5 per child. Book on www.eventbrite.co.uk from 30 January.

UK Pink Floyd Experience – Wednesday 22, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £15.50 - £28.

Jessie and Woody party – Thursday 23, 10.30-11.30am, Cockerton Library. Cowboy fun for children aged 3-7. £5 per child. Book on www.eventbrite.co.uk from 30 January.

Tap Factory – Thursday 23, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Dance, acrobatics, music and comedy. Tickets £16.50 - £31.

Superhero day – Thursday 23, town centre. Meet your comic book heroes!

Rock of Ages – Friday 24, 10.30-11.30am, Cockerton Library. Trip down memory lane through music. Free must book by calling 461320.

Orion: a story of courage and bravery – Friday 24, Cockerton Library. Join author RJ Frazer for draw along workshop. Age 4-7. Free but booking required on www.eventbrite.co.uk from 30 January.

Bootleg Boss (Bruce Springsteen tribute) – Friday 24, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £13.50.

Credence Clearwater Revival – Saturday 25, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £10.50.

The Upbeat Beatles – Saturday 25, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £16.50 - £32.

Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story – Tuesday 28 – Saturday 4 March, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £15 - £36.50.

Contacts

Darlington Hippodrome visit: www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call 405405

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

Darlington Libraries – call 349610 or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/library

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

The Forum Music Studios – visit www.theforumonline.co.uk

New year, new start

Darlington Jobs Fair

returns



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Why not start the new year with a new career or training? What better place to start your search than Darlington Jobs Fair which returns to the Dolphin Centre on Thursday 9 February? It's free to attend and you can drop in any time between 10am and 2pm.

Last year's event was a huge success with thousands of people meeting employers and training providers.

More than 70 organisations have already signed up to this year's event with more lined up, making this the ideal place to start your journey towards a new career.

Amongst those already attending are Aldi, Lidl, Durham Police, Arriva, EE, NHS, the council and Darlington Economic Campus.

Speak to employers and discover opportunities in sectors with a wide variety of roles available including finance, management, care, engineering, IT, administration, HR, forensics, communications, vehicle mechanic, research, sports therapy, software developers and more.

Training and support services including Learning & Skills, Darlington College, the Job Centre and the council's youth employment team will also be on hand and a workshop will be held about the job opportunities in the heart of government at the Darlington Economic Campus.

The Google Digital Garage will be running a series of skill shops including writing a CV and cover letter to get noticed and finding your career goals and pathway to success. They will also be offering free online courses to help jump-start your career.

In addition, it's National Apprenticeship Week and this will be celebrated as part of the Jobs Fair, with a range of apprenticeship roles available. Apprenticeships can have a positive impact on any business and there will be some great options for new careers.

If English isn't your first language, interpretation services will be available, as well as access to support if you are looking to improve your English skills. Other services available on the day will include support to access entry level courses, such as health and safety, and other training and development opportunities.

Don't miss out, register now to secure your place and find out more details about the job seekers workshops available.

Simply scan the
QR code to reach the
Darlington Jobs Fair
page on Eventbrite



Free to
attend

Find something new at

DARLINGTON JOBS FAIR

Thursday 9
February 2023
10am - 2pm

Dolphin Centre,
Horsemarket,
Darlington
DL1 5RP

Hundreds of jobs across different
sectors, from over 60 employers.

If you are searching for a job or
looking for a new opportunity
make sure you come along!

#workindarlington



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Have your say on b

The council's budget for the next financial year and the four year medium term financial plan (MTFP) are out for public consultation.

The council has faced significant financial challenges over the last decade as the government has responded to the worldwide economic downturn.

This has been made worse by the conflict in Ukraine, with huge increases in inflation, rising utility costs and growing demand for services

