

one

March 2020

Darlington

**Help keep our
Locomotion No.1
in Darlington**

pages 4 & 5



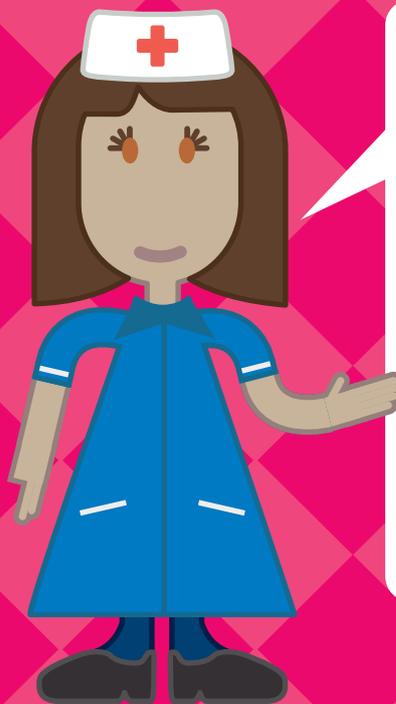
Is your GP a NO FEAR service?

A number of GP practices across the region are now signed up as No Fear services, promoting the things they offer to make cervical screening less daunting for women.

This includes things like being able to request a female to carry out the test, taking a friend along for support, and booking a back-to-back buddy appointment so you can go along with a friend to share childcare or transport.

As an alternative to GP practices, local sexual health and contraception services also offer cervical screening appointments and are signed up as No Fear services.

So if it's your first time attending a cervical screening or you just haven't been for a while, there's nothing to worry about and it will be over and done within minutes, giving you peace of mind and plenty of time to enjoy the fun things in life.



We know attending for a smear test can seem unpleasant. We offer:

-  Bring a friend for support
-  Get results within 14 days
-  Back to back "buddy" appointments available
-  Request a female to carry out the test
-  Fully trained clinical staff
-  Text message appointment reminders

Tell your friends and family too and help us to pass on an important message - #screeningsaveslives



reduceyourrisk



reduce_your_risk



Cervical screening saves lives

Don't be the one missing out...



For more information see your GP or visit screeningsaveslives.co.uk

Welcome to One Darlington

I am very proud to live and work in Darlington and I am delighted to be part of the team organising this year's Best of Darlington Awards. The awards celebrate everything that is great about our borough and the evening is an opportunity to salute the many unsung heroes who work tirelessly to ensure Darlington is a fantastic place to live, work and visit.

We want your nominations for the awards – tell us about those people who go the extra mile to help others, who have excelled in sport and education or achieved in business. Find out how to make your nominations on page 6.

Part of what makes Darlington so great is our history, especially our connections to the Pease family and the railway. The jewel in our crown at the Head of Steam museum is Locomotion No.1 which has been on display in Darlington, at one location or another, for more than 160 years. You may have heard of plans by the National Railway Museum (NRM) to move it to their museum in Shildon. Read more about the plans, and how to sign the petition to keep the Locomotion No1 in Darlington please turn to pages 4 and 5.

As well as preserving our past, the council is looking to the future with the new Local Plan. The plan sets out the long-term aspirations for the borough's growth and investment including where significant new development, such as housing, roads and community facilities, should be located up to 2036. The council wants your views on the latest draft of the plan – turn to page 17 for more information.

There's lots going on throughout the town in the coming months – with fun family activities planned for the Easter holidays as well as special market events and other attractions. As a volunteer running a community dance company, I will be involved in the Mass Dance which is celebrating its 10th anniversary in May this year. I'm very excited about our plans to showcase the dance talent in the town, turn to pages 20 and 21 for a full list of what's on in the coming weeks. Alternatively if you want to get out and about and do your bit for the environment, why not volunteer to join one of this year's Darlington Cares Pick, Pie and a Pint events – details on page 16.



Sarah Small

Darlington Partnership programme officer

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The next edition will be distributed from 4 May. If you do not receive a copy by 11 May, please call 406058.

An audio version of One Darlington is also available at www.onedarlington.org.uk

Show your support for loco campaign

More than 2,200 people have signed our campaign petition to protect a cornerstone of our railway heritage.

In 1825, Locomotion No. 1 became the first steam locomotive to haul a passenger carrying train on a public railway.

Now the jewel in the crown at the Head of Steam museum, the locomotive has been on display in Darlington, at one location or another, for more than 160 years.

Locomotion No.1 is loaned to the council by the National Railway Museum (NRM), part of the Science Museums Group. They recently revealed plans to move it to their museum in Shildon.

With the 200th anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway looming in 2025 and plans being developed for a new rail heritage quarter in Darlington, the possible loss of the star attraction would be a major blow to the town.

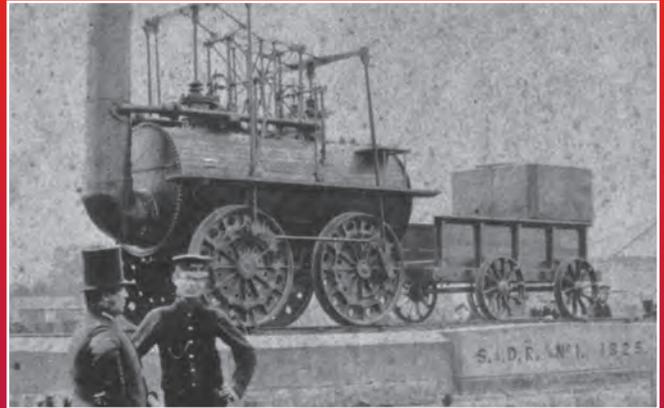
With that in mind, rail enthusiasts and a cross-party group of politicians are joining forces to lobby NRM bosses to change their minds.

The petition is still available to sign at www.darlington.gov.uk/saveourloco

Paper copies are also available at the Head of Steam, Dolphin Centre, Crown Street Library and the Town Hall.

The campaign has already won support from rail heritage groups in Darlington, including the A1 Steam Locomotive

Trust, which built Tornado, the UK's first steam engine for a generation.



