

one

March 2023

Darlington



A right royal celebration!

Pages 8-9

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DARLINGTON
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Welcome to One Darlington

Welcome to the March edition of One Darlington. It's been another long, cold winter – but the days are starting to feel noticeably brighter.

There's lots to look forward to and this month's magazine is packed with positivity and reasons to be cheerful.

Bright yellow daffodils are sprouting all over the place – signifying new beginnings and offering a reassuring reminder that spring is in the air.

Speaking of all things floral, turn to page 29 for an update on the plans for this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition. Hopes are high for another successful year, after Darlington won a host of awards last time around.

We're also looking forward to the Coronation of the King and Queen Consort in May. Darlington will be a sea of red, white and blue for the celebrations – see pages 8 and 9 for more details.

A little further down the line, we're also looking forward to the 200th anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 2025. See pages 16 and 17 for news of a £3m funding award for our exciting Rail Heritage Quarter plans, which are key to the celebrations.

Don't miss our What's On section on pages 20 and 21, for details of dozens of events coming up throughout March, April and May.

Another date for your diaries is the local elections on Thursday 4 May. We've got full details including a reminder to register to vote and check your photo ID is up to date. There's also an application form if you'd like to vote by post. See pages 4 and 5 for full details.

Because of the elections, we're delaying our usual May edition for a few weeks, so look out for the summer issue of One Darlington in early June!

You can read about the ongoing developments at the library on page 10. The latest phase of work focuses on the 138-year-old building's roof.

Whatever you get up to this spring, we hope you have a great time! Enjoy the magazine.



Inside this issue

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One Darlington, Room 106, Town Hall, Darlington.

Email editor@onedarlington.org.uk

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

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

Voter ID for local elections

Local council elections take place on Thursday 4 May. Unlike previous elections you will need to show photographic ID at the polling station to be able to vote.

Only some types of photo ID will be accepted and it must be the original version not a photocopy. They include:

- passport
- driving licence (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- an ID card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- older person's bus pass
- disabled person's bus pass
- blue badge
- biometric immigration document
- national identity card issued by an EEA state.

A full list of the acceptable forms of photo ID can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk and will also be listed on your poll card.

Expired documents are ok, as long as the photo still looks like you.

If you don't have acceptable ID, or you're not sure whether you still look like the photo on your ID, you can apply for a voter authority certificate either online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate, by post (you will need to request a form from the elections office by calling 406444 or emailing elections@darlington.gov.uk) or in person at the Town Hall, where we can also take your photo for free if you need one.

The deadline for applying for a voter authority certificate is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April.

Registration, postal votes and proxy votes

You must be registered to vote in the elections. The deadline for registration is Monday 17 April. You can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or by ringing us on 406444 or email elections@darlington.gov.uk

You can also vote by post or appoint someone else to vote on your behalf (by proxy). The deadline for postal vote applications is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April, and the last date to appoint a proxy to vote is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April. If you appoint a proxy, they will need photo ID to vote on your behalf. You can use the application form on the next page to apply for a postal vote or contact the elections office.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

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"/>
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



Second phase of market

Work on the second phase of a masterplan to restore and upgrade the iconic Victorian market hall is now complete.

Renovated shop front fascia and entrances, a new shop floor café, additional toilets for the public and traders on both the ground floor and in the basement complement a major project to transform the previously unused basement into a bar.

The Vault, which is inspired by the prohibition-era speakeasies of the 1920s, will feature live music and cocktails.

The building work in the second phase of the market regeneration was carried out by construction specialists Urban Group, following plans by market operators Market Asset Management and the council.

The initial work to the market hall included repairs to the roof, upgrades to the heating system and the creation of a street food entertainment area.

Urban Group's operations director, Kevin Keogh said: "This has been a fascinating job for the team. When we were stripping and repurposing the basement for the 1920s themed bar, we uncovered the old cells from the former police station that used to be on the site.

"We wanted to try and maintain as much of the heritage as possible with exposed metalworks still evident as part of the interior, and we've incorporated elements such as the old banana racks that were used to allow the imported fruit to ripen that had been left behind by traders from the 1960s."

The Vault is expected to open in the coming weeks.
Follow @darlingtonmarkets on social media for updates.





ket upgrade complete



CORONATION C



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Get ready for your street party



Preparations are underway to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort and we want you to get involved!

We will be marking the historic occasion over the special May Bank Holiday weekend and, as part of the celebrations, we are inviting you to hold a street party on Sunday 7 May.

Street parties are a great way to get together with neighbours and friends.

If you want to host a party in your street you need to start planning now, especially if you want to apply to close your road during your event.



For more details as they're announced visit enjoydarlington.co.uk/co

CELEBRATIONS

Photo: Steven Curtis



Don't forget you can organise your party in another space such as a garden, local park or driveway without filling in any forms.

There are details of what to do, as well as advice and information on hosting any neighbourhood gathering on our website at www.darlington.gov.uk/streetparty or if you don't have internet access you can call 406432 to get the relevant forms.



**Saturday 6 May,
town centre and
Market Square**

Live broadcast of the
King's Coronation
and entertainment
throughout the
day!



Coronation

Raising the roof at Crown Street

Work at Darlington Library continues with the latest phase focusing on the roof.

The roof trusses have been strengthened and the leadwork replaced. Inside there has been a lot of work to the lending and reference sections, including restoration of plasterwork and redecoration. The original oak bookshelves have been restored and new toilets have been installed. The Georgian wired-glass roof windows will also be replaced with a new heritage glazing system which will flood the library with natural light.

Most of the original roof tiles will also be reinstated.

Before work started, an ecological survey discovered a small colony of Pipistrelle bats roosting in one of the roof voids and great care has been taken not to disturb them. A specialist, purpose-built bat roost has been created to ensure they continue to be safe once the work is finished.

The library, on Crown Street, is closed while the work continues but a temporary 'select and collect' point is open at the Dolphin Centre and the Cockerton branch library is open.



Suzy Hill, library manager, on the roof



Richard Dodgson, site manager, on the roof

So much on offer at your local library... wherever you are!

You probably already know our library is free to join and you can borrow a host of books, magazines and audio for free – but did you know many of our services can be accessed digitally?

There's a range of digital magazines to download for free, with a huge range of titles from Hello and Men's Health to National Geographic and Top Gear.

We also have a great selection of eBooks to borrow and read on the go and you can download free audiobooks straight to your phone or device to listen to whenever you want.

If you're over 60, we can select and deliver books to you every month for free. Just get in touch, or ask a relative or friend to call, and let us know what genres or authors interest you, and we will do the rest. Call 349610 to apply.

To find out more about library services and to follow how work is progressing, visit the website at www.darlington.gov.uk/library or download the Libraries App.



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

Surgeries will continue to be held until the end of April, due to the local elections in May.