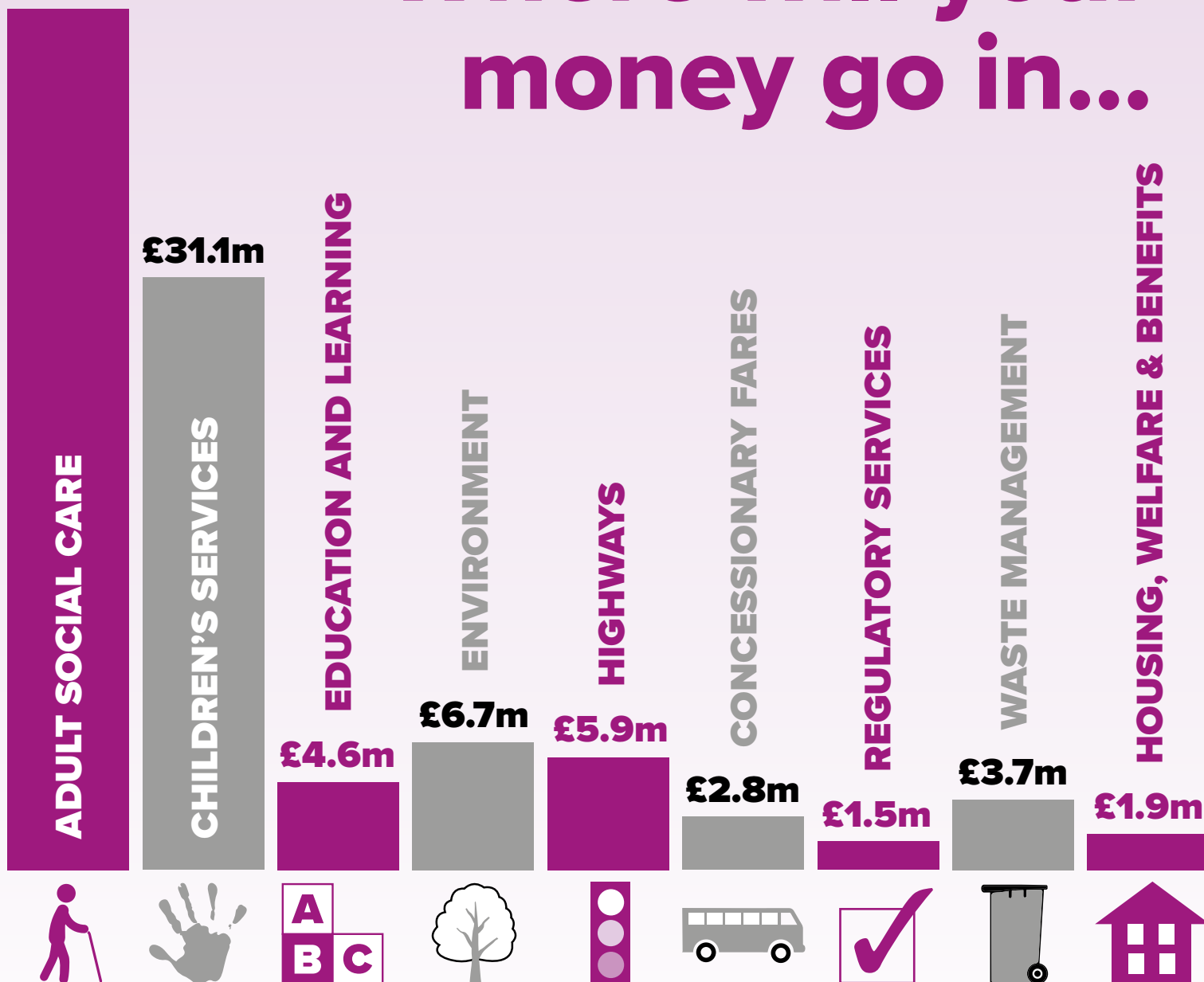
particularly in relation to social care, for both adults and children.

Almost two thirds of the council's budget is spending within these two areas and this is expected to increase further in future years.

The council has performed well in responding to the financial challenges and has made savings and efficiencies in order to ensure that it is still able to deliver and invest in services for the businesses and residents of Darlington.

Where will your money go in...

£45.2m



Budget plans



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

This MTFP allows for net revenue investment of more than £118m in the coming year, along with capital investment in our schools, roads, housing and community assets of £111m over the life of this plan, creating further opportunities for growth and investment within our borough.

The chancellor announced within his autumn statement in November that councils would have further flexibilities in setting their Council Tax and social care precepts.

The proposals in this plan include a 2.99% increase to Council Tax for 2023/24 and to continue to fund vital social care services a further 2% increase in the social care precept. Combined, the increase will be around half the current rate of inflation.

Once the consultation period has ended, the plan will be reviewed again and a final version will be voted on by all councillors in February.

2023/2024?



The consultation period ends on Friday 20 January. Find out more about what is being proposed and give your views at www.darlington.gov.uk/consultations or pop into Cockerton Library and ask to see a copy of the proposals.

