



one January 2021
Darlington

**Dawn rises
on 2021**



FREE Learning & Skills Courses

Functional Skills

Functional Skills are the fundamental English, maths and ICT skills that you need for your working and personal life.

Take the opportunity this New Year to improve your skills for the workplace or to help you gain employment. Achieve a recognised Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 qualification (equivalent to a GCSE) and learn in a supportive and friendly environment.

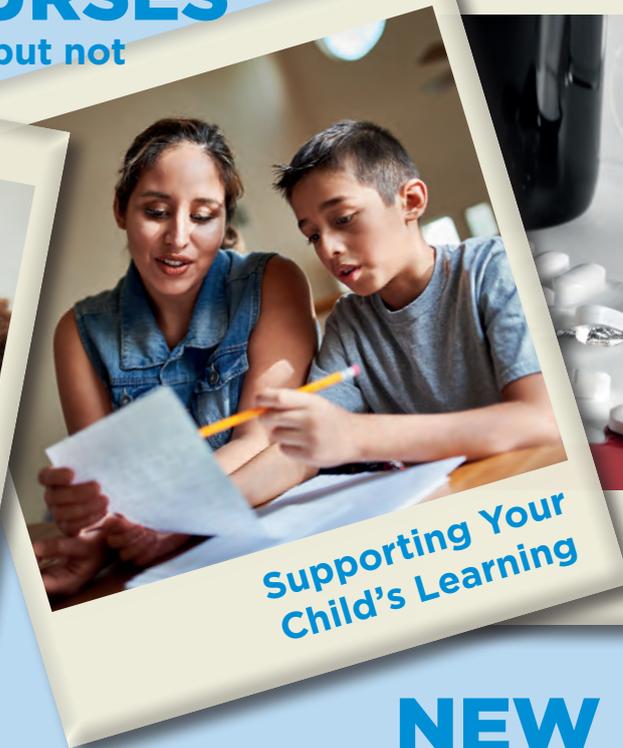


SHORT COURSES

on offer include, but not limited to:



Helping in Schools



Supporting Your Child's Learning



Substance Misuse Awareness

NEW FOR 2021

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) workshops to help those on furlough, or who have been made redundant. Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills to find out more.

CALL 01325 405601

TEXT 07932 869325

EMAIL l&s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

@DarlingtonL_S

DarlingtonL_S

Learning & Skills



Welcome to One Darlington

Welcome to the first One Darlington of 2021 – I hope you all had a happy Christmas.

The new year is often a time to think about doing something different with our lives. I wonder how many of you have thought about becoming a foster carer?

As someone who was fostered, I know what a huge difference foster carers make. It can be challenging for everyone involved but yet, incredibly rewarding.

When I was in primary school, I always felt a lingering sense of alienation and I always, unjustifiably, felt a bit sorry for myself because of my situation.

Looking back, I realise how lucky I was – I experienced most of my childhood life with routine, expectations, and future planning.

I think if I hadn't been taken into the looked after system, I would be a very different person now.

Foster carers undertake one of the most underrated and integral careers in society, which can have the most transformative effects on the people they take into their care.

My advice to people considering being a foster carer would be – do it, be dedicated, and have a lot of love.

If this is something that appeals to you, I can't thank you enough because it is people like you that perform some of the most amazing and life changing roles.

There will be ups and downs, but to achieve a good relationship with someone that has come into your care and give them the structure their life desperately needs, is one of the most miraculous jobs in the world. You can find out more on page 28.

The last year has been challenging for us all, but the people of Darlington and local villages, have really come together and done their bit to help. On page 32 and 33 there is information about services that can help you if you are struggling. As we head into 2021, lets hope the new year brings the fresh start we all need.

Finally, if you have any old coats in your wardrobe please think about donating them to Darlington Cares' appeal which is supporting families who need a helping hand – details on page 15. Thank you!



Kate Mummery
Supported lodgings advocate

Inside this issue

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The next issue will be distributed in early March. If you have not received your copy by mid-March, please call 0800 160 1552.

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



Loving local: Take a closer look at Darlington Market Hall

If you saw the scaffolding going up in the centre of town before Christmas, you may have guessed that work is now underway on the exciting plans to revamp and reimagine our historic Market Hall.

The project, a partnership between Market Asset Management, which manages the market, and the council, which owns the building, will see not only improvements to the outside but also the creation of new indoor spaces, including a 'temperate garden' visitor attraction and all the modern facilities that enable stallholders and small businesses to flourish.

Our distinctive Victorian Market Hall building was originally completed in 1864. Its role has evolved over the years and additions and changes have been made along the way, many of these unsympathetic to the original design. The new exciting improvements will be more in keeping with the original design and modern business needs to ensure that the market is a source of renewed civic pride, business prosperity and a pleasure for visitors to enjoy.

In addition to repairs and redecoration of the historic structure, the new 'temperate garden' will provide all-weather dining and entertainment facilities, opening onto the Market Square. 'Farmgate', an area inside the market hall, will offer local growers and artisan producers the chance to sell their produce – reducing the distance from farm to plate – while the refurbished market vaults will provide new restaurant facilities.

There will be improved facilities such as toilets and cash machines as well as changes to help stall holders.. These include kitchen facilities in the market vaults, purpose-designed food production rooms in the basement and service stairs for easier access.

Low-cost space for new start-up businesses is also being created, in the form of the Enterprise Haven, providing small, high quality office space, facing out over West Row.

The market will be open during the works so please come down, support our traders and see what we are up to. We hope you agree the end result will be more than worth it!



For more information on Darlington's market, visit: www.darlingtonmarket.co.uk



Icing on the cake for loco campaign



The campaign to keep George Stephenson's historic Locomotion No1 in Darlington has passed a significant milestone, with more than 5,000 people signing the petition.

Baker Hayley Walker, of Hayley Cakes Durham, created a special cake to mark the milestone and support the campaign. Hayley said: "Baking has always been a stalwart of fundraising efforts, so it's not surprising that the Keep The Loco in Darlo team and I decided to use cake to not only raise the profile of the campaign but to celebrate its progress.

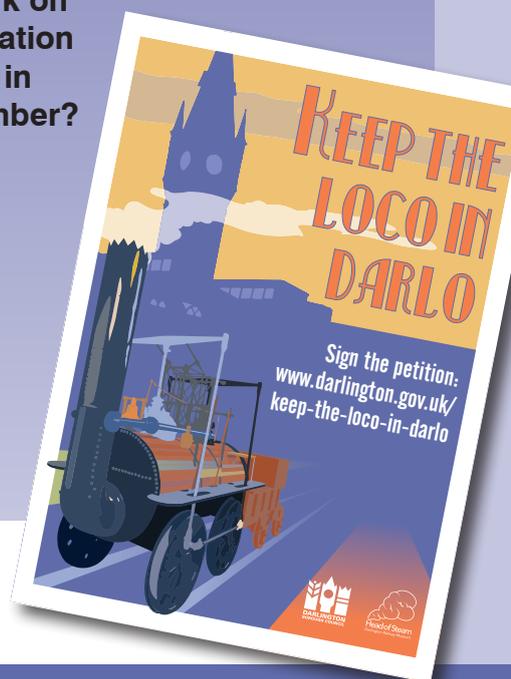
"I grew up in Darlington and know how important the town's history is and how tenacious residents are, so naturally I jumped at the chance to help! I hope the combination of cake and iced biscuits continues to inspire the people of Darlington to support the campaign as much as Locomotion No 1 inspired me to make this cake."