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 10 March and 14 April, 10-11am. Cockerton Club, Friday 31 March and 28 April, 10am-noon.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553. **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School, Monday 20 March and 24 April, 6-7pm.

EASTBOURNE

Jonathan Dulston (C) Tel: 07775 555251. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 29 March and 26 April, 3-4pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 19 April, 6-7pm. **Steven Tait (I)** Tel: 07825 303036. Firthmoor Community Centre, Thursday 16 March and 20 April, 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 12 April, 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 1 April, 10-11am.

HEIGHTINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Gerald Lee (C) Tel: 314622. **Paul Crudass (C)** Tel: 374537. St Mary's Church, Saturday 1 April, 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 3 April 6-7pm.

MOWDEN

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

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 14 March and 11 April, 6-7pm; St Thomas Aquinas Church, Tuesday 28 March and 25 April, 1-2pm.

PARK EAST

Cyndi Hughes (L) Tel: 480975. **Libby McCollom (L)** Tel: 07910 369887. **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 240750. The Forum, Tuesday 11 April, 6-7pm.

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 5 April, 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Hilary Lucas (L) Tel: 249215. Red Hall Community Centre, Wednesday 12 April, 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. St James the Great Church, Tuesday 28 March, 6-7pm; Wesley Court, Tuesday 25 April, 6-7pm.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07554 645651. **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. The Shuttle & Loom, Saturday 25 March and 29 April, 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

Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington, DL2 1NJ
Call 01325 792600 or email mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

How inflation and increased de

Inflation has affected everyone over the past year and the council is no exception. We provide a wide range of services, supporting many of the most vulnerable people in our town, and with prices rising it is having a huge impact on our budgets.

Inflationary price increases across services, rising utilities costs, wage increases and growing demand for services, particularly in relation to children's and adult social care, mean that we are facing significant budget pressures.

The council's budget for the next financial year and the four year medium term financial plan (MTFP) were agreed by councillors last month. This included a 2.99% increase to council tax for 2023/24 and a further 2% increase to the social care precept to fund vital social care services.

The increase – which is less than half the current rate of inflation – will provide the council with approximately £2.9m of additional income in 2023/24 and will help to cover some of the inflationary pressures we face.

As a council we've maintained a healthy level of reserves which we are making use of now to meet the funding gap for the coming year.

Although there are cost pressures to manage, the MTFP provides for £120m of net revenue investment in services for the coming financial year. In addition there is capital investment of £111m over the four year life of the plan to improve our schools, roads, housing and community assets.



DARLINGTON Borough Council

Inflation has added £2.425m to the cost of adult social care packages in one year

Increased interest rates

Other & contingencies
£1.445m

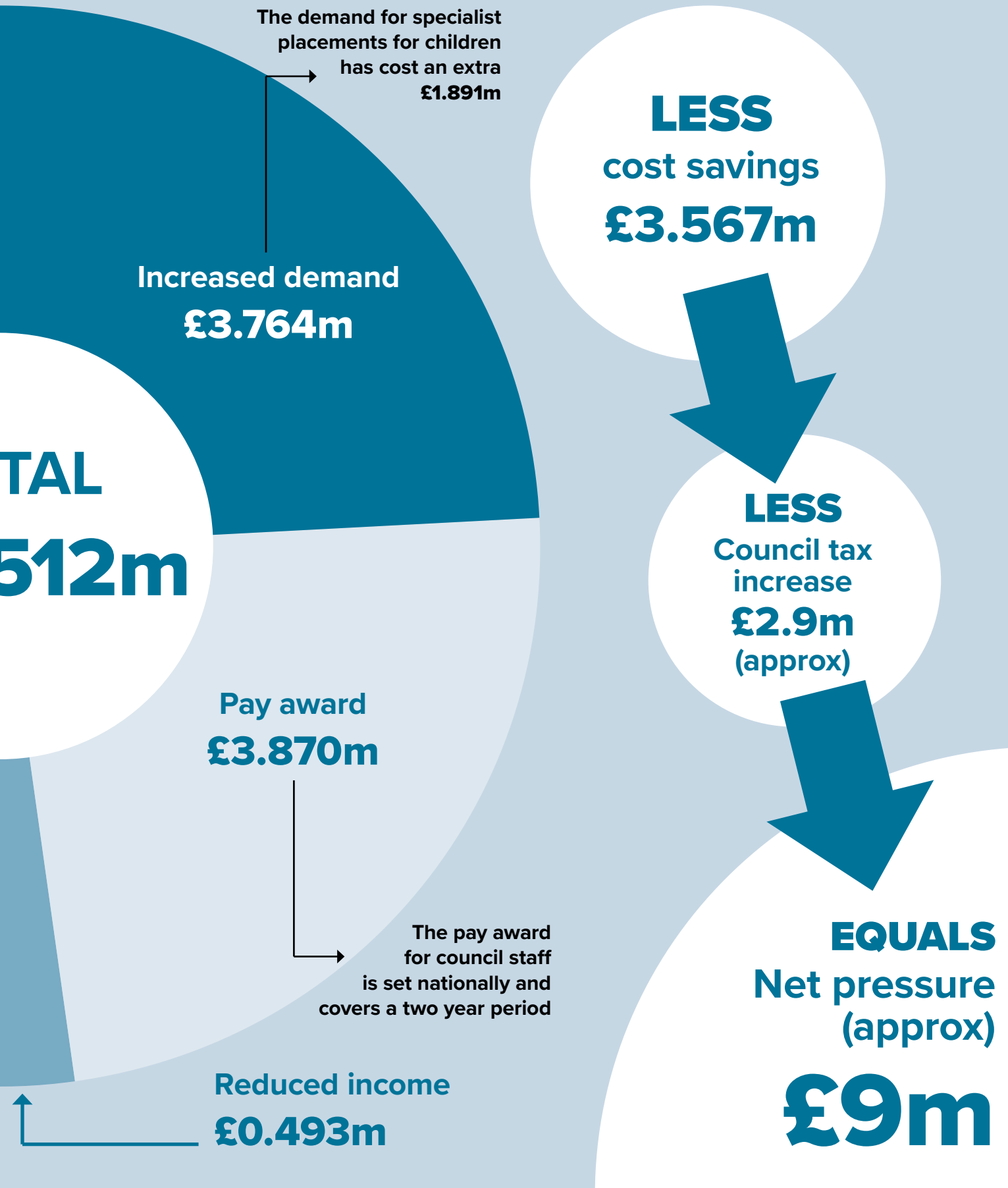
Price inflation
£3.689m

TO
£15.5

Utilities increases
£2.251m

Increased cost of gas and electricity across the council's buildings, streetlighting etc.

Demand impacts council budgets





A bird's eye view of work on the temporary car park on the former cattle market site.

Rail development on track

Work continues on the town's ambitious rail development plans. The £140m+ project will transform access to the station as well as provide two new platforms, increased rail capacity, multi-storey car park and a new transport hub.

