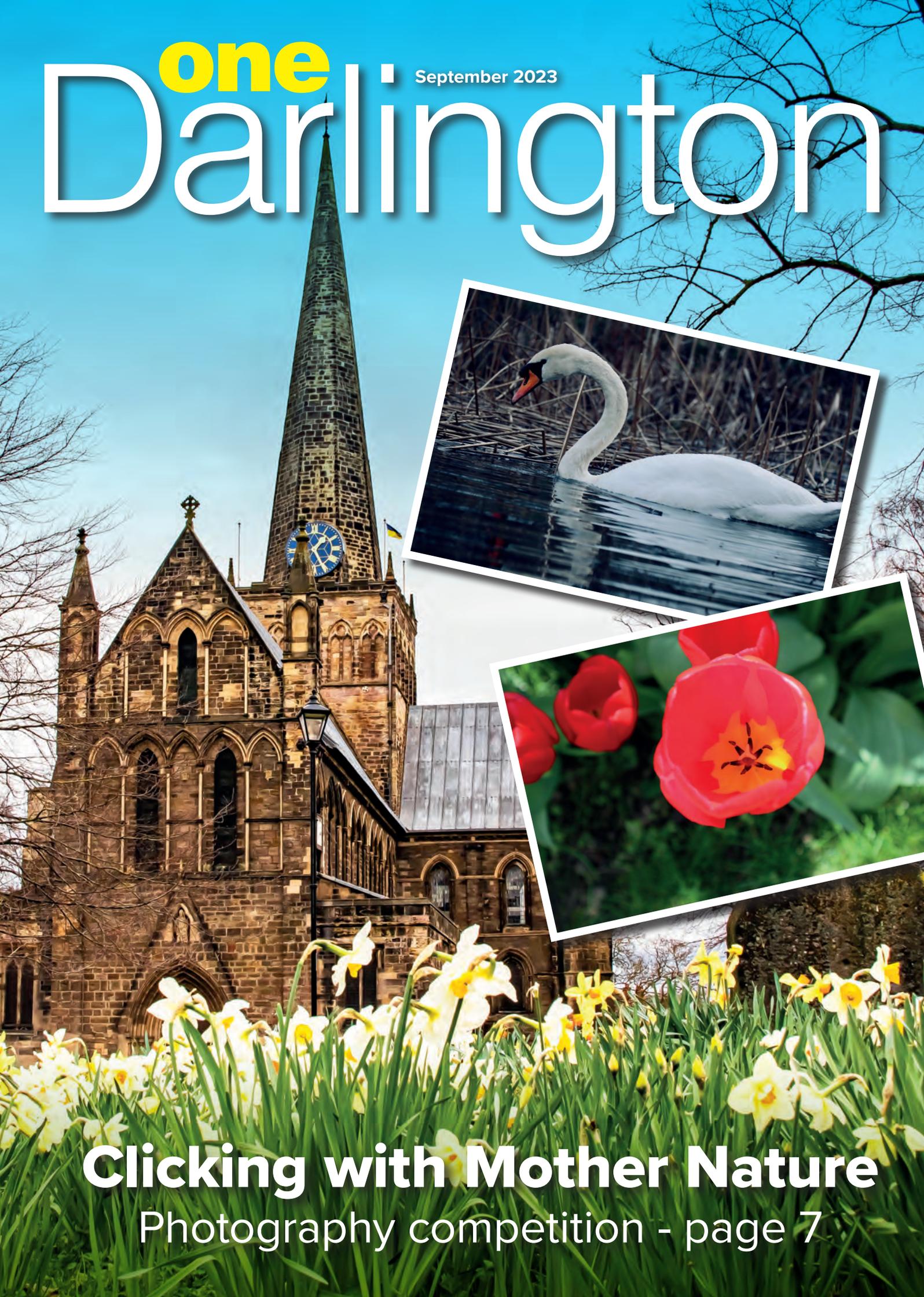


one Darlington

September 2023



Clicking with Mother Nature

Photography competition - page 7

CARE ABOUT YOUR AIR!

Protect the environment and children's health, switch off your engine when parked.

- An idling car generates enough emissions to fill 150 balloons every minute. This can lead to poor local air quality, particularly around schools at drop off and pick up times.
- Children breathe more rapidly than adults absorbing more of these harmful emissions.
- Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, which can aggravate conditions such as asthma and can be linked to other lung conditions including respiratory infections.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Welcome to One Darlington

Welcome to One Darlington. We hope you enjoyed a sensational summer, whether you were exploring somewhere new on your holidays or here in our brilliant borough. Can you believe it's September already?

Let's take a moment to reflect on our jam-packed programme of summer events that brought joy, laughter and a strong sense of community. We witnessed the resounding success of the Darlington 10K, where runners from all walks of life gave their all, inspiring us to push our limits and stay active. It's incredible to see the town coming together to support one another's endeavours.

And let's not forget Darlington by the Sea, which transformed the Market Square into a sandy oasis, complete with sandcastles, fun rides and seaside treats. Who needs the coast when we can bring the beach right here? OK, so the weather didn't always play ball, but you can't have everything!

Then there was the vibrant Pride celebrations that filled our streets with colour. The atmosphere was electrifying, and it warmed our hearts to see everyone embracing diversity and standing together for equality.

Speaking of colour, we were bowled over by the high standard of entries for the Northumbria in Bloom photography competition. We've packed in as many of your efforts as possible on the front and back covers, and you can turn to page 7 to read about the winners.

Looking ahead, this month sees the grand reopening of Darlington Library after its refurbishment. This historic hub of knowledge and imagination has got a fresh new look, and it's more inviting than ever. A big shout out to everyone involved in making it happen – read all about it on page 4.

As autumn sets in, we're looking forward to cooler days and cosy evenings. There's something special about Darlington during this time of year – the leaves turning golden in South Park, the crisp morning air at Broken Scar and the promise of new beginnings.

We've certainly had a summer to remember, we've embraced togetherness and we've all played a part in making Darlington the fantastic town it is. As we head into autumn, let's continue to celebrate our unique communities and support one another in all that we do.

Until next time, keep smiling, keep exploring and keep enjoying Darlington.



One of the entries in the Northumbria in Bloom photography contest

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Front cover photos: Jack Henson, Murry McLaren and Jenni Klee

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

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



Supported using public funding by
 Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
 ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

A warm welcome awaits at library



Final preparations are under way as we get ready to welcome you back to Darlington Library – we can't wait to show you around the beautifully restored and refurbished building.

Our children's library has an enchanted woodland theme and features fabulous artwork from British author and illustrator Charlie Mackesy's beloved book *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*. Bring the little ones down to share books together and join in a lively music or play session in a relaxed, joyful environment the whole family can enjoy.

The Hive, funded by Arts Council England, offers a modern, vibrant area for people to meet and collaborate, or why not attend one of our workshops making use of our extensive innovative technology to inspire creativity, perhaps leading to new hobbies or even a different career?

The Study is the perfect area to work in comfortable surroundings with charging points for

your own device, or use the library's computers, and Wi-Fi as well as a hot drinks vending machine.

For those interested in family and local history, the Centre for Local Studies is set in historic surroundings with a host of resources and expert knowledge to help your research.

Visit our original foyer for an insight into the building's history and architecture.

The library is so much more than just books and we can't wait for you to come and explore, either in person or online.

The doors open at noon on Saturday 9 September, when there will be lots of entertainment, including magic shows and illustrator workshops, as well as family friendly music gigs in the evening.

We're also planning a host of activities, events and workshops in the weeks ahead (places are limited, and need to be booked via Eventbrite).

For details of events and activities at Darlington Libraries visit the website at www.darlington.gov.uk/library or download the Darlington Library App.



Councillors have agreed to bring forward our target for net zero from 2050 to 2040. This new, more ambitious target will help us continue to protect our services against the effects of climate change and ensure we make changes to continue to provide vital services.

What does this mean?

Our aim is for all of our activities, heating our offices, street lighting, highways for example, to become carbon neutral or net zero. This means the amount of greenhouse gases (CO²) produced by what we do will be balanced or offset by other activities such as tree planting or new technologies making the overall emissions net zero.

Our aim will always be to reduce emissions first before using offsets.

Why 2040?

With global temperatures increasing year on year, it became clear that 2050 was not ambitious enough. 2040 is a target and with hard work and investment it is hoped we will reach net zero before this date.

What are we doing?

We have been working to reduce our carbon emissions since 2010 and have halved them since then.

