

Done Darlington

November 2023



Meet the panto cast!

Pages 4-5

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Learning & Skills

CALL 405601 TEXT 07932 869325



EMAIL I&s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

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

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I'm enjoying
FREE
childcare
...is your 2
year old?

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



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Welcome to One Darlington

Welcome to the November edition of One Darlington.

I'm Sam Hutchinson, a personal assistant (PA) support officer with the council. I've worked here for over two years now, which has flown by!

My role involves providing support to the personal assistants in the PA network, as well as the council's management across a range of service areas.

This includes arranging meetings, booking any travel needed, as well as organising the chief officers board meetings, compiling agendas and organising reports.

I enjoy my job, because no two days are the same and a lot of the tasks I carry out are varied, which allows me to learn and develop my skills further.

I have lived in Darlington all my life and have grown up here. I am lucky enough to say that I have a lot of family in Darlington.

It is nice to see Darlington grow and change over the many years I have lived here and I am looking forward to a lot of the new developments being completed to welcome more people to our lovely town.

Christmas is just around the corner, and we have lots of festive features in this issue, including our interviews with Gareth Gates, Jenny Ryan and the rest of the panto cast on pages 4-5.

Check out pages 22-23 for details of the Christmas lights switch on and information about all the other events that are coming up in the next few weeks.

The town centre always has a nice buzz to it, but never more so than at this time of year.

Did you know there are more than 800 businesses trading in the town centre? But there's always scope for more. Turn to pages 34-35 to meet some of our fabulous independent businesses.

I hope you enjoy this edition, and wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.



Sam Hutchinson, PA support officer

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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 January. If you haven't received your copy by mid-January, please call 0800 160 1552.

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

Curtain rises on fe

Pantomime will be making a magical return to Darlington Hippodrome this festive season, with pop and musical theatre star Gareth Gates headlining Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, playing the Prince.

Gareth will be joined by quizzer Jenny Ryan from The Chase as The Wicked Queen. Comic Josh Benson will delight as Muddles, with Jamie Jones as Mrs Nelly Nightnurse and Marina Lawrence-Mahrra in the title role completing the main cast.

Heather Tarran-Jones, programming and development director at Darlington Hippodrome, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have Gareth, Jenny, Josh, Marina and Jamie with us, and I'm sure they will be a great hit with audiences of all ages."

We caught up with the cast as they enjoyed a warm welcome to the North East at Redworth Hall Hotel, posing for pictures in the beautiful Baronial Hall of the 17th Century Jacobean Manor House.



GARETH GATES as the Prince

"I've been in the North East lots over the years for various things. I recently spent time in Newcastle for SpongeBob The Musical. I find the further north you are, the better the audience. They're more raucous, more involved. It's great to be up north for Christmas!

"I've done a couple of shows at the Hippodrome previously, but haven't had the chance to spend a good length of time here, so I'm really looking forward to getting to know the area and the people a bit more.

"This is my 12th or 13th panto; I'm a bit of a seasoned pro at it now. I've played a prince many times before, it's a great role and Snow White is always a good show!"

JENNY RYAN as the Wicked Queen

"We've had a couple of family holidays in the North East, visiting the Alnwick area, but I've not spent a huge amount of time here. I'm excited to spend a month in Darlington and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells! I think it's a great opportunity to see the town at its very best, because it's Christmas. The lights are up, everyone's getting excited. I'm looking forward to getting out and about to experience the town, exploring and seeing what's going on!

"I've been chatting with the rest of the cast about finding a pub quiz to pop along to and trying to beat the locals! I need to bring my cast mates up to speed at general knowledge."



stive family panto



JAMIE JONES as Mrs Nelly Nightnurse

"I've got friends that have done panto here and said how great it is, but I'd never been to Darlington before, so I'm looking forward to performing at the amazing Darlington Hippodrome.

"With pantomime, it's such a well-oiled machine. We'll start rehearsing maybe ten days before, everybody will be on top of their game and we'll rattle through it. Hopefully it all comes together and produces a great show! The theatre becomes like a second home, more so than your digs where you're staying."

MARINA LAWRENCE-MAHARRA as Snow White

"From the direction I've had so far, my version of Snow White will be quite a traditional princess, but I wouldn't mind making her a bit quirky and funny! I've played princesses as an entertainer before, but not on stage. I've played Tiger Lily in panto, which isn't the princess role – she's a bit more feisty. I love it when kids come to watch the pantomimes and then see you at the stage door. It's really cute and kind of magical - that's what I'm looking forward to this year."



JOSH BENSON as Muddles

"A panto comic is certainly a role which falls nicely into my natural skillset – I'm daft! I'm like a Butlins red coat, with a bit more sarcasm. There's a wit to being daft and I find it a joy to mess about. I love it up here; it certainly fits my style as a comic, that northern humour - and people in the North East certainly know how to party!"



SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

runs from Friday 8 to Sunday 31 December.

Tickets are on sale now and early booking is advised. To book, visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call the box office on 405405.

Get ready to have your say in elections

In May next year, residents will go to the polls to elect a police and crime commissioner for the Durham Constabulary area and a mayor for the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The Elections Act 2022 introduced some new rules which will be in place for next year's elections. As at the local government elections earlier this year, you will need to show photo ID when voting at a polling station. Photo ID includes a passport or driving licence - a full list of suitable documents can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk and will be on your poll card.

Voters with disabilities will be given extra support at polling stations and anyone over the age of 18 can accompany a disabled voter at a polling station.

Other changes include:

- If you're applying for a postal vote or proxy vote, you will need to provide proof of your identity. You can apply online (details can be found on our website).
- If you vote by post, you currently have to refresh your signature every five years. This will be reduced to every three years, to be phased in from January 2024.
- Political parties and campaigners will no longer be permitted to handle postal votes, and you will only be allowed to hand in a maximum of six postal votes at a polling station. You will only be able to act as a proxy for up to four people, and of these, the maximum number who can be domestic electors (voters living in the UK) is two. These changes will come into force for elections from May 2024.

- It is anticipated that by January 2024, the 15-year limit on voting for British citizens living abroad will end. Any British citizen previously registered to vote in the UK, or who previously lived in the UK, will be able to register to vote, regardless of how long they've lived abroad. British citizens living abroad will no longer have to re-register as an overseas elector every year, this will change to every three years.
- The voting system in all elections for elected mayors, combined authority mayors and police and crime commissioners has changed from the supplementary vote system to the first past the post system.

For more information about forthcoming elections and changes in how you can vote visit www.darlington.gov.uk/elections

REMEMBER TO
1- Register to vote
2- Check my photo ID
3- Vote at a polling station!



Green flag flies again at George Dent

The hard work of youngsters and staff at George Dent Nursery School has been recognised with the Eco-Schools Green Flag being awarded for the second year running.

Pupils helped with a wide range of projects including a regular litter pick and recycling. They made empty crisp packets into survival blankets for the homeless, collected donations for their local food bank and made homes for birds and minibeasts.

Katie Taylor, Eco-Schools co-ordinator for George Dent Nursery, said: “The children have really enjoyed the different activities and learning about protecting the environment and how their actions can have an effect on climate change.”

Around 13 schools in Darlington are signed up as Eco-Schools. The programme provides a simple, seven-step framework that helps schools become more sustainable, and helps young people make a difference in their school, local community and beyond.