Many of you will have seen photos and memories of Hogan's pub shared on social media before demolition started. We hope the demolition will be completed next month. To allow the work to take place safely the paths next to the building on Victoria Road and Park Lane have been closed but the bus stops remain open.

Cattle market temporary car park – work is progressing to install underground drainage and electrical infrastructure in the car park ahead of

surfacing. The new car park on the site of the old cattle mart should be complete by early May and will tie in with the closure of the LNER car park off Neasham Road. The cattle mart site will become the main station car park until the new multi storey car park is completed. Look out for future updates on how the new temporary car park will operate and new signage to the station.

Phase two of demolition work is underway on the Neasham Road side of the station with the removal of several buildings. This will eventually include the demolition of the East End Club which has relocated to Yarm Road. The footpath along this stretch of Neasham Road remains closed until construction work is complete. Please follow the diversion signs and do not walk along the edge of the road.

Updates and information

If you have any queries about the demolition works please email capital.projectsoffice@darlington.gov.uk

You can keep up to date with the Darlington Station Improvement project by visiting the TVCA website at www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/latest-news or www.darlington.gov.uk/station



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Spotlight on: Learning disability provider service



In the latest in our series of articles looking at the varied teams that make up the council's adult social services, we have been finding out more about our learning disability provider service which runs different schemes to support adults with learning disabilities.

SUPPORTED LIVING – we have a property where our staff support people who live together with their own tenancies. This support ensures these tenants can live as independently as possible, but they know there is support available if they need it.

HOLICOTE – we offer respite, short stays at Holicote for adults with learning disabilities and their families. This means families can get a break from their caring roles and service users can have a break from their normal routine. Staff work with families to make sure they get respite when they need it so they can continue their caring role in the long term. Holicote is fully equipped with everything staff need to support service users 24 hours a day.

THE BRIDGE COMMUNITY ART PROJECT – this project gives service users the chance to express themselves through art. Most participants visit one or two days a week to work in a variety of media. Many have never done anything like this before and find their self-esteem and confidence are really boosted by being involved in art. Participants have had their art exhibited all over the UK and Europe and some have won prestigious competitions.

THE LINKS – staff at The Links do a lot of outreach day work with service users, helping them to integrate and work with community groups such as the Friends of the Denes, community allotments and the drop in café at Eastbourne Pavillion.

LAKESIDE LODGE, SOUTH PARK – services at Lakeside Lodge are for those who have some independence and skills. Service users take part in many health-related activities such as Move More at the Dolphin Centre and volunteer with community groups.

FOUNDATIONS – staff from Foundations mainly work with service users with profound learning disabilities and work closely with colleagues in health services. They provide day activities with real health benefits such as swimming and massage. Where possible service users are supported to travel independently.

Peter Fitzpatrick, manager of the service, said: “We have only just fully reopened since the pandemic, providing services for around 70 people. All our service users are referred by social services. There is a real sense of value and self esteem for the people using our services – it can boost self confidence and has a real impact on mental and physical health.

“I am very proud of our staff. Our services are a big part of people's lives and this is down to the support and commitment of our staff. They tell me they enjoy the work as it is so rewarding.”

Feeling inspired?

Find out about vacancies at www.darlington.gov.uk/workwithus.

You can find out about gaining the qualifications and experience you need to work in social care at www.darlington.gov.uk/xtra



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



“As we approach the railway’s bicentenary, we are incredibly excited to be supporting the creation of this new attraction.”

(All images – Space Architects)

£3m funding award for

Below: New technology will bring history to life



Above: Getting up close to iconic rail heritage pieces

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded more than £3m to the development of the Rail Heritage Quarter, a key part of the celebration of the bicentenary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

The award of £3,211,632, made possible by National Lottery players, will contribute to the capital costs of redeveloping a cluster of heritage buildings around the Head of Steam Railway Museum. The new facility is due to open in 2024 and will attract more than 360,000 visitors each year.

The museum closed its doors at Christmas and work is now underway by contractor Wilmott Dixon to revamp the building.

The funding will also support the delivery of an activity plan to engage with communities up and

Although the Head of Steam Museum is closed to visitors, museum staff are plan



An overview of the whole Rail Heritage Quarter, looking north

r Rail Heritage Quarter

down the length of the route of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

Helen Featherstone, director, England, North at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “The North of England is home to some of the most famous railway heritage in the world, and the Stockton and Darlington Railway is one of the jewels in that crown.

“As we approach the railway’s bicentenary, we are incredibly excited to be supporting the creation of this new attraction in the Rail Heritage Quarter that will share this fascinating history with visitors from near and far through innovative techniques. We’re also delighted, that thanks to National Lottery players, we are able to support the programme to empower communities along the historic railway line to celebrate this heritage in ways that matter to them the most.”



The main museum building is being revamped as part of the project

Planning a programme of events for 2023, to take place at venues around the town.

m.co.uk or the museum’s social media pages.

NOT A NUMBERS PERSON?

You're not alone. Three in ten (31%) of UK adults don't think numbers are for them.

Free, flexible maths courses could help.



Search Tees Valley Multiply



**TEES
VALLEY**

Multiply

Charging points go **live**

Electric vehicle charging points have been installed in car parks around the town centre by the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority as part of the drive to encourage people to switch away from petrol and diesel vehicles.



Abbotts Yard	1 x 50kW 1 x 22kW in disabled parking bay
Commercial Street West	4 x 22kW
Winston Street North	6 x 22kW (1 in disabled parking bay)
Kendrew Street West	4 x 22kW
Park Place West	4 x 22kW
Park Place East	6 x 22kW (1 in disabled parking bay)
Feethams Multi Storey	15 x 22kW
TOTAL	41

Drivers need to pay both the normal parking charge for the car park and for the electricity used while charging.

PRICES

22kW charger = 50p per kWh

50kW charger = 53p per kWh

Payment can be made via the EB Go! app.

There is no time limit for charging, but you must make sure you have a parking ticket that covers the full length of the charging period. Penalty charge notices can be issued where a vehicle is parked in a charging space but is not being charged.

For more information about the charging points and who to contact if you have a problem visit www.darlington.gov.uk/electricvehicles

Enjoy what's on in

Spring is here and there's plenty going on around the town!
Please check with event organisers or venues before travelling.
For more details of what's on visit enjoydarlington.co.uk or follow Darlington Council on Facebook.

Want to be in the next edition of One Darlington?
Email your events 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.

March

Lunchtime 15-minute meditation – every Tuesday, 1.30-1.45pm, Atisha Kadampa Meditation Centre, 81 Victoria Road. No charge.

Market quiz – every Thursday, 7-9pm, Indoor Market. Family friendly quiz with £120 worth of prizes. Free entry.

Sunday sessions open mic – every Sunday, 12-4pm, Indoor Market. All ages and abilities. No booking required. Free entry.