Since declaring a climate emergency in 2019, we have continued to make progress including:

- Made improvements to more than 400 council homes to make them more energy efficient and applying for more grants to continue this work. This helps to save money for our tenants as well as help reduce energy use
- Increased our electric vehicle fleet to 17 vehicles
- Increased the number of electric vehicle charging points in the town centre
- Increased the number of solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall, reducing energy costs and carbon emissions
- Switched to a net zero energy tariff
- Working with partners, we have planted 20,000 trees across the borough with more to follow
- Switched to more energy efficient street lighting and successfully bid for grants to install more efficient boilers at the Dolphin Centre and air source heat pumps at the Hippodrome.

We are also stepping up our plans to do much more to support the wider borough in reducing emissions and making sure all our residents and businesses are more resilient to climate change.

Our action plan and climate change strategy are being updated to reflect the new 2040 target. Find out more and how you can get involved on our journey to net zero by 2040 at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable

number forty - a year in numbers



Number Forty on Skinnergate opened its doors a year ago, providing a safe space for anyone feeling vulnerable or needing help in the town centre on a Friday and Saturday night.

It's been a fantastic success – helping people, encouraging volunteering, inspiring community spirit and saving emergency services money by giving people appropriate help and support when they need it most.

From giving someone flip flops for their sore feet or letting them charge their phone to providing first aid and helping victims report crime, Number Forty volunteers are on hand 9pm-3am every Friday and Saturday.

Number Forty is always looking for volunteers to ensure it can continue its great work.

To find out more email pat.hancock@durham-pcc.gov.uk or call 07929 739450



**More than 400
people helped**



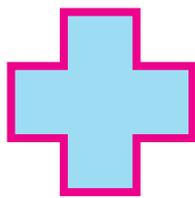
**29 volunteers
signed up**



**More than 50 blankets
knitted and donated**



**100 pairs of flip flops
handed out**



**35 people
given first aid**



**£11,000 saved on
ambulance charges**



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Bloom contest winners



A big thank you to everyone who sent their fantastic photos into our competition to celebrate our involvement in Northumbria and Britain in Bloom. We hope you like the selection we've used on the cover of this edition, along with some of the winning entries here.

We received over 250 entries and were blown away with the talent of our local photographers. Congratulations to winners Murray McLaren and Rick Masters. Sarah Caldecott from The Northern Echo loved Murray's colourful depiction of the South Park Clock Tower and Rick's adorable picture of the fuzzy duckling. Some of Murray and Rick's other shots are also pictured.

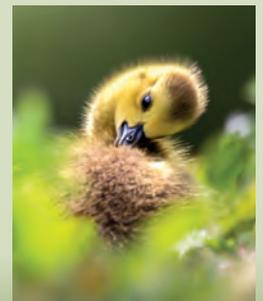
In July we welcomed members of the Royal Horticultural Society for the Northumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom judging. The awards aim to inspire community groups in towns, cities and villages to make positive changes to their local

environment through horticultural, environmental and community actions.

The judges toured around the town centre and parks and met with some of our amazing team, dedicated volunteers, and the community groups who all work so hard to make Darlington bloom!

The locations they visited included the town centre, the riverside, South Park, St Cuthbert's Church, our historic Yards, local businesses Hash Bar and Kitchen and The Tapas Bar, and The Quaker Meeting House. They also met the Darlington Cares Great Park Auction volunteers in Stanhope Park and enjoyed seeing the photography competition entries exhibited in the Community Hub on Skinnergate.

We are eagerly awaiting the Northumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom results and look forward to the awards ceremony in October.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



What a summer!



The weather may have been a washout, but we didn't let that stop us celebrating an incredible summer of events across Darlington with entertainment and fun for all the family!

Following the King's Coronation in May, we've seen the market square turned into a giant beach for Darlington by the Sea, danced the afternoon away at Proms in the Park, limbered up for the 10k race and junior fun run, and celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community through our Pride weekender, to name just a few.

Hundreds of children across Darlington also had the chance to get involved in free outdoor games and activities every weekday of the summer holidays, thanks to our work with Outdoor Ambitions. Visit www.enjoydarlington.co.uk for the latest events.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Eastbourne revamp nearing finish line



The finishing touches are being added to a major development at Eastbourne Sports Complex.

A new all-weather pitch – including changing facilities, turnstiles and access for up to 200 spectators – is nearing completion.

Our exclusive photos show how the work has progressed in recent months.

Final touches have been added in recent weeks, including multi-coloured lines, painted by robots, meaning the surface can accommodate everything from small-sided matches to full 11-a-side games.

The new arena will be able to host matches up to Step 5 on the National League pyramid and will

welcome hundreds of participants a week – from local community clubs to grassroots and group bookings.

The resurfacing of the main running track is now complete, with work progressing to create a new athletics reception area.

Eastbourne Sports Complex, on behalf of the council, worked with the Football Foundation and the County Durham FA to secure a £941,842 grant towards the work.

Matthew Roche, cabinet member for health and housing, said: “These new facilities are very impressive, and I know they will prove popular for many years to come.”



Pool works extended

The Dolphin Centre main pool will remain closed until early next year as it undergoes repairs as part of a major investment.

Contractors found additional works were needed and councillors have agreed to carry out this extra work now, rather than re-open the pool only to have to close it again within a year. Swimming lessons are continuing in the training pool.



Council leader Stephen Harker reflects on his first few months in the role and looks to the future with optimism.



Welcome to the September edition of One Darlington - I hope you had an enjoyable summer.

It was a great privilege to be elected as leader of the council once again, a role I took up in May.

Since then, along with colleagues, I've been working hard to deliver on our mission of building a better Darlington, for everyone.

I'm fully aware these are difficult times for many people – with the rising cost of living and the inequalities within our borough.

I want to be very clear with everyone from day one, what the council's priorities are over the next four years:

- Reducing inequality
- Tackling the climate crisis
- Being an effective and efficient council

We've already taken decisive action on the climate crisis, bringing forward by ten years the date by which we're aiming to make the council a net-zero carbon organisation.

A new council plan is being worked on, with the old version due to run out. I look forward to sharing more details in the near future. This important document sets out the council's vision for the borough, and the values we will follow.

I was delighted to welcome visitors from our twin town of Mulheim an der Ruhr, in Germany, when they visited Darlington in June.

And it was a great honour to attend a citizenship ceremony at the Town Hall last month, when 14 people were welcomed as new British citizens.

We've enjoyed a fabulous programme of summer events in our town centre – from the 10k road race to Pride and everything in between.

Along with Cllr Libby McCollom, I enjoyed a site tour of the redevelopment work at Darlington Library, and I'm looking forward to the grand re-opening this month.

The dust has just about settled on the Women's World Cup. It was a tremendous achievement for the Lionesses to reach the final. Whilst the outcome wasn't what we hoped for, this inspiring group of women will have many more chances to win tournaments in the future. Darlington has a proud history of girls' and women's football, and I'm sure the achievements of the Lionesses will have sparked interest in a new generation of young girls to take up football.

With the summer holidays behind us, the work to bring about a fairer, safer and greener Darlington continues apace.

We all want what's best for Darlington – a very special part of the world to all of us. You can be assured that we are working hard, with energy and determination, and in the true Darlington spirit of innovation and collaboration.



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 Stephen Harker, type Stephen.harker@darlington.gov.uk.

The only exception is Anne-Marie Curry (North Road) whose email address is shown with her contact details.

BANK TOP AND LASCELLES

Andrew Anderson (L) Tel: 07837 225041; **Helen Crumbie (L)** Tel: 07743 191014; **David Ray (L)** Tel: 07966 048647.

BRINKBURN AND FAVERDALE

Rebecca Baker (L) Tel: 07805 806420. West Park Academy, Monday 18 September and 16 October, 5-6pm. **David Beckett (L)** Tel: 07982 847837. West Park Academy, Wednesday 4 October and 1 November, 6-7pm. **Scott Durham (C)** Tel: 07805 505156. The Brinkburn, Tuesday 3 October, 7-8pm and The White Heifer that Travelled, Tuesday 7 November, 7-8pm.

COCKERTON

Jan Cossins (L) Tel: 241124; **Jim Garner (L)** Tel: 241384; **Neil Johnson (L)** Tel: 07504 227351. Cockerton Methodist Church, Friday 13 October and 10 November, 10-11am.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553; **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School, Monday 18 September and 16 October, 6-7pm.

EASTBOURNE

Joe Dillon (L) Tel: 07939 221166. Pilmoor Green Community Centre, Monday 25 September and 30 October, 6-7pm. **Jonathan Dulston (C)** Tel: 07775 555251. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 1 November, 3-4pm and The Wheatsheaf, Yarm Road, Friday 6 October, 5-6pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday, 20 September and 18 October, 6-7pm.