LOCOMOTION NO.1 FACTFILE

Built in
1825

Retired in
1856

Displayed at North Road Station
1857

Moved to Bank Top Station
1892

Part of British Empire Exhibition, London
1924

Part of Stockton and Darlington Railway centenary celebrations
1925

Moved to Darlington Railway Museum (now Head of Steam)
1975

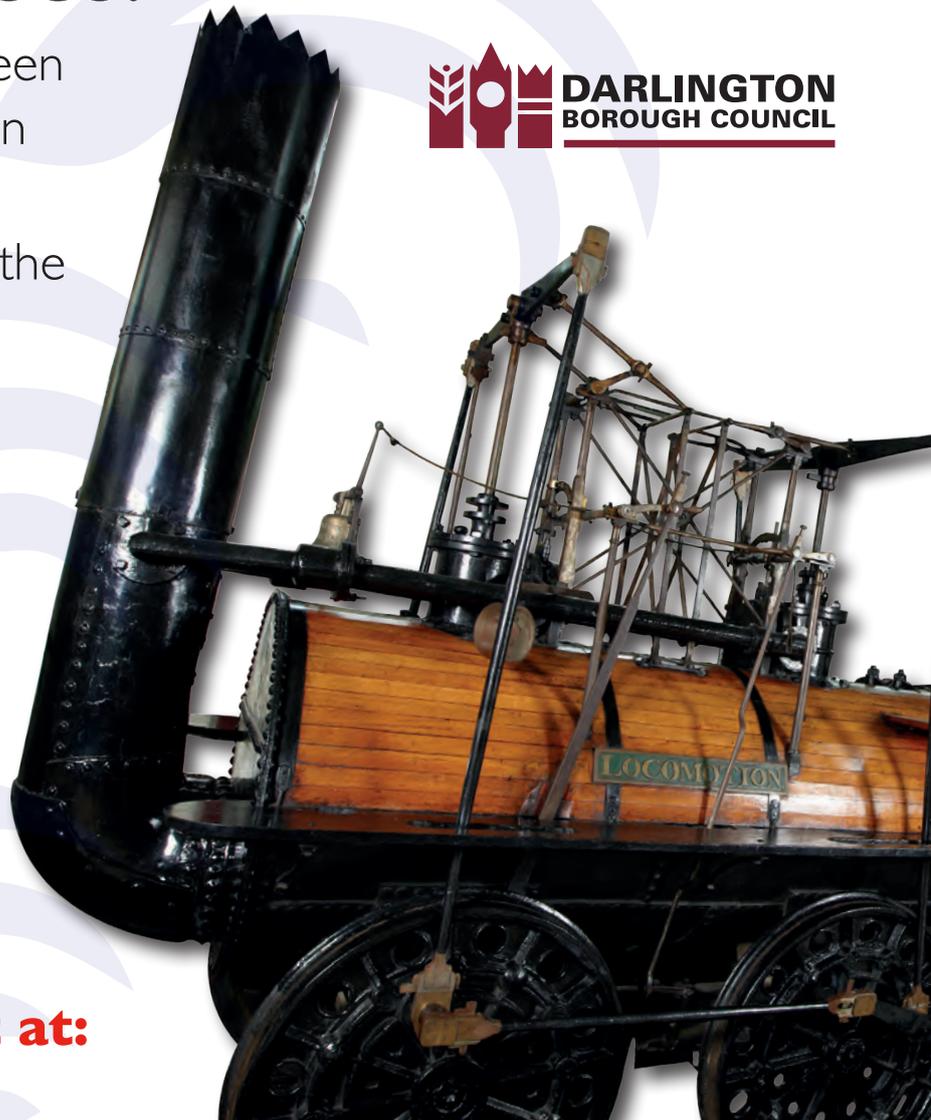


KEEP LOCOMOTION NO.1 IN DARLINGTON



WHY SAVE OUR LOCO?

- Locomotion No.1 has been looked after in Darlington for more than 160 years
- It is key to our plans for the 200th anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 2025
- It is a unique symbol of Darlington's proud railway heritage.



**More than 2,200 people
have already signed our
online petition.**

Show your support at:

WWW.DARLINGTON.GOV.UK/SAVEOURLOCO



Who should be
in the frame for the

Best of Darlington

2020 Awards

Two ways to nominate

Online www.onedarlington.org.uk/bestofdarlington

Paper form – collect one from the Town Hall customer contact centre or call 405757 and we'll post one to you



Award categories

- Contribution to Sport
- Performance in Sport
- Exceptional Care
- Exceptional Volunteer
- Contribution to the Arts
- Public Service Hero
- Vocational Excellence
- Academic Excellence
- Exceptional Student
- Contribution to the Environment
- Contribution to the Community
- Exceptional Young Volunteer
- Business Contribution to the Community
- Bringing Success to Darlington
- Entrepreneurial Spirit



Nominations close on Friday 17 April

The awards, celebrating our most outstanding and inspirational individuals, groups and businesses, will take place at the Dolphin Centre on

Friday 12 June



Students help stub out illegal tobacco trade



Creative students from Darlington College have put their skills to the test for a new campaign to help tackle the illegal tobacco trade.

The art and design students were asked to create a series of bus shelter posters for a joint campaign run by the council's trading standards team, public health services, the police and the Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC).

The campaign, which launches this month, looks at the problems caused by the sale of illegal tobacco and cigarettes, particularly to children, and encourages residents to report any issues to trading standards.

A panel of judges chose the winning designs from more than 20 entries. The winner was Chloe Duncombe-Shafto with Kyle Hoggins second and Megan Earl and Oliver Morrissey joint third. The runners-up were Kayleigh Ashton, Josh Cave and Abby Wright.

You can report illegal tobacco sales anonymously online at www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit or call 0300 9990000.

May elections

Voters will go to the polls on Thursday 7 May to elect a police and crime commissioner for the Durham force area and a Tees Valley mayor.

The police and crime commissioner oversees the running of local police services and holds the chief constable to account.

The Tees Valley mayor steers the work of the Tees Valley Combined Authority, the body that drives economic growth and job creation in the area. The mayor sets the budgets and priorities for economic development, transport and infrastructure, and acts as an ambassador for the region.

The deadline to register to vote in both elections is midnight on Tuesday 21 April. Applications for postal votes must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 22 April, and the deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on Wednesday 29 April.

More information about these elections can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/elections2020



Cockerton



Wheeler's Hardware

Douglas runs the shop with his sister Donna. She said: "We've been here about 13 years. Before that, we had a stall in the Indoor Market. For a time we ran both but, after our parents' retirement, we focussed on the shop.

"We love being in the village, it's so easy to shop here, you can get everything you want in a small area and parking is easy and free.

"Over time, we've branched into other areas. As other businesses have closed, we have filled the gap. We are now one of the biggest suppliers of cake boards and baking and decorating accessories in the area. When the pet shop closed next door, we also started to sell pet supplies."



W. Alderson & Son – Butchers

With decades of experience to draw on, W. Alderson & Son is the place to go for advice on choosing and preparing meat.

Nigel Alderson has taken over the reins of the family business started by his grandfather Wilf in 1934.

He said: "We pride ourselves on our home made products including home cured bacon, pies, sausages – 20 flavours at the last count – and much more.

"We like to get to know our customers and they get to know us, like an extended family; it's always service with a smile! Cockerton is a wonderful place to do business. There's lots going on with the annual Christmas lights switch on, kids' treasure hunts and much more.

"I'm a member of the Cockerton Community and Business Group and like to get involved with where I live and do business."



Just minutes from the town centre, Cockerton has a charm of its own, with a lovely village green, specialist and independent shops and a range of cafes including the famous Robineau Café and Patisserie.

A strong sense of community is in evidence with events throughout the year and an active residents and business association. We caught up with businesses old and new:



K9 House of Style

Shane Boniface and Jill Connelly are the proud owners of dog salon K9 House of Style.

On West Auckland Road, this doggy pamper stop has been open for three years and goes from strength to strength.

The team grooms between ten and 15 dogs every day at the salon and also offers a mobile service for pups who prefer to be pampered at home.

Shane said: "We love being based in Cockerton, it's so friendly with a great mix of businesses. There's also plenty of free parking too which makes it easier for our customers."

Frivolity Bottle Shop

One of the newer businesses is Frivolity Bottle Shop which opened last July. Owner David Tindale has many years of experience in the wine trade and moved back to Cockerton, where he grew up, after having a successful business in Durham's.

As well as selling a great selection of wines and other drinks, David runs wine tasting events.

He said: "Cockerton is great for both shoppers and businesses. It's a good village location, people can park right outside my door and it's a great spot for all the passing trade because of all the through traffic, I'm really happy here."

Infinite Energy and Yoga

Emma Leaf moved to Darlington from York in November to set up her yoga business and has never looked back. Since opening, Emma has built up a good customer base offering a range of yoga classes to suit all abilities.

Emma said: "I love it here and I'm so glad I made the leap to open my own place in Cockerton. There's a real sense of community here, everyone gets involved and has been really welcoming.

"I'm really looking forward to running a range of workshops and welcoming guest teachers. My beginners' courses have proved really popular too and it's great to see people getting involved in yoga who haven't before."

Council Cabinet Column



By the time you read this, spring will hopefully be well and truly in the air, with more daylight starting to creep in every morning and evening. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to saying goodbye to another winter and enjoying what spring and summer have to offer.

This month, it's full steam ahead for Save Our Loco, the campaign to keep Locomotion No.1 in Darlington. As you can read in this edition of One Darlington, by now, the National Railway Museum (NRM), which holds this treasured piece of our railway heritage on trust for the nation, wants to move the engine from the Head of Steam museum to its site in Shildon. Like so many of you who have contacted me, I say we simply cannot allow this to happen.

We are doing all we can to persuade NRM to have a change of heart and leave Locomotion No.1 exactly where it is, where it belongs, where it has been for more than 160 years: here in Darlington. In 2025, we will have the 200th anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, the world's first steam-powered public railway, and we are starting to plan our celebrations for that. Locomotion No.1 is the focal point of those plans, so the prospect of having it taken away from us after all this time is totally unacceptable.