Live music – Saturdays, 7-10pm, Indoor Market. Free entry.

Bookstart baby rhymetime – every Tuesday during term time, 9.15-10am and 10.15-11am, Cockerton Llibrary. Sessions for 0-1 year olds. Free tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Bookstart rhymetime – every Tuesday during term time, 11.15am-12pm and every Thursday 9.15-10am and 10.15-11am, Cockerton Llibrary. Sessions for 1-4 years old. Free tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

An evening with Sir Geoff Hurst – Tuesday 7, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £16.50 - £31.50. £67 VIP tickets include a meeting with Sir Geoff.

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

Darlington RnB Club featuring Catfish – Friday 10, 7.30pm. Forum Music Studios, £15.50.

Rachel Podger – Friday 11, 7.30-10pm, Dolphin Centre. Violin concert. Tickets darlingtonmusicsociety.org.uk

Straighten Out (tribute To The Stranglers) – Saturday 12, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £11.50.

Tom Poster – Saturday 12, 3-5pm, Dolphin Centre. Darlington Piano Society event. Tickets £15. www.dpiano.co.uk

Madama Butterfly – Tuesday 14, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £15- £40.

Jazz @ The Forum featuring Harry Keeble Quartet – Tuesday 14, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £10.

Carmen – Wednesday 15, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £15 - £40.

Watercolours at Cockerton Library – Friday 17, 11am-12.30pm, Cockerton Library. £5. Tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Makers Market – Saturday 18, 10am-4pm, Indoor Market. Local makers and creators. Free entry.

The Dunwells with Hayley McKay – Saturday 18, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £15.50.

Around the World in 80 days – Tuesday 21 - Saturday 25, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome.

Fairytale forest – Wednesday 22 – Thursday 31 August, Monday-Saturday, 10am-2pm, Theatre Hullabaloo. Dress up and create your own fairytales. Suitable 0-10 years. Free, no need to book.

Primrose Piano Quartet – Saturday 22, 7.30pm, Dolphin Centre. Tickets darlingtonmusicsociety.org.uk.

Hilarity Bites presents Tom Houghton – Thursday 23, 8pm, The Forum Music Studios. £10.50.

Lego Shakespeare challenge – Saturday 25, 10am-12pm, Cockerton Library. Free. Suitable for all ages. No booking required.

Meditation class with prayers for world peace – Sunday 26, 10-11am, Atisha Kadampa Meditation Centre, 81 Victoria Road. Free.

Artisan Market – Sunday 26, 10am-4pm, Outdoor Market, West Row. Homemade products and food from local independents traders.

Teechers Leavers '22 – Wednesday 29 – Thursday 30, 1pm and 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £14.50 - £22. Under 21s £12.

Rock of Ages musical meet up – Friday 31, 10.30-11.30am, Cockerton Library. Share memories and listen to music from the past. Free, booking required, call 461320.

White Rose with Pink Moon – Friday 31, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £7.50.

April

Market quiz – every Thursday, 7-9pm, Indoor Market. Family friendly quiz with £120 worth of prizes. Free entry.

Live music – Saturdays, 7-10pm, Indoor Market. Free entry.

Sunday sessions open mic – every Sunday, 12-4pm, Indoor Market. All ages and abilities. No booking required. Free entry.

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club – Saturday 1, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £10.50.

How to catch the Easter Bunny crafts – Monday 3, 3-4pm, Cockerton Library. Easter story and crafts, suitable for age 3+. Free, tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Darlington Film Club – Tuesday 4, 7.30pm, Forum Music Studios. £3.

Spring sensory rhymetime – Tuesday 4, 9.30-10.30am, Cockerton Library. £3.50 per child. Suitable for ages 0-1. Tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Ben Roberts historical talk: Celebrating royal events in Darlington – Tuesday 4, 11.30am-12.30pm, Cockerton Library. £3 per adult. Tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Open mic night – Wednesday 5, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Free entry.

Milkshake! Live – Thursday 6, noon and 3.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £10.50 - £16.50.

Pease Pudding – Thursday 6, 4-9pm, Market Square. Street food market.

Liz Million illustrator and author – Wednesday 5, 1.30-2.30pm and 3-4pm Cockerton Library. Join Liz for a creative drawalong. £5 per child. Suitable for ages 5+. Tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Spring sensory rhymetime – Tuesday 4 and Thursday 6, 9.30-10:30am and 11am-noon Cockerton Library. £3.50 per child. Suitable for ages 0-3. Tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

The Misfit Market – Thursday 6, 5-9pm, Indoor Market. Alternative night market celebrating everything weird, wonderful, strange and unusual. Free entry.

DJ's Massey & Woodlyfe – Friday 7, 7-10pm, Indoor Market. Free entry.

Tees Cottage Pumping Station open day – Sunday 9 and Monday 10, 11am-5pm, Pumping Station, Coniscliffe Road. Details www.teescottage.co.uk.

Vibes 'n' Vintage – Sunday 9, 11am-4pm, Indoor Market. Vintage market. Free entry.

Jazz, Dean Stockdale Trio – Tuesday 11, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £10.

Spring sensory rhymetime – Tuesday 11, 9.30-10.30am and 11am-noon Cockerton Library. £3.50 per child. Suitable for ages 0-3. Tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Ben Roberts historical talk: the cancelled coronation of 1902 – Tuesday 11, 11.30am-12.30pm, Cockerton Library. £3 per adult. Tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Eggciting animations – Tuesday 11, 2.30-3.15pm and Wednesday 12, 10.30-11.15am, Cockerton Library. Learn how to animate. Suitable for 6+. Free, tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Eggspert animations – Tuesday 11, 3.30-4.15pm and Wednesday 12, 11.30am-12.15pm, Cockerton Library. Animation for the more experienced. Suitable for 9+. Free, tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Dinosaur World Live – Thursday 13 – Saturday 15, various times, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £11 – £14.

Meet Mr Rabbit – Thursday 13, 10.30-11.30am, Cockerton Library. Suitable for ages 3+. £5 bookable via Eventbrite.

RnB Club with The Stumble – Friday 14, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £15.50.

Morris dancing day – Saturday 15, town centre.

Makers Market – Saturday 15, 10am-4pm, Indoor Market. Local makers and creators. Free entry.

Lunchtime 15 minute meditation – Tuesday 18 and 25, 1.30-1.45pm, Atisha Kadampa Meditation Centre, 81 Victoria Road. No charge.

Grease – DarlingtonOS – Wednesday 19 - Saturday 29, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets www.darlingtonos.org.uk or call 244659.

Watercolours at Cockerton Library – Friday 21, 11am-12.30pm, Cockerton Library. £5. Tickets bookable via Eventbrite.

Definitely Oasis – Saturday 22, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £12.50.

St George's Day celebrations – Sunday 23, 11am-3pm, town centre.

Artisan Market – Sunday 23, 10am-4pm, Outdoor Market, West Row. Homemade products and food from local independent traders.