HARROWGATE HILL

Roz Henderson (G) Tel: 07967 213584; **Richard Lawley (G)** Tel: 07779 993336; **Anna-Maria Toms (G)** Tel: 07954 719211. St Mark's Church Hall, Thursday 14 September, 12 October and 9 November, 6-7pm.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 07947 016598; **Dawn Storr (L)** Tel: 07543 159224; **Nick Wallis (L)** Tel: 07960 247554. Asda foyer, Saturday 7 October and 4 November, 10-11am.

HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Paul Crudass (C) Tel: 374537; **Gerald Lee (C)** Tel: 314622. St Mary's Church, Saturday 7 October, 10-11am and St Edwin's Church Hall, Saturday 4 November, 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Kate Mammolotti (G) Tel: 07949 222733; **Thomas Robinson (G)** Tel: 07735 310357. Salutation Hall, Monday 25 September and 30 October, 6-7pm.

HURWORTH

Lorraine Tostevin (C) Tel: 333382. **Paul Walters (C)** Tel: 722097. By appointment only on Tuesday 3 October and 7 November 5.30-6.30pm

MOWDEN

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482 or 07754 221665; **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106. Mowden Junior School, Monday 2 October and 6 November, 6.30-7.30pm.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998; **Sonia Kane (L)** Tel: 486754. Corporation Road School Community Hub, Monday 2 October and 6 November, 10-11am.

NORTH ROAD

Hilary Allen (LD) Tel: 480277; **James Coe (LD)** Tel: 07828 178276; **Anne-Marie Curry (LD)** Tel: 07531 304050, annemarie.curry@darlington.gov.uk. Morrisons café, Wednesday 11 October and 8 November, 6-7pm; The Well, Wednesday 27 September and 25 October, 1-2pm.

PARK EAST

Libby McCollom (L) Tel: 07910 369887; **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 240750; **Matthew Roche (L)** Tel: 07403 208120. Skerne Park Community Centre, Friday 6 October and 3 November, 6-7pm; St Columba's Church, Tuesday 12 September and 10 October, 1-2pm.

PARK WEST

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

PIERREMONT

Stephen Harker (L) Tel: 380039; **Mary Layton (L)** Tel: 491802 or 07460 980776; **James McGill (L)** Tel: 07964 670793. Reid Street Primary School, Wednesday 4 October and 8 November, 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Mandy Porter (L) Tel: 07962 363855; **Amanda Riley (L)** Tel: 07764 759554. Red Hall Community Centre, Wednesday 13 September, 11 October and 8 November 6.15-7.15pm. Greggs, Yarm Road, Tuesday 19 September and 17 October, 5-5.30pm.

SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Deborah Laing (C) Tel: 07747 863297; **Colin Pease (C)** Tel: 07738 422776; **Yvonne Renton (C)** Tel: 07486 617516. Middleton St George Cricket Club, Tuesday 26 September and 31 October, 7-8pm and Sadberge Village Hall, Thursday 28 September, noon-1pm.

STEPHENSON

Ian Haszeldine (L) Tel: 07807 381613; **Mohammad Mahmud (L)** Tel: 07828 898799.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Barch (C) Tel: 07554 645651; **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. The Shuttle & Loom, Saturday 30 September and 28 October, 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

CLUBS AND COM

To have your community group or club featured, email editor@onedarlington.org.uk



"Those of us who have experienced this terrible tragedy truly understand. None of us need to suffer alone. Together we can help each other."

SoBS Darlington
07940 558 514
darlington@uksobs.org

SOBS – Survivors of Bereavement By Suicide is a national charity, with a helpline and groups across the country. Formed earlier this year, the Darlington group meets at 6pm on the first Tuesday of every month at the Darlington Friends' Meeting House on Skinnergate and welcomes anyone aged 18+ who is bereaved by suicide. Check out their website at www.uksobs.org



Darlington U3A meets at The Studio at The Dolphin Centre at 10.15am on the first Friday of the month (excluding August) and at venues throughout the town. It's an organisation for people who no longer work full time and encourages meeting people, making friends and keeping active. Members enjoy socialising and activities such as French conversation, line dancing, Canasta and wine appreciation. Membership fee is £25 per year plus a charge per group attended. Each month there are refreshments and a speaker.

If you would like to attend or have a skill you'd like to share visit www.u3asites.org.uk/darlington or email u3aDarlington@gmail.com



Brave Hearts is a community group for women founded in May 2018 by Dr Adebola Adisa and it has steadily grown to over 40 volunteers. Dr Adisa explains: "We have a three-fold mission – wellbeing, mentoring and fundraising. We encourage a healthy lifestyle and promote mental wellbeing through friendships.

"We inspire young people through activities such as book readings, a choir, day trips and career mentoring. Brave Hearts is committed to making a genuine and long-lasting difference in our community. We do regular fundraising to help us to donate to local food banks, especially at Christmas. One of our special events is the yearly rainbow chat, where we invite business, education, health, and legal experts to speak to women on issues affecting mental, physical, financial, and emotional wellbeing!"

Brave Hearts membership is free and open to all women in County Durham. Email braveheartsne@gmail.com, log onto www.braveheartsnortheast.wordpress.com or search on social media.





Darlington Vineyard Church hosts regular arts courses above their shop, Hope & Glory on Post House Wynd, to help people who are suffering from social isolation, trauma and poor mental health. Activities include painting, mosaic making and weaving. You can be referred by a health worker or you can pop into the shop and ask for more details and to self-refer. Open to anyone of any faith. Email info@darlingtonvineyard.church

Atisha Kadampa Meditation Centre, 81 Victoria Road, hosts free lunchtime 15-minute meditation sessions every Tuesday, 1.30-1.45pm. For more details email info@meditationindarlington.org or call 365265; visit the website www.meditationindarlington.org or search Meditation in Darlington on Facebook.

Lottery boost

Breathe Easy Darlington is celebrating a £10,000 boost from the National Lottery Community Fund for its 'living well with respiratory ill health' project.

The money means that Breathe Easy Darlington's members, who all have chronic respiratory health conditions, can continue with weekly pulmonary rehabilitation classes for the next 12 months.

New classes in yoga and singing, and more social outings will be added to the calendar for members who come from Darlington, Teesside, North Yorkshire and County Durham. For more information, visit www.breatheeasydarlington.org



Are you a responsible owner?



Dogs have long been considered our best friend and our most popular pet, with more than a third of households having at least one dog.

While dogs can bring happiness, it is your responsibility to ensure your pet isn't a hazard, health risk or a nuisance to others.

We know the majority of dog owners and walkers behave responsibly, but we regularly receive complaints about dog-related anti-social behaviour – including around 23 reports a month about dog fouling.

We aim to support the responsible majority and take action against those who break the rules, to ensure everyone can enjoy public spaces safely.

We recently asked for your views on the Dog Public Space Protection Order, which sets out the dog control rules across the borough. We will consider your responses before deciding whether it should be renewed.

Our civic enforcement team keep an eye open for anyone not picking up after their pets, while our Bag It, Bin It initiative has seen distinctive signs installed in hotspots reminding people they can be fined.

Meanwhile, our licensing team has been working hard to tackle illegal puppy breeding, with five successful prosecutions recently and disqualification orders secured in four cases preventing dog ownership.

If you run a business that advertises dogs for sale or you breed three or more litters in any 12-month period and sell any of the puppies, you will need a licence. Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/licensing and click on Licensing A-Z then animal welfare.

To find out more about dog controls and our DOGwatch group which promotes responsible dog ownership visit www.darlington.gov.uk/DOGwatch.

TOP DOG TIPS

- You must pick up after your dog. You can put it in any public waste bin or take it home to go in your rubbish bin. You can report a full or overflowing bin on the MyDarlington App or go to www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit
- By law your dog must be microchipped, and always wear a collar and identification tag, with contact details, so you can be reunited if it is lost or strays.
- If you plan to buy a puppy – check the seller is licensed, always view puppies at the breeder's home with the mother, and check any vaccination and microchipping documentation.
- You can report an unlicensed commercial breeder by emailing licensing@darlington.gov.uk or call 405888.
- Consider adopting a dog from a rescue charity rather than buying a puppy.

Celebrating Black History Month



The Windrush 75th anniversary mural

The Arthur Wharton Foundation has had a great year of celebrations, which included the now iconic Windrush 75th Anniversary mural - a tribute to all those people from the Windrush generation, but especially those that first arrived in Darlington in 1956.