The children’s work will contribute to the council’s pledge to become carbon neutral by 2040. This pledge covers all service areas, and we want to encourage residents and businesses to join us on our journey towards a greener and more sustainable future.

More details are available on our new look webpage at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable



12 days of Christmas recycling

01

Plastic bottles

Please remove trigger sprays and pumps before recycling. Recycling one bottle saves enough energy to power a 60W bulb for six hours - that's a lot of Christmas sparkle!

02

Plastic chocolate tubs

If you have an annoying relative who puts the empty wrappers back in the tub make sure you empty them out before recycling

03

Aerosol cans

If everyone in the UK recycled one empty aerosol there would be enough energy saved to run a TV in 273,000 homes to catch all those Christmas specials!

04

Foil mince pie cases

Metal can be recycled again and again without losing quality. This includes mince pie cases and foil used in cooking (as long as it's clean)

05

Cans

Whether you're leaving Santa a beer or a refreshing soft drink don't forget to recycle the can! Recycling one can saves enough energy to power a vacuum cleaner for an hour.

06

Cardboard packaging

If you see more of the Amazon delivery driver than your own family you will no doubt have a mountain of cardboard to get rid of. Please remove tape and flatten boxes before recycling.

07

Glass

Glass is easy to recycle and can be turned into new products again and again. Please give glass bottles and jars a rinse first.

08

Christmas cards and envelopes

Remove any ribbons, bows, glitter or foil before recycling.

09

Cardboard tubes from wrapping paper and crackers

Resist the urge to bonk someone on the head and recycle it!

10

Advent calendar

Once you've opened the final door separate the cardboard and inner tray. Recycle the cardboard and put the plastic in your general rubbish bin.

11

Christmas trees

St Teresa's Hospice and the Rotary Club will be collecting Christmas trees for a donation on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 January. To book a collection visit www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk

12

We can't recycle...

Gift bags, decorations, plastic bags or dirty food containers or boxes. Throw them in your general rubbish bin.

Usual bin collection date

Revised bin collection date

Tuesday 26 December ➤ Wednesday 27 December

Wednesday 27 December ➤ Thursday 28 December

Thursday 28 December ➤ Friday 29 December

Friday 29 December ➤ Saturday 30 December

Monday 1 January ➤ Tuesday 2 January

Please make sure your bins are ready for collection at 7am as collection times may change. Garden waste collections will end the two weeks beginning Monday 4 December and will start again in April.

Look out for more details on social media and at www.darlington.gov.uk/gardenwaste



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Council staff with Sagnik Sakar, his classmates and teachers at South Park

A floral bed fit for a King!

In our July edition, we featured Sagnik Sakar, who was crowned the winner of our Coronation flower bed design competition.



The competition was part of our Northumbria in Bloom South Park entry and contributed to South Park being awarded gold in the best park category.

Sagnik, along with his classmates, teacher, and assistants visited South Park to see Sagnik's illustration transformed into a glorious flowerbed.

They were joined by our parks, horticultural, climate change and sustainability officers who chatted about the flowers and grasses that were used in the

design. They also talked about they keep the flower beds looking beautiful all summer and how, through nature, we can all help the planet.

Council leader Stephen Harker presented Sagnik with a Coronation Bear and a bee and bug hotel for his efforts, and his classmates all received seeds and a bee and bug hotel for the school.

We hope they all had a fabulous time and learned a little about nature from their visit!

Why not take a leaf out of the children's book and start gardening? It's a great way to be out in the fresh air and get some exercise - no matter how big your outdoor space is.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Celebrating the best of Darlington!



Cllr Amanda Riley, cabinet member for stronger communities, looks ahead to this month's Stronger Communities Awards

There's lots to look forward to in the next few weeks as we get nearer to Christmas, with the big switch on of the town centre lights on Sunday 19 November.

But of all the dates in my diary for this month, one of the engagements I'm most looking forward to is the Stronger Communities Awards, where we'll celebrate Darlington's communities, charities and entrepreneurs.

Throughout the summer, the public has had the chance to nominate friends, family members and businesses in a range of categories.

After much deliberation, the judges have announced the finalists in each category. They have been invited to an awards ceremony on Friday 17 November, where the winners will be announced.

It promises to be an inspiring, uplifting evening – I'm really looking forward to it!



Some of the winners from last year's Stronger Communities awards

The nominations are...

Academic Excellence

- Will Watt
- Caitlyn Pople
- Paul Davison

Bringing Success to Darlington

- Acorn Dairy
- Verve Group
- NCB Hazcheck

Business Contribution to the Community

- Hinsons Security
- Cummins
- Darlington Building Society

Contribution to the Arts

- Darlington Academy of Performing Arts
- Stephen Gill
- Red Hall Dance Company
- Voices of Darlington

Contribution to the Community

- N-Gage Learning Group
- Friends of the Denes
- Haughton Ladies Who Knit

Contribution to the Environment

- Glennis Irish
- Jeff Bruce
- Redde Northgate

Contribution to Sport

- England Youth Kettlebell Team
- FC Darlington Locomotives
- Darlington Harriers & AC

Exceptional Care

- Donna Wright
- Family Help
- Professor Ahmed Fuat

Exceptional Volunteer

- The Uniform Shop
- The Gateway Club
- Number 40
- Cheryl Ellis
- Shelagh Blanchard
- Clare Foster
- John and Joan Thompson

Exceptional Young Volunteer

- Lucy McLachlan
- Carmel College School of Sanctuary Student Ambassadors
- Chloe Liddle

Independent Town Centre Business of the Year

- Saxosoul Records
- Leggs
- Echo 3

Performance in Sport

- Jordan Murphy
- Hizbullah Maroff
- Tinashe Kushamba

Public Service Hero

- PC Paul Foley
- Michelle Rimmer
- Lucy Hatch

Vocational Excellence

- Sarah Mortley
- AnnMarie Bainbridge
- Jamellia Greenhough-Lee



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

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

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 20 November and 18 December, 5-6pm. **David Beckett (L)** Tel: 07982 847837. West Park Academy, Wednesday 6 December and 3 January, 6-7pm. **Scott Durham (C)** Tel: 07805 505156. The Brinkburn, Tuesday 5 December, 7-8pm and The White Heifer that Travelled, Tuesday 2 January, 7-8pm.

COCKERTON

Jan Cossins (L) Tel: 241124; **Jim Garner (L)** Tel: 241384; **Neil Johnson (L)** Tel: 07504 227351. Cockerton Methodist Church, Friday 10 November and 8 December, 10-11am.

COLLEGE

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

EASTBOURNE

Joe Dillon (L) Tel: 07939 221166. Pilmoor Green Community Centre, Monday 27 November, 6-7pm. **Jonathan Dulston (C)** Tel: 07775 555251. The Wheatsheaf, Yarm Road, Friday 1 December, 5-6pm and Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 10 January, 3-4pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 15 November and 20 December, 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 December, 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 2 December and 6 January, 10-11am.

HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Paul Crudass (C) Tel: 374537; **Gerald Lee (C)** Tel: 314622. Summerhouse Village Hall, Saturday 2 December, 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Kate Mammolotti (G) Tel: 07949 222733; **Thomas Robinson (G)** Tel: 07735 310357. Salutation Hall, Monday 27 November, 6-7pm.