Comments can be posted to: Finance Department, Darlington Borough Council, Room 322, Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington DL1 5QT. Comments can also be emailed to MTFPConsultation@darlington.gov.uk

Could you be a foster carer?



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Our aim is to keep families together, however sometimes this is not possible

Sometimes we need to place children in foster care, with foster families who can provide a stable life for children and young people, particularly for teenagers, sibling groups and children with disabilities.

All foster carers receive an allowance to cover the cost of caring for a child and get paid for caring - the amount you will earn depends on your experience and on the ages and number of children you care for. You don't need any special qualifications, but must:

- be at least 21 years old
- have a spare bedroom in your home
- provide a stable supportive environment, to ensure children in your care are happy and cared for.

Types of foster care

There are many types of foster care. As part of your assessment, you will explore what type of fostering is best suited to your skills and experience:

Short term

You provide care for a child due to difficulties or illnesses in the family, offering a safe place and support when needed. This varies from an overnight stay to a few weeks or months.

Long term

Sometimes a child may need to live with a foster family for a longer period. Foster carers can help by offering a child the chance to grow up in a safe and supportive environment, if possible with the chance to keep in touch with their family.

Respite

Short placements to support other foster carers, for example if they need to have a holiday. This is a popular care option if you are unable to commit to full time foster care and some foster carers choose respite care in addition to other types of fostering.

Parent and child placement

You offer a place to a parent or parents with a young child to enable them to stay together. You support the parent/s to develop the skills they need to care for their child.

Siblings

We try to keep family members together whenever possible and urgently need more people who can provide care for sibling groups.

Supported Lodgings

You offer the next step to independence for young people aged 16–21 years who are leaving care, offering them a place in your home, and supporting and encouraging them to develop independent living skills, for when they feel ready to live on their own.

FOSTERING is incredibly rewarding, improving your life as well as a child's, take the first step to start your journey and contact the family placement team.

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

Call 406222

Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering to find out more



Pool maintenance work underway



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

The main pool at the Dolphin Centre will be closed for the next four months while essential maintenance work is carried out.

The work represents a major investment in the future of the pool, which like the centre, marked its 40th anniversary last year.

It is expected the work will take around four months to complete.

Although the main pool is temporarily out of action, swimming lessons and lane swimming will still be on offer in the training pool.

The diving pool and toddler pool will still be open during the work.

For more information, including timetable, visit www.healthydarlington.co.uk

It's a dog's life at school

A cockapoo called Millie is helping to make St Augustine's Catholic primary school a happy place for everyone.

Millie, who belongs to headteacher Katie Whitehead, has been specially trained to work in school with the children.

Mrs Whitehead said: "As a school we are passionate about supporting the wellbeing of our children. Research has shown that companion dogs can improve the wellbeing of children, reducing their anxiety levels by making the school environment happier and a more enjoyable place to be.

"Children benefit educationally and emotionally; a dog can encourage their participation, be a comfort, help develop empathy and improve self-esteem and responsibility. Having Millie in school helps build the sense of a family environment and togetherness for the school community."

Parent Claire Haigh said: "Millie has really helped with my children's confidence around dogs and I have seen first hand how much more comfortable they are now! She is also a wonderful incentive for working hard and being rewarded for it."

Head girl, Maggie Raper, 11, said: "Millie is a big part of the wellbeing at St Augustine's and helps children who struggle to come into school. Millie also helps to celebrate star of the week with us. We love having Millie in our school and she makes us feel special."



Pupils with Millie

Human cost of fly-tipping

We all know fly-tipping not only spoils our environment and costs time and money to clear up, but have you ever considered the human cost?

That old fridge-freezer or chest of drawers blocking the footpath means people using a wheelchair or with a pram or pushchair can't get past. It's also a real danger to anyone blind or partially sighted.

We're working hard to tackle the issue, but we can't do it alone, we need you to take responsibility for your waste.

If you pay someone to remove your rubbish, it's up to you to make sure it's disposed of properly – if it's dumped you could be fined even if you paid someone in good faith! Always check the person has a waste carrier licence, issued by the Environment Agency, and ask for a waste transfer note.

You can check they are licensed at environment.data.gov.uk/public-register



Mike Renton, cabinet member for stronger communities, checks out a fly tip

Most household items such as furniture, cookers, electrical items and toys, can be left at the tip for free – find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk/tip

We also offer a bulky waste collection service, £19.40 for up to six items. To book visit www.darlington.gov.uk/bulkywaste

You could also donate items to charity.