Next month (October) is Black History Month and to celebrate, the foundation is planning a series of events which will include a special Arthur Wharton Day on Saturday 14 October, hosted by Darlington FC - home fixture against Kings Lynn Town - in tribute to the club's former player and icon.

On Thursday 7 September, the foundation will also be unveiling a Blue Plaque on behalf of the Rotherham Historic Society at the site of Arthur's exploits at Clifton Lane. Later in the month representatives of the foundation will travel to Ghana to work in partnership with Rotherham United Community Sports Trust.

You can find out more about the foundation and the events planned on its website at arthurwhartonfoundation.org

Sponsor a Happy Hamper for an Elderly Person in Darlington

Donate Today & Make a Life Happier This Christmas

Support your local elderly community by raising funds to fill our Happy Christmas Hampers with festive foods all bought from local suppliers.

It's easy to donate, go to <https://tinyurl.com/DTMlocalgiving> or scan the QR code.



"We became friends through the Mission"

Win Your Own Festive Hamper

Everyone who donates is entered into our Supporter's draw. Please send an email to marketing@darlingtontownmission.org.uk with "Happy Hampers" in the subject line with your name and contact details. The draw will take place on 30th November 2023.

SEATON LENG
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
EST. 1891

This article is kindly sponsored by SEATON LENG

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Darlington Town Mission
Enriching Elderly Lives

A local charity trusted since 1838

Safeguarding Adults Team:

Protecting vulnerable people



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

In the latest article of our series profiling adults services, we turn the spotlight on the safeguarding team, which looks at concerns around people who may be experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.

What does safeguarding adults mean?

The team supports people to make decisions about important things in their lives, whether that is where to live, what community resources are available or how best to meet their needs in a way that decreases distress and risk. In order to do this, we all need to balance our needs and risks in the context of our overall wellbeing; what makes us happy, what are our strengths, what do we need from others, what do we value, what is important to us, what makes us feel safe.

The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local councils and partner agencies should support individuals to feel safe and protect vulnerable adults at risk of abuse or neglect. If an individual needs care and support, and their needs impact on their ability to promote their safety, and they are at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect, then the council has a duty to put steps in place to support that person to feel safe. This may mean supporting them to contact the police, looking at their existing care and support and determining if this needs to be changed or adjusted, and working closely with partners in health and police where appropriate.

Making safeguarding personal is the golden thread running through all of the team's work. It's not simply about getting someone's consent, although that is important, but also about hearing people's views about what they want as an outcome. At all stages of the safeguarding process people are able to say what they would like to change; it might be not having further contact with a person who poses a risk to them, changing an aspect of their care plan, asking that someone who has hurt them apologises or pursuing the matter through the criminal justice system.

Safeguarding is everyone's business

All of our social care teams have a hand in promoting the safety and wellbeing of the people they support, this is a shared responsibility within the council. The safeguarding adults team becomes involved if a concern comes in about someone not known to the council or who ordinarily lives out of the area. The adult social care teams make enquiries into concerns for people they already work with, as they are best placed to know the person and their needs.

The safeguarding adults team receives concerns from various sources, such as concerned family members, healthcare professionals or community agencies. These referrals may be about an individual's safety, wellbeing or potential abuse. The team carefully reviews each referral, assessing the urgency and severity of the situation. Some cases may require immediate intervention, while others may need a thorough investigation or ongoing support.

The team uses its expertise to gather additional information, consulting with the individual, those close to them, other professionals and records available. We also consider any relevant legislation, policies and guidelines to inform the decision-making process.

We may then organise a meeting with the individual and partner agencies looking at a plan to help reduce the risks raised. This collaborative approach ensures all relevant information is shared and decisions made collectively.

The individual will be the one who decides what they would like to happen and what they need to happen to feel safe. If the person is unable to make that decision and has been assessed as not having the mental capacity to do so, we will look to see if anyone else has been appointed their deputy or attorney. If there is no one with this ability, the council will look at a best interest decision, which is set out in the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

We strive to achieve the outcomes of those we support and our overall goal is to support people to feel safer.

For further information please visit the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website at www.darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk

GET RESULTS Membership



AT THE DOLPHIN CENTRE

The GET RESULTS service is free to members and includes

- 1:1 training with a GET RESULTS instructor
- Exercise programme and nutrition advice
- Tanita Body Composition Readings
- Ongoing support via the Technogym App

the
dolphin
centre
gym

get
results



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

www.healthydarlington.co.uk
01325 406000

Morrison Trust is now



Since 1995, as a Darlington based charity, we've supported thousands of people with skills, employment, training and personal development. Morton Park Conference Centre has hosted thousands of meetings, conferences, interviews, training sessions and away days.

We were fortunate to be successful in securing a grant from Tyne and Wear Community Foundation's Growth and Resilience Fund, to raise our profile. We worked with a design company, Sail Creative, to develop our new brand and we also took the huge decision to change our name! We've loved being Morrison Trust but we thought there was an opportunity for us to have a name and identity that made what we do clearer to our participants and customers.

We have some great, flexible space at Morton Park (including four big conference rooms, two boardrooms and a range of other meeting rooms), which work well for companies and organisations to use for training, meetings, staff away days, conferences and exhibitions. All of the profit that we make from Tandem Hub is reinvested back into the charity so when businesses use our room space, they are supporting the work that we do with Darlington residents.

So, after 27 years as Morrison Trust, we are now Tandem and Tandem Hub. We chose Tandem because it works so well to describe what we do. We have two sides to

our organisation – our projects which support people to achieve their goals and our meeting and conference space. We also feel it reflects our collaborative and supportive approach to how we work.

Our new identity feels authentic to us and really shows the values that drive what we do – inclusion, collaboration, valuing people and equality. We want people to know that whilst our name and logo have changed, the genuine care and tailored support you can expect if you access our projects and the quality of customer service you can expect from hiring a room at Tandem Hub remain as important to us as ever.

If you'd like to work in tandem with us, we'd be really pleased to hear from you. For more information about our rooms and meeting space, or if you live in Darlington and would like support to find work, build confidence and increase skills, please email hello@tandem.org.uk or go to our website www.tandem.org.uk

We're always happy to hear from anyone who would be interested in knowing more about how they could support us as a trustee on our board too.


space to connect + progress



Duke Street improvements almost complete

Work to make Duke Street safer and more attractive to cyclists and pedestrians is coming to an end.

The work is part of an ambitious plan to create a safe walking and cycling route from West Park to the town centre.

Duke Street is now permanently one way with a 20mph speed limit. New parking and loading bays have been created, pavements have been widened and a one way cycle lane has been introduced.

The views of residents and businesses were taken into consideration when the design of the new look street was drawn up. The street isn't wide enough to accommodate a two way cycle lane, as well as wider pavements and parking and loading

for businesses, so it was decided to make it one way for cyclists leaving town.

It is hoped that the reduced number of vehicles using the road, low speeds from traffic calming and the one way system will help make the road safer.

Meanwhile remedial work has taken place on Woodland Road to deal with issues with the road surface caused by sub-standard work by contractors. This work has been paid for by the contractors.

We really appreciate everyone's patience while this work has been carried out and we hope you agree it looks great and will have a positive impact on visitors to the town and those wanting to get about on foot or bike.

Enjoy what's on in

The summer holidays may be over, but there's still plenty to look forward to and enjoy in Darlington. For more details of what's on visit enjoydarlington.co.uk or follow the council on Facebook.

Want to be in the next edition of One Darlington?

Email your events for November, December and January 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.

September

Darlington R&B Festival – Friday 8-Sunday 10, all day, Market Square and Riverside, near St Cuthbert's Church. Now in its 27th year, the ever-popular music event features live bands over three days. For more information visit [Facebook.com/darlornclub](https://www.facebook.com/darlornclub)

Darlington Film Club – Tuesday 5, The Forum, Borough Road. Entry £3. Doors 7pm.

Back to Bacharach – Friday 8, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £16.50.

Guns'n'Roses Experience – Saturday 9, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £14. Doors 7.30pm.

Darlington Beekeepers Association Open Day – Saturday 9, 2-4pm, Denes Apiary, Denes Park, off Widdowfield Street. Free entry. Honey and beeswax products for sale. Refreshments available. All welcome.