HURWORTH

Lorraine Tostevin (C) Tel: 333382. **Paul Walters (C)** Tel: 722097. By appointment only on 5 December, 5.30-6.30pm.

MOWDEN

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482; **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106. Mowden Junior School, Monday 4 December and 8 January, 6.30-7.30pm.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998; **Sonia Kane (L)** Tel: 486754. Corporation Road School Community Hub, Monday 4 December, 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 13 December and 10 January, 6-7pm; The Well, Wednesday 22 November and 27 December, 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 1 December and 5 January, 6-7pm; St Columba's Church, Tuesday 14 November, 12 December and 9 January, 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 6 December and 10 January, 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Mandy Porter (L) Tel: 07962 363855; **Amanda Riley (L)** Tel: 07764 759554. Heathfield Primary School, Thursday 16 November, 3.30-4.30pm; Red Hall Community Centre, Thursday 14 December 5-6pm.

SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Deborah Laing (C) Tel: 07747 863297; **Colin Pease (C)** Tel: 07738 422776. Middleton St George Cricket Club, Tuesday 28 November, 7-8pm. **Yvonne Renton (I)** Tel: 07486 617516.

STEPHENSON

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

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07554 645651; **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. The Shuttle & Loom, Saturday 25 November, 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 792600 or email mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

CLUBS AND COM

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



Lung cancer group celebrates 20 years

November marks Lung Cancer Awareness month – help and support is available all year round from the Darlington and Bishop Auckland Lung Cancer Support Group which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. At the afternoon tea celebration, special thanks were given to Karen Capenhurst, lead lung cancer nurse at Darlington who helped set up the group and who has worked tirelessly to ensure it runs effectively and provides support to all who attend.

Anyone who has been affected by lung cancer in the Darlington and Bishop Auckland areas, including patients, carers and family members, is welcome. The group is held in Darlington, for details call Sophie Hope/ Karen Capenhurst on 743046/ 743425 or email k.capenhurst@nhs.net

Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Darlington and Simpson Rolling Mills Club, Longfield Road. Its late flower show will take place on Saturday 11 November, noon–3.30pm at St. Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, North Road. Free entry, refreshments available. Email darlingtoncandd@talktalk.net for more details.

Salter's Lane Community Garden Association

is a small but growing group of volunteers who manage and maintain Salter's Community Garden. Search for them on Facebook or email salterscommunity@outlook.com for details.

Upcyclers Group Let's Craft

meets at Middleton St. George Community Centre on Thursdays, 6-7pm, a craft group for people who care about the planet. Bring a project or join in the weekly theme, email msg.upcyclers@gmail.com

NEW
Walking Netball

Starting 9th Nov
10.30 - 11.30-am

Skerne Park Youth and
Community Centre
DL1 5AN

6 WEEK Programme
weeks 1 & 2
are FREE

Contact
Tracy.Reid@englandnetball.co.uk
07545924956 for INFO

EN ENGLAND NETBALL

Get on the ball at Skerne Park Youth and Community Centre

- walking netball starting Thursday 9 November, 10.30-11.30am, a six-week programme, first two weeks free. Call Tracy Reid 0754592 4956 or email tracy.reid@englandnetball.co.uk

There's something going on every day at the centre, from football training, bingo sessions, free basketball, first aid training and much more. Pop along to find out more or email pharman36@googlemail.com Plus, the Learning & Skills team delivers courses at the centre, call 405601 to find out more.





Talking Out The Trash – a small volunteer litter picking group which meets every two weeks, usually on a Friday afternoon.

Group organiser, Eddie Jones, said: “Since we started, we’ve removed over 1,000 bags of litter from our streets, parks, and rivers, but it’s not just about the trash. From little ones aged five to wiser ones at 79, our group brings together local residents, all united in their love for the community and environment.

“As we walk and pick, we’re encouraging physical activity, good news when you consider that almost 70% of us don’t hit the recommended 150 minutes of exercise per week. As we bond over picking, we help combat the loneliness many feel today.”

To join the group and for updates on the next litter pick, register at www.ejayfit.com/trash or email eddie@ejayfit.com

The group is supported with equipment through our Street Champions. For more details check out Facebook, call the ranger team on 406719 or email countryside@darlington.gov.uk

Darlington Music Society is now in its 80th season and hosts the Brodsky Quartet at Central Hall, Dolphin Centre on Saturday 25 November, 7pm, with a free pre-concert talk at 6.15pm.

The society is keen to welcome new committee members and also sponsors. More details and ticket sales are at www.darlingtonmusicsociety.org.uk

Air Cadets host a parade night Monday and Friday, 7-9.30pm at Neasham Road Armoury.

There are currently 50 cadets aged between 12 and 20 years and the squadron continues to grow. They have an active team of volunteers who offer support as instructors or committee members.

They offer cadets fire range experience, science, IT and engineering skills training and are raising money towards flight simulator equipment.

Anyone who wants to get involved with volunteering, fundraising or to join up, can contact adj.405@rafac.mod.gov.uk call 749760 or search on Facebook.

Darlington Mowden Park RFC hosts girls and ladies’ rugby sessions for a range of ages from school years 6 and 7 to ladies. Contact Gemma 07846991134, Rachael 07779570418 or Bobby 07548814239.

DARLINGTON MOWDEN PARK RFC
WOMEN & GIRLS SECTION

WOMEN & GIRLS RUGBY

U12 GIRLS (YEAR 6 & 7)
TRAINING THURSDAY 6PM-7.15PM & SUNDAY 1.30PM-3PM OR GAME

U14 GIRLS (YEAR 8 & 9)
TRAINING THURSDAY 6PM-7.15PM & SUNDAY 1.30PM-3PM OR GAME

U16 GIRLS (YEAR 10 & 11)
TRAINING THURSDAY 6PM-7.15PM & SUNDAY 1.30PM-3PM OR GAME

U18 GIRLS (YEAR 12 & 13)
TRAINING THURSDAY 6PM-7.15PM & SUNDAY 1.30PM-3PM OR GAME

LADIES (16+)
TRAINING THURSDAY 7.30PM-8.30PM - GAMES ON FRIDAYS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON JOINING ANY OF OUR TEAMS, PLEASE CONTACT :
GEMMA - 07846991134 RACHAEL - 07779570418 BOBBY - 07548814239

Trees on Tees

As part of National Tree Week (25 Nov-3 Dec) we're inviting you to pick up a free tree from various venues, including South Park, to support Trees on Tees.

Trees on Tees is a partnership between the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority and local councils. Funded through the Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund and the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub, it is supported by the Woodland Trust and Tees Valley Nature Partnership.

The two-year programme aims to plant one million trees across the Tees Valley. For more information, please register online at www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/treesontees

Activities for all

Physical activity is so important to our physical and mental health.

How active are you? What type of activities do you take part in? What would encourage you to be more active?

These are just a few of the questions included in the public health physical activity questionnaire created to help us understand if and how we need to improve what's offered in Darlington.

Help us get it right. It will only take a few minutes to complete and needs to be done by 30 November.

Scan the QR code below or visit

<https://tinyurl.com/28nzucvk>



Full steam ahead to 2025!



Skerne Bridge, which carried Locomotion No.1 on the first day in 1825 and has been in continuous use ever since

The two year countdown is on to mark the bicentenary of the birth of the modern railway with celebrations throughout 2025.

The Stockton & Darlington Railway opened on 27 September 1825, connecting places, people, communities and ideas and ultimately transforming the world.