Darlington Food Festival – Friday 28 - Sunday 30 April, 5-9pm, Market Square. Street food, cooking demos and entertainment. Free entry.

Rock of Ages musical meet up – Friday 28, 10.30-11.30am, Cockerton Library. Share memories and listen to music from the past. Free, booking required, call 461320.

Whitesnake UK – Saturday 29, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. £12.50.

May

Local History Month – various events, Cockerton Library. See leaflet and social media for details.

Coronation Day celebrations – Saturday 6, 9am-8pm, town centre.

Star Wars Day – Saturday 6, 10am-4pm, Echo 3 coffee house and roastery, Clark's Yard. Live music and special guest appearances.

Darlington Dance Festival – Sunday 7, Market Square. Dance demonstrations and the annual mass dance.

Darlington Arts Festival – Friday 19 and Saturday 20. See the council's Facebook page and Enjoy Darlington website for details.

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

Contacts



Members of the cytosponge team with patient David Baty at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

Simple test revolutionises cancer detection

Patients across County Durham and Darlington who need to be regularly monitored for a condition called Barrett's oesophagus are benefiting from a revolutionary simple new test to rule out suspicious cell changes.

Professor Anjan Dhar, Professor of medicine and consultant gastroenterologist at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, explains: "Patients with Barrett's oesophagus are at slightly higher risk of developing oesophageal cancer so undergo regular checks, usually involving an endoscopy which can be uncomfortable and usually takes at least 30 minutes.

"We participated in trials of a new test, called cytosponge, to monitor the oesophagus in this group of patients. This involves a very small capsule which is attached to a string. The patient swallows the capsule with water while a nurse holds the string. Once swallowed, the outer lining of the capsule, made of vegetarian glutenin, dissolves to reveal a tiny sponge.

"The sponge is then withdrawn from the stomach via the mouth, using the string, taking up to one million cells on its way. Around 10-12% of patients then require further investigation via endoscopy. We're amongst the first trusts in the North East to offer cytosponge to our patients."

David Baty was one of the first patients to undergo a cytosponge investigation and said: "I have had three endoscopies in the past and when asked if I would be happy to have cytosponge this time, I was very happy to give it a go – and am really glad I did. It was so much simpler and straightforward than an endoscopy. I would recommend anyone given the option of cytosponge to go for it."

Dr Deepak Kejariwal, clinical lead for endoscopy and consultant gastroenterologist, said: "Using cytosponge to monitor people with Barrett's oesophagus, many of whom will not require further investigation, frees up endoscopy slots for other patients, reducing waiting times. While some cytosponge results will indicate an endoscopy is needed, most patients won't need one – which is better for them and minimises the impact on our busy endoscopy service."

Commitment to research benefiting patients

We are committed to research and development, participating in national and international trials that train staff in cutting edge techniques, giving patients access to the very latest investigations, medications and other treatments, safely and before they become widely available.

Our research and clinical teams work closely to identify and recruit patients who are appropriate for trials which are led by commercial and other organisations, including some of the world's leading universities. This proactive approach has led, on more than one occasion, to us recruiting the first patient to a newly launched trial. This was the case on a trial hoping to find new treatments for patients with Perianal Crohn's disease and anal fistula. The Gondomar trial is looking at the clinical outcomes and interventions aimed at helping this group of patients.

Our endoscopy and research teams have also recruited well over 100 patients to the ColoCohort study which aims to develop a tool to predict someone's risk of developing bowel cancer.

We have also recruited over 100 participants to the GENOMICC study. Infectious diseases and severe injuries affect millions of people around the world every year. Most cases are mild, but some people become very unwell.

Our genes (or DNA) determine how vulnerable we are to critical illness. If we could find the genes that cause some people to be more vulnerable, we may be able to develop better treatments for patients in the future. The Genomicc Study asks patients with a critical illness for a single blood sample and so far this highly effective trial has led to a new effective drug treatment for Covid-19 - Baricitinib. The trial has also discovered a total of 49 genetic variants associated with Covid-19, some of which may have wider implications.

Senior cardiologists, working alongside the research team, have recruited their 100th patient to the ORION4 study which aims to assess the effects of a drug called Inclisiran. Participants will be monitored over five years to see if the drug is effective in preventing heart disease or stroke by lowering one kind of cholesterol by up to 50%.



Some of the teams involved in research trials across County Durham and Darlington.

Have a greener Easter

Who's looking forward to some Easter treats?

Do your bit for the planet and

**RECYCLE
RIGHT**

RECYCLE
CLEAN
FOIL

RECYCLE
CARDBOARD
BOX



RECYCLE
RIGID
PLASTIC

Try to buy eggs that are in recyclable or reduced packaging and where possible buy from local suppliers and bakers to reduce food miles and support independent traders.



GOOD NEWS – bin collections will stay the same over the Easter holidays!

Please put your bin out for collection by 7am and take it back in as soon as you can. Don't forget to sign up for our garden waste service which runs from April to December. You can sign up or renew online, for an annual fee of £39, at www.darlington.gov.uk/gardenwaste



Early success for life-changing foster care scheme



An alternative way of delivering foster care is already having a big impact.

Darlington became the latest area to try out the Mockingbird family model, which involves carers being supported in a group alongside other foster families.

It's centred around a hub carer – a very experienced foster carer, who provides support and mentoring to between six and ten other fostering families.

The new model, which was developed in the US, is running alongside existing foster care networks in the town.

Each network in the Mockingbird programme is known as a 'constellation' – with Darlington's constellation one of more than 100 in England and Wales.

To find out more, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/mockingbird

Despite Mockingbird being in its early days, some of the carers in the Darlington constellation have already given positive feedback about their experience:

"Mockingbird has changed the way I see our future in fostering as a family. We can now see the positives of caring for older children and how they would fit into our family"

"It's been lovely to see how foster carers are learning from each other and offering support"

"I have made some genuine friends"

"I know I'm not on my own"

"The hub carer has been a life-saver in my time of need"

"Mockingbird has changed my life"

COULD YOU BE A FOSTER CARER?

Safe, caring, nurturing homes are needed for children who have been removed from their families and need someone to trust, and help them move on with their life.

You don't need any special qualifications. If you have a spare room in your home and kindness in your heart, then our fostering team would like to hear from you.

If you can, please open your heart and home to a child who needs your support.

Find out more, visit: www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering

Email fostering@darlington.gov.uk **Call** 406222 and choose option five.

Find out if you're eligible



We're hiring!



Find out more about working for
Darlington Borough Council
and start your application today!

www.darlington.gov.uk/jobs



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Work on new chapel complete

Site manager
Steve Trehitt,
project manager
Rebecca Robson
and cemeteries
and crematorium
manager Julie
Cooper

A new chapel for services at Darlington Crematorium is complete.