If you see someone fly-tipping let us know using our online form at www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit

Further consultation for design code



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

A second round of public consultation on the draft design code for Skerningham Garden Village is now underway.

After changes were made to the document as a result of the responses from the first consultation in autumn last year, cabinet agreed to hold a second consultation to make sure the views of residents on the updated document are heard.

The consultation is open until Friday 13 January at 5pm. The design code is available to read, with a portal to submit comments, at darlington-consult.objective.co.uk

A design code sets out expectations about the look and feel of a development to make sure it reflects local character and residents' preferences.

Once formally agreed, the design code will be a material consideration in determining planning applications and will ensure that Skerningham Garden Village will be developed to a high-quality standard.

The changes made to the design code reflect many of the comments received during the first consultation including further detail on how the code would be applied.

Youth Employment Initiative success!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Lewis Green

More than 1,100 young people have been helped to find a job or full-time education thanks to the Darlington Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), since it started in 2016.

YEI participants have gone on to find work with a range of employers including Aldi, Drive Vauxhall, EE, Student Loans Company, Babul's restaurant, designer clothes store Flannels and furniture re-use charity Frade.

Programme co-ordinator Steven Winterburn said: "The YEI is an essential service in Darlington – we have employability tutors, business development staff and support workers.

"Our business development staff attend job fairs and careers events, developing relationships with local employers and match participants to jobs.

"The tutors help the young people with their employability skills, CVs, interview technique and confidence building.

"The support worker helps with other issues such as homelessness or addiction. Addressing those barriers helps make a person more ready for work."

Lewis Green, 19, Aldi: "YEI helped me in lots of ways and were not forceful, suggesting a course which fitted what I wanted to do. They explained all the benefits and now I am working thanks to their help."



Connor Cooper

Connor Cooper, 18, Frade: "The support from YEI has made such a big difference for me. They helped to highlight how the Frade apprenticeship would help me, both in the short and long term."

The YEI team

Meet the team: Adult learning disability team



For the latest instalment in our series of articles looking at the various teams that make up the council's adult social services, we spent time with the adult learning disability team.

The team supports around 500 adults and their carers, with the aim of helping them to be as independent as possible.

Team manager Julie Hopkinson explains: "We are a small, tight-knit and resilient team and we're great at using our creativity to meet challenges head on when they arise."

"We carry out assessments, reviews and reassessments and develop support plans with individuals, to support them to achieve positive outcomes for themselves."

Councillor Lorraine Tostevin, cabinet member for adults, said: "I've seen first hand how hard this team works, and how dedicated everyone is to helping deliver a great service for the people they work with."

"The learning disability team is another important piece in the jigsaw of our adult social services."

FEELING INSPIRED? Find out about current vacancies at www.darlington.gov.uk/xtra
Information on gaining the qualifications and experience needed to

DAY IN THE LIFE

No two days are the same for members of the learning disability team, so this is just a snapshot of what a typical day could look like for one of the team's social workers.

"The first thing I do when I log on in the morning is check my emails, phone calls and voicemails and look out for any safeguarding concerns, which helps me to plan the day ahead.

"I attend the team meeting, followed by a daily drop in with colleagues in the adult community learning disability health team to discuss an individual both teams are supporting. Next, I receive a phone call from a family I am working with requesting some urgent support to help them to maintain their caring role. I take a holistic approach to identify if there any issues with the individual or carer's mental and physical health which may be contributing to the change in their situation.

"After discussing it with my manager I arrange a home visit to gather further information and undertake a reassessment. I know the individual well and am greeted with a high-five which is part of their communication and helps them feel confident. I sit with the family and gather updated information to identify what is contributing to the current situation.

As part of this I complete a mental capacity assessment to establish if the individual is able to make the particular decision required. As they currently lack capacity around their care and support needs, in conjunction with their family, a 'best interest' decision was made. I involve the individual in the assessment process as much as possible, with their family advocating the person's views on their behalf. A short break stay was agreed to be in the person's best interest to support the carer to maintain their caring role.

"Due to the individual's care needs, a specialist placement was required. The team support each other closely, so two workers link up to split the work in contacting different specialist providers to see who can best support the individual. I contact occupational therapy so they can assess if any specialist equipment is needed and is in place, so the individual is supported safely during the short break.