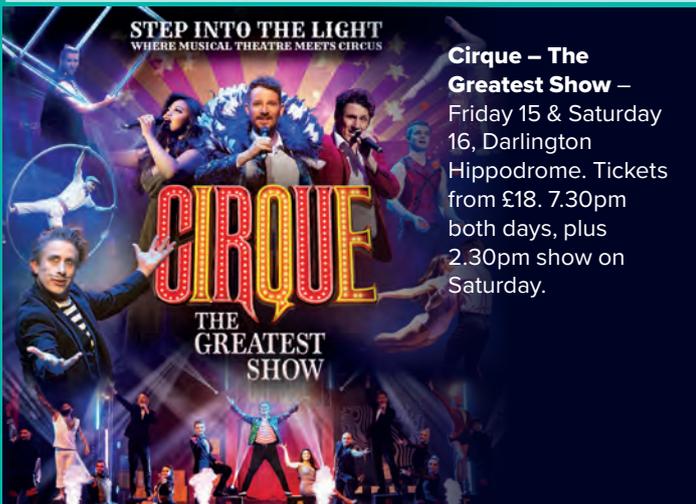
Darlington Library Opening Event – Saturday 9, noon-4pm, Darlington Library. Free.

Darlington Ale Trail – Saturday 9 – Sunday 22 October. Pick up a £1 trail map from various venues and discover the best local ales and beers. Visit darlo.camra.org.uk for details.

Watercolours at Darlington Library (adults) – Tuesday 12, 2:30-4pm, Darlington Library. Free taster. Booking required via Eventbrite.

Psychic Sally – Tuesday 12, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £16.50.

Live & Local original band night – Thursday 14, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £6. Doors 7.30pm.



STEP INTO THE LIGHT
WHERE MUSICAL THEATRE MEETS CIRCUS

Cirque – The Greatest Show – Friday 15 & Saturday 16, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £18. 7.30pm both days, plus 2.30pm show on Saturday.

Charleston Charlies Concert – Friday 15, 11am-noon, Darlington Library. Free. Ticket required, contact Darlington Library for more details.

Rock of Ages Showcase with Charleston Charlies – Friday 15, 2.30-4pm, Cockerton Library. Free. Ticket required, contact Cockerton Library for more details.

Rojor (singer/songwriter) – Saturday 16, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £10. Doors 7.30pm.

The Magic of Dance – Tuesday 19, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £16.50.

Bookstart Rhymetime

Sessions at Darlington Libraries



Join us weekly to Sing, Rhyme, Play and Share Stories.

Our feel good, fun, free interactive sessions bring adults and children together in a safe and supportive environment to encourage speech, language, and a lifelong love of reading.

Mondays at Darlington Library

Bookstart Baby Rhymetime for 0-1 Year Olds
10.10.30am, 11-11.30am

Bookstart Rhymetime for 1-4 Year Olds (Accompanying under 1's welcome)
1.30-2.15pm

Tuesdays at Cockerton Library

Bookstart Baby Rhymetime for Babies 0-1 Year Olds
9.15am-10am

Bookstart Rhymetime for 1-4 Year Olds (Accompanying under 1's welcome)
10.30-11.15am

Thursdays at Cockerton Library

Bookstart Rhymetime for 1-4 Year Olds (Accompanying under 1's welcome)
9.15-10am

Fridays at Darlington Library

Bookstart Rhymetime for 1-4 Year Olds (Accompanying under 1's welcome)
10.30-11.15am



Starting Monday 25 September 2023

Sessions take place at both our Libraries during term-time, they are free but require booking via Eventbrite. Tickets are available from 8am the morning of each session. For more information pop into our Libraries during opening hours, ring 349610 or visit our social media pages.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

 BookstartinDarlington
 Darlington Libraries
 Darlington Libraries



Prince – The Ultimate Experience 1999 – Tribute act. Monday 25, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £16.50.

The Johnny Cash Roadshow – Thursday 28, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tribute show. Tickets from £16.50.

Bon Jovi tribute – Friday 29, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £15. Doors 7.30pm.

By The Waters of Liverpool – Friday 29 & Saturday 30, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £16.50. 7.30pm with a 2pm matinee on Saturday.

The Breakfast Club – Saturday 30, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £10. Doors 7.30pm.

Darlington

ENJOY
DARLINGTON

October

Music Mind – Every Tuesday this month, 12.30pm, The Forum, Borough Road. Free entry.

Darlington Film Club – Tuesday 3, The Forum, Borough Road. Entry £3. Doors 7pm.

Heathers – Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7, Darlington Hippodrome. 7.30pm all days, 2pm Wednesday and Thursday, 2.30pm Saturday. Tickets from £15.50.

Open Mic Night – Wednesday 4, The Forum, Borough Road. Free entry. Doors 7.30pm.

Moonlight & Memories – Friday 6, South Park. St Teresa's Hospice walk in memory of lost loved ones. £15. From 6.30pm.

Skapones with guests – Friday 6, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets TBC. Doors 7.30pm.

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club – Saturday 7, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £10. Doors 7.30pm.

Tees Cottage Pumping Station Open Day & Gala – Saturday 7 & Sunday 8, 11am 5pm, Coniscliffe Road. Classic car gala. Adults £5, concessions £4. Children free with accompanying adults.

Jazz @ The Forum – Tuesday 10, The Forum, Borough Road. Entry £10. Doors 7pm.

Darlington R'n'B club with Dirt Road Band – Friday 13, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets TBC. Doors 7.30pm.

Nightshift – Saturday 14, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets TBC. Doors 7.30pm.

Sixties Gold – Saturday 14, 2pm and 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £17.50.



Frankenstein
– Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £16.50. 7.30pm all days. 2pm Thursday & 2.30pm Saturday.

Beyond Caring – Tuesday 17, 8pm, The Hullabaloo. Powerful new play about life in a care home. Tickets £16.

David Neil Crabtree album launch – Thursday 19, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets TBC. Doors 7.30pm.

Watercolours at Cockerton Library (adults) – Friday 20, 11am 12:30pm, Cockerton Library. Entry £5 per person. Booking required via Eventbrite.

Smoove & Turrell – Friday 20, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £23. Doors 7.30pm.

A Celebration of Father Ted – Friday 20 & Saturday 21, 8pm, Hipp @ The Hullabaloo. Tickets from £15.50.

Hilarity Bites with Markus Birdman – Thursday 26, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £12. Doors 7.30pm.

STEAM Workshop 6+ Monday 30, 1:30 2:30pm, Darlington Library. Entry £2 per child, recommended for ages 6+. Booking required via Eventbrite.

STEAM Workshop 11+ – Monday 30, 3 4pm, Darlington Library. Entry £2 per child, recommended for ages 11+. Booking required via Eventbrite.



The Killerz Halloween Show – Saturday 28, The Forum, Borough Road. Tickets £14. Doors 7pm.

Trick or Treat Baby Rhymetime Special – Monday 30, 9.30 10.30am Darlington Library and Thursday 2 Nov, 9.30 10.30am Cockerton Library. Entry £3.50 per child, recommended for ages 0 1. Booking required via Eventbrite.

Trick or Treat 1-4 Years Rhymetime Special – Monday 30, 11am noon Darlington Library and Thursday 2 Nov, 11am noon Cockerton Library. Entry £3.50 per child, recommended for ages 1 4. Booking required via Eventbrite.

Wednesday Addams' Spooky Party Tuesday 31, 11am noon Cockerton Library and 1.30 2.30pm Darlington Library, Crown Street. Entry £5 per child, recommended for ages 3+. Booking required via Eventbrite.

November

The Lightbulb Princess Show Wednesday, 1, 11am noon and 1.30 2.30pm, Darlington Library, Crown Street. Entry £5 per person, recommended for ages 4+ and families. Booking required via Eventbrite.

Contacts

Head of Steam visit
www.headofsteam.co.uk call 405543 or email
headofsteam@darlington.gov.uk

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

Theatre 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

Win panto tickets!



Mirror, mirror on the wall, don't miss the fairest pantomime of them all!

Pop and musical theatre star Gareth Gates will headline the family Christmas spectacular Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Darlington Hippodrome. Gareth as the Prince will be joined by The Chase's Jenny Ryan as the Wicked Queen and the hilarious Josh Benson as Muddles.

Gareth Gates rose to stardom in 2002 as runner-up in the UK's first Pop Idol. He has sold more than 3.5 million records in the UK and has performed on stage in Les Misérables, Legally Blonde, Loserville, and The Spongebob Musical.

Best known as the Vixen on ITV's The Chase, Jenny Ryan is a professional quizzier and general knowledge expert and is also a regular guest on Fighting Talk on BBC Radio 5 Live.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs will be brought to life with an abundance of comedy, sensational song and dance numbers, fabulous costumes and stunning scenery. Throw in a magical mirror, the magnificent seven and plenty of audience participation and you have the perfect recipe for a glittering festive treat for all ages.

Book your tickets now or you won't be able to look yourself in the mirror!