To mark the 200th anniversary of that momentous first journey, three councils, Darlington, Durham and Stockton-on-Tees, plus Tees Valley Combined Authority, have joined forces with a range of local, national, and international partners, to deliver a series of internationally significant projects throughout the bicentenary year.

S&DR200 – a fantastic nine-month festival – is at the heart of the celebrations.

It's all aboard for a programme of events including steam train journeys, exhibitions, visual arts and large-scale spectacles. There'll be something for everyone – from railway enthusiasts and hobbyists to students, families and visitors of all ages.

A permanent walk and cycle pathway, which will closely follow much of the 26-mile inaugural route, is being developed across County Durham, Darlington and Stockton and there are plans to use a replica of Locomotion No.1 to provide experiences inspired by the inaugural journey.

There'll be opportunities to learn and discover at interactive exhibitions and schools will be able to take advantage of a series of S&DR200 focused projects to spark pupils' interest in science, technology, engineering, maths and the arts.

Keep on track with how to get involved via the festival's new social media channels and the S&DR200 website www.sdr200.co.uk

The full S&DR200 festival programme will be revealed in September 2024.



Recognition for work with young people

Work to tackle anti-social behaviour among young people has been recognised by a prestigious awards scheme.

Future Pathways brings together our civic enforcement team, the young people's engagement and justice service and the Darlington neighbourhood police team to offer intervention and positive activities for young people. The work focuses on the young people's personal development as well as restorative work.

The teams received certificates of high commendation at the Nepacs Ruth Cranfield Awards in recognition of their efforts to reduce reoffending.

Nepacs is a charity that works with people and families affected by the criminal justice or care systems. Find out more at www.nepacs.co.uk



Members of the teams with their certificates



Tackling shoplifters together

When you're shopping in the town centre look out for the new posters promoting a scheme to crackdown on shoplifting.

The Shop Watch scheme encourages businesses to come together to securely share information to help stop potential shoplifters before they get the chance to steal.

Initially 15 town centre business were supplied with radios and phones, thanks to funding from

the Tees Valley Combined Authority, so they could quickly share information about suspicious activity with each other and the police.

The scheme has proved so successful it has been expanded with more than 70 town centre and out of town businesses signing up.

As well as the radio and phone communication, posters have been put in businesses' windows around the town to act as a deterrent.

More than just books in new look library



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



More than 5,000 people visited our new look library in its first week of reopening to see the work that has been done to restore and revitalise this fabulous resource.

But did you know your local library is about so much more than just books? Staff have been working hard to create a packed programme of events and activities, with something for everyone to enjoy, and there's a host of state-of-the-art equipment in The Hive to inspire you in all things digital and art.

So do come along to explore what's on offer, either in person or online – we can't wait to see you!

FESTIVE FUN

Adult Crafting – Thursday 26 October, Day of the Dead hanger; Thursday 9 November, seasonal bottle gnomes; Thursday 23 November, Christmas needle felted baubles.

Winter HARK! The sound of stories – an evening of music and storytelling. Friday 1 December, 7pm, at Darlington Library.

Festive Fifties with Meredith Towne fashion historian – Wednesday 20 December, 6.30pm, at Darlington Library. Tickets £5.

Christmas parties festive music, games and fun for 0-4 year olds, with a visit from Santa Claus held at both our libraries. £7.50 per child.

Christmas with The Grinch (ages 3+) – party games, music and possibly some mischief! Wednesday 20 December, 11am-noon at Darlington Library; 1.30-2.30pm at Cockerton. Tickets £6.

Fabric Friends – a free weekly drop-in on Tuesdays at Darlington Library, 1.30-5.30pm. Meet others, share skills and techniques, and work on your own sewing projects using your own resources and our new equipment.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Lego club – every Saturday, 10am-noon at both libraries. Free.

Home educated Lego Club – second Tuesday of the month, 1.30-2.30pm, at Darlington Library.

Musical Memories – take a trip down memory lane during our monthly meet-ups at both libraries where we use music and photographs to stir memories and spark conversation. Suitable for older people.

Watercolours – a monthly group, at both libraries, offering the chance to have a go, share skills and techniques in a friendly environment. £5pp.

Reading groups for all ages including adults, young adults and teens. Check website for details.

Rhymetimes – fun sessions for 0-4 year olds, at both libraries, to support speech and language development, bonding and attachment.

For more details and how to book tickets visit www.darlington.gov.uk/library download the Darlington Library app or follow us on Facebook.



PROFILE: Missing and exploited team

The team works with difficult to reach vulnerable young people who are at risk of going missing or being sexually, criminally or financially exploited. The team also works closely with families and carers to help young people who have been exploited or have gone missing in the past.

Providing bespoke packages of care, the team works with individual young people and their families or groups to get the best results. They work with organisations and businesses who are not traditionally linked with children's services such as shops, taxi firms, public transport, parks, licensing and takeaways to explore potential risks and make these places safe for young people.

What is child exploitation?

Child exploitation is when a child is used for financial gain, sexual gratification, labour or personal advantage.

Using cruel and violent treatment to force a child to take part in criminal or sexual activities can have a detrimental impact on their physical and mental health, education, and moral or social development. Our team works with children to identify these risks before they become victims of exploitation as well as helping those who have already been harmed.

There are many signs that a child may be being exploited including unusual sexual activity; absence or truancy from home or school; problems at home; poor emotional and physical

health; involvement in gangs; behaviour changes linked to being online; alcohol and drug misuse; receiving unexplained gifts or money; mistrust of authority figures.

Children who go missing

There are a number of reasons why children go missing from home. When a child goes missing, we work with the police and speak to family and friends to try to locate them. When the child is found the team will work with them and their family to identify the reason that they left. Issues can include:

- arguments and conflicts at home
- poor family/carer relationships
- physical and emotional abuse
- wellbeing of the young person or someone who cares for them
- problems with alcohol and/or drugs
- problems at school
- placement instability for looked after children
- grooming for potential sexual exploitation
- pressure from their peer group, a gang or radicalisation group.

Once the issues are identified, our team works with lots of different agencies and organisations to get the young person and their family the help they need to keep everyone safe and free from harm.

If you are concerned about a child, please call 406222.



Teesside Crowned Airport of the Year at Major Awards

Teesside International Airport has been named UK & Irish Airport of the Year at a major industry ceremony in London.

The airport was handed the prestigious accolade at the TTG Travel Industry Awards, with the publication TTG – the Travel Trade Gazette – celebrating those businesses and travel professionals that have worked the smartest, delivered the best service and experience and have helped champion a fairer travel industry.

A panel of aviation and travel expert judges assessed entries from airports across the country before awarding the gong to Teesside. They recognised the mammoth efforts undertaken to turn Teesside Airport around, including how it had grown its flights and improved the customer experience, is capitalising on its land and assets and has been leading the sector – for example, in becoming the first UK airport to scrap the 100ml liquid limit in security.

As well as this success, Teesside is also in the running for the British Travel Awards' for Best UK Airport, and is the only national airport going up against global competition in the International Airport Review's Airport Experience Award. The honour comes after a hugely successful year for the airport which

has enjoyed its best passenger figures for more than a decade, and one which has seen further investment in the airport terminal and across the entire site.

Teesside – named the UK's second most punctual airport in 2022 – has also now grown to enjoy its largest selection of airlines, schedules and international destinations since it returned to public ownership.