" I know the individual well and am greeted with a high-five which is part of their communication and helps them feel confident. "

"I work with the individual and their family to ensure they have everything they need for their stay including clothing, personal items and arrange for medication through their GP. I arrange transport to collect the individual from their home.

"The family is struggling financially and so I provide them with contact details for the local food banks to ensure they have basic provisions for the week.

"We then arrange a multi-disciplinary team meeting which will bring together all the professionals, the person's family, and support network, to develop an action plan to ensure the person and their independence remains central to decision making going forward.

"It is important at the end of the day, to debrief with my team so we are all updated and to support our own wellbeing."



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

www.darlington.gov.uk/workwithus

work in social care can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/xtra

DRAKEN



Draken Europe has more than doubled its fleet at Teesside following the completion of its second state-of-the-art hangar. It is now home to six Alca L-159E "Honey Badger" aircraft as part of a new MoD contract

— sitting alongside five specially modified Dassault Falcon jets stationed at the airport.

The arrival of the new aircraft is expected to create up to 30 jobs.

WILLIS



Willis Lease Finance Corporation (WLFC) and its wholly owned subsidiary Willis Aviation Services Limited have officially lodged plans for its up to £25million maintenance facility and modern Jet Centre

at its Aviation Village.

This will include five hangars for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul, as well as a base for business aviation, expected to create as many as 200 jobs.

AIRPORT BOOSTS BUSINESS

OIL BUSTERS



Two **Boeing 727** are to be based at Teesside Airport operating on behalf of Oil Spill Resources Limited, and owned by aerospace services firm 2Excel Aviation. They will be deployed anywhere in the world to spray

dispersant material and assist in the clean-up of oil spills.

The two planes will be based in the region after moving from Doncaster-Sheffield Airport.

SERCO



Serco has signed a new ten-year deal to keep its world-class International Fire Training Centre based at the airport, safeguarding more than 50 jobs.

The facility has been based at Teesside since 1981 and brings thousands of firefighting trainees to the region each year to participate in life-saving guidance. Improvements are also set to be made to the facility in the coming year.

DALAMAN, TURKEY, ARRIVING 2024

As well as helping businesses based at the airport to grow – and securing new opportunities – it has been hard at work at boosting routes for the summer 2023 season and beyond.

TUI has announced an extra weekly Majorca 2023 connection from Teesside, starting Saturday 27 May and running until 28 October, alongside those taking off on a Tuesday. It has also announced a new summer 2024 route to Dalaman in Turkey, which will be its second route to the country as it also serves Antalya in summer 2023.

Tickets are now on sale for all of Ryanair's summer 23 routes – the year-round Alicante, plus Corfu, Faro and Majorca so you can get poolside from Teesside.

KLM has restarted its popular 6am Amsterdam Schiphol route, making onward worldwide connectivity from Teesside even better and, for something closer to home, Loganair serves the popular citybreak destinations of Aberdeen, Belfast and Dublin.

2022 was the biggest year in almost a decade at Teesside Airport – getting our future plans off to a flying start.



Dalaman from summer 2024



Majorca from March 2023

...AS NEW ROUTES REVEALED

ABERDEEN	FARO	MAR23
ALICANTE	MAJORCA	MAR23
AMSTERDAM	ANTALYA	MAY23
BELFAST	BOURGAS	MAY23
DUBLIN	CORFU	JUN23
	DALAMAN	MAY24

Volunteers needed

St Teresa's Hospice is a Darlington-based charity providing palliative care for people with life-limiting illnesses, their families and carers. It is looking for a range of volunteers to help at the hospice and its charity shops. For more information visit darlingtonhospice.org.uk/volunteering, call Hayley on 254321 or email hr@darlingtonhospice.org.uk

Peer support

Could you use your experiences of caring for a loved one with dementia to help others? Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington is looking for compassionate people to become volunteer dementia peer supporters. Volunteers visit carers in their homes to support them as they look after a loved one. You will receive training and can volunteer at times that suit you. To find out more call 362832 or email enquiries@ageuknyd.org.uk

Hygiene warning

Council environmental health officers carry out regular, unannounced inspections of food businesses to check premises are being managed well and are following food laws. They give businesses a hygiene star rating from 0-5 which must be displayed. Improving a bad rating can be a long process so the council is urging businesses to make sure they are inspection ready. For help visit www.darlington.gov.uk/food-safety

Duke Street



for business

Work is underway on the next phase of a major project to create a walking and cycling route between the town centre and the west of Darlington.