The campaign has also received celebrity backing recently, with Monty Python star and travel presenter Michael Palin lending his voice to calls to Keep the Loco in Darlo.

For more information, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/keep-the-loco-in-darlo

TV spotlight on campaign

Did you spot the poster of Jonny Lancaster's unique campaign artwork on Coronation Street in December?



Play Your Part

Covid-19: Rapid community testing

No symptoms?
You can still help

Darlington beat the virus

Darlington is the first town in the North East to begin mass community testing for Covid-19. Testing began before Christmas in the Dolphin Centre and will continue this month, with more community venues added to reach as many people as possible.

Roughly 1 in 3 people with the virus show no symptoms but could be spreading the disease without knowing it. By testing people with no symptoms, we stand more chance of stopping the virus in its tracks.

Do your bit for your community by taking a Covid-19 rapid test. The test is free, takes minutes to complete and you'll get the results fast.

The community testing works alongside the existing test system for people who do have symptoms – you should NOT use mass community testing if you have any coronavirus symptoms. If you do have symptoms you must self-isolate, and call 119 or visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test



Covid-19 - second phase of community testing coming in January

Tests will be available at the Dolphin Centre and at various community venues

For full details, call 01325 405000 or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/testing

KEEPING DARLINGTON ON

Coronavirus report



“When we first heard about coronavirus I thought it would affect everyone the same – I know now, from personal experience, that’s not the case”

As chief executive officer of Healthwatch Darlington, Michelle Thompson BEM has been involved in the fight against Covid-19 as an advocate for healthcare patients across the town. But in October, Michelle was struck down herself by the virus, leaving her bedridden for more than three weeks. Here, she tells about her experience and the importance of testing asymptomatic people

When Michelle Thompson’s husband tested positive for coronavirus from a weekly testing scheme provided by his workplace, the couple were astonished.

“He didn’t have a single symptom, he didn’t feel a thing,” says Michelle.

The pair followed Government self-isolation rules at home but it was only 11 days later that Michelle started to feel unwell.

What followed knocked Michelle for six. Otherwise fit and healthy, she spent three weeks in bed, seriously unwell with the virus.

“This virus moves so easily from person to person and I think I thought that when you got it, it would be the same for everybody, but it’s not,” she said.

“There’s people who get mild symptoms and those who have it but don’t have any symptoms at all and then there’s people like me who thought they were healthy but get absolutely floored and really scared.

“And that’s before you consider vulnerable people as well who, if they do get it, it can be life threatening.”

Michelle has given her backing to the asymptomatic community testing taking place in Darlington.

“Although my husband’s positive test didn’t stop me getting the virus, it did stop him potentially passing it on to anyone else, who could have been even more ill than me,” she said.

“The testing being offered in Darlington is fantastic, because it’s only by knowing who has the virus and properly following the self-isolation rules that we can stop it being passed from person to person.

“I know a lot of people are feeling isolated and quite frustrated about the situation, but hopefully there’s light at the end of the tunnel. We just need to keep at it for a little while longer and all stick together to get through this.”

healthwatch
Darlington

Healthwatch Darlington is an award-winning organisation that acts as an independent voice and champion for people using health and social care services across the town.

Visit www.healthwatchdarlington.co.uk to find out more about what they do and to share your experiences of healthcare in Darlington.

THE RIGHT TRACK



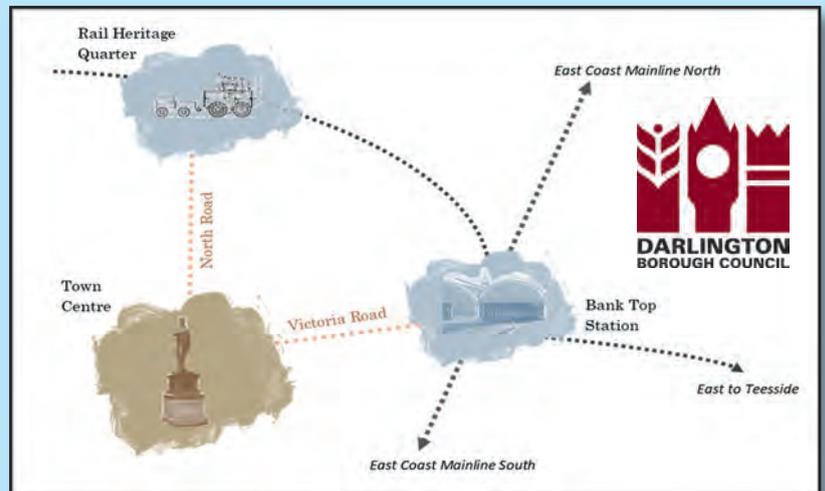
DARLINGTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Key areas of town improvements

We are one of the first of 100 towns to be allocated our share of the government's £3.6bn Towns Fund. The intention is to use this funding for ambitious regeneration plans. The funding will be used to complement and extend regeneration schemes in the town centre; in North Road, in the area between the town centre and the Head of Steam Museum; and Victoria Road, including the areas around the station and the cattle market.

Together with £1m of additional funding to help boost recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, this £22.3m Towns Fund investment, secured by the council in 2020, will be spent on projects to revitalise and improve the town. These include:

- improvements to the historic yards
- the creation of a park along the River Skerne
- urban regeneration and the extension of existing schemes to improve North Road, including the Rail Heritage Quarter, and a 26-mile walking and cycling route along the original Stockton and Darlington railway line
- further improvements to the Victoria Road area linking with proposed station and former cattle market redevelopments
- the creation of adult learning space in the town centre and teaching space at Darlington College to give people more opportunities to get skills that will lead to employment.



Work is already underway on several projects supported by this funding, including new town centre Wi-Fi and improvements to lighting at the iconic clock tower, Pease Statue and St Cuthbert's Church.

Detailed business plans are being developed to enable the vision outlined in the funding proposals to be brought to life and provide immediate benefits to these areas and lasting benefits for the wider town.



For more information on the Towns Fund, Town Deal Board and

own set for major



Breathing new life into our historic Yards and Wynds

Work to improve the Yards and Wynds will be done in two phases. The aim is to make the most of these special areas of the town, improve our unique and historic building facades and make these walkways, which are home to several independent businesses, more enticing to visitors.

The concept behind the transformation to develop a high quality historic heart to the town draws on the spirit of the Shambles of York, European courtyards and Neal's Yard in London.

Phase one will concentrate on Clark's and Buckton's Yards, which run between High Row and Skinnergate. Work includes cleaning and improvements to building fronts, lighting improvements, more greenery and outside café seating to capitalise on these naturally interesting lanes, encouraging more people to visit and stay longer.