I am calling on everyone who believes in this campaign to do their bit to support it. We have launched a petition and I was delighted that more than 2,000 signatures were collected in the first week alone. If we could get more than 10,000 people to sign, that would send a really strong message that we will not give this up without a fight. You can sign the petition at

www.darlington.gov.uk/saveourloco

There are also paper copies in Crown Street Library, the Dolphin Centre, Town Hall customer services centre and, of course, the Head of Steam itself.

Easter is just a few weeks away. Keep an eye out for the Easter eggs-travaganza event on Saturday 11 April, when the town centre will be a hive of colour, with lots of activities to entertain the whole family. And then summer will be round the corner before we know it!

Councillor Heather Scott OBE
Leader of Darlington Borough Council



Ward surgeries

Your councillor is there to listen to you and find out about the issues affecting life in your ward. You can email, telephone or meet your councillor at regular ward surgeries. Find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk

Emailing councillors

If you wish to email your councillor, their email address is

firstname.lastname@darlington.gov.uk

For example, if you want to email Heather Scott, type in heather.scott@darlington.gov.uk

The only exceptions are Andy Scott (Haughton and Springfield), Ian Bell (Harrowgate Hill) and Anne-Marie Curry (North Road). Their email addresses are shown with their ward surgery details.

BANK TOP AND LASCELLES

Helen Crumbie (L) Tel: 462642; **Wendy Newall (L)** Tel: 251574. King William Street Community Centre – Fri 20 Mar and 17 Apr – 5-6pm. Cleveland Bridge Social & Athletic Club – Sat 7 Mar and 11 Apr – 12-1pm. **Darrien Wright (I)** Tel: 07724 384264. Dance Wright Studio, Ridsdale Street – Thu 12 Mar and 9 Apr – 5.30-6.30pm.

BRINKBURN AND FAVERDALE

Scott Durham (C) Tel: 07805 505156; **Rachel Mills (C)** Tel: 482906/07786 077189; **Lisa Preston (C)** Tel: 07793 662154. The Brinkburn pub – Mon 9 Mar – 6-7pm. The White Heifer That Travelled – Mon 13 Apr – 6-7pm.

COCKERTON

Jan Cossins (L) Tel: 241124; **Eddie Heslop (L)** Tel: 354457. Windsor Court – Tue 10 Mar and 14 Apr – 10-11am. Cockerton Library – Thu 12 Mar and 9 Apr – 6-7pm. **Paul Baldwin (I)** Tel: 07515 814007

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553; **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School – Thu 12 Mar and 2 Apr – 6-7pm.

EASTBOURNE

Jonathan Dulston (C) Tel: 07944 344646; Firthmoor Community Centre – Wed 25 Mar and 29 Apr – 3-4pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629; **Steven Tait (I)** Tel: 07825 303036. Firthmoor Community Centre – Mon 16 Mar – 5-6pm and Mon 20 Apr – 1-2pm.

HARROWGATE HILL

Ian Bell (C) Tel: 07497 404448, ian.bell2@darlington.gov.uk; **Jon Clarke (C)** Tel: 07875 057253. Whessoe Parish Hall – Wed 11 Mar and 8 Apr – 6-7pm.

By appointment only using contact details above.

Lynn Paley (L) Tel: 07963 706171. Harrowgate CIU Ltd – Wed 11 Mar and 8 Apr – 6-7pm.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 283262; **Andy Scott (L)** Tel: 253707, andrew.scott@darlington.gov.uk; **Nick Wallis (L)** Tel: 07960 247554. Salvation Army, Thompson St – Wed 11 Mar and 8 Apr – 6-7pm. Asda foyer – Sat 7 Mar and 4 Apr – 10-11am.

HEIGHTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Gerald Lee (C) Tel: 314622; **Paul Crudass (C)** Tel: 374537. Brafferton Village Hall – Sat 7 March – 10-11am. High Coniscliffe Church Hall – Sat 4 Apr – 10-11am. Summerhouse Village Hall – Sat 2 May – 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Charles Johnson (C) Tel: 463712; **Paul Howell (C)** Tel: 07464 688865. By appointment using contact details above.

HURWORTH

Christy Chou (C) Tel: 405998; **Lorraine Tostevin (C)** Tel: 333382. Hurworth Grange Community Library, Hurworth Road – Thu 5 Mar and 2 Apr – 6-7pm.

MOWDEN

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482; **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138. Mowden Junior School – Mon 2 Mar and 11 May – 6.30-7.30pm.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998; **Eleanor Lister (L)** Tel: 254091. Corporation Road Primary School – Wed 4 Mar and 1 Apr – 6-7pm.

NORTH ROAD

Hilary Allen (LD) Tel: 480277; **Nigel Boddy (LD)** Tel: 07583 174104; **Anne-Marie Curry (LD)** Tel: 07531 304050, annemarie.curry@darlington.gov.uk. St Thomas Aquinas Church – Wed 25 Mar and 22 Apr – 6-7pm. Morrisons North Road café – Wed 11 Mar and 8 Apr – 1-2pm.

PARK EAST

Cyndi Hughes (L) Tel: 480975; **Libby McCollom (L)** Tel: 07910 369887; **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 240750. The Forum Music Centre – Tue 10 Mar and 14 Apr – 6-7pm. St Columba's Church, Clifton Road – Fri 20 Mar and 17 Apr – 6-7pm. St Augustine's Parish Centre – Tue 3 Mar and 7 Apr – 6.30-7.15pm.

PARK WEST

Bob Donoghue (C) Tel: 07767 294194; **Heather Scott (C)** Tel: 468547. 9 Ayton Drive – Fri 20 Mar and 17 Apr – 5-6pm. By appointment only using contact details above.

PIERREMONT

Stephen Harker (L) Tel: 380039; **Linda Hughes (L)** Tel: 07904 772387; **Mary Layton (L)** Tel: 350560. Reid Street Primary School – Wed 4 Mar and 1 Apr – 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Sam Howarth (L) Tel: 07807 709845; **Hilary Lucas (L)** Tel: 249215. Red Hall Community Centre, Headingley Crescent – Wed 11 Mar and 8 Apr – 6-7pm. Heathfield Primary School – Wed 25 Mar and 22 Apr – 6-7pm.

SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Brian Jones (C) Tel: 332820; **Doris Jones (C)** Tel: 332820; **Deborah Laing (C)** Tel: 07747 863297. By appointment using contact details above.

STEPHENSON

Ian Haszeldine (L) Tel: 496548. St James the Great – Wed 11 Mar and 8 Apr – 6-7pm. **Mike Renton (C)** Tel: 07495 697592. St James the Great – Wed 25 Mar – 6-7.30pm. Wesley Court – Wed 29 Apr – 6-7.30pm.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Barch (C) Tel: 07554 645651; **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. Oban Court, 32 Whinbush Way – Sat 4 Apr – 10am-noon.

MPs' SURGERIES:



Peter Gibson (Darlington MP) can be contacted through his constituency office at 34 Duke Street, DL3 7TZ. He will be hosting weekly constituency surgeries around the borough. To make an appointment call 711711 or email peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk



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



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

ENJOY DARLINGTON

Easter Eggs-travaganza

There's lots going on in the town centre over the Easter weekend:

Friday

Meet Peter Rabbit at the Cornmill Centre and enjoy family fun at Queen Street Shopping Centre, 11am–3pm.

Saturday

Face painting and crafts at Joseph Pease Place. Enjoy street theatre around the town.

DL1 is also going to be hosting Easter events check their website, dl1.co.uk for more details.

Darlington Food and Drink Festival

Friday 1–Sunday 3 May, Market Square;
Friday and Saturday 10am–8pm,
Sunday 10am–4pm

The exciting culinary experience returns to our town centre, complete with live entertainment and performances.