The win came just days after it was announced that SSE Energy Solutions was set to partner with the airport to install a massive solar farm at the airport.

This will see up to 3MW of solar generation to initially meet demand from the airport and its tenants but could ultimately deliver 50MW of capacity over the coming years, making it one of the biggest solar projects in the UK.



Station revamp moves forward

Significant progress is being made on the £139million redevelopment of Darlington Station with large sections of steelworks now in place for the entrance hall and car park.

Network Rail is getting ready to start work on the eastern side to provide two new platforms and a footbridge connecting them to the station building

The new platforms will provide passengers with a better service and more travel options. They will also improve reliability and boost the railway's performance for both local and long-distance high-speed services on the East Coast Main Line.

Internal improvements this autumn will mean some disruption for passengers with a temporary relocation of the ticket machines and revised walking routes round the site. Any inconvenience will be kept to a minimum while the construction teams work to deliver the multi-million-pound upgrade.

NEW DEAL TO BUY CAMPUS LAND AGREED

The establishment of Darlington as a key location for the UK Government has taken a major step forward after the purchase of land for the permanent site of the new Darlington Economic Campus.

The Darlington Economic Campus (DEC) was established in August 2021 and Departments moved into Feethams House in June 2022. It currently houses 600 government staff.

Brunswick Street is the permanent site for the DEC, which is the Treasury's second headquarters and will also accommodate the Department for Business and Trade. Construction of a new government base will begin in October 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

The development will help grow the local economy with 1,139 roles committed to Darlington, and 674 relocated to date. The move of Civil Service roles to Darlington is



expected to generate around £30million per 1,000 roles relocated in economic benefits for the town, down to increased footfall and spending from staff.

The DEC is part of the Government's Places for Growth (PfG) programme, which is moving Civil Service roles out of London to areas across the UK.

The programme will see 22,000 roles move from London by 2030 and is part of ensuring that staff working in government are closer to the people and communities that they serve.

Alongside the Treasury, the campus will house teams from the Department for Business and Trade, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Office for National Statistics and the Competition and Markets Authority.

They will be working alongside the Department for Education who already have a base in Darlington.

**TEES
VALLEY**

MULTIPLY

NOT A NUMBERS PERSON?

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

Through Multiply you can access free, flexible numeracy courses to help boost your confidence and gain new qualifications.

Improving your maths skills could help unlock job opportunities and lead to higher wages, prepare you for further study, or simply help with everyday tasks at home – from paying bills and budgeting, to helping the kids with their homework, or even in the kitchen.

Search Tees Valley Multiply



If you're aged 19+ and don't have GCSE maths grade C (or equivalent), you can access free, flexible numeracy courses to help boost your confidence and gain new qualifications.

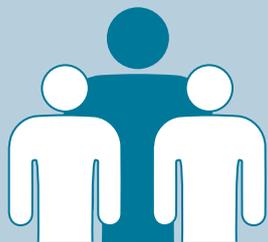
Understanding social care

Did you know the council spends over two thirds of its budget on social care – helping to look after some of the most vulnerable people in our communities at all stages of their life.

Residents are often surprised to hear such a significant proportion of our budget is taken up in this area, but social care covers a huge range of services, looking after adults, children and young people.

Our adult services teams offer crucial support and resources for people's wellbeing and independence - as we've highlighted in recent editions of One Darlington. Meanwhile, children's services safeguards the welfare and development of the youngest members of society. Both departments play a vital role in nurturing thriving, inclusive and resilient communities.

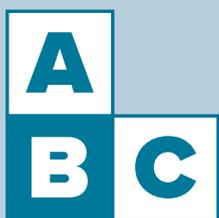
Here we provide a snapshot of some of the pressures faced across adults and children's services...



Significant and sustained increased demand, particularly since the pandemic, is putting unprecedented pressure on children's services – which is projected to overspend by **£4.5m** in the coming year, despite a **13%** increase in budget.



The number of referrals into children's services has increased by **71%** since 2019 – with **902** referrals in 2022-23, compared to **529** in 2019-20.



The number of children in care has also increased. At the end of September, there were **359** looked after children in Darlington, compared to **270** in 2019-20.



The council's children's services was rated as **Good** by Ofsted at its most recent inspection last year. Inspectors noted staff's wide range of experience and skills.



The cost of looking after a vulnerable child or young person, who has significant and complex needs, can run into **thousands of pounds per week**.



Adult services is also under pressure, with Darlington having an increasingly elderly population. The England average of those over 65 is **18.4%**, in Darlington this is above average at **20.5%**.

cial care pressures



The number of people moving into permanent care rose by **22%** in the past year – **163**, compared to **134** the previous year.



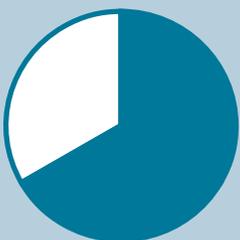
The overall cost of residential care contracts has gone up by **15%** in the past year as providers wrestle with cost of living pressures and inflation.



More people are being discharged from hospital into our care, with a **35%** increase in the past year – **1,060** this year compared to **785** the previous year.



Real terms reduction of **£46m** in central government funding between 2010 and 2020.



Together, adults and children's services accounts for more than **two thirds** of our annual spending. Children's services' share of the council's overall budget has risen from **12%** in 2009-10 to **27%** in 2023-24.

Despite the pressures, our teams continue to work tirelessly across a range of different disciplines to provide vital services to our communities.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Enjoy what's on in

As we're heading towards the festive season there's 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 January and February 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.

November

Open mic night – Wednesday 1, 7.30pm, The Forum. Free admission.

Chris Mallon: Damfino - An evening of psychological magic – Thursday 2, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Definitely Oasis – Friday 3, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club – Saturday 4, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Darlington Locomotive Works open day – Saturdays 4 and 18, 10am-3pm, Bonomi Way, DL3 0PQ. Free entry.

Darlington Piano Society, Steven Osborne – Sunday 5, 3-5pm, Dolphin Centre. Visit www.dpiano.co.uk. Adult tickets £15; Under 21s free.

Darlington film club – Tuesday 7, 7.30pm, The Forum. Entrance £3.

Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society late flower show – Saturday 11, noon - 3.30pm, St. Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, North Road. Free entry and refreshments available.

Diwali lantern parade – Saturday 11, 4pm, town centre. The parade is a celebration of the Hindu festival of light and features lanterns created by local children and groups.

Slade UK – Saturday 11, 7.30pm, The Forum. Advanced booking ticket £13.

Adult crafting (Christmas decorations) – Sunday 12, 1-3pm, Darlington RA Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington, DL3 9LF. Tickets must be booked in advance; £15 per person. Visit www.eventbrite.co.uk



Tales From Acorn Wood – Tuesday 14, 1.30pm and Wednesday 15, 10.30am and 1.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £12.

Jazz @ The Forum – Tuesday 14, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets/entrance £10.

Gasto Promotions presents: The Bonham-Bullick Band – Thursday 16, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Kids in museums takeover day – Friday 17, 10am-noon, Red Hall Community Centre. The Head of Steam is hosting a 'mini-museum' in the community centre for children under five. £2 for non-members.

Def Leppard (tribute) – Friday 17, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Rhythm of the Dance Christmas Special – Saturday 18, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £18.