Phase two will build on the successes in the first phase and expand into and along Skinnergate and down into both Mechanics Yard and Post House Wynd, improving shop fronts and public spaces to help make this a more vibrant and enjoyable place to live, visit and shop.

Ongoing work to 2025 will provide lasting benefits

There will be long-lasting benefits to key parts of the town, not just from an economic point of view, but in improving the look and feel of our streets, bringing important historic sites back to life and creating good quality housing and business accommodation in the centre of town.

The funding was allocated in October 2020 after the council, working with a dedicated Town Deal Board, submitted its Town Investment Plan to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The funding will allow us to make significant changes, giving the town a facelift and providing a much needed economic boost, linking up with other major projects, including Bank Top Station redevelopment, taking us through to the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 2025.

For detailed plans, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/TownsFund

Trees

Your questions answered



The council has adopted a new tree and woodland strategy following public consultation, which could see up to 20,000 new trees planted including fruit trees in parks and open spaces.

We receive a lot of questions about trees, especially near residents' homes – here are some of the most common things you ask.

What can I do about branches hanging over my property?

You have the right to cut back growth on overhanging branches up to the boundary of your property. If you cut branches past the boundary it may constitute trespass and/or criminal damage.

If you think a tree could be protected by a tree preservation order (TPO) or is in a conservation area, you need to contact our planning department to check. Email planning@darlington.gov.uk or write to Planning Department, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT. If a tree is protected, you will need permission from the planning department to cut branches.

Some branches fell from a tree near my house when it was windy and I am worried the tree is dead or dying. What should I do?

Strong winds can cause damage to healthy trees but, if you are concerned, email customerservices@darlington.gov.uk or call 405111 and we will come and inspect the tree.

I think a tree next to my house is causing structural damage – what can I do?

If you are worried about subsidence or damage to your property contact your home insurance provider. We don't carry out surveys to determine whether damage has occurred to private properties, but your insurer will be able to help. If there is evidence of structural damage which could be linked to a council-owned tree, please email all the details and reports (including surveys) to streetscene@darlington.gov.uk so we can investigate and take appropriate action.

I am concerned my telephone cables will be damaged by the trees outside my house. Will you cut the trees back?

Telephone cables are tensioned to allow movement when they are near trees. We don't prune trees to prevent damage to telephone lines but your telephone provider may be able to help.



(Thank you to residents Murray McLaren, Barbara O'Neill and Gordon Tough for the photography)

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. There are no ward surgeries at the moment but you can still 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 Heather Scott, type in heather.scott@darlington.gov.uk

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

BANK TOP AND LASCELLES

Helen Crumbie (L) Tel: 07743 191014. **Wendy Newall (L)** Tel: 251574. **Darrien Wright (I)** Tel: 07724 384264.

BRINKBURN AND FAVERDALE

Scott Durham (C) Tel: 07805 505156. **Rachel Mills (C)** Tel: 482906/07786 077189. **Lisa Preston (C)** Tel: 07793 662154.

COCKERTON

Paul Baldwin (I) Tel: 07515 814007. **Jan Cossins (L)** Tel: 241124. **Eddie Heslop (L)** Tel: 354457.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553. **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059.

EASTBOURNE

Jonathan Dulston (C) Tel: 07775 555251. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629; **Steven Tait (I)** Tel: 07825 303036.

HARROWGATE HILL

Ian Bell (C) Tel: 07581 300111, ian.bell2@darlington.gov.uk; **Jon Clarke (C)** Tel: 07875 057253. **Lynn Paley (L)** Tel: 07963 706171.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 283262. **Andy Scott (L)** Tel: 253707, andrew.scott@darlington.gov.uk; **Nick Wallis (L)** Tel: 07960 247554.

HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Gerald Lee (C) Tel: 314622. **Paul Crudass (C)** Tel: 374537.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Charles Johnson (C) Tel: 463712. **Paul Howell (C)** Tel: 07464 688865.

HURWORTH

Christy Chou (C) Tel: 405998. **Lorraine Tostevin (C)** Tel: 333382.

MOWDEN

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

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998. **Eleanor Lister (L)** Tel: 254091.

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.

PARK EAST

Cyndi Hughes (L) Tel: 480975; **Libby McCollom (L)** Tel: 07910 369887; **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 240750.

PARK WEST

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

PIERREMONT

Stephen Harker (L) Tel: 380039. **Linda Hughes (L)** Tel: 07904 772387; **Mary Layton (L)** Tel: 350560.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Hilary Lucas (L) Tel: 249215.

SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Brian Jones (C) Tel: 332820. **Doris Jones (C)** Tel: 332820. **Deborah Laing (C)** Tel: 07747 863297.

STEPHENSON

Ian Haszeldine (L) Tel: 496548. **Mike Renton (C)** Tel: 07495 697592.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07554 645651. **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654.

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



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

SAVE TIME

DO IT ONLINE

So what can you



REPORT IT

You can report many issues online, including:

- Pot holes
- Fly tipping
- Anti-Social behaviour
- Broken traffic lights or street lights
- Breaches of planning law.



BINS & REFUSE

Recycling, bins, and refuse information is all available online:

- Use our weekly reminder service to help you keep track of when to put your bins out
- Find out what goes in what bin
- Book a trip to the tip.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

You need to call to book an appointment but it's worthwhile visiting our pest control web page to answer any questions you may have.



CAR PARKING

You can use mobile apps to pay by phone at many council car parks.



BUILDING CONTROL

You can complete and submit a number of building control application forms online.

Visit our handy webpage - www.darlington.gov.uk

doing it **ONLINE** your New Year's resolution

Our online services are often the easiest and quickest way to find information whenever you need it, and it's always safe.

Our website has loads of helpful information on it, but what you may not know is just how much you can do online. Even if you're not confident with the internet, our website is easy to use – and this article will help guide you.

do online?



HOUSING

The digital tenancy scheme is a fantastic way to manage your council tenancy on your PC, laptop, or smartphone. You can pay your rent, report repairs, contact the housing team and more.



TRANSPORT & BLUE BADGES

Lots of information to help you get about the town easily including:

- Apply for a blue badge
- Check for roadworks in your area.



PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

If you have an issue with a private landlord, you can get in touch with our private sector housing team.



ONLINE COUNCIL MEETINGS

You can watch council meetings online at www.darlington.gov.uk/livemeetings



LIBRARY

Our online library allows you to renew and request books, access ebooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines.

www.darlington.gov.uk/doitonline for a list of all the council services we offer online

News in brief

Bin reminder

Did you know we can email to remind you that your bin is due to be collected and which bin to put out? If there is a scheduled change to your collection we will remind you of your new date too! Sign up at www.darlington.gov.uk/bin-reminders

Winter maintenance

Our winter maintenance teams are on standby 24 hours a day at this time of year, ready to swing into action with gritters and snow ploughs when the bad weather hits. You can find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk/wintergritting Click on priority routes for our new interactive map of gritted streets and routes as well as grit bin locations.