The new chapel, within the grounds of West Cemetery, on Carmel Road North, has increased capacity and upgraded facilities including a nearby car park, a waiting room, accessible toilets and baby change. Individual music, tribute screens and webcasting facilities are also available for services.

As part of the project, the existing crematorium has also been fully refurbished to accommodate new cremators and equipment. The cemetery and crematorium team has also moved to a new office at the site, with the Book of Remembrance Room also relocating to the front of the building.

The chapel can be used for services of any faith and for non-religious ceremonies and allows up to 120 mourners to be seated, with more facilities available for larger services.

Ian Thompson, assistant director for community services, said: "This has been a long project to create new, modern facilities in the historic cemetery, which it was important to complete without disturbing the peace of the cemetery or interrupting services.

"The upgraded chapel offers more space for people attending services and up to date equipment for funeral directors."

During the construction of the new chapel, which also included the installation of new utilities and IT networks, cremation and burial services continued without interruption. The new chapel will open its doors this spring.

The Victorian West Cemetery Chapel will remain in use and will hold services for burials at any of the three council-run cemeteries.

News in brief

Could you quit?

Giving up smoking is one of the best things you can do for your health. If you want to stop, there are free NHS tools and support to help you. If you've decided to break the harmful and expensive habit of smoking, why not try these top tips to help you succeed - pick a quit date and add it to your calendar; list your reasons to quit; use stop smoking aids to help manage cravings. For free helpful support, visit www.stopsmokinghub.org.uk or call 0800 8021850.

Planning to get married?

There are two wedding rooms at the Town Hall register office to accommodate the happy couple and up to 50 guests in the Oak Room and up to 12 guests in the Sycamore Room. If you are planning a wedding, thinking of tying the knot or know someone who just got engaged, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/weddings for more information.

Support group

A breastfeeding support group meets in the Dolphin Centre on Thursdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm. It offers specialist support and information for parents from before baby arrives and throughout the breastfeeding journey. Please drop in - you will be very welcome! The council's public health team alongside the growing healthy team are holding a Big Latch On event at the Hippodrome, on 6 April, for breastfeeding parents and families and friends to come along and celebrate their journey and offer peer support. Keep an eye out for event timings.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Don't let the school run be a danger to your child!

If you're on the school run please park safely and think about those around you!

We are receiving increased reports of inconsiderate parking outside schools, which not only poses a danger to children and pedestrians, but causes problems for residents, the emergency services and the environment.

Our civic enforcement officers carry out regular school patrols and often see drivers parking on double yellow lines, blocking residents' drives, causing congestion and creating dangers for children and other road users. Fines can, and will, be issued if necessary.

Inconsiderate and inappropriate parking is very frustrating for schools and residents and so we're asking you to think about where you park and even consider getting active by walking or cycling instead.

Leaving the car at home not only helps the environment but is good for your health and those around you – do you know how dangerous it is to leave your car engine idling when parked up on the school run?

Not turning off your engine concentrates emissions and can lead to poor air quality. It is estimated that an idling car causes enough emissions to fill 150 balloons with harmful pollutants every minute.

Children can be more vulnerable to the effects of air pollution by breathing in the particles and, in some cases, this can be linked to conditions such as asthma and respiratory infections

Our environmental health team is working with schools to help spread the word that engine idling, especially outside schools, is a danger to health so please do your bit and switch it off!

Growing for gold

Following our success in last year's Northumbria in Bloom competition, we have been invited to take part in the national Britain in Bloom.

With your support, we hope to go for gold medals again and ensure our town stays firmly on the floral map.

In readiness, our horticultural and events teams are already, designing and planning floral displays, flower bed designs, litter picks and events to showcase the town.

Design a flowerbed!

As part of our Northumbria In Bloom entries this year, we are inviting school children to design a flowerbed to be planted in South Park to celebrate the King's Coronation.

The flowerbed is circular and measures approximately 4.4m.

Rules for entry:

- ✿ Designs should have a Coronation theme
- ✿ Closing date for entries Friday 31 March
- ✿ The winner, along with classmates, will be invited to help plant up the flowerbed.

Tips:

- ✿ Keep it simple
- ✿ Be bold
- ✿ Try to be unique.

Entries should be emailed to communications@darlington.gov.uk with the subject of design a flowerbed competition. Alternatively, you can post them to Design a flowerbed competition, Communications, Darlington Borough Council, Room 106, Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QT.

Photography competitions

We would love to see your best shot of wildlife and flora and fauna from across the town.

Please email your photos to communications@darlington.gov.uk subject NIB/BIB photo comp and tell us whether you are entering the wildlife or flora and fauna category. Closing date for entries is Sunday 2 July.

All photos will be displayed in an exhibition for judges to see and the winning entries from both categories will receive vouchers to spend in a shop of their choice in the town.

However big or small your garden, yard or communal outdoor space – we really appreciate your efforts to support our entries by loving and enjoying your space and showing it off to its full potential. Join us in our quest to bring home a gold again!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



NIB

JOIN THE CLUB...

The Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway hold meetings at 7pm on the first Thursday of most months, alternating between Darlington Cricket Club in South Terrace and the Darlington Railway Institute on the corner of Whessoe Road and North Road. Dates for this year are 6 April, 1 June, 2 November at the cricket club and 4 May, 6 July, 7 September, at the Railway Institute. The Christmas social will be on 7 December at The Railway Tavern in High Northgate.

The annual general meeting and event day will be on Saturday 21 October. Meetings are not just for members, everyone is welcome - just turn up; no need to book.

Darlington Camera Club meets every Monday from 6.45-8.45pm at Greenfield Arts, Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7LF. Membership is £25 per year and weekly subs are £2 per meeting plus £1 for refreshments. Guests are also welcome at £4 per meeting. See their Facebook page for details.

Crescendo Junior Choir – friendly, fun choir for children aged five to 13 who love to sing. Meets Mondays, 5.30-7pm at Cleasby and Stapleton Village Hall. Build confidence, make friends and sing with an experienced vocal leader. For details call 07586321193, visit www.musicforall-darlington.co.uk/choirs/TCS or www.facebook.com/MissAnnaCSmith

The Crescendo Singers – a ladies' choir which meets Mondays, 12.45-2.45 pm at Haughton Methodist Church. Friendly group open to all ladies who like to sing. No experience needed. Mums with babies and pre-school children are welcome to bring them along. For details call 07586321193, visit www.musicforall-darlington.co.uk/choirs/TCS or www.facebook.com/MissAnnaCSmith

Hurworth Concert Band meets every Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm, The Grange community centre, Hurworth. Always welcome new players of brass, woodwind and percussion. The band plays a range of music - popular, classical, big band and contemporary and play a number of concerts to fund the band and local charities. Call 07717244579; email hurworthconcertband@gmail.com or visit www.hurworth-concert-band.co.uk for more information.



Supporting men's mental health

A club which provides a place for men to make friends, learn new skills and have fun is looking for new members.