Call the box office on 405405 or visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

COMPETITION

To win four tickets to the Sunday 10 December, 5.30pm performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at Darlington Hippodrome please answer this simple question:

In ITV's The Chase, Jenny Ryan's nickname is:

- A** The Beast
- B** The Vixen
- C** The Governess

To enter, send your name, address and contact details, along with your answer, to editor@onedarlington.org.uk or post to Communications, Room 106, Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT. Entries must be received by 31 October. Terms and conditions apply.

Learning & Skills Darlington

FREE COURSES FOR 16-18 YEAR OLDS

Learning & Skills Darlington provides Pre-Employment and Pre-Apprenticeship courses all year round to 16-18 year-olds across Darlington and the Tees Valley, enabling them to develop their personal, social and employability skills and progression into higher level Diplomas and Apprenticeships. There are also many opportunities for work experience, educational visits, and days out too! No entry requirements are needed!

FREE ADULT MATHS, ENGLISH AND ICT QUALIFICATIONS

Are you aged 19+ and do you need an English, maths, or ICT qualification to progress at work, assist with your studies or to help you find employment? **STUDY WITH LEARNING & SKILLS FOR FREE!** 2 to 3 hours classes per week / online and classroom based sessions / accredited qualifications / free from start to finish.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Becoming an apprentice is easy! Employers across the Tees Valley and surrounding areas are looking to employ new apprentices across a variety of industries and sectors. **EMPLOYERS NEED YOU!** Apprenticeships allow you to earn whilst you learn. You will be paid at least the Apprenticeship National Minimum Wage as you develop knowledge, skills and behaviours, through high quality on and off the job training. There's no upper age limit either, anyone 16+ can apply. What are you waiting for? View local apprenticeship vacancies today! Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/apprenticeships

**SIGN
UP
NOW!**

CALL 405601 TEXT 07932 869325

EMAIL I&s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

 [@DarlingtonL_S](https://twitter.com/DarlingtonL_S)

 [DarlingtonL_S](https://www.instagram.com/DarlingtonL_S)

 Learning & Skills

 07932 869325

Learning & Skills



Making the world of difference to children



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Chris and David from the 4Kids team, with Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen

“Mum and dad are shouting less. I enjoy coming to C: The Box, you just get to enjoy yourself.”

A team set up to help children affected by domestic violence is making a real difference to families across the town.

The 4Kids team was set up in 2020 as a collaborative project between the council and Durham Constabulary in response to an increase in the number of children being taken into care.

Part of the children's initial advice team, it works to reduce the number of repeat domestic abuse incidents, reduce adverse childhood experiences and the long-term harm caused by domestic abuse. The team also works with those responsible for domestic abuse and supports them to tackle the root causes of the behaviour.

Chris Horner and David Collingwood from the team visit families at home soon after there has been a police report of domestic abuse. They speak to parents and children about what is happening in the home, discuss the incident that led to the police being called as well as other issues facing the family.

Chris and David then work with partners including Harbour, Durham Agency Against Crime, adult mental health services, housing services and schools, to ensure everyone in the family gets the bespoke support they need.

Particular attention is given to support children and young people in the family, both by working with schools and referring to programmes such as C: The Box – which is a safe space for children to meet and have fun.

By working with schools, the team ensure children are engaged and have a voice in the process. Schools often report that a child's attendance has improved as a result of the team's work and there have also been improvements in behaviour and engagement.

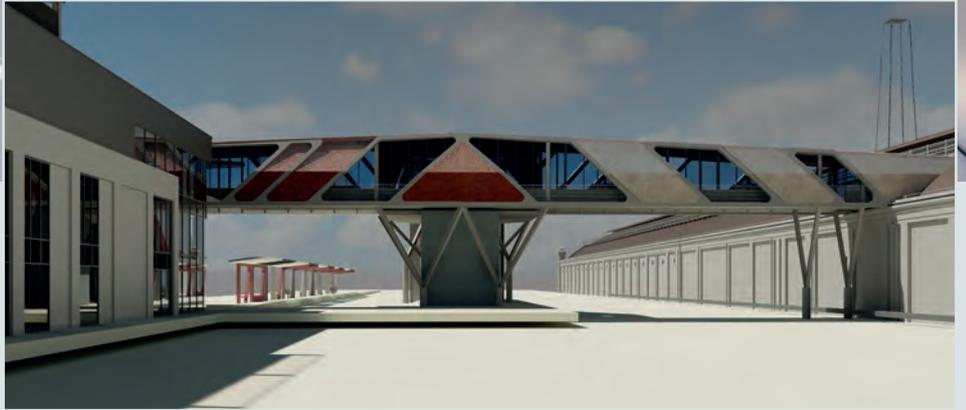
The 4Kids team stay in touch with the family to monitor their progress and help overcome any problems that come up.

In the three years since 4Kids was set up it has had a big impact. Chris and David have worked with 110 families and 230 children. The number of repeat domestic abuse incidents within 15 months has fallen from 90 per cent to 41 per cent and in 59 per cent of cases there have been no more domestic abuse incidents, compared to just 10 per cent before 4Kids started.

David said: “Many parents tell us they would not have sought support themselves because they did not know what was available, whether they would be eligible, or how to access services. Some families admit they may not have made a call if they were just given a phone number so our direct approach is really appreciated.”

Chris added: “We can help families with a wide range of issues including substance abuse, financial pressures and physical and mental health. By helping people get to the root cause of their problems we can try to make family life more stable and reduce the harm caused to children.”

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child please call 406222 during office hours. In an emergency call 999.



TEES VALLEY

New Images of Darlington Station Revamp as First Steel Lifted In

Fresh images have shown how Darlington Station's transformation will include cutting-edge stairways and a state-of-the-art entrance hall.

The £150million overhaul will include two new platforms on the Eastern side of the station, and a new car park, when complete in 2025.

Engineers have revealed new imagery including a striking new walkway route via the roof arches of the

station on its East side, as well as improvements to the iconic Victorian station building.

The first steel, from British Steel, has now also been put in place with help from supply chain partners Hambleton Steel Ltd after the foundations were dug in June.

This steel will form part of the new multi-storey car park, transport interchange and gateway entrance

connected to Central Park. Once finished, there will be secure parking for more than 600 cars with disabled bays and electric car charging points available.

Within the station, two new platforms will accommodate current services and improve rail connections both within the Tees Valley and beyond via the East Coast Main Line.

The station project has been primed with £33million from the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen alongside more than £100million in Government funding so far.

The project is seeing Network Rail, LNER, the Department for Transport and Darlington Borough Council all play a role alongside main contractors BAM and Willmott Dixon.

The overhaul is still on track to be complete in time for the 2025 Stockton and Darlington Railway bicentennial celebrations.



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 RYANAIR

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Young people involved in the Staying Close project, with council staff and Nick Wallis, cabinet member for children and young people.

Project aims to support young care leavers



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

A pilot project has been launched offering extra support for young people leaving care in Darlington.

Staying Close is a government-backed initiative designed to support young people as they leave care and move into semi-independent accommodation or an independent tenancy.

Young people in the Staying Close programme have access to a named support worker, who can offer one-to-one guidance, including at weekends.

Other benefits of Staying Close include:

- access to a package of support for the young person's emotional, mental and physical health, including 24-hour access and face-to-face sessions
- a Max Card giving access to activities at a reduced rate

- support to access accommodation and develop independence skills
- support from a lifelong links coordinator who can help them reconnect with family members or friends they may have lost contact with to build lasting connections.

Young people also get the chance to meet others who have been in care, including at support groups and organised activities.

Many care leavers report experiencing a 'cliff-edge' effect when they leave care, as they do not feel equipped to deal with the challenges of living independently.

The Staying Close project aims to address that, and those involved with the project are confident it will result in some great outcomes for our young people.

School Uniform Scheme

Queen Street Shopping Centre



**OPEN Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri 9am-noon
Thurs 12.30-3.30pm**

We need donations of polo shirts, skirts, jumpers, cardigans, blazers, coats, shoes, ties and any other school items.

Donation Points

School Uniform Exchange Shop - Queen Street

Donation Boxes - Queen Street and The Cornmill

In a Spin - 367 North Rd - Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm & Sat 8.30am-12.30pm

Cockerton Club - Donation box outside

Firthmoor Community Centre - During opening times

Eastbourne Hub - During opening times



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



THE FACTS about homelessness and begging

You see someone begging in the street and your first thought is that they're homeless. However, that's often not the case and giving them money is not always the best way to help. Here we look at some of the facts around homelessness and begging.