What's On

You may have noticed there's no What's On pages in this issue of One Darlington. That's because there are so few events taking place at the moment. We look forward to bringing you details of events confirmed for later in the year in future editions. In the meantime, visit www.enjoydarlington.com for the latest updates.

Boost for town centre parking offers



Town centre visitors can enjoy two hours free parking for the next two years, after the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) agreed to fund parking offers across the Tees Valley.

The funding boost means the council can continue to offer two hours free parking in most council-owned car parks and on-street bays until at least the end of December 2022. The offer will apply to the inner ring road areas only. Car parks outside this area will revert to earlier parking charges.

It is hoped this new arrangement will help encourage more shoppers to use the town centre and support local businesses.

From mid-January there will also be changes to Sunday parking. Council car parks within the inner ring road will offer two hours' free parking with a charge of £1 for the whole day, while other council-run car parks will charge £1 to park all day.

East Street multi-storey car park is now open and is included in the two hours free offer and gives an option of £2 for all-day parking.

Car park users must take a ticket from the machine and display it on their windscreen even if they are not staying longer than two hours pay an additional charge on top of the two hours free. You should also check the information given on the machines carefully and follow instructions to avoid a parking ticket.

For more details, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/parking





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

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



TEESSIDE'S MAKING IT EVEN

There has been a host of exciting announcements at Teesside International over the past few months – and £3million of improvements are now taking place in the terminal to make sure your trip gets off to a flying start.

In November, the seismic news came that we had hit our milestone of securing not just any low-cost airline but Europe's No1 – Ryanair – which will fly to Alicante and Palma, Majorca from this June.

It's a fantastic present for 2021, our airport's 80th birthday year.

This is on top of welcoming Loganair on a long-term deal for flights to Aberdeen, Belfast City, Dublin, Jersey and Newquay kicking off next month,

Balkan Holidays' expanded offering to Bulgaria and JetsGo's Majorca trips over the summer – and, of course, the exciting return of the UK's biggest holiday firm, TUI, for holidays to Majorca in summer 2022.

Obviously, this means thousands more people will be pouring into our terminal building this year and next to take advantage of these great value business and leisure flights, as we get back to full strength following the coronavirus pandemic.

But when we brought our airport back into public ownership and saved it from closure, it was clear there had been a total lack of investment.

The systems the airport depends on simply weren't fit for purpose for the 21st-century and it would be impossible for us to process the 1.4million passengers we're on course to welcome back as part of our ten-year turnaround plan.





EASIER TO FLY YOU FURTHER

So, despite a temporary reduction in flight operations during the pandemic late last year, we've been working hard behind the scenes to begin a major overhaul of our departures lounge, security area and arrivals hall. This includes Teesside becoming one of the first regional airports in the UK to install cutting-edge 3D hold baggage and hand luggage scanners.

Work is well under way to bring parts of the airport that were closed off in 2014 back to life. Along with new check-in desks and baggage belts, more information screens and a new bag scanner - than can instantly detect threats including explosives - are being installed, making departures smoother and easier.

And you'll be through security in no time, thanks to a new body scanner that reduces the need for physical checks. A hand luggage baggage scanner now also means that you no longer need to pass liquids and electronics through security separately. Vitally, you won't need to pass through security again at London Heathrow or Amsterdam Schiphol if you're getting a connecting flight.

All of this is set to be finished in April, but if you had used our airport recently, you'll have seen that things are progressing quickly and much of the new equipment is in use already.

This complements other airport developments, including a new partnership with Darlington's luxury hotel and resort Rockliffe Hall. Our business lounge, the newly named Rockliffe lounge, is being refurbished and the partnership will make sure the five-star treatment echoes what you'd expect at the hotel. A renovation of our arrivals hall, with new signage, flooring, walls and painting is making the welcome to the Tees Valley warmer than ever.

These improvements, alongside securing top-quality but affordable routes for business and leisure travellers; and the work continuing to make our £200million Southside development a major draw for businesses show our airport is going from strength to strength.

Teesside Airport has had its ups and downs over the past 80 years, but the building blocks are in place for a bright future. Here's to 80 more!

For more information visit TeessideInternational.com

Tees Valley Mayor | Ben Houchen



talking changes

Self-help, counselling and talking therapies service to deal with common mental health problems such as stress, anxiety or depression.

0191 333 3300 Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
www.talkingchanges.org.uk

Providing free and confidential advice on a range of money, legal, housing and welfare issues.

0300 330 1195
www.darlingtoncab.co.uk
Monday – Friday
10am – 4pm
(Wednesday 6pm)

citizens advice

ADULTS

MANHEALTH

Male peer support groups helping men manage their mental health.

FREE Weekly ManClub sessions.
01388 320023 www.manhealth.org.uk

700 Club

Charity supporting individuals, families and couples who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

01325 366397 www.700club.org.uk
Monday – Friday 8.30am-4.30pm

we are withyou

Support around alcohol and substance misuse.
Tel: 01325 809810
Email referrals to: withyou.darlington@nhs.net
www.wearewithyou.org.uk

TALK TO US

If things are getting to you

24/7



116 123 FREE

This number is FREE to call round the clock.

jo@samaritans.org

samaritans.org

SAMARITANS

Accessible, experienced and customised support for all ages focussed on helping people achieve good mental health and wellbeing

07572 888084 Monday – Friday 9am-5pm www.darlingtonmind.com

Loss and Bereavement Helpline and Counselling service

07377 910227 supportline@darlingtonmind.com

Free, confidential and impartial young people's, parent's and families support line

07572 888084 Monday – Friday 1.30 – 4.30pm
crew@darlingtonmind.com

mind
for better mental health
Darlington

How a

If you are struggling overwhelmed there

there to help you.
Talk to someone a
Its OK to ask for h

DOMEST

Local services to sup
risk from domestic vi

Family Help

www.familyhelp.org.u
Monday - Friday
9am-5pm
01325 364486

In an **emergency** call **999**. For medical advice call **111** or sea

All information correct as of Oct 2020. Developed by Darlington Borough Council Public

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

on us...
mental health emergency.



0200317
phone line is open 24 hours
seven days a week and
callers a series of options
will divert them to the
appropriate local service.

Free, confidential
and impartial young
people's, parent's and
families support line
☎ 07847 933799
Monday – Friday 10 -12
listeningpost@dacym.co.uk



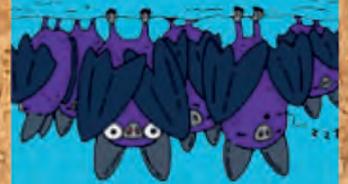
YMCA

Charity supporting young
people to live well and thrive.
Offering youth clubs open to
all young people aged 10-19
24/7 ☎ 01325 462452
www.teesvalleyymca.org.uk

Talk to someone you trust, a
family member or friend. People in
school or college like the Mental
Health Lead or the 'SENDCo' will
be also be able to help.

WORRIED? NEED TO TALK?