The changes to Duke Street will formalise the one-way traffic system and 20mph speed limit introduced in 2020, as well as adding a dedicated contraflow cycle lane on the south side of the street and widened pavements on the north side to allow for better pedestrian access.

Duke Street is home to a large number of independent businesses, which will all remain open throughout the works. There will always be pedestrian access along the length of the street and the site team will work closely with business owners to allow for deliveries.

The work will take place in two phases, with each planned to take five months due to the need to maintain access at all times.

The aim is to make cycling and walking easier for shorter journeys, as well as making Duke Street safer with the introduction of speed tables at junctions and pedestrian crossing points.

The project is part of the wider £1.7m scheme, funded by the Tees Valley Mayor and the Tees Valley Combined Authority, which has already seen improvement works to Woodland Road and Outram Street.

Learning & Skills Darlington

FIND YOUR SPARK THIS NEW YEAR

Every year you make a resolution to change yourself. This year, make a resolution you can stick to by starting 2023 on a free course with Learning & Skills Darlington.

ADULT LEARNING COURSES IN A VARIETY OF AREAS INCLUDING

Maths, English, ICT and ESOL / Family Learning / Community Learning / FREE Level 3 qualifications* / plus a whole lot more!

NEW FOR JOBSEEKERS

FREE one-week courses with big name employers with behind-the-scenes tours, guaranteed fast-tracked job interviews and immediate start dates upon completion of a course. Courses running throughout the year. Delivered in partnership with YEI Darlington. Visit our website for details.

WAREHOUSING
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CUSTOMER SERVICE
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You can use our courses to help you find employment, to upskill in your current job, to help you access higher level qualifications or to simply to learn something new. *T&Cs apply.

CALL 01325 405601 TEXT 07932 869325

EMAIL I&s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

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DarlingtonL_S

Learning & Skills

07932 869325

View our website for the latest apprenticeship vacancies

Learning & Skills



Become a Volunteer

Make a real difference to an elderly person in Darlington

We need more volunteers to join our friendly team, get involved today.

Volunteer visitor

Dropping in for a chat and a cup of tea with one of our "Friends" in their own homes can brighten up their day or maybe you can help out with the grocery shop or visit a "Friend" in hospital.



"I have witnessed first hand the happiness a visit can bring to someone who is isolated"

- Luke

Trustee & Volunteer Driver

"I like driving our "Friends" to appointments, on shopping trips and out for the day on our social events" - Julia



Volunteer Fund Raiser



"Join me on the Fundraising Team. It's lots of fun and very rewarding"

- Nick

Visit the "Get involved" section on our website or call **07943 251357** and join us today.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



/Darlingtontownmission www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk

A local charity trusted since 1838

Registered Address 2 Davison Road, Darlington, DL1 3DR - Reg.charity no. 235572



**Darlington
Town
Mission**
Enriching Elderly Lives

Preventing rough sleeping – play your part

Have you seen someone rough sleeping in the town? Are you concerned about them? Please get in touch so we can ensure they are offered the support they need.

We are working with StreetLink, a non-profit organisation that provides a link between someone rough sleeping and support services in their area.

Reports are sent to our housing options team and an outreach service, delivered by the 700 Club. All reports are followed up by physical contact with the reported person and appropriate support is offered.

If you are concerned about a homeless person or rough sleeper, contact:

- Housing options team – call 405333 or email housingoptions@darlington.gov.uk (during office hours)
- StreetLink – make a report online at www.streetlink.org.uk or call 0300 500914.

- Outside office hours call 01642 524552 - the team will provide advice for rough sleepers who want accommodation
- If someone is unwell, unresponsive or distressed, please call 999.

For more information visit www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness and click on preventing rough sleeping.

If you let us know you are concerned about someone you can ask for feedback so you know what happened.

In the last year, we:

- had 311 telephone appointments with people threatened with homelessness
- supported and helped 836 homeless people
- provided assistance to 24 rough sleepers

Holocaust Memorial Day

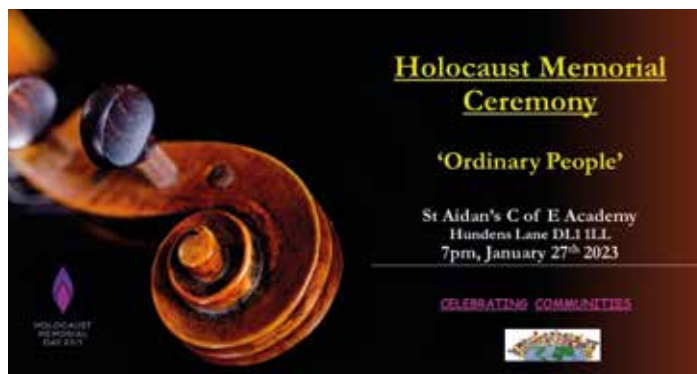
Students from Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and St Aidan's C of E Academy will join forces with Darlington Celebrating Communities group to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) on 27 January.