VE Day Celebrations

Monday 4–Friday 8 May, throughout the town

Activities running all week, including workshops in the Market Square, a big band evening event on Wednesday, and a VE Pease Pudding Street Party in the Market Square between noon–9pm on Thursday.

Darlington Dance Festival

Sunday 10 May, 11am–2pm throughout the town,

1pm–2pm mass dance in Market Square

A celebration of dance with local groups and professional performers.

Darlington Jazz Festival

Friday 1–Sunday 3 May, Voodoo Café on Friday, Joseph Pease Place on Saturday and Sunday noon–4pm

Local and regional talent gathers in Darlington for a musical extravaganza.





“I’d like to be a foster carer, but...”

Busting the myths about foster caring!

“I don’t want to give up my career...”

You can still work when you’re a foster carer as long as you meet all the needs of the child. Talk to our team for more information.

“I can’t afford to be a foster carer...”

Foster carers receive a professional fee, as well as an allowance to help care for the child.

“I’m single so I can’t foster...”

You can foster if you’re single. Foster carers can be from any background, regardless of race, sexuality, religion, or marital status.

“I don’t own a home...”

You don’t need to own your home, you just need to be able to provide a spare room in a place that’s safe, stable and secure.

Phone: 406222

Email: fostering@darlington.gov.uk

Visit: www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering

#ChangeAFuture

with



**DARLINGTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Christmas tree recycling

The St Teresa's Hospice annual Christmas tree recycling scheme raised more than £12,000. A team of Rotarians collected more than 1,700 trees, which were turned into garden fertilizer, in return for a small donation from residents.

Bowlers needed

South Park Bowls Club's season kicks off in April and they are on the lookout for new players. It's a great way to meet people and learn a new sport, whether you just want to have fun or compete. All ages and experience welcome. Find out more at www.facebook.com/southparkbowls or call after 5pm weekdays or weekends 07984 603455.

Free bus tickets

If you're starting a new job you have until the end of April to claim one week of free bus travel. The scheme, run by Let's Go Tees Valley, in partnership with Arriva North East and Stagecoach, is aimed at people who have found it hard to get a job because of transport costs. It runs until 30 April, visit www.letsготeesvalley.co.uk/newjob for information.

Local volunteers working to control giant hogweed along the River Tees



Volunteers needed to tackle growing problem

The Tees Rivers Trust is looking for volunteers to tackle giant hogweed, an alien plant that has become a major problem along our local rivers, reducing biodiversity and posing a risk to health.

Tees Operation Giant Hogweed aims to map and treat giant hogweed to reduce its distribution and to educate people about its dangers. The trust is already working with a number of volunteer groups but needs more help to tackle the invasive species.

John Musham, the invasive non-native species coordinator for the trust, said: "Left unchecked, giant hogweed will take over our natural environment. Some places have become 'no go' areas along the River Tees due to the level of giant hogweed present.

"Without the public's help, we won't be able to stem this invasion and we will lose valuable riverside amenities, see an increase in the risk to human health, and a decrease in biodiversity."

Volunteers can take part in activities throughout the year with the chance to enjoy time along the river and learn new skills while helping the environment.

To get involved, email jennifer.gant@teesriverstrust.org or call 07990757194. Follow the project on Facebook (@TheTeesRiversTrust) or visit teesriverstrust.org



IF WE CAN'T GET THROUGH WE CAN'T GET TO YOU

EVERY SECOND COUNTS, HELP US **SAVE LIVES** AND LEAVE ENOUGH ROOM



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

**SAVE
THE DATE!**



Pick, pie and a pint 2020



+



+



**Help us clean up
the town centre
and enjoy a free
pie and a pint
afterwards**

(or a soft drink and
something healthy!)



6 March

3 April

1 May

5 June

3 July

7 August

Special children's event

4 September

2 October

Next steps for Local Plan



Councillors have agreed to move the Local Plan - the legal document setting out the strategy for future development and investment in the borough - on to the next stage.

There will be another, final six week period where anyone – an individual or an organisation – can have their say on the version of the plan the council intends to submit to be examined by an independent Government inspector.

Creating the plan has been a lengthy process, as it provides policies not just for future housing development but also transport, the economy and community facilities like schools and health centres. It also provides guidance on climate change and environmental policies.

All councils must have a Local Plan by law. It gives the council a stronger voice against unsuitable development and provides greater certainty for the public and other public sector organisations, such as the NHS and education authorities, when planning for the future.

A number of changes have been made to the plan as a result of widespread consultation carried out in 2018 while the plan was in its draft stage, as well as changes made as a result of more recent comments.

- Springfield Park has been removed from the Skerningham development area, as has the proposed access point through Springfield Park. Springfield Park will be designated a local green space
- The original site proposed at Blackwell Grange East has been replaced with one that has less impact on Blackwell Grange Hotel and the historic parkland
- Land to the south of High Stell in Middleton St George has been removed
- Policies about biodiversity and sustainability have been strengthened.

How can I have my say?

The final six week chance to comment will take place in late spring. Anyone who has previously expressed an interest in the Local Plan will automatically be contacted to take part. All comments received will be passed to the Government inspector for consideration.

Full details of the Local Plan will be available on our website including all information and supporting documents associated with the plan – visit www.darlington.gov.uk/localplan

Sign up to be informed about the next stage of the local plan on our website.

- During the 2018 consultation, more than 1,300 comments were submitted by 292 residents and organisations
- More than 30% of the comments received led directly to a change being made to the proposed plan
- 21% of the comments were neutral, 59% were objections and 20% were supportive.

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

Don't miss out!
Sign up ONLINE

Garden waste collections will start again in April

Please remember to renew, or sign up, and pay your £35 annual fee online as soon as possible to benefit from the scheme (sign up by **Monday 23 March** to be included in the first collection).



For more information, to renew or sign up and pay your annual fee, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Please ensure you complete the correct form for renewal or new sign up. If you have any difficulties paying online please pop in to the Town Hall customer services centre with your credit or debit card and one of our staff will be able to help guide you through the process.

What **CAN** and **CANNOT** go into your garden waste bin

✓ **YES Please**

- ✓ Grass cuttings
- ✓ Hedge trimmings
- ✓ Twigs/small branches
- ✓ Flowers
- ✓ Weeds
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Prunings

✗ **NO Thank you**

- ✗ Bags or plastics
- ✗ Stone, rubble, soil, turf
- ✗ General waste
- ✗ Food waste
- ✗ Animal waste
- ✗ Japanese knotweed
- ✗ Ragwort



Have A Heart
GIVE SMART

“My life was saved because people said NO!”



The ‘Have a heart, give smart’ campaign encourages people to think twice before giving money to those who beg. Here, one woman shares her real-life experience of begging on the streets of Darlington, to highlight why it’s often better to make a donation to a charity offering support.

“A year ago I had an addiction to heroin. I needed to get about £50 a day to not rattle, and more to get high.

“I got the money where I could, mostly shoplifting, and the occasional handbag. I tended to sleep at a mate’s house. Even though I had a flat that was being paid for, it was cold and damp because I didn’t have the money to pay any bills; I needed it all for drugs.

“Someone suggested I tried begging. I’d never done it before. I usually avoided being in public because I still had relatives in the town and people who knew me. The cold weather, however, meant I could pretty much hide my face. So I wrapped up in old clothes, took a blanket, and went and sat on High Row, close to a cashpoint.

“It was easy. People just assumed I was homeless and started putting money in my bowl, giving me food and drink. I could afford the drugs I needed, and more. I even overdosed a couple of times and ended up in hospital. I had never done that before, I never had the money.

“For a while it was good, just a bit of hassle from the police, but then there was a campaign to discourage the public from giving to people begging on the street and the money dried up.

“It made me take stock... my health had deteriorated; I felt like an old woman. I just couldn’t do it anymore.

“An outreach worker helped me access support. Now I am clean, trying to recover the life that I have wasted. I can now walk down the street without feeling worthless.”