FACT

The figures do change, but there's usually no more than two people sleeping rough in town at any given time.

FACT

Some rough sleepers or homeless people may have declined help for a variety of reasons. No one needs to sleep rough in Darlington as there is support for everyone. We work closely with partners and charities to offer support and/or accommodation to those who need it.

FACT

Those who beg are rarely homeless. People beg for a variety of reasons including to feed an addiction, which is why it's better to donate to a charity that offers help rather than give cash to someone on the street.

How can I help?

If you want to help tackle homelessness and rough sleeping

- Don't give cash to people on the street
- Encourage them to seek help from the council or a charity
- Make a donation to the Have a Heart, Give Smart campaign to ensure help and support goes to those who need it.

Let us know if you're concerned about someone on the streets

- **Housing Options Team** – call 405333 or email housingoptions@darlington.gov.uk (during office hours)
- **StreetLink** – report online at www.streetlink.org.uk
- **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

Have a Heart
GIVE SMART

 **DARLINGTON**
Borough Council

 **700 Club**



Street Link



Sally Hutchinson and Dr Najj El Arabi

Patients failing to turn up for GP appointments are costing the NHS around £150,000 a year in Darlington alone, it has been revealed.

An analysis by the Darlington Primary Care Network (PCN), which incorporates 11 practices, has shown that the number of did not attend (DNAs) is having an “increasingly serious impact” on under-pressure services.

The PCN has now issued an impassioned plea to patients to be more aware of the problems caused, with one experienced practice manager describing it as a “shocking waste of time and money”.

Neasham Road Surgery practice manager, Sally Hutchinson, who conducted a survey of Darlington practices, said: “We have seen demand for GP appointments in the town double since the COVID pandemic, and that means DNAs are having a bigger knock-on effect than ever.

“People who don’t turn up are not only wasting money that the NHS desperately needs, but they are blocking appointments for other people who are waiting to be seen. We even have some patients who don’t turn up for multiple appointments.”

Sally says she is ‘flabbergasted’ by the reasons given for failing to keep appointments, with frequent

“ People who don’t turn up are not only wasting money... they are blocking appointments for other people... ”

excuses including ‘I slept in’ and ‘I forgot’.

The annual cost of £150,000 in Darlington is based on time wasted for GPs, nurse practitioners, nurses and health care assistants. Had it not been for those failing to turn up, there could have been 678 more GP appointments, 270 more appointments with nurse practitioners, 1,008 with nurses, and 638 with health care assistants.

“This is one North-East town alone, so if that’s multiplied across the country, we are talking about a colossal amount of money being flushed down the pan,” added Sally, who has worked for the NHS since she was 17.

GP practices within Darlington Primary Care Network have DNA policies which result in patients being sent warning letters if they fail to attend on a certain number of occasions. If they continue to miss appointments, they can be removed from the list.

In some cases, involving repeat offenders, patients have been restricted to booking appointments on the day, but that causes extra work for staff.

“All we are asking is for some understanding and help from patients to show a greater appreciation of the pressures, and how they are adding to those pressures if they block the system,” said Sally.

Future Pathways scheme success



Happy, lovely and brilliant are just some of the words used by young people to describe an innovative scheme aimed at preventing anti-social behaviour.

The Future Pathways scheme is working with the Safer Streets programme, funded by the government which aims to tackle anti-social behaviour and make people feel safe in their communities.

Future Pathways staff spend time with young people who have been identified, by civic enforcement officers or the police, as being at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour. The young people have taken part in a variety of sports and activities to encourage them to look to a brighter future, develop self esteem and life skills.

Billy's mum wanted him to get involved as his behaviour deteriorated at home and in the community.

She said: "Since he signed up he hasn't been involved in any anti-social behaviour for around seven months and his attitude has totally changed. "The staff have been fantastic and an inspiration

to him. They have given him someone to look up to and he has built trust with them so he can see there is another way."

Billy has been so inspired he now wants to get an apprenticeship with Future Pathways when he is older.

"I love everything about it. The staff really listen to me. I like that I get to do different activities and it's something to look forward to each week."

Alice Gamble from Future Pathways said: "It is all about early prevention. We engage young people as a diversion from anti-social behaviour and it gives us a chance to talk to them about a range of issues such as drugs, alcohol and knife crime in an informal setting.

"A lot of young people involved in this behaviour don't have the opportunity to participate in positive activity or have good relationships with professionals. The programme allows children and young people to see there is an alternative pathway they can take to support a brighter future.

"It has been a great success with civic enforcement officers telling us they haven't seen these children in vulnerable situations since they have been on the scheme."

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ABOUT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour blights communities and can cause serious harm and distress. By reporting anti-social behaviour you can help officers from the police and the council target resources and make a difference.

Anti-social behaviour is any persistent behaviour that causes harm, distress or harassment.

THIS INCLUDES:

**STREET DRINKING • ROWDY BEHAVIOUR • HARASSMENT
INAPPROPRIATE USE OF VEHICLES, INCLUDING MOTORBIKES**

Report anti-social behaviour online and via this QR code
or by calling the police non-emergency number 101
or the council on 406999



www.darlington.gov.uk/asb

SCAN QR CODE
TO FIND OUT MORE



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Tickets please: why buses matter

If you're looking for a convenient, affordable and eco-friendly way of getting from A to B, just hop on the bus!

Plenty of people rely on public transport to get around – whether you're heading off to work, hospital appointments or simply catching a bus to the shops.

Whether you use the bus regularly or just on the odd occasion, there's no doubt they are a vital public service and help us all get around.

Bus services outside London have been run privately since the mid-1980s. Since then, councils have had a lot less control over routes, timetables and fares.

Those decisions are taken by private bus companies – in Darlington this is mainly Arriva.

Whilst Arriva has invested in new buses and better ticketing, the number of people using buses has been declining steadily for the last 20 years, meaning some routes have become unprofitable for Arriva to run, resulting in reduced frequencies and, in some cases, routes being scrapped altogether.

Only when a service is cut, can the local transport authority, which for us is the Tees Valley Combined Authority, step in to subsidise a service to keep it running. This happened recently when Arriva made some significant cuts to its network.

This is not just a Darlington or Tees Valley issue – according to the Campaign for Better Transport,

more than a quarter of English bus services have been lost in the last decade.

The model for funding bus services is based on what comes in from passengers' fares being more than what it costs to run the service, thereby making it profitable for the bus company.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit passenger numbers very hard and they have still not recovered. At the same time, the costs of fuel and wages has gone up significantly, so buses have become less cost-effective to run. This is why there have been so many cuts lately and why things need to change.

Council leader Steve Harker said: "People deserve a good, reliable public transport system. A thriving bus service is a key component in helping us to achieve our aim of lowering Darlington's carbon emissions in the years ahead. We'd like to see a new approach to how bus services are funded, but this will take time – and time isn't necessarily on our side."

There is some good news - since January, bus fares in England and this has recently been capped at £2 by the government, which has recently been extended until the end of October. The cap will rise to £2.50 in November for another 12 months, after which prices will be reviewed again.

Buses are frequent, punctual, and affordable. So next time you're heading to work, meeting up with friends, or running a few errands, why not leave the car at home and catch the bus?

Head to [traveline.info](https://www.traveline.info) to plan your next journey!





PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington



 01325 711711

Dear Constituent,

As your Member of Parliament, I am here to represent you and the community of Darlington.

I believe it is extremely important to be as accessible as possible in order to be able to best help with any problems or concerns that my constituents have. As such I hold weekly advice surgeries on an appointments basis, this approach allows me to provide immediate help and ensures that my constituents do not have to rush through their concerns.

I often make a start on casework matters prior to an appointment to try and resolve concerns quickly, this also allows me to seek any appropriate advice or obtain clarification on technical points, in advance of meeting. Please do get in touch if you need any help, support or advice.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibson MP
Member of Parliament for Darlington



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Vintage finds in

Pre-loved, vintage, second hand, new to you – the vintage and preloved market is a growing retail sector and Darlington has a few hidden gems just waiting to be discovered.

IT'S SECOND HAND SEPTEMBER

– a campaign encouraging everyone to only buy second hand items this month so it's the perfect time to see what's on offer!



Rachel Parry



OXFAM is the national charity spearheading Second Hand September, which aims to reduce the amount of clothes that go to landfill and tackle the environmental impact of making and buying new clothes.

Rachel Parry, manager of Oxfam on Skinnergate, said: “We’ve seen an increase year on year in our business which is a result of the cost-of-living crisis but also the growing move towards becoming more ethical and sustainable in our shopping choices. The old stigma behind used and second hand clothing and other items is gone as people seek out cheaper and more environmentally friendly options.