Marco Mendoza and guests – Saturday 18, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £14.50 in advance or £16.00 on the door.



Christmas lights switch on – Sunday 19, 4pm – 5.30pm, Market Square. Hosted by TFM, the event features live performances, games, competitions and special guest appearances.

Share and learn Barclays Bus (carers rights day event) – Tuesday 21, 10am - 2pm, Joseph Pease statue, High Row Darlington. Speak to the experts about online scams and cyber security.

Calendar Girls the Musical – Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25, 7.30pm, & matinee performances, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £18.50.

Carers rights day event – Wednesday 22, 10am – noon, Darlington Connect Shop, 6 Northgate. Meet the team and organisations supporting unpaid carers in Darlington. For more information contact Darlington Carers Support on 03000 301215 email admin@darlingtoncarers.org

Live and local with The Counters and guests – Thursday 23, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets/entrance £4.

Rust For Glory (A Tribute To Neil Young) – Friday 24, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Tees Cottage Pumping Station Christmas – Saturday 25, noon – 4pm. Festive stalls, and Santa Express on the miniature railway. Food and drink available.

Ultimate Bowie – Saturday 25, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £15.

Uncanny: I Know What I Saw – Tuesday 28, 8pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £16.50.

Darlington

ENJOY
DARLINGTON

December

The Smyths – Friday 1, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £17.50.

Darlington Locomotive Works open day – Saturday 2 and 16, 10am-3pm, Bonomi Way. Free entry.

Hilarity Bites comedy club – Saturday 2, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Darlington film club – Tuesday 5, 7.30pm, The Forum. Entrance £3.

Snow Mouse (children's theatre) – Wednesday 6 - Sunday 24, 9.45am and 1.30pm, The Hullabaloo. Suitable for 6 months – 4 years. Tickets £8.

Open mic night – Wednesday 6, 7.30pm, The Forum. Free admission.



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – Friday 8 to Sunday 31, various performance times, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets from £17.50.

Rnb club with The Revolutionaires and DC Blues – Friday 8, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £18.

Ice sculpture trail – Saturday 9, 11am – 4pm, Town Centre.

Darlington Piano Society, Hiroaki Takenouchi – Sunday 10, 3-5pm, The Dolphin Centre. Visit www.dpiano.co.uk/ Adult tickets £15.00; under 21s free.

Soft play breakfast with Santa – Monday 11 and Wednesday 13, 10am-noon, Dolphin Centre. For children aged 0-5. Tickets £8.95 including pancakes, fruit buffet, juice and selection box.

Alzheimer's Society and Friends Christmas Carols – Tuesday 12, 6pm, St. Cuthbert's Church.

Jazz @ The Forum – Tuesday 12, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets/entrance £10.

Soft play Christmas party – Friday 15, 4-6pm, Dolphin Centre. For children age 5+. Tickets £8.95 including hot dog, fries, juice and a selection box from Santa.

Festival attractions – Saturday 16, 11am – 3pm, town centre.



Riverside Rebellion Punk Festival – Saturday 16, 3pm, The Forum. Advanced booking ticket £20.

Bowl with the Grinch – Sunday 17, 3.30-4.30pm and 5-6pm, DC Bowl at The Dolphin Centre. Tickets £9.95 per person - including a selection box and spot prizes. Call to book.

Christmas character meet and greets – Wednesday 20, 11am – 3pm, town centre.

Stereosonics – Saturday 23, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £14.

Gasto promotions presents The Straits – Saturday 29, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

New Years Eve with The Lost Keys and Blue Diamond – Sunday 31, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £18 (includes food).

January

Darlington Locomotive Works open day – Saturdays 6 and 20, 10am-3pm, Bonomi Way. Free entry.

Darlington Piano Society, Alasdair Beatson and Viv McLean duo – Sunday 21, 3-5pm, Dolphin Centre. Visit www.dpiano.co.uk. Adult tickets £15; under 21s free.

Contacts

Head of Steam visit www.head-of-steam.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

Forging forces for foster care



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

There are over 6,000 children in care across the North East but just over 1,500 approved foster carers available (33% fewer than a year ago). This means there is an urgent need to recruit new carers.

The best gift you can give a child or young person is your time. Do you have time to support children and young people in need of help?

To help recruit more foster carers, we are working with 11 other local authorities on Foster with North East. This new and first-of-its-kind collaborative partnership has formed a hub, which will support prospective foster carers in the region through their full journey, from initial inquiry to application and beyond. The hub is the first point of contact if you are interested in fostering and will help you make an informed choice about how fostering could work for you.

Backed by the Department for Education, the hub offers a warm welcome, directs inquiries, and provides support throughout the application process.

We need to recruit carers from a range of different backgrounds and circumstances. You don't need to be married, in full-time work, or own your own home to become a foster carer. Whether you choose to welcome a child or young person for a few hours, a night, a week, a month, a year or more, your home could be the right place, at the right time, for a child or young person who is unable to live at home.

We have 49 amazing foster carers, who receive an allowance designed to cover all aspects of the cost of caring for a child, as well as a professional fee per child in their care, which depends on the level of their experience.

In addition to the financial support, they also receive ongoing training, development and support to give them the confidence to make a difference.

Can you be the reason siblings can stay together, a child smiles, or a young person grows in confidence? All children deserve the best care to support them to grow and develop into the best version of themselves.

Foster with
NORTH EAST

Please consider fostering and find out more on the Foster with North East website fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Remembrance Sunday



The town's Remembrance Sunday service will be held on 12 November at Holy Trinity Church, Woodland Road, starting at 10am, led by the Rev James Harvey.

The service will be followed by a procession from the church to the Cenotaph in the grounds of the Memorial Hospital. An act of remembrance will be

held, including the Last Post, two minutes' silence and the laying of wreaths.

The Mayor, Cllr Jan Cossins will also lead a one minute silence on High Row, near the town clock, at 11am on Remembrance Day, Saturday 11 November.

Winter
COAT DRIVE
DROP OFF SITE
(AVAILABLE ALL WINTER)
'IN A SPIN'
LAUNDRY SERVICES
367 North Road
Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.30pm
Saturday 8.30am-12.30pm

DARLINGTON
Borough Council

DARLINGTONCARES

We're collecting good quality coats, hats, scarves, gloves, wellies, shoes and trainers in all sizes.

Beware thin ice!



As winter temperatures fall, please think about, and share, the dangers of going onto ice covered ponds and lakes.

The Darlington Open Water Safety Group brings together police, fire and rescue, council, environment agency and others. They are working hard to make sure everyone understands the risks, sharing information on social media, giving presentations at schools and placing warning signs around open water.

The warning signs include what location to use if you need to call 999 in an emergency.

This is either an address or a What3words reference which is used by 999 services to help pinpoint and attend exact locations more quickly. Simply read the three words to the 999 service when making the call.

Please share these tips with friends and family to stay safe this winter:

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

For more information visit
www.ddfire.gov.uk/water-safety



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

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



Hate
Crime
Hurts.
Stop
It
Here.

Recognise it.
Report it.

County Durham & Darlington: United Against Hate Crime.

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

HATE 
HURTS

United against Hate Crime



What's coming out of your chimney this Christmas?

It's getting chilly and if you have a log burner or stove in your home, no doubt you will be enjoying its warm cosy glow.