The council works with the 700 Club and partners to offer outreach support to those in need. Find out more at www.700club.org.uk or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness

There's lots to enjoy in Darlington. Here's a taster of what's going on over the next few months... enjoy! Visit www.enjoydarlington.com for more events news.

parkrun - every Saturday, 9am, South Park. Free 5k run. To register visit www.parkrun.org.uk/darlington-southpark

juniorparkrun - every Sunday, 9am, South Park. Free 2k run for ages four-14. To register visit www.parkrun.org.uk/southpark-juniors

Farmers' market - first Sunday of every month, 10am-3pm, town centre.

Pease Pudding night market - first Thursday of every month, 4-9pm, town centre. Starting 2 April.

MARCH

BookFest - Monday 2 - Saturday 7, Crown Street Library. A week of events for World Book Day.

Come What May - The Ultimate Tribute to Moulin Rouge - Wednesday 4, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome.

The Afternoon Lectures: Operating the National Collection - a talk by Anthony Coulls - Thursday 5, 1.45pm, Head of Steam.

Balletboyz - Deluxe - Thursday 5, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome.

Matt Forde: Brexit, Pursued by a Bear - Thursday 5, 8pm, Darlington Hippodrome.

Seven Drunken Nights - The story of the Dubliners - Friday 6, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome.



Jack and the Beanstalk - Saturday 7, 11am and 2pm, The Hullabaloo. For ages 3-8.

Fastlove - Saturday 7, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. A celebration of George Michael and his music.

Made in Tennessee - Saturday 7, 7.30pm, The Majestic Theatre.

Cuppa with a Copper - Monday 9, 10am-noon, Esquires, Cornmill Centre. A chance to meet with a police officer in an informal setting.

Street Wise: What's in a Name? - Saturday 14 - Sunday 28 June, Head of Steam. Discover more about the stories behind Darlington's street names. Exhibition curated by Robin Coulthard.

Play in Two Days: Create Your Own Fairytale - Saturday 15 - Sunday 16, 10am-2pm, Theatre Hullabaloo. Two day theatre workshop using traditional fairytales. For six-12 years. Places must be booked.

The Great British Dog Walk - Sunday 15, 10am, Raby Castle, Staindrop.



The Cat and The Canary - Tuesday 17 - Saturday 21, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome.



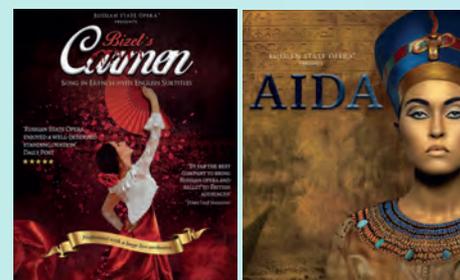
Lady Chatterley's Lover - Tuesday 24 - Saturday 28, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome.

Record Fair - Saturday 28, Darlington Market.

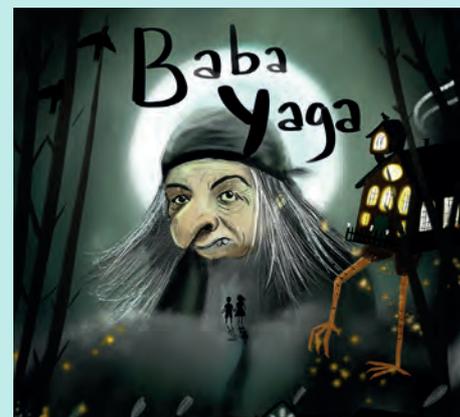
Space Fact and Fiction - Saturday 28 - Sunday 3 May, Head of Steam. Looking at the UK's contribution to space exploration, both in science fiction and fact.

Easter Fun Day - Saturday 28, 1-4pm, Elim Church, Bowman Street. Community fun day - meet the Easter Bunny, find treasure, make a bonnet and enjoy crafts.

APRIL



Carmen and Aida - Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. The Russian State Opera Company.



Baba Yaga - Wednesday 1 - Saturday 11, Theatre Hullabaloo. A dark and funny fairytale for age 6+.

The Afternoon Lectures: A trip across the Border Scotland Part 1 - a talk by Sam Woods - Thursday 4, 1.45pm, Head of Steam.

Relaxed Opening - Sunday 5, 10am-noon, Head of Steam. For people with sensory needs.

HELEN FORRESTER'S BY THE WATERS OF LIVERPOOL



By The Waters of Liverpool – Thursday 9 – Saturday 11, 7.30pm,
Darlington Hippodrome.

EASTER EVENTS



Easter crafts – Tuesday 7, 10am-4pm,
Head of Steam. Bunny ears, Easter origami
and seed planting.

**Animal story – Wednesday 8, 10am-
4pm,** Head of Steam. Meet the animals!

**Circus skills with Dot and Zooky –
Thursday 9, 10am-4pm,** Head of Steam.
Drop in session.

**Station Scamps and crafts – Friday 10,
10am-12.30pm and 11am-3pm,** Head of
Steam station café.

Peter Rabbit – Friday 10, 11am-3pm,
Head of Steam station café.

Easter Eggstravaganza – Saturday 11,
town centre. Easter trail and entertainment.

**Rapunzel – Saturday 11 – Sunday 12,
various times,** Majestic Theatre. Panto.

Easter special – Sunday 12, 10am-4pm,
Head of Steam. Egg trail, face painting, arts
and crafts. Entry fee applies.

**Chocolate workshop – Tuesday 14,
10am-4pm,** Head of Steam. Make and
decorate your own lolly. Sessions must be
booked.

**Fairy/pirate crafts – Wednesday 15,
10am-4pm,** Head of Steam.

UK Subs – Saturday 11, doors at 7pm,
The Forum. Original punk band UK Subs
with guests Zero Tolerance. Tickets £11.

**Station Scamps and crafts – Friday 17,
10am-12.30pm and 1-3pm,** Head of Steam.

**Black Diamond Morris Dance Festival
– Saturday 18, 10am-4pm,** town centre.

Shine On – Saturday 18, doors at 7pm,
The Forum. Pink Floyd tribute. Tickets £12.



**Strictly Musicals 3 – Wednesday 22 –
Saturday 2 May, 7.30pm,**
Darlington Hippodrome. Darlington.

**St George's Day toast – Thursday 23,
noon,** Market Cross.



Vegan Festival – Saturday 25, town centre

MAY

**Food and Drink Festival – Friday 1-
Sunday 3,** Market Square. See page 5.



Jazz Festival – Friday 1-Sunday 3, town
centre. See page 5.

**VE Week celebrations – Monday 4 –
Friday 8,** See page 12.



**Darlington Dance Festival – Sunday
10, 11am-2pm,** town centre. Community
dance groups will perform around the
town before the mass dance in the Market
Square between 1-2pm.

CONTACTS

Darlington Hippodrome box office
open 10am-8pm (6pm on non-
performance days); Cornmill Centre
ground floor open 10am-2pm Monday
and Saturday only; call 405405 10am-
8pm Monday-Saturday (6pm on non-
performance days); or visit
www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

ENJOY TEES VALLEY

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

All information is printed as provided. Please check with venue before travelling.

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

Head of Steam – Darlington Railway
Museum – call 405060, visit
www.head-of-steam.co.uk or email
headofsteam@darlington.gov.uk
Entrance fees apply in most cases.

Darlington libraries – call 349610.

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



Team enhances end of life care

By 2025 there will be ten million more people in the UK over the age of 65 than there were in 2015 – that’s an increase of 66%. In the North East, life expectancy, though slightly under the national average, is 77.9 years for men and 83.1 years for women.

The main reasons so many of us are living longer include improved healthcare, lifestyle, and earlier diagnosis thanks to screening programmes, better testing and our awareness of symptoms.

With so much good news about how long many of us will live, we could be forgiven for not giving any thought to how we might want to spend the days or months right at the end of our lives if illness means we need palliative care. But, at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, there’s a team dedicated to making sure patients’ wishes are met. In a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission, which rated the Trust as ‘good’ overall, the end of life service was given the highest possible rating of ‘outstanding’.