Call Childline on
0800 1111



are you?

ng to cope or feeling
e are plenty of services

about how you are feeling
elp

kooth

Free, safe and anonymous online
counselling and support for children
and young people aged 11-18
www.kooth.com

BEREAVEMENT



Pre and post bereavement
support as well as counselling
for people with life limiting illness
and their carers
☎ 01325 254321
enquiries@darlingtonhospice.org.uk
For more information about services:
www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk



Somewhere to turn when
someone dies
☎ 01325 288633
www.crusenortheast.org.uk
Monday – Thursday:
9am – 4.30pm
Friday: 9am – 3.30pm

IC VIOLENCE

upport those experiencing or at
olence



www.myharbour.org.uk
☎ 03000 20 25 25
(24 hours)

Expert advice and practical
tips on how to support your
mental health and wellbeing
– search online
for **Every Mind
Matters**



Voting safely at this year's elections



On Thursday 6 May, voters will elect a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the Durham Police area and a Mayor for the Tees Valley Combined Authority. By-elections will also be held for council vacancies.

If you live in the Red Hall and Lingfield Ward, you will be able to elect a new councillor following the resignation of Cllr Sam Howarth. We are also likely to have a by-election in the Hummersknott Ward as Cllr Paul Howell has indicated his intention to stand down before the elections.

To have your say in these elections, you must be registered to vote. If you are not currently registered to vote, the easiest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

There are a number of ways in which you can have your say in these elections – you can vote in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote.

Luke Swinhoe, returning officer, said: "These are challenging times and we are working to make it as safe as possible for you to vote. A postal vote is one of the safest ways for you to vote. Fill in the application form on the back page and return it to us if you want to opt for this."

If you want to vote by post, but do not have an existing postal vote, you can apply now. This will ensure your application is processed early and your postal vote can be sent to you in good time for the elections. Use the application form on the next page.

If you choose to vote in a polling station you can expect to see many of the measures you've become used to in shops and banks over recent months, such as hand sanitiser and floor markings. Social distancing and face coverings will also be encouraged.

If you need a proxy vote please contact the elections team for an application form.

For more information about these elections, voting by post, or by a proxy vote, contact the Elections Team on 406444, or email elections@darlington.gov.uk

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



See next page for postal vote application form

Application Form to Vote by Post

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

Address where you are registered to vote

About you

First name(s) (in full)

Surname

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

Your Date of Birth

Day		Month		Year			

Declaration

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

Signature: Keep within the border and use BLACK INK.

I cannot supply a signature because

Date:

Postal vote for which elections

All elections you are entitled to vote at

Local elections

Parliamentary elections

For how long do you want a postal vote?

Until further notice

For election(s) on

Day		Month		Year			

For election(s) until

Day		Month		Year			

Address for postal ballot paper(s)

My address where I'm registered to vote

or

The following address

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

Have you had help completing this form?

Name and Address of helper

For office use only

Supporting business

With 2020 behind us, times continue to be incredibly tough for businesses, both locally and nationally.

The council's business support team and other departments have been working hard to make sure local businesses get the help and support they need.

The government has provided funding for local authorities to support local businesses adversely affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. This is in the form of grants to individual businesses and millions of pounds have already been paid to help support local businesses.

Details and eligibility criteria can be found on our website. Search 'local restrictions support grant'.

As we begin 2021, restrictions will continue to change in line with government guidelines as the battle against the virus continues. The council is committed to supporting businesses and the team is on hand to offer additional support and advice.

The team can be contacted via email at business.support@darlington.gov.uk For regular business news direct to your inbox, or if you have business news to share, email businessindarlington@darlington.gov.uk

The #LoveDarlo Facebook page and enjoydarlington.co.uk are also there to help local businesses share their news, events and offers – please get in touch – it's free and a brilliant way to reach more customers.

Register your local business onto the Tees Valley Buy Local scheme to help raise awareness of your business and generate sales. Details are on www.buylocal.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Go online for business recovery workshop

Darlington businesses can sign up for a free online business recovery and planning workshop to help them survive and thrive during and after the pandemic.

The next one will take place on Tuesday 19 January at 9.30am.

The Covid-19 recovery and resilience planning workshop is aimed at owners of small businesses who wish to develop a more adaptable, flexible business.

The half-day session involves an interactive online workshop as well as a private two-hour review session with an independent professional business advisor.

The workshop will include marketing, finances and increasing revenue.

Simon Grant, from Business Doctors Teesside, who is hosting the workshops, said: "This workshop will help you take a step back, review where your business is and help you put a practical plan in place to grow sales and improve profitability. It is also a great opportunity to meet other business owners and learn from each other."

The workshop will take place online and is free. For details email business.support@darlington.gov.uk

This project has been supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).



New Year, new start

It's a well-used phrase, make a new start in the New Year. However, for many people, a new start might not be their choice as redundancies increase due to difficult trading conditions.

Teams across the council are working together to offer support for residents who are looking at a career change or facing redundancy. There is free training, as well as courses and advice to suit everyone, regardless of experience, education or career plan.

- The council's Learning & Skills team offers free online courses that can help prepare people for the world of work or a career change.
- Tees Valley Routes to Work helps support long-term unemployed adults over the age of 30 whose personal circumstances make it difficult to find a job. Support is provided on a 1-1 basis based on individual needs to help overcome any barriers and provide support back into the workplace.
- Younger people aged 16-29 can check out the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). The team can help with employment, education or training.
- National Careers Service has lots of online advice and help on looking and applying for work.
- Darlington Citizen's Advice Bureau offers help for those facing redundancy and can help people to claim the benefits they are entitled to. Find out more at www.darlingtoncab.co.uk

Local businesses can also take advantage of the Kickstart scheme which offers incentives to employ young people aged 16-24 on a six-month placement.

Free workshops are available if you want to find out more about a career in warehousing or distribution. These are delivered by Darlington College which also provides employability courses in retailing, digital skills, social care and LGV driving.

Details of help and support is available at www.darlington.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers

Panto through Darlington H

Darlington Hippodrome, or The New Hippodrome and Palace Theatre of Varieties to give its original name, opened in September 1907 under the management of Signor Rino Pepi. The first pantomime opened on the first day of 1908 – a production of Jack and the Beanstalk featuring Alma O'Brey, Frances Drew and George Reeves. What a visual wonder this must have been with the theatre able to accommodate 2,000 people – there was probably little health and safety in place!

The archives of the Hippodrome show a detailed history of pantomime up to the present day. In some years there were several pantomimes within a couple of months of each other. 1923 saw a string of four different pantomimes – Little Jack Horner, Little Red Riding Hood, Mother Goose and Cinderella run between January and February. To date there have been a total of 121 Christmas pantomimes at the Hippodrome in the theatre's 113 year history.