Darlo Menshed provides interesting activities and good company to boost mental health and address the sense of isolation some men can experience if they are not in regular contact with other people.

Kevin Stainsby, chairman, said: "We believe that with a collective effort we can create a couple of days

each week where people can come together to make, create, chat, laugh and have a time of it with some like-minded folk.

"We do activities that members ask for, including walks, snooker, coffee mornings, building models, and most recently we are building Lego technics kits and doing woodwork projects."

It costs £10 a year to join Darlo Menshed. Details at www.darlomenshed.org.uk



Cockerton Band celebrates 150 years of music

A special concert is being held to mark the 150th anniversary of Cockerton Band in 2020.

Celebrations were put on hold due to Covid so the Cockerton 150 concert is now on Saturday 20 May, in Central Hall at the Dolphin Centre, featuring Richard Marshall, principal cornet soloist with the world-famous Black Dyke Mills Band. All are welcome, particularly former members and conductors.

Established in 1870, the band is completely self-funding and plays a major role in amateur music making in Darlington. It provides music for civic events, including the annual Remembrance Parade and service and last year's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It also represents the town at both Northern Regional and National Brass Band Championships.

Tickets, £8 and £5 concessions, are available from the Dolphin Centre or by contacting the band via Facebook, www.cockertonband.com or email cockertonprizesilverband@gmail.com

Opportunities with Darlington Orchestra

As Darlington Orchestra celebrates its first return to the concert stage since the pandemic began, conductor David Plews has a message for local musicians:

"We loved performing in our very well-received concert in January. However, it's only possible to stage these large events by calling in favours from players who don't usually play in the orchestra to help us out on the night.

"We now have several vacancies in the group because of maternity leave, ill health, recent retirements and changing work commitments for some members."

Would you like to join a local community orchestra? Do you play violin, viola, cello, double bass, trumpet, flute, bassoon or percussion at grade five or above?

There is no audition process. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings during school term-time, 7.15- 9pm, at St Thomas Aquinas Community Hall. All the group's rehearsals are open rehearsals so you can just call in.

The orchestra's next major event is the summer concert on Saturday 1 July. For more information email admin@darlington-orchestra.org.uk or follow the orchestra on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Clear direction at your local medical practice

With the NHS facing ever-increasing demand, efforts are being made to make people more aware of the options when visiting general medical practices.

And, as someone working on the frontline of both primary and secondary care, Lynsey Jenkins is ideally placed to see the benefits of care navigation – directing patients to the most effective route for treatment or advice.

For four days a week, Lynsey works as an assistant practice manager at St George’s Medical Practice, in Middleton St George, and also spends a day each week as an accident and emergency receptionist at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

“It gives me a very rounded perspective because I see it from both sides,” she says. “That’s why I’m passionate about care navigation because it’s about doing what’s best for each individual patient.”

Care navigation is about not only identifying the best source of care, but also freeing up appointments for patients whose best option is to see their GP.

Lynsey is celebrating 20 years in the NHS, having previously worked in customer care for Morrisons supermarket. She was looking for a new challenge and her focus is now on customer care in the NHS as a care navigator.

Options she and other care navigators can recommend, as well as GPs, include:

- advanced nurse practitioner
- pharmacy
- first contact physiotherapy
- practice nurses
- minor eye surgery
- social prescribing
- health coaches.

So, if someone comes to a general practice with a sore eye, instead of seeing a GP, it may be quicker and more appropriate to direct them to minor eye services offered by three opticians in Darlington.

All local GP surgeries can also make appointments for face-to-face consultations with a physiotherapist, so patients get a more specialist assessment.

A wide range of minor ailments can be treated by pharmacists. Care navigators at GP surgeries, like Lynsey, can help patients choose which pharmacy

they attend before receiving a call confirming an appointment time.

All local medical practices can also book patients into the “GP extended access” service, providing appointments at weekends and evenings at the Primary Healthcare Darlington offices in Forsyth House, in Woodlands Road.

“These are just a few of the wide-ranging options available to people attending their medical practice,” says Lynsey.

“Care navigators are experienced people, with all the information they need at their fingertips, and it’s their job to come up with the right solution.

“Following the pandemic, the NHS is under unprecedented pressure, and that makes it more important than ever to direct patients to more specialist care while also freeing up capacity for GPs.”

Having made the switch from the retail sector, Lynsey is also passionate about recommending careers in primary care.

“I’ve never looked back from the decision I made 20 years ago when I had no previous experience in the health sector. Now, I love it because it’s so rewarding knowing you’re making a difference to people’s lives,” she says.

For information on job opportunities with Darlington Primary Care, go to: www.primaryhealthcaredarlington.co.uk/job-vacancies



Lynsey Jenkins
Primary Care Network



Jobs Fair success

Almost 1,500 people attended the recent Jobs Fair at the Dolphin Centre, which coincided with National Apprenticeship Week.

A wide range of jobs, training, support and advice was on offer from more than 70 organisations. There were opportunities for people of all ages, interests and backgrounds with roles including fitness instructors, care workers, Police, the Armed Forces, finance, retail and management.

Our Learning and Skills and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) teams were on hand to talk through the great range of training courses, apprenticeships and employment opportunities across the town, alongside our human resources and other departments. The job boards around the venue also featured many local vacancies.

The new language and translation support hub was popular and the free workshops from Google Digital Garage on CV skills and career goals and a workshop with Darlington Economic Campus on local opportunities within the Civil Service were well attended.

A free jobs newspaper, supported by Tees Valley Combined Authority, was available on the day for people to take away and browse local jobs at their leisure.

NEWS UPDATE

**The next Jobs Fair is set for Thursday
29 June, 10am-2pm, Dolphin Centre.**

Make a date in your diary and look for updates in local press and on our Facebook and other social media pages.

Exhibitors act now!

Book your stand at the Jobs Fair as soon as you can. Last month's event was oversubscribed, and we had to turn people down. To reserve your place, or for enquiries, please email kay.sherwen@darlington.gov.uk



How do roadworks work?

One of the issues we hear about regularly from you is roadworks. Why are so many roads being dug up? Why are there so many temporary traffic lights? From repairs to the road surface, improvements to services and emergency fixes, there are many reasons why work is carried out.

The services we all rely on – gas and electric, water, cable tv and broadband – all run under our roads. To repair, maintain or improve any of them means the road needs to be dug up, which inevitably means disruption and delay. There are also times when our own works to repair or maintain the road surfaces, street lights and drainage will mean traffic lights or road closures.

In the past, companies allowed to work on or under the road network could largely turn up when they wanted to but since 2020, supported by the Government, we've run a permit system, where companies have to book their space on the road. The aim is to keep the roads flowing and in good condition, while allowing companies access to maintain their services.