Dr David Oxenham, consultant in palliative medicine, explains: “Our team focuses on ensuring we meet the needs and wishes of patients where medical treatments are not going to extend life.

“Because there’s so much that can be done, it’s important to recognise when treatments will no longer

extend life and talk to the patient about this, giving them control over decisions. Some people may not wish doctors to interfere with the natural course of their dying, others may wish to stay alive as long as possible, others may prefer to be admitted to hospital for palliative treatment, some may wish to stay at home – these decisions are for patients to make, within the boundaries of what is possible.

“Having a conversation with a patient about this is difficult but can help reveal how best to support them, what information to share with them, and when.

“I’m amazed at how pragmatic, resilient and realistic some people can be when faced with the inevitability of their own death.

“About 6,000 people die each year in County Durham with around 2,500 of those dying in hospital or whilst receiving care from our community teams. Around 2,000 patients will receive care and support from our palliative care service and we’ve increased our palliative care consultants from two to four to help meet this need. We also have community Macmillan palliative care nurses available every day, including at weekends.

“We want to ensure that patients in the final phase of life have the information, medicines and care to make their life as good as it can be and to achieve what is important to them as individuals and for their families.”

2020 in 2020

Our NHS Charity has a great track record of delivering a whole range of projects which are making a real difference to patient care. Huge thanks to those of you who fundraise for us or make donations – your kindness is very much appreciated!

This year, amongst lots of other activity, our charity is running the 2020 initiative, aiming to sign up 2,020 businesses, organisations and individuals who pledge to raise a £1,000 donation, during the year, for our appeal to enhance our chemotherapy facilities. It's had a great start and we're so grateful to those who have already signed up. Why don't you get on board and help make a massive difference to the care and experience our chemotherapy patients have?



Find us on
social media!



NHS
North East and North Cumbria
Urgent and Emergency Care Network

Sore throat Bad back Sickness and diarrhoea Ear ache Strains and sprains

For urgent medical advice 24/7
Visit 111.nhs.uk or call 111

A&E IS VERY BUSY

Please keep services free for serious emergencies

Thanks for using the right service!

You'll have seen on the news just how busy NHS services have increasingly become in recent months. The demand continues to rise and, in December 2019 alone, there were over 100,000 attendances across the region's emergency departments.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for considering the most appropriate service to use, depending on the circumstances. Visiting emergency departments for only the most serious accidents and emergencies makes the world of difference to the care we're able to give those most in need.

If you or a loved one become unwell, there are a number of ways you can seek expert advice and care. NHS 111 is available 24/7 for urgent medical advice either online at 111.nhs.uk or by calling 111. Pharmacists offer advice and over-the-counter medicines or you can arrange a visit or phone call with your GP. People who are seriously ill and require an emergency ambulance and admission to hospital will always take priority over those attending A&E with minor ailments so please keep emergency departments for those most in need.

We would also like to thank our staff for their hard work and commitment in continuing to give our patients the best possible care whilst under pressure.

Working with Children & Young People

**FREE
Course**



A free course for those who would like to work with children and young people and develop an understanding of working in various settings from health and social care (including social work) to education.

CAN YOU HELP ?

Learning & Skills is looking for volunteers to give up just a couple of hours a week to support people in the local community with their education. You will work with tutors in the classroom and help to support students with additional needs. Please get in touch with us for further details.

Substance Misuse Awareness

**FREE
Course**

Would you like to work with those who live with a dependency on substances such as drugs or alcohol? Discover the signs and symptoms of substance misuse and the effects they have on health (physical and mental), relationships and the community, including the NHS.

Level 3 Award in Education & Training

**Only
£350**



Do you want to teach in the lifelong learning sector or are you a trainer or tutor with no teaching qualifications?

Learning & Skills is delivering a City & Guilds accredited 12 week course starting on 22 April.

This qualification is the first stage of the Certificate in Education / PGCE. Please get in touch with us for further details.

Motor Vehicle & Site Joinery OPEN DAY

FOR DIPLOMAS AND APPRENTICESHIPS

For young people, schools, parents and carers to look around our units, discuss the courses we offer and for young people to have a go at simple tasks in the workshops.

**9am
until
7pm**

**Just drop in,
no booking
required**

Tuesday 14 April 2020

**Unit 38 and 39, Flexspace, Lingfield Way,
Darlington DL1 1PD**



See what YOU can do with Learning & Skills

CALL 01325 405601

TEXT 07932 869325

EMAIL l&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](https://www.facebook.com/Learning%20%26amp%20Skills)



Learning & Skills





Skinnergate set for fresh new look

Exciting plans to transform Skinnergate have been submitted for approval.

The plans, which involve demolishing the former Argos and Cash Convertor stores and renovating the former St Teresa's Hospice charity shop, will result in a number of small kiosk style retail units, perfect for independent businesses, facing out on to Skinnergate with apartments above.

Once the demolition work is complete, a mix of council owned apartments and houses will be built in the area immediately behind the three buildings, which face out on to Raby Terrace. It's also planned to include a small green space and garden area set among the homes, making it a pleasant space for residents and visitors. In total there will be 16 new homes. It is expected the work will begin shortly, subject to planning approval.

Darlington crowned a Purple Flag town!

After a rigorous assessment process, we have become the first town in the North East to be awarded Purple Flag status, a standard awarded to places that offer safe and enjoyable nights out.

The council, along with the police, other organisations and businesses from across the town centre, worked together on the application for several months.

As part of the process a team of expert assessors visited the town on a busy Friday night in December.

The assessors were looking at how safe and welcoming the town felt, how easy it was to get home safely, the range of leisure and entertainment venues and how the town generally looked and felt.

Purple Flag is an accreditation process similar to the Green Flag award for parks and the Blue Flag for beaches.

Darlington will be awarded the flag at a ceremony in April.



Spring clean your finances

It's that time of year when you might be thinking it's time for a spring clean but have you ever considered spring cleaning your finances as well as your home?

There are a lot of ways you can save money or even increase the amount of money coming into your household. For example, if you are eligible to claim free school meals you could save about £460 a year.

Online help and advice

There are websites available offering free information and support to deal with all kinds of money issues, including:

- comparison tools to check you're getting the best deal for your bills
- cutting the costs of your debt
- tips and tools to improve your budgeting skills
- ways you can boost your income.

We've brought together a lot of some of the best online resources and tips at www.darlington.gov.uk/moneyadvice

Benefits

Have you ever thought that you might be entitled to benefits or support? People are often reluctant to even think about claiming benefits because they think it's wrong or they are not entitled to the money. Through the Darlo Millions campaign, lots of people have found out they are eligible for financial support from the Government. This has added up to thousands of pounds in some cases. More than £2m has already been claimed by people across the borough.

It's quick and easy to check if you can make a claim.

Simply click the benefits calculator at www.onedarlington.org.uk/darlo-millions

If you're not keen to go online, you can call **Darlington Citizens Advice on 734999** and they will help you. Home visits are also available if needed.



Help and advice

There's lots of local advice available.

Find out about the organisations who could help you at www.darlington.gov.uk/moneyadvice



Darlington

To find out if you, or someone you know, is entitled to claim visit www.onedarlington.org.uk/darlo-millions and use our online calculator. For advice or help to make a claim, email darlomillions@darlingtoncab.co.uk or call 734999.

Supported by



Recycle right and responsibly

By 2025 we want 50% of your household waste to be reused, recycled or composted. By recycling right you can help us achieve this aim and continue to be a responsible recycler.

We have a moral duty to know what is happening to the recycling you collect.



We only collect materials that can be recycled, reused or treated in the UK.



None of our waste problems are sent abroad for another country to deal with.



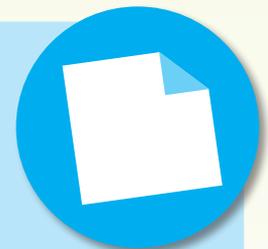
We will only collect higher quality plastics which can be treated and recycled in the UK.



The majority of what you throw away is turned into a fuel used in cement production.



In spring we will put new stickers on your recycling bins and boxes to remind you what goes where.