Whilst log burners can seem to be the answer to tackling high fuel prices and creating a nice atmosphere, you need to be aware of what you're putting into your burner or stove. You could be burning the wrong type of fuel - causing air pollution and possible health problems for you, your family and your neighbours.

Burning wood can contribute to the release of harmful particulates which impact health. These not only affect outdoor air quality but also contribute to poorer air quality inside.

If you live in a smoke control area (which covers most of the town) you could be breaking the law by burning the wrong type of fuel in your log burner or stove. You can check if your home is in a smoke control area on our website.

If you're thinking about installing a log burner or multi-fuel stove, please give it careful consideration as there could be a cleaner, safer alternative. Learn before you burn!

MYTH:
Wood is an authorised smokeless fuel.

FACT: Wood is not an authorised smokeless fuel and isn't suitable for use in a smoke control area unless in an appropriate exempt appliance such as those listed on Defra's website.

MYTH:
I can burn any fuel, as long as I am using an exempt appliance.

FACT: Even if you have an exempt appliance, you must only burn permitted fuel for that specific appliance. Information can be found on the Defra website or in the manufacturer's handbook.

MYTH:
I can put any wood on my appliance including from a recently cut down tree.

FACT: Wood must be clean (no surface coatings such as varnish or paints) and seasoned/dry (moisture content of 20% or less). Look out for the Ready to Burn logo when buying wood fuel, and ensure it is kept dry until it is used.

Check out our online leaflet at www.darlington.gov.uk/burnright



Left to right: George Freeman MP, Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation, Ian Williams, chief executive Darlington Council and Frank Millar, CPI chief executive officer.

New centre brings high quality employment opportunities

A new centre to manufacture cutting-edge vaccines and therapeutics has opened in Darlington. The £26.4 million RNA Centre of Excellence, will form a UK hub with the capability to develop and manufacture treatments for incurable or hard-to-treat illnesses.

The centre, which is part of CPI, has the capacity to deliver 100 million vaccine doses in the event of a health emergency. It will also supply material for clinical trials, working with companies on treatments against infectious and non-infectious diseases.

CPI employs over 100 people at its Darlington sites in 65 different roles including scientific, operations, administration and management positions.

The centre also hosts the RNA Training Academy which develops and shares expertise in this field.

George Hurley (right), a downstream scientist from Darlington, said: “In my role I work on a lot of purification projects running processes to remove contaminants or impurities from the therapies we develop. This involves ensuring the components which make up a particular vaccine or therapy have not become contaminated with unwanted material.



Picture: Scott Akoz

“I wanted to be a scientist because I wanted to make a difference. Having studied for a masters degree at Newcastle University, I chose to work at CPI because of the range of development opportunities available, especially for someone in the early stages of their career. There is a variety of work and every day is different - I love a good challenge and I’ve gained lots of experience. I work with some fantastic people and I have a supportive line manager.

“I’m also co-chair of CPI’s LGBTQ+ affinity group which gives people a safe space to discuss their experiences at work and helps CPI to develop an inclusive culture where people are able to bring their authentic self to work each day, which is really important.

“In terms of jobs local to the area, there’s nothing really like CPI – there’s a lot of jobs within the scientific industry which wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for CPI, allowing people like me to continue living and working in the area.”

Visit www.youtube.com/@ukCPI to hear more from George.

You can also find out more about careers and vacancies at CPI at www.uk-cpi.com/careers

STAY SAFE



THINK AHEAD

GET HOME SAFELY



Visit enjoydarlington.co.uk/stay-safe to find out more

**ENJOY
DARLINGTON**



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Eastbourne work completed



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Borough Council



Work has been completed on a major redevelopment of Eastbourne Sports Complex.

The project includes a new all-weather pitch, including changing facilities, turnstiles and access for up to 200 spectators.

The 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 groups, grassroots and group bookings.

The resurfacing of the main running track is complete, along with work 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.

An official opening event is due to take place this month.

BE WISE IMMUNISE

NHS



The risks of **COVID-19** and **flu** are still real. Get your vaccinations to protect yourself and the people you love. **To find out more and book your appointment, visit [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)**

HERE

TO

HELP



Roly Ward
with one of
our gritters

DARLINGTON
Borough Council

On the roads again

As we head into winter, our staff are gearing up to get our fleet of seven gritters out on the roads again. Available day and night until the end of April, our gritting crews will be working hard to keep the town's roads safe and traffic moving.

Roly Ward, an LGV driver who has worked as part of the team of 18 drivers at the gritting service for 14 years, said: "Each winter, myself and colleagues from the Street Scene and highways services, take on additional duties to keep Darlington's roads ice-free.

"On top of our normal jobs, drivers pick up shifts to maintain six priority routes covering over 50% of Darlington's road network. This includes the main roads into and through the town, as well as all scheduled bus routes.

"During bad weather we receive several daily weather forecasts to inform us of the condition of the roads and we use this information to decide whether to grit or not. We don't have fixed gritting times. We grit roads whenever it is necessary - working through the night, on weekends and holidays.

"There can be up to three shifts each day and in the worst conditions the whole crew is needed

to staff the service. For me there is no such thing as a typical week. I am on call to cover the full day on a Saturday and I am back-up for the main force of drivers through the week. How often I'm on the roads really is dependent on the changing weather - if we get a particularly cold snap things can become pretty hectic!

"Although working the additional hours keeps us busy, the sense of camaraderie among us drivers is great. It is really rewarding knowing that the work we're doing is making people's lives a little easier and is helping to keep them safe.

"This winter it's worth keeping an eye out for where our gritters will be, to give you peace of mind before setting off in your car. We will post regular updates on our web page to let you know when we're out and about. If you see us, do give us a wave and remember salt needs to be worked into the road by traffic for it to work.

"There are some simple things you can also do to keep safe on the roads this winter including leaving plenty of time for your journey, clearing your windows and roof of snow and ice and making sure your car and tyres are well maintained and in good working order."

Updates on planned gritting activity and frequently asked questions can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/gritting

We are open fo

There has never been a better time to consider launching or relocating your business in Darlington!

With extensive public and road transport links, Darlington is a key economic hub with an average weekly footfall of nearly 290,000 in 2022. A thriving events calendar contributes to a lively town scene with thousands of visitors this summer.

Significant investment in the town, including around £25million from the Towns Fund, has resulted in the transformation of the Yards and Skinnergate and is helping to make Darlington a destination of choice. Further works are planned to redevelop Victoria Road, Northgate and Coniscliffe Road.

The refurbishment of the indoor market and modernisation works including free town centre Wi-Fi and the redevelopment of Darlington Library are also helping to support the growing local economy with the restored historic Hippodrome Theatre and Hullabaloo, the only children's theatre in the North, attracting visitors from across the region.

The establishment of the Darlington Economic Campus has also brought over 1,500 civil service jobs to the heart of the town centre.

With over 800 businesses in the town – here's what some of our local traders have to say!



OWNER Paul Miller

BUSINESS So Unique

DESCRIPTION Household furnishings and one-off pieces

LOCATION Post House Wynd

ONLINE facebook.com/SoUnique2023

"We opened our doors in July this year. Although we're not from the town, we visited regularly and were impressed by the significant investment being made in the town centre. We decided to relocate our business, which evolved from a hobby, and found our premises through Carver Commercial. They were very helpful in finding us the ideal location and we

chose Post House Wynd due to the quirky and varied independent retailers on the street.