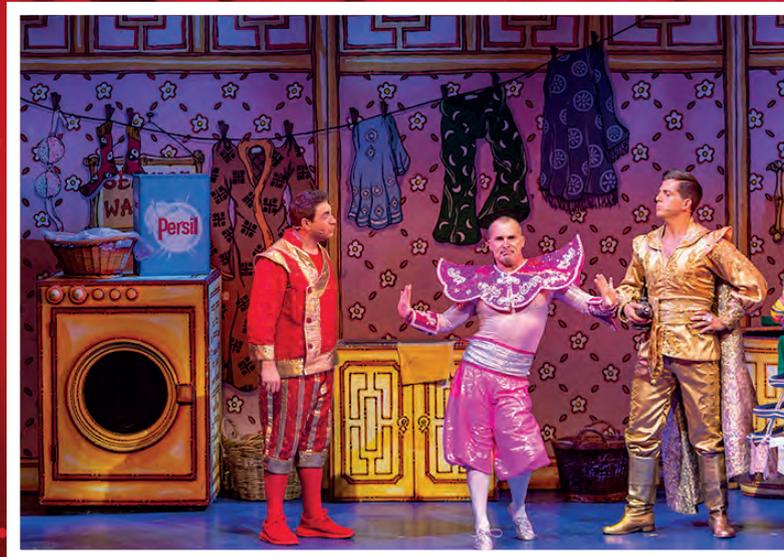
A number of different production companies have presented pantomime at the Hippodrome but for the last 20 years the annual festive pantomime has been presented in Darlington by Qdos Entertainment, the world's largest pantomime producers and who were responsible for bringing pantomime back to The London Palladium in 2017 after a break of over 30 years.

Qdos are well-known for their star-studded, lavish pantomimes and a roll-call of some of the star names who have graced the stage in Darlington pantomimes include The Chuckle Brothers, Linda Lusardi, Lisa Riley, Cannon & Ball, The Krankies, Denise Welch, David Essex, Ashleigh & Pudsey, Brendan Sheerin, Lee Ryan, Louis Spence and of course Darlington's own star, Zoe Birkett.

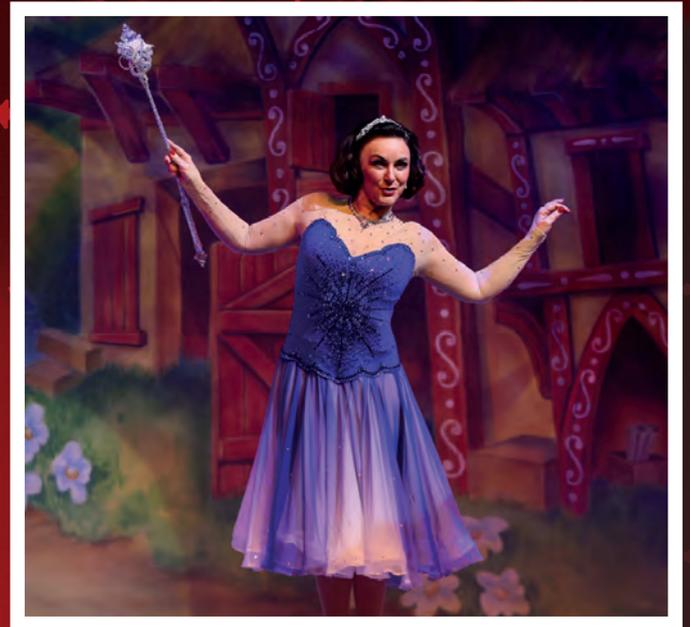
Pantomime is one of our most popular productions attracting groups of families, schools and organisations to enter in to the festive fun. Since reopening in 2017, after the multi-million pound restoration, over 101,000 pantomime tickets have been sold. That means a LOT of interval ice creams have been devoured – in fact there have been 33,348 tubs of ice cream sold during pantomime season since 2017.

What really makes pantomime special is the fact that adults and children can laugh together at the on stage action – everyone really likes to see performers forgetting their lines or missing a prop – it's all part of the fun. Look closely and you will see the fear in a performer's eyes as they know their fellow cast member is trying their hardest to make them laugh or go wrong.

The joyous experience of pantomime had to be put on hold for 2020 due to the Covid-19 outbreak but will be back bigger and better in 2021 for a sparkling production of Cinderella, which will include costumes and props used in the 2017 London Palladium production.



h the years at Hippodrome...



DH

DARLINGTON
HIPPODROME

Cinderella

runs at Darlington
Hippodrome from

Friday 10 to
Friday 31

December
2021.

Cinderella

THE FAIRY GODMOTHER OF ALL PANTOS

Tickets are on sale now.

Call the box office on 405405

or visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk



THE USUAL SUSPECTS!



PIZZA BOXES



GARDEN WASTE



PLASTIC HANGERS



DISPOSABLE NAPPIES



PLASTIC BAGS

Please recycle responsibly

We know lots of you recycle right and are helping us reduce the amount of contaminated recycling we collect – thank you. Sadly, we still find the wrong things in the wrong bin and some items just keep reappearing – we can't recycle takeaway pizza boxes, garden waste, plastic bags, plastic coat hangers or nappies so please put them in your general household bin and put garden waste in your green bin or take it to the tip.

But what is contaminated recycling? Why does it matter and can one plastic bag in the wrong place really make a difference?

What is contaminated recycling?

If you put something in the wrong bin or container then it's classed as contaminated.

Why does it matter?

Putting a couple of plastic bags or some food waste in the wrong bin might not seem like a big deal but it only takes a few contaminated bins emptied into the same wagon and the whole lot can't be recycled.

What happens to contaminated recycling?

Contaminated recycling is treated in the same way as your general household waste – the majority is turned into fuel which is used in cement production but some may end up in landfill. We get paid for every tonne of recycling we collect but we have to pay to have contaminated loads treated and sorted – money which we could be spending on a whole range of other services.

Not sorting your recycling wastes money, effort and is bad for the environment.

We know it can be confusing to know what goes in which bin – look at the sticker on your bin or check out our website www.darlington.gov.uk/recyclerright where you can also find the answers to some frequently asked questions and find out what we can recycle and why.



GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION

**Don't miss out –
sign up ONLINE**

More than 7,160 householders signed up for garden waste collections last year with around 1,640 tonnes of garden waste collected and recycled as fertiliser.



**The service will run
again this year, with
collections from
April to December.**

**If you want to continue with the service,
complete a renewal form, and pay
£36 annual fee online.**

**There is also a separate form for those
wanting to sign up for the first time.**

Full details will be available online later this month at
www.darlington.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Please ensure you complete the correct form – for renewal or new sign up.

Supported lodgings gave Kate the step up she needed



Supported lodgings provides care for young people (16+) who are leaving care. Our supported lodgings providers are ordinary people working to support teenagers in the town who are in foster care, helping them to take the next step in life.

The scheme provides invaluable support for teenagers learning to live independently.

Kate Mummery used to be one of our foster children, before moving on to supported lodgings. She recently completed her English Language Masters. Kate explains why supported lodgings providers are so important:

“I decided to leave my foster care placement aged 16, I was unsure of what options I had. I wanted to live more authentically, while still being supported through college. I was introduced to a couple who worked as part of the supported lodgings programme.

“I hadn’t heard of this scheme before - it seemed like fostering, but the emphasis in supported lodgings is on independence. It’s generally offered to 16-21 year olds, but often the placement will follow you through university so you have somewhere to come home to in the holidays, as mine did. Darlington is one of the only local authorities to offer this scheme, and I’ve personally benefitted massively from it.