BIN COLLECTIONS REMINDER – refuse/recycling bin collections due for Friday 8 May will take place on Monday 11 May because of the changes to the Bank Holiday to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Don't let crime blossom!

As spring marks its arrival with warmer days and shorter nights, we're urging people to protect their property from opportunistic thieves.

As part of a seasonal crackdown, Durham Constabulary is urging people to take simple steps to prevent themselves becoming victims of crime.

Neighbourhood Inspector Chris Knox, said: "We know that as the seasons change, certain crimes increase. We are asking people to take a little bit of guidance from us so they can do their bit to avoid being targeted.

"Many thefts from gardens happen because a property hasn't been locked. As lawnmowers and gardening tools come out for the spring these become an easy target as sheds are often left unlocked.

"Expensive bikes also become prime targets so please make sure you keep them stored somewhere safe with a good quality lock."

We are also reminding people to lock their cars and remove all valuables.

Insp Knox added: "Thieves will just try every door handle until they find one that's open. Do not give them the opportunity."

Follow these tips to keep your home safe this spring:

- Keep garages and sheds locked while using tools and ensure you put them away after use
- Make sure garage doors are closed and secure
- Make sure fences around your home are secure and not broken
- Planting defensive hedging and plants may help to deter criminals
- Leave a light on or use timer switches so lights come on when it gets dark
- If you are planning a holiday, do not advertise it on social media
- Ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your home if you are going on holiday
- Contact your local neighbourhood police team if you see anything suspicious in your area.

For more information on how to keep your home safe this spring, contact Darlington Neighbourhood Police Team on 101.

To report any suspicious activity in your area, contact Durham Constabulary on 101, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Protect your property from opportunistic thieves



- Keep fences and gates in good repair
- Securely lock gates and garages
- Don't leave expensive items lying around
- Install security lighting
- Consider using a shed alarm
- If you are planning a holiday, do not advertise it on social media

*For more information on how to keep your home safe this spring, contact **Darlington Neighbourhood Police Team on 101***





Steve White, left, with Caroline Todd and Phil Hillsdon of King's Church foodbank

Public support vital to foodbank service



Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Steve White visited King's Church foodbank and donated some much-needed food to support those that find themselves in hardship, crisis, or vulnerable circumstances.

The church community has found there is an increasing need for food banks and soup kitchens across the Darlington area.

The food bank has been running for eight years and every year has seen an increase in demand and faced new challenges. The food Steve donated was collected by colleagues in the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's office.

Steve White said: "It was heartwarming to get an insight into the good work carried out by the volunteers at King's Church, delivering this much needed service. At these difficult times it is great to see the support they give; not just providing food, but also emotional reassurance and social support to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities."

Foodbank manager Caroline Todd said: "We just couldn't deliver this vital service without the generosity of the people of Darlington. We are grateful for this much needed donation."

Phil Hillsdon is the lead elder at King's Church and he showed Steve around. He saw the work of the furniture donation department, volunteers rotating stocks of food to ensure they are all used within the use by dates, people making up food parcels and sorting toiletries, and others running the café.

The foodbank is open from Tuesday to Friday for referrals and open to the public on a Wednesday and Friday. Other days are spent collecting donations from local supermarkets and sorting out produce.

Last year, at King's Church, about 6,500 food parcels were given out - the equivalent of about 90,000 meals. The church works with other churches and food banks in the area to ensure that nothing is wasted.

How we spend your money

Following a consultation earlier this year, we recently approved our budget. Here's how council spending is broken down.



Adult Social Care
£34.8m



Children's Services
£24m



Environment
Parks, grass cutting, street cleaning and tackling fly tipping
£5.4m



Concessionary Fares
Free travel on local buses for eligible people
£3.8m



Education and Learning
£3.7m



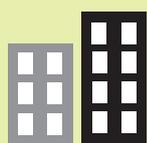
Highways and Street Lighting
£3.5m



Waste Management
Emptying bins, recycling and disposal
£2.7m



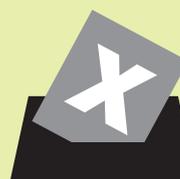
Arts, Culture and Leisure
£2.7m



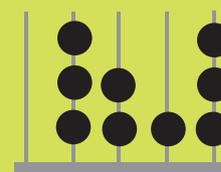
Planning, Development and Regeneration
£1.5m



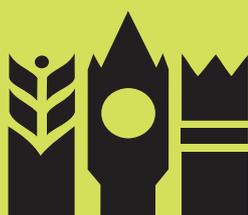
Housing, Welfare and Benefits
Including help for homeless people
£1.5m



Democracy
Including electoral register, cost of elections and councillors' allowances
£1.4m



Financing
Loan repayments for capital schemes
£1m



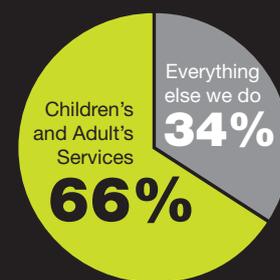
DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



Regulatory Services
Keeping you safe
£0.5m



Other Payments
...that don't fit any other category – eg building maintenance and customer services
£3.4m



Total spend is £89.9m

#50 Faces

www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces

Helping run smo

Pip Rayner

Systems strategy and development manager

In a nutshell, my job is all about making sure we make best use of all of our IT systems. I started in this role in 2016 and before that I was a project manager.

My team makes sure we have the right IT in place so people can contact us easily and access council services online. So many people prefer to go online these days to pay council tax or organise their garden waste collection and it's my job to make sure the systems are as easy to use and reliable as possible.

My days are really varied, we have several large IT systems and lots of people, quite rightly, want the very best from those systems. We are always looking at ways to improve the processes and practices around these systems and to get best value for money for everyone. Part of my job is to work with other organisations, such as other councils, so we can share ideas and the best ways of doing things. As a resident of Darlington, I feel really passionate about making sure money is well spent and nothing is wasted.

I moved to Darlington in 2005 so have lived here for almost 15 years now. I'm proud to be bringing up my son, who's 11, in Darlington and he loves the town too! Before coming to work for the council, I worked in the private sector. I have a degree in politics, so perhaps working in local government was meant to be!



To hear more from Pip and Mark in their own words, visit our website to see the full list of people to have featured in our #50Faces series.

things othly

In this instalment of the **#50Faces** series which profiles some of the council's unsung heroes – we meet two dedicated staff who help keep vital back office systems firing on all cylinders.



Mark Ditchburn Multimedia officer

I've worked for the council for about six years in a few different job roles. My first job was sustainable transport advisor – we knocked on your door and offered travel advice.

Then I worked as an engagement assistant in our communications team and now I work in the web team as a multimedia officer.

This is one of the most enjoyable jobs I've had. My average day can include updating the council's website, working closely with our design and print team and training people so they are able to update their pages on the website too.

Although my work can be challenging it is very rewarding and gives me the opportunity to be creative. I'm always learning how to use new technology, which is great!

We're a small council and the nature of my work means I get to know a lot of my colleagues. They're a great bunch of people to work with and some of my most enjoyable work is when we work together on webpages, projects and training.

The only downside is occasionally your colleagues in the communications team will bundle you off, film you and take your photo for things like #50Faces and before you know it you're in One Darlington for everyone to see!



words – and meet some of the other
es – visit www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces

Join in the Big Spring Clean!

Do your bit for the environment by taking part in this year's Big Spring Clean. Residents, community groups, schools and businesses can sign up for litter picks. Last year more than 1,090 people took part in 68 events and collected 1,102 bags of litter. To get involved, email litterfreedurham@darlington.gov.uk or call 406719.

Taxi review

The council is reviewing its private hire and hackney carriage licensing policy, with a view to introducing a new policy in January 2021. We want to hear your ideas and suggestions so we can prepare a draft policy for consultation later this year. You can view the current policy at www.darlington.gov.uk/licensing and send us your ideas by emailing licensing@darlington.gov.uk

Awards success

The council has added another award to its collection after being successful in the 'most improved performer in cemetery and crematorium services' category at the APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) Performance Networks Awards 2019.