The best thing about having a business in Darlington is the local people. We've had a really warm welcome and feel very at home in the town. There's a great choice of restaurants and bars too which we make the most of after a long day!

Anyone considering opening a business in Darlington should do their research and have a good look around the town to find the right location for them. We've had fantastic support from the council, including keeping us informed about local opportunities, sorting out signage and helping us to promote our store! We couldn't be happier."



Hatch Luncheonette, Blackwellgate

NAME Jasmin Robson

BUSINESS Hash Bar and Kitchen and Hatch Luncheonette

DESCRIPTION Hospitality

LOCATION Coniscliffe Road and Blackwellgate

“Hash bar and kitchen has been open for 18 years. My husband opened it and I joined him in running it seven years ago after I left Policing.

“We opened Hatch Luncheonette together five years ago and Htch to Go, our takeout shop two years ago. We are about to embark on a new project in the town centre too which we are hoping to open before Christmas.

“We have continued to grow our business in Darlington as we believe in the town. We live here

and think it’s a great town, we have found that if you provide something that customers want, they come into town for it - it might sound obvious, but it’s worked for us.

“The best thing about having a business in Darlington is that the local independent businesses are a community, there’s a lot of help and advice out there if you need it. I’m a firm believer in people attract people, so even if there’s some friendly competition, new businesses are not a worry, but instead bring more people into town.

“Anybody considering opening a business in town should go for it. If you have an idea you believe in, do everything you can to try and make it a reality. The council will try to help you, as will the surrounding businesses and the people of Darlington.”



Lights, camera, action

A new film, presented by Henry Carver, director of Carver Residential, and featuring local business owners sets out the benefits of setting up shop in the town.

To take a look and find out more about why starting or moving your business to Darlington is best, please visit www.enjoydarlington.co.uk/joinus. You can also contact our business investment team on 406305 or by emailing business.support@darlington.gov.uk

BEAT your finance blues

Are you struggling financially?
Feel like you are stuck in a maze?

You are not alone, support is available, even if you work.

Contact the Benefit Entitlement Action Team (BEAT) who will help and support you to claim any money you are entitled to.

Visit www.citizenadvisedrc.org.uk or call 266888



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Pop in to talk to someone in person,
between 10am and noon,
Monday - Friday, in the CAB Office,
The Core Building ,
Church Row, DL1 5QD

citizens
advice

Give £2 to 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 localgiving.org/appeal/happyhampers/ 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.



This article is kindly sponsored by BHP Law

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**Darlington
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Mission**
Enriching Elderly Lives

A local charity trusted since 1838

Bin wagons 'go veggie'



Refuse and recycling manager Craig Teasdale with Cllr Chris McEwan

Can you spot the difference? While bin collections carry on as normal, your rubbish collection could be part of an experiment that will help our bin wagons reduce emissions by more than 90%.

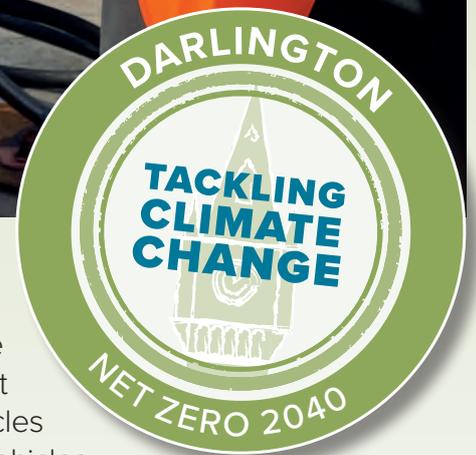
As part of our ambition to become carbon neutral by 2040, we're trialling a new biofuel in half of our household waste wagon fleet. Six vehicles are being powered by hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) to see if it will be a viable alternative to diesel.

HVO is a fossil-free alternative to mineral diesel and can be interchanged with diesel very easily with no modifications needed, making the trial process quick and easy. Our bin wagon fleet accounts for 1,200 tonnes of carbon emissions each year so reducing this by around 90% would be a huge step for us towards our 2040 target.

In our plan to reduce carbon emissions, we are replacing our fleet with electric vehicles and we have 17 vehicles to date. However, electric bin wagons are very expensive and so alternatives are being explored.

The HVO trial will explore any potential issues, including the cost, to see if these are outweighed by the environmental benefits.

This work will contribute to our pledge to become carbon neutral by 2040. This pledge covers all service areas, and we want to encourage residents and businesses to join us on the journey towards a greener and more sustainable future. More details are available at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable



Worried about someone you've seen begging or sleeping rough?



Here's what happens when you report it!

People you see begging on the street may not be homeless, but whatever their circumstances, everyone matters and we want to offer them support.

We need you to tell us about people who appear homeless or are begging. There are several ways you can do this (see details below) please provide the location and as much information as you can.

When you raise an alert, it goes to our housing options team and our outreach service, provided by the 700 Club, and an outreach worker goes out to the location to try to find the person. The worker talks to them to find out why they are begging or sleeping rough and offers support that could include finding accommodation, contacting a landlord, budgeting, finance and claiming benefits, accessing health, alcohol and substance misuse services, and direction to food banks.

The offer of help is not always accepted at first, but we will continue to make contact and keep offering support.

If the person is not there, we will try and leave contact details for them to access support.

During the past year, 21 alerts were raised via StreetLink.

Seven were for the same person, who has been contacted more than 50 times, but despite ongoing efforts still declines any support.

Five could not be located.

Nine were offered support – including four from out of town who were supported to return to their own local authority.

You also told us about nine individuals who were begging – 276 contacts were made with them, an average of 30 per person, to offer support.

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 or download the StreetLink app - you will receive an update within 10 working days if requested
- 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





Tackling condensation and mould



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Any home can suffer from condensation and mould. If you've got condensation, there's a good chance it won't be long before you're battling mould.

Condensation can be caused by warm air hitting cold surfaces or by lots of humidity in the air. The air cools and droplets form, creating a damp environment and a perfect breeding ground for mould.

A dry home with lots of fresh air is the best weapon against mould. Landlords and tenants both have roles to play in preventing and tackling mould.

A landlord should:

- ensure the property is well-ventilated
- check the heating is working well
- insulate the property
- look for signs of mould during regular inspections and ensure extractor fans are working
- promptly repair issues such as leaky plumbing and guttering, missing roof tiles and damage to the damp-proof course
- regularly clear out gutters and drains
- act quickly if mould appears - remove it and apply anti-mould paint
- discuss the issue with tenants to raise awareness.

Tenants can help by:

- avoiding hanging clothes to dry indoors with the windows closed
- placing salt boxes in rooms where moisture occurs such as bathrooms, kitchens, bedrooms and wardrobes
- leaving a gap between furniture and walls of at least 10cm so air can circulate
- opening windows regularly
- using the extractor fan, if you have one, when cooking and showering
- wiping down wet surfaces such as shower screens
- closing the kitchen door when cooking to stop moist air moving to other parts of the property
- reporting signs of mould and any necessary repairs to the landlord or letting agent.

For more information see the 'damp and mould growth' page under private sector housing on our website at www.darlington.gov.uk/communitysafety

The council's housing services team has a dedicated webpage and follows national guidelines on tackling the issue. A leaflet was sent to all tenants earlier this year explaining what we, as a landlord, are doing and how to report any issues. Tenants can find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk/housing

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