“Supported lodgings prepared me for university (and life in a wider sense). I got much better at cooking, better at navigating and using public transport, and more confident at doing domestic chores and running a household.

“The transition to university for anyone is intimidating but I feel as a care leaver, the experience can be even more daunting, for the simple reason you don’t have family to assist you

and fall back on if things go wrong. Throughout my time at university, I received so much support from not only Newcastle University but Darlington Council, both emotionally and financially, for which I can’t commend them enough.

“Overall, I feel like the council’s supported lodgings carers not only helped me work towards the next stages of my life, they changed my life. The council urgently needs more supported lodgings providers to be able to help more young people like me in our town, I would urge One Darlington readers to consider it.”



Do you have the heart to provide a young person with supported lodgings or become a foster carer?

Visit: www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering

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

Phone: 406222

We are **WATCHING** YOU!

...and working hard to make our community and the local environment safe and clean for everyone to enjoy.



More than **950** fly tips cleared by Street Scene staff since July 2020 – that's an average of **189** a month!



Trading standards received **697** case notifications and **316** referrals for possible criminal offences between April and November last year



Civic enforcement officers investigated **117** fly tipping incidents since March last year and have **12** investigations ongoing



In the year to Sept 2020, the CCTV team dealt with almost **3,670** incidents.



22 fines were issued for fly tipping and **9** for littering and other offences since March 2020



The CCTV team answers around **9,000+** Lifeline calls a month



Our dog warden has dealt with **137** stray/lost dogs since March 2020. **108** were reunited with their owners or put up for rehoming.

For more information about the work of the community safety team visit
www.darlington.gov.uk/communitysafety

For Street Scene visit www.darlington.gov.uk/streetscene

You can report fly tipping and other issues online at www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit

Facing homelessness?



**You
are not
alone...**

As a new year stretches before us and the cold weather continues, we need to be even more vigilant in supporting vulnerable people who are at risk of being homeless.

Our housing options team recognised that homelessness is not just about putting a roof over someone's head – it's about the person, understanding an individual's needs and supporting them to manage a tenancy and live independently.

Prevention is key to our service and we work with a person to draw up a personalised action plan to meet their needs. This may involve some of our support services run by our partners, including:

- **700 Club** – hostel, substance misuse support, drop-in hub, early intervention outreach project
- **Humankind** – mental health support, temporary accommodation, drop-in hub
- **Foundation** – young vulnerable parents and offender support
- **Family Help and Harbour** – accommodation and support for victims of domestic abuse
- **YMCA** – hostel and support for young people (19-24).

The council will always work to place people in accommodation meaning that no one should spend a night on the streets.

Between April and November last year, the options team has:

- spoken to 1,034 applicants
- placed 236 into interim accommodation
- rehoused 196 into secure accommodation
- supported 429 people
- reconnected 144 with family or their local area.

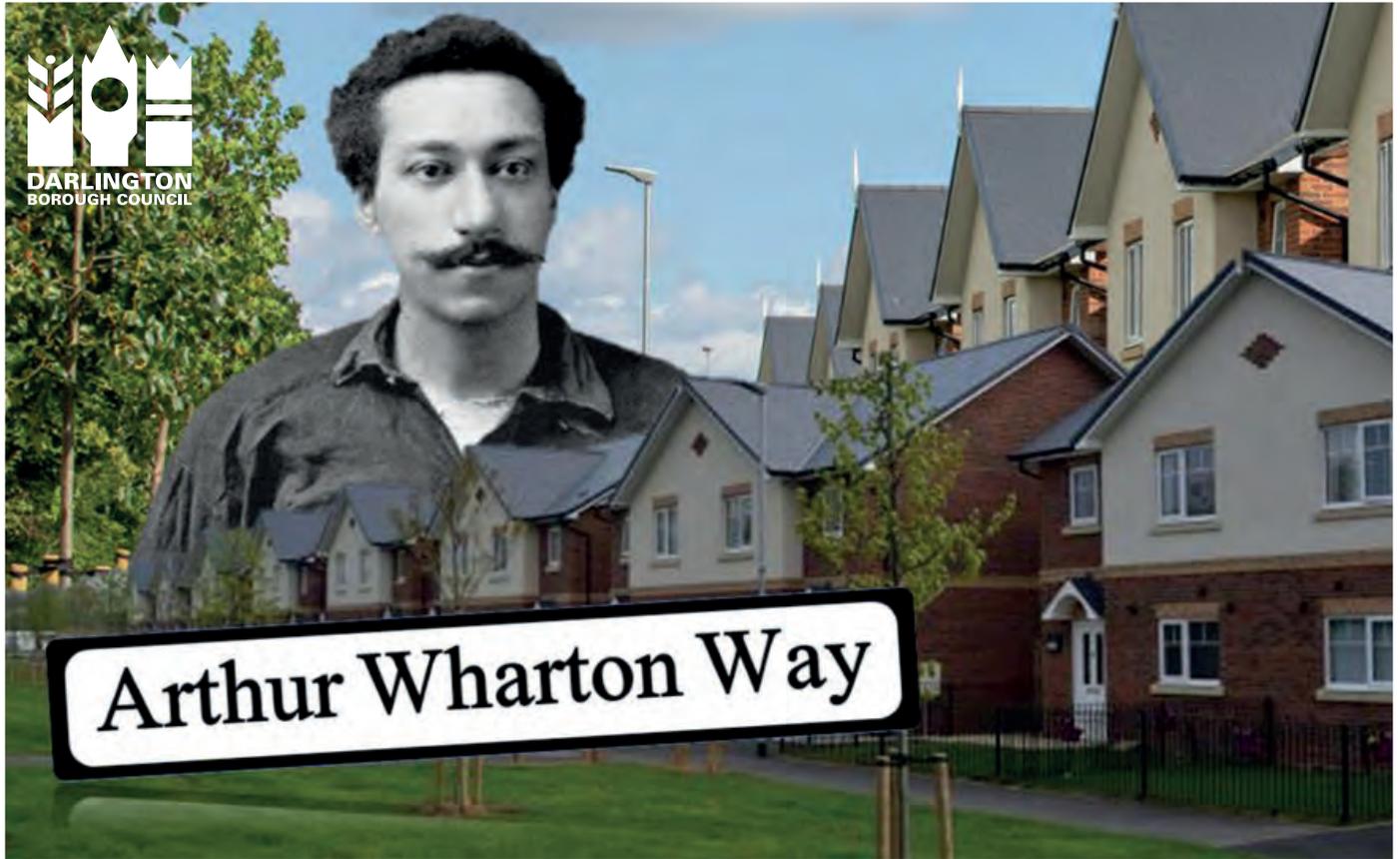
If you have any housing issues please call 405333 and ask for the housing options team. The sooner you get in touch – the easier it is to support you.

For more information visit

www.darlington.gov.uk/homeslessness

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

- **Housing options team** – call 405333 or email housingoptions@darlington.gov.uk (during office hours)
- **Street Link** – call 0300 500 0914, make a report online at www.streetlink.org.uk or download the StreetLink App. If you request an update, you'll be told within 10 days what action was taken as a result of your alert
- **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.