Bowling update

Work to introduce a bowling alley on the first floor of the Dolphin Centre is progressing. We are currently going through the process of securing a contractor to carry out the development work and hope to begin work in the spring.



Photography student snaps up award

Well done to student Melanie Pritchard who won our ice sculpture photography competition.

Students from Darlington College's art and design course were invited along to the town centre ice sculpture trail in December, to take photographs of the sculptures as part of their course work and to enter the photography competition.

The annual ice sculpture trail saw thousands of people head to the town centre to enjoy the sculptures, street theatre and live music, as well as making the most of our fantastic range of shops and restaurants.

The students' brief was to take fun snaps of the event which showed off the town centre and all the festive activities.

Melanie's winning photograph captured the town clock, the Christmas tree, the festive lights and also the live carving sculpture at Joseph Pease Place.

A special mention and certificate also went to Amelia Gibson who managed to capture the town clock in the ice picture frame perfectly.

Photographs from all the students involved will be used to promote this year's ice sculpture event. Thanks to all who got involved.

Poles apart



Healthy
Darlington
eat well, move more, live longer



Move More Star

Malcolm Cummins first went to Nordic walking with the Move More team in January 2014 after deciding he wanted to exercise more.

The Nordic walking instructor showed Malcolm the basics and he was quickly introduced to the volunteer health walk course being run by Groundwork, where he trained to become a walk leader.

He said: "I now volunteer my time on health walks. It's like having a walk with a group of friends, and I enjoy it. I like to get out in the fresh air, socialise and have a laugh at the same time as exercising."

Nordic walking sessions are every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10-11am, from South Park. For more information contact the Move More team on 405400 or email movemore@darlington.gov.uk



Win an Easter hamper

Get cracking in our eggs-cellent competition and you could win a fantastic Easter hamper courtesy of Darlington Markets.

The Indoor Market has all you'll need for a great Easter. Fresh meat, fruit and veg, along with fish for Good Friday and plenty of sweet stuff to keep you going.

There's always lots of different markets and events to enjoy with Darlington Markets. Check out what's on this Easter and enjoy some cracking family fun. Look out for the Vegan Festival on Saturday 25 April and the return of the popular Food Festival from Friday 1–Sunday 3 May. Find out more at www.darlingtonmarket.co.uk or www.enjoydarlington.com

To enter the competition, unravel the letters, complete the form and drop it in the entry box in the Indoor Market by Thursday 2 April – the date when the award winning Pease Pudding market returns to town! The first correct entry drawn after the closing date will win an Easter hamper.

ENTRY COUPON

Unscramble these letters to reveal a tasty Easter treat:

S O R O T S B U N C H

Answer.....

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Daytime Tel.....

Email

Please tick here if you would like details of future markets events.





On-Demand Tees Flex Bus Service Launched

Tees Valley's state-of-the-art on-demand bus service is now up and running for local people across Darlington.

Called Tees Flex, the service aims to help those in more isolated communities across Darlington access essential services, along with training and employment opportunities that are being created across Tees Valley.

Nine new, high-quality Mercedes Sprinter buses,

operated by Stagecoach, are being used for the pilot, which has been funded by Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Serving three key zones – Darlington & Stockton Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland – passengers will be able to pre-book the bus via a smartphone

app, a website or over the telephone.

Single and return journeys can be made to requested pick-up and drop-off points within the serviced area and from the serviced area to secondary destinations including train stations and hospitals across the borough.

The routes will also serve Teesside International Airport, which has recently secured six new routes to destinations across UK and Ireland.

The pilot will run for three years, with the potential to be extended if successful.

This scheme is part of a wider £256.7million investment in all forms of transport across Tees Valley. This includes £25million for the redevelopment of Darlington Station, £20million to upgrade Middlesbrough Station and £40million recently earmarked for improvements at a number of other train stations across the region, as well as funding for walking, cycling and bus routes.

To book your trip or for more information, visit <https://bit.ly/2STTIDp>

Tees Flex - Zone 3 Darlington & Stockton

Key

■ On-Demand Bus service area

● Primary Destination

○ Secondary Destination



Flights Now On Sale For Teesside Airport's Six New Routes

You can now buy tickets for flights from Teesside International Airport to six new destinations across the UK and Ireland.

The new flights, beginning at £69 one way and operated by Flybe's franchise partner Eastern Airways, mark the first in 11 years to London and the first for a decade to Dublin.

The routes also include daily direct connections to London City Airport, Belfast City Airport, Cardiff and Southampton.

From May 30 this year, passengers will also be able to fly to the Isle of Man on a seasonal service and the airline has reviewed its flights to Aberdeen to increase reliability of the fleet.

The 37 new flights per week will add 185,000 seats each year, more than doubling the number of available seats.



LONDON CITY	27 APR
ABERDEEN	10 FEB
CARDIFF	10 FEB
BELFAST CITY	09 MAR
DUBLIN	09 MAR
SOUTHAMPTON	09 MAR
ISLE OF MAN	30 MAY

 **Teesside International**
Airport



TEES VALLEY Airshow



Grab your tickets to the Tees Valley Airshow, back in Darlington after a two-year break.

Taking place on Sunday, May 24, 2020, the show will see fly-bys and static displays return.

This is along with a classic car show, Army displays

and a fun fair, as well as live music and stalls.

The airshow is being sponsored by Tees Valley Combined Authority and Enjoy Tees Valley.

Tickets are £5 in advance and £10 on the day. Parking will also be £5.

For more information, visit TeesValleyAirshow.com

Clubs and Societies

Clubs in Darlington have a lot to shout about this month.
To add your club or see what's on offer, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/clubs



In the swim

One of the first swimming clubs in the UK, Darlington Amateur Swimming Club (DASC) has come a long way since its formation in 1882, when competitions were held in the River Skerne!

Now based at the Dolphin Centre, the club provides swimming and diving training. It offers competitive and inclusive coaching for a range of age groups.

DASC is run by a team of dedicated and experienced coaches, supported by an army of volunteers. Activities include competition galas, junior league teams and championships at county, regional and national level. Sessions are across the week, with up to 13 hours of training for those pushing for regional and national qualifying.

Last year, the junior league swim team (nine-12 years), came second in its league and had individual medals at county and regional level. Harriet Rogers, age 15, won two silver medals at the British Swimming Championships. Children interested in joining DASC need to be at a minimum of Level 7 (National Swimming Scheme or equivalent).

For details visit www.darlingtonasc.co.uk follow them on Twitter @DarlingtonASC or email enquiries@darlingtonasc.co.uk



Special anniversary

This year is the National Council of Women of Great Britain's 125th anniversary. The national headquarters was in London, but in 2018, it moved to Darlington. The Darlington and District branch is very active; both the current and previous national presidents are members of the branch.

Its aim is to help women socialise and gain an interest in current affairs, represent women's view at the highest level and encourage them to take an active part in public life.

Members meet at All Saints, Ravensdale Road, on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10am. There is usually a speaker and social events like a spring lunch, summer outing and Christmas tea. Membership is open to everyone.

The launch of the anniversary celebrations takes place at the Mercure King's Hotel on Tuesday 24 March. Chris Lloyd will be speaking on 'Notable Local Women' with music from Darlington Orchestra. Other events include taking part in the Community Carnival and the annual tea dance as well as working with schools on an intergenerational fashion show in October.

Email info@ncwgb.org or pop along to a meeting.

Does your club have some good news? To be featured in a future edition, email communications@darlington.gov.uk

HIGHER EDUCATION OPEN EVENT

MONDAY 4TH MAY 2020 | 5PM - 7PM

- **Speak to tutors**
- **Find out about access to HE**
- **Advice on Finance**
- **Information on Foundation Degrees, Higher Apprenticeships and Professional Qualifications**

Should you have any further queries or require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at enquiryline@darlington.ac.uk



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for 3 & 4
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olds of
working
families.

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least 16 hours per
week at the national
minimum wage?

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childcare or nursery?

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