“We sell a wide range of used books, LPs CDs, clothes, including a vintage selection alongside a separate bridal and occasion wear section. There are even new gift items, housewares and new clothing available thanks to corporate donations.

“We’re always on the lookout for volunteer helpers, simply pop in and ask for me or chat to the volunteers in the store.”

CHECK OUT THE COUNCIL'S ZERO WASTE MAP – an interactive map of local businesses who will

See page 5 for more details, or visit

the town centre



Gemma Whiteley



Lisa Crosby

THE STORK & THEREAFTER opened just over 11 months ago in Queen Street Shopping Centre. The brainchild of former social worker and new mum Gemma Whiteley, the shop offers a selling service for anyone who has mid to high end baby and childrenswear, toys and equipment they no longer need.

Gemma said: "I needed a change after having my family and spotted a gap in the market for preloved babywear and equipment. I'd used various online selling apps to sell my own baby stuff but felt the personal touch was missing and it wasn't always an easy process.

"I am passionate about the environment, face to face selling and independent business and this ticks all the boxes. My service takes all the hassle out of selling your baby stuff.

"I've now expanded into rentals for occasion wear with high end items that can be worn by youngsters for weddings and other big events. I also stock locally made new items. At least 50% of the selling price goes back to the seller, more with bigger items, making it an easy way to make a bit extra on your preloved stuff."

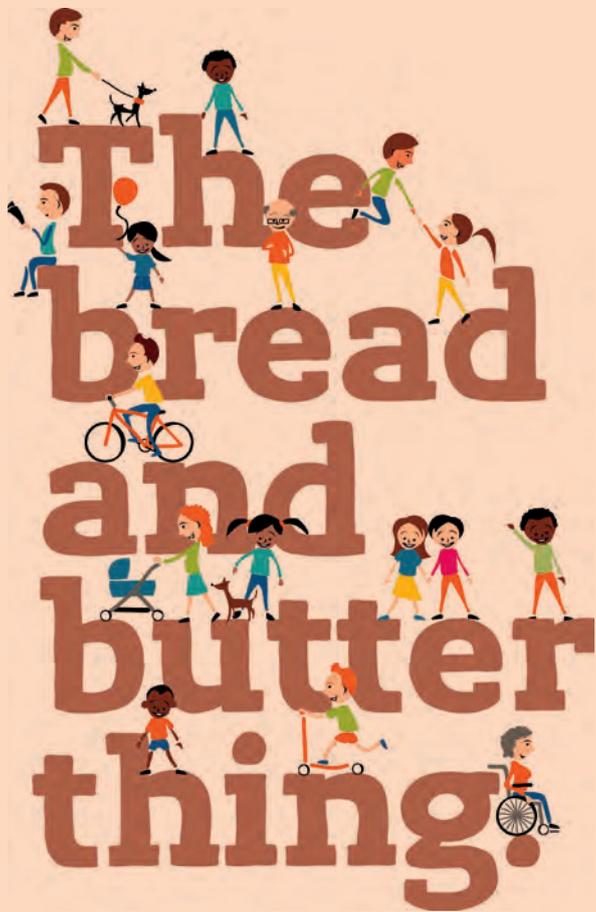
HOPE AND GLORY on Post House Wynd is a unique store with a great vintage vibe. There's a wide range of vintage gear from ladies' and men's fashions to quirky accessories.

Proceeds from all sales helps to fund community projects organised by Darlington Vineyard Church.

Lisa Crosby, who runs the store explains: "I left the corporate world 14 years ago and travelled around South East Asia with my husband Phil. I saw at first hand the impact that fast fashion has on women who work in unsafe conditions in sweat shops to fill our shops with cheap and disposable fashion. The used clothes and items we sell means less going to landfill and more help for our local community.

"Our Vineyard Café, also on Post House Wynd, has given employment to two people and is doing well. We aim to give back to the community. It doesn't matter if people aren't religious, we are there for the good of the community and welcome everyone who needs help – even if it's just to pop in and have a chat." For more info email info@darlingtonvineyard.church

help you reduce, reuse and recycle. The map forms part of our aim to become carbon neutral by 2040. Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable



Since its launch in March 2020, thousands of people have benefited from The Bread and Butter Thing, a charity that aims to reduce food waste by offering groceries for a fraction of supermarket prices. Here's the story of its success so far.

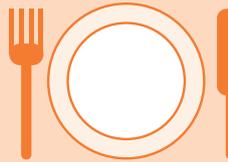
* March 2020 to May 2023



12,756
hours of volunteering completed



59,993
sets of groceries sold



1,856,187
meals provided



£1,499,825
saved by customers

For more information, visit www.breadandbutterthing.org

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email pfis@darlington.gov.uk
or call Darlington Families Information Team on
406222 (option 7)



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Top prize for Maisie

A catchy phrase and art skills helped ten-year-old Maisie Ward scoop the top prize in our schools' road safety competition. The St. Bede's pupil was awarded a certificate and a £50 voucher by the Mayor of Darlington Jan Cossins.

More than 8,000 primary school pupils were given a road safety booklet with a blank cover and asked to create a design with a road safety message to fill the space. Maisie's design 'Save a life, not time! Park on the line, risk a fine!' won top prize.

If you are driving your child to school, please remember:

- park outside of the yellow zig zag lines near the school
- drive slowly and carefully, especially around pick up and drop off times
- always stop for a school crossing patrol when asked
- take care when dropping your child off and encourage them to get out of the car on the pavement side
- be considerate to people who live near schools, particularly when parking

- consider alternatives to driving such as walking or cycling.

Large banners warning drivers not to park on the zig zags have been sent to schools as well as a road safety presentation for assemblies.

We are also asking drivers not to leave their engines idling when at the school gates. See page 2 for more details.



Maisie with Mayor of Darlington Jan Cossins

Help to BEAT the benefits maze

Does your child have disabilities? It's important to check what benefits you are entitled to – even if your child hasn't had a formal diagnosis.

The benefit entitlement action team (BEAT) at Citizens Advice Darlington, Redcar and Cleveland, is on hand to help you check what you are eligible for and advise you on your situation and the support available.

Mary (not her real name) is a single parent who works full time and has two children. She contacted the BEAT service for help because she was struggling to make ends meet.

Her son gets extra help at school and has significant learning difficulties. He is also going through assessment for suspected neurodiversity. Mary had never asked for help before as she thought, as her son hadn't had a formal diagnosis, she wouldn't be entitled to anything.

The BEAT team met Mary at their Corporation Road community outreach hub and carried out a check on her benefits.

They discovered she was entitled to Disability Living Allowance (DLA) based on her son's care needs and they helped her complete the form to apply.

They also advised her that getting DLA would entitle her to Universal Credit to top up her wages as she met the disabled child and carers requirements.

Thanks to BEAT's help, Mary now receives around £600 more per month!

For more information on BEAT in Darlington and to use their eligibility calculators, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk and search 'BEAT' or email beat@citizensadvice.org.uk

Drop in sessions are held at the Citizens Advice office in the Core building, Church Row in the town centre, 10am-noon, Monday to Friday. Outreach sessions in venues across the town are detailed on the website.

Speaking up to support care leavers



Young care leavers with campaigner Terry Galloway, members of children's services staff, Cllr Nick Wallis and Darlington Mayor Jan Cossins



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Young people who have spent time in care will have extra protection, after councillors vowed to tackle discrimination, stigma and prejudice.

Experience of care is now considered a local protected characteristic, meaning people in Darlington who fall into this category can now expect additional legal protections.

The council will also write to the government, calling for care experience to be treated as a protected characteristic nationally. This would protect people who have been in care against discrimination in the same way as the law protects against factors such as age, race, religion and sexual orientation.

Nick Wallis, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Cared-for and care experienced people sadly face discrimination every day.

"The council has a duty to put the needs of people who are care experienced at the heart of its decision making, so I'm delighted this motion to treat care experience as a local protected characteristic has been passed."

Care leaver Jordan, who spoke at the meeting where councillors debated the proposal, said: "I think this is going to bring a lot of education for people, not just locally but on a national level as well.

"It will help people who have been in care to get jobs and get into higher education. We know people who are care leavers are less likely to go into higher education, so I think this will definitely help us to speak out and be heard."

The council has also agreed to formally call upon other organisations it partners or contracts with to treat care experience as a local protected characteristic, until such time as it may be formally introduced into law.

Councillors also agreed that the council should:

- Proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies;
- Explore ways to provide opportunities for young people with care experience to find work experience;
- Write to local MPs to ask for their support.

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