While we can't turn down reasonable applications to dig up the road, we can – and do – ask

companies to amend their plans to minimise their time on the road, to work outside peak times and to book larger projects during school holidays when there is less traffic.

We also inspect the state of the road surface once it's been reinstated by a contractor. If it's not done right, we now have the power to call them back and make them do it again.

There are a number of large projects taking place across the town at the moment to upgrade residential broadband and replace outdated pipes and cable networks, which are all having an impact on the number of roadworks.

We're working to keep disruption to a minimum while also ensuring companies can keep our vital services safe and effective, and so that upgrades, that will benefit us all, can take place.

Want to know what's happening to a road near you? Our interactive Streetworks map shows every job affecting roads or footpaths in the town. Click on the symbol to find out who is doing the work, what the job is and how long it will take at streetworks.darlington.gov.uk

New custody hub nets £10m+ for local economy



Joy meets staff at SCH Site Services

Contractors working on the creation of the new Durham Investigative Hub are celebrating a major new milestone after boosting the social and economic value of the project beyond £10m.

The DurhamGate development, which will include 48 modern cells, has been intentionally designed to improve opportunities, life chances and wellbeing for local people.

County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen set an ambitious goal to generate £6m in social value through the scheme by securing local contracts, creating new jobs and increasing opportunities for people to develop new skills.

Long before the project's completion date, the development has surpassed its original aims with more than £10m now spent with local businesses in the force area. These include MGL Group based in Durham, Aspect Facades in Newton Aycliffe and SCH Site Services in Newton Aycliffe. In total more than £18m of the overall contract has been spent in the North East.



The project has also created new jobs and work experience placements and the team has volunteered more than 150 hours with charities such as DASH and St Cuthbert's Hospice.

Commissioner Allen said: "When we embarked on this project, I had every faith we would honour our pledge to make a difference. What I wasn't expecting was how quickly we

would exceed our own expectations and build on our commitments with further support for our workforce and communities.

"This is an example of partnership working at its best and shows what can be achieved when public organisations work in tandem with the community and businesses to make their limited resources go even further."

Once completed next spring, the hub will provide office space; interview rooms; space for crime scene investigations; evidence stores; virtual courts; CCTV; an energy centre; medical facilities and forensic examination rooms as well as the new cells.

Shout out for sustainability



If you're a sustainable or eco-friendly company, a local producer, arts and craft or wellbeing practitioner, there's still time to get involved in the Darlington Sustainability Event on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 June, 10am-3pm.

A wide range of businesses and organisations have already signed up to the two-day event, which will include stalls, exhibitions and interactive activities, all with a sustainable theme.

The event will offer a unique opportunity for businesses to showcase to the public how they are working towards being more sustainable and, in some cases, carbon neutral by reducing waste and energy usage.

Not for profit organisations, nature groups and local community groups are also invited to come along.

The event will take place in Central Hall at the Dolphin Centre with outdoor space for stalls in the Market Square.

If you are interested please email eventsteam@darlington.gov.uk

There's more detail of our work to become carbon neutral at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable

Spring may be around the corner, but there's still a chance of frost and frozen water can be a real danger.

Following the deaths of four boys who drowned after falling through ice on a lake in Solihull in December, an emergency meeting of our Open Water Safety Group was held to see what we could do to help prevent such a tragedy here.

We organised increased patrols by police and civic enforcement officers, shared advice on social media, sent safety information to schools and installed warning signs near potential danger spots.

Much of the new signage includes what3words guidance – allowing 999 services to pinpoint exactly where an incident has happened.

WATER SAFETY TIPS

- Stay away from the edges of rivers and ponds, they may be slippery!
- Never walk on to ice covered ponds or rivers – you don't know if it will support you
- If someone falls in don't go in after them – half of all ice related drownings involve an attempted rescue
- If someone falls in, ring 999 immediately. Try to reach them from the safety of the bank using a piece of clothing, a pole or long branch
- Keep dogs on leads when you're near water.

BEWARE! Thin ice...



New ice warning signs at South Park lake



Dawn Taylor with some fake goods and illegal tobacco seized by trading standards

Trading standards and animal health manager Dawn Taylor

I started working for the council as a fair trading officer in 2000 and took over as trading standards and animal health manager in 2016.

I love my job, no two days are the same and I'm lucky to manage such a great team with a can-do attitude. The best part is that I don't just manage the service – I get out there and do the job too.

It's very rewarding to be able to make a big difference, to protect consumers, help businesses trade fairly and tackle rogue traders. Unfortunately, there are not enough hours in the day to achieve everything I'd like us to achieve!

We work closely with our council colleagues, the police and other agencies to ensure what we do fully supports our local community. Ensuring the playing field is level for businesses who work hard to comply with the law is a key priority. We aim to achieve this by focusing our attention on those who sell illegal or unsafe goods, preventing under-age sales and tackling rogue traders who deliberately cut corners and mislead their customers. We want to help make our town a great place to live, shop and work.

Our farming community, and those who supply them, are also an integral part of the local economy and our team supports them as best we can. Many people don't realise trading standards also looks after livestock health and welfare. We are a visible presence at the local cattle mart providing on-site advice and dealing with any issues as they arise.

Our team's work is extremely diverse and, as manager, it's up to me to ensure we concentrate our efforts in areas of greatest need and where we can have the most impact. We rely on intelligence, which we actively gather from all manner of sources, including residents, to help us to target our work.

Our aim is to protect consumers and businesses by promoting a safe, healthy and fair trading environment. We also have an important role to play in helping build business confidence and supporting growth.

You can find out more about the work of trading standards and how to report concerns at www.darlington.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Please help us keep our community safe and fair – if you see anything unscrupulous, please report it.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Make sure your dog is microchipped and tagged!

Dog owners are being reminded to get their pets microchipped or face a fine.

In two recent cases, owners were ordered to pay a total of £876 in fines and costs after failing to get their pets chipped.

By law, any dog over eight weeks old must be microchipped and you could be fined up to £500 if your pet is unchipped or your details are not up to date. Dog breeders are responsible for ensuring puppies are microchipped.

A vet can check if your dog is microchipped and some animal charities and organisations offer the service for free.

Your dog must also wear a collar and tag with your name and address on when in a public place. You can also add your phone number so you can be contacted if your dog is found.

Find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk/communitysafety



Dog warden Andy Wood and Vimmie

Governor training



Did you know we provide school governors with comprehensive training so they can carry out their role?

Each school term the programme includes training on Ofsted inspections; inductions for new governors; training on keeping children safe in education, as well as a range of new courses.

All courses are available to governors from schools who have purchased our annual training programme or can be accessed on a pay as you go basis, at £72 per governor, per course.

All briefing and training sessions are held virtually via Microsoft Teams except for the induction for new governors which takes place in the Town Hall.

Details of courses are available at
www.darlington.gov.uk/governor-training

If you are a school governor and would like to attend a course, please check with your school before booking, then email governors@darlington.gov.uk

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