This year's theme is 'ordinary people' which is also the title of the Holocaust Memorial ceremony, led by The Rt Revd Sarah Clark, Bishop of Jarrow, being held at St Aidan's on Friday 27 January, from 7pm.

For more information email Cllr Gerald Lee at gerald.lee@darlington.gov.uk or call 07876 216182

HMD is a day for us to remember the millions of

people murdered in the Holocaust under Nazi persecution and in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. You can find out more about HMD at www.hmd.org.uk





Could you be a Busy Reader?

Darlington Cares is looking for volunteers to listen to primary school children read for one hour a week.

Busy Readers work in 12 primary schools to help pupils develop their literacy skills but more volunteers are needed so even more children can benefit.

Volunteers are asked to donate at least one hour at the same time and day every week.

A DBS check will be done in advance online and you will need to complete a one hour training session.

If you enjoy books and have time to spare please email chelsea.johnson@darlington.gov.uk stating what day and times you are available.





Emma and Jess from
Something Old Something New



Bridal boost on zero waste map

Have you checked out our zero waste map yet? The online map shows where you can reduce, reuse and recycle throughout the town. It's a useful guide if you're trying to cut down on things you might normally throw away and a great way to help tackle climate change by saving the planet's resources.

Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable and click on the zero waste map icon. While you're there, have a look at the other tips and hints to help tackle climate change.

One of the businesses featured on the map is Something Old Something New sustainable bridal wear on Houndgate Mews. They offer preloved dresses in a bridal boutique setting. Jess Knowles explains:

"After wedding dress shopping and appreciating the excessive cost and low sustainability of bridal

gowns, we had the idea, why not look into giving brides to be the chance to have the wedding dress shopping experience, but with the option to buy a preowned dress?"

"It takes between 10,000 and 20,000 litres of water and 10-20 kilograms of carbon emissions to make a wedding dress that only gets worn once! These dresses are often works of art and beauty and deserve to be shown off more.

"Plus, the average price of a bridal gown in the UK is £1,313. With that in mind and at a time when recycling is so important, why not reuse? This is how the idea came to be."

Jess, along with sister Emma and mum Debbie, work hard to ensure each bride has a special experience. The team also buys preloved dresses, perfect if you've got one stored away in the wardrobe.

**Give them a call on 07594351166, check out their website
www.somethingoldsomethingnewsustainablebridalwear.com or find them on Facebook**

Make **RECYCLING RIGHT** your New Year's resolution!

Our crews regularly attend blazes where rubbish and wheelie bins have been deliberately set on fire.

These fires delay our crews from getting to emergencies, can quickly get out of hand and lead to much bigger fires.

You can help to reduce the fire risk by following some simple steps:



Make it thin to fit in the bin - flatten packaging and squeeze the air out of plastic bottles so they fit in your recycling bin or bag and don't spill out.



If you regularly have more recycling than will fit in your bin, contact the council and they will get you another bin free of charge. Try not to leave extra recycling next to your bin. If possible, store it until the next collection day or take it to the household waste recycling centre on Whessoe Road which is open every day except Christmas Day and New Year's Day (weather permitting).



If possible, put your bins out on the morning of your collection, and bring them back onto your property as soon as possible after they've been emptied.



Think about where and when you dispose of your rubbish and recycling. It may be waste to you, but it's fuel to an arsonist.



Have you booked your free Home Fire Safety visit?

Did you know our fire crews can visit you in your home to offer bespoke home fire safety advice and also provide smoke alarms absolutely free?

To book an appointment with our
Community Safety team, please call:

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

0345 223 4221



VOLUNTEERING FAIR

**Thursday 23 February
1-4pm**

The Dolphin Centre

**Come along and see how
you can make a difference
in your community**

WE ARE BACK! Meet organisations who need
volunteers like you to continue their amazing work

#MakeADifferenceDarlo



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