Council to honour sporting pioneer

The council has committed to naming a street in a future housing development in honour of a sporting trailblazer with strong links to the town.

Arthur Wharton, the world's first black professional footballer, played for Darlington in the 1880s.

He was also the world's fastest man – becoming the first to run 100 yards in exactly ten seconds.

The Arthur Wharton Foundation, which aims to preserve his legacy, is based in the town.

A bronze statue of the former goalkeeper was installed at the FA headquarters at St George's Park, in Staffordshire back in 2014.

As part of Black History Month last year, a stunning mural of Arthur Wharton was unveiled in the Denes.

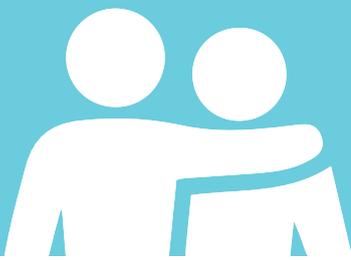
The council has added its own tribute by pledging to name a street after Arthur on an upcoming development of council homes.

Shaun Campbell, founder of the Arthur Wharton Foundation, welcomed the news.

He said: "Arthur Wharton's influence, on both football and society, can never be overstated. The slogan of the Foundation is Connecting the Present, to the Past, for the Future.

"I am pleased to hear the council has made a commitment to honour Arthur Wharton in this way."

Watch this space for full details of the development where Arthur Wharton's street will be



Help is at hand this winter



The council has secured more than £360,000 from the Government's winter grant scheme, to help vulnerable families and care leavers.

Help towards food, energy and water bills will be available for people particularly affected by the pandemic.

The following schemes are running this winter, with eligible residents contacted directly:



Winter Food Support Scheme (Households with Children)

The Council will work in partnership with the schools to issue vouchers valid for use in supermarkets, enabling families to buy food essentials. All families in receipt of free school meals will receive a voucher for each eligible child for two weeks (covering the school holiday period in December). Anyone receiving a voucher will also be provided with information outlining other support services available locally to support ongoing needs.



Winter Food Support Scheme (Care Leavers)

People leaving care will receive a voucher for use in participating local supermarkets to help with food costs throughout winter.



The Bread and Butter Thing

The Bread and Butter Thing helps families cut the price of their food bills by offering groceries at a fraction of supermarket price (individual, £4; family order, £7.50; extra-large family, £15). This weekly offer is available to residents who live within a mile radius of a hub and a family's first week is always free.

Funding will be made available to support families with children not eligible for the free school meal scheme, who are low income households at risk of experiencing food poverty. These families will be identified through services and organisations working with vulnerable households including schools, social workers and welfare support service.

For financial information and advice, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/coronavirus and click on **The Darlington Support Hub**.

New fund supports groups that help vulnerable residents

A new fund, set up to support organisations that are helping our most vulnerable residents, has awarded over £100,000 to 17 local voluntary and community groups.

The voluntary and community sector hardship fund was set up by the council in April 2020, to help organisations that support the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 crisis. Grants have also been awarded to groups facing financial challenges due to the pandemic and which, without financial assistance, may not survive to provide vital support services needed in the future.

The fund is being managed by the County Durham Community Fund, which has also added £25,000 to the fund from its own supporters who have rallied to support the region during the crisis.

Michelle Cooper, from County Durham Community Fund, said: "Darlington is already well known for the wonderful groups and organisations who provide crucial support to those living through traumatic situations. Working together to support these groups will help thousands of people who are struggling, ensure our most vulnerable residents can get the help they need and ensure we do not lose valuable projects that help our communities progress."

Since the fund was launched, the following local organisations have been awarded grants up to £10,000:

- Darlington Citizens Advice Bureau – to provide a school clothing bank
- Headway Darlington & District - to keep people connected
- Cruse bereavement care - to provide bereavement support
- North East Region England Fencing - to restart club activities
- 700 Club - to continue its work with the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless
- Café JJ - to enable meetings
- Darlington Table Tennis Club – to adapt to changes for the club to continue
- Kings Church – to pay for additional driver hours and extra food
- Samaritans - to help fund its phone lines
- Skerne Park Community Enterprise Association - to provide a summer programme for children in need
- Pimms and Needles CIC - to provide a winter COVID-19 care package
- Family Help - to support victims of domestic violence
- WM Morrison Trust - to support Morton Park Conference Centre
- St Herbert's Church - towards the running costs of the community hall
- Making Space - helping to reduce isolation for older people
- St Teresa's Hospice - to support the Living Well Hub
- Tees Valley YMCA - to purchase digital technology



To find out more about the fund visit www.darlington.gov.uk/vcshardshipfund

Help reduce wheelie bin fires in 2021

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

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

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



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



If you regularly have more recycling than will fit in your bin, contact the council and they will get you another bin free of charge.



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



Try not to leave extra recycling next to your bin. If possible, store it until the next collection day or take it to the tip on Whessoe Road which is open every day except Christmas Day and New Year's Day (weather permitting). Don't forget to book a slot online before you go - www.darlington.gov.uk/tip



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



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

Have you booked your telephone Safe and Wellbeing call?

Did you know our fire crews can give you a call, offer bespoke home fire safety advice and also provide smoke alarms absolutely free?

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

0345 223 4221

Darlington - a dementia friendly town

Dementia Friendly Darlington is calling on us all to change the way we think, talk and act about dementia.

The group is working with the Alzheimer's Society, people affected by dementia, businesses, organisations, and residents to make Darlington a place where people with dementia are able to participate fully in the community.

How you can get involved:

- Join Dementia Voice Darlington – if you are living with dementia or are experiencing memory problems, this is your chance to share your stories, connect with your peers and use your experiences to make a difference
- Become a Dementia Friend - find out about living with dementia, how to raise awareness and how to include people with dementia in our communities. Visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk
- Make your local community more dementia friendly - from Cockerton to Haughton and Hurworth to Northgate, dementia friendly communities are coming together to involve residents and local organisations in making a difference.
- Become a dementia friendly organisation - from supporting staff affected by dementia to making your environment more dementia-friendly there is lots you can do to help people with dementia live well in our community.

To find out more contact Belinda Williams, dementia friendly communities coordinator, on 07483137521, email belinda.williams@alzheimers.org.uk or visit www.alzheimers.org.uk



Working to become
**Dementia
Friendly**
2020-2021



Trusted local charity makes a real difference to elderly lives

Darlington Town Mission provides a vital lifeline of companionship and practical help to many elderly local residents. We employ two Missioners, who along with a team of trusted volunteer visitors and drivers visit our Friends in their own homes, care homes and hospitals and also assist with medical appointments and shopping trips.

In 2019 we made more than 1,300 home visits to our Friends.

We believe in giving older people the chance to socialise by joining us on our free monthly programme of afternoon outings, social events and at our Friends' Forum to enjoy a lunch and activities.

2020 has been a very challenging year. The level of isolation due to COVID-19 has impacted heavily on elderly lives but we've been busier than ever with door step visits and much needed companionship telephone calls made each day.



"I really appreciate my doorstep visits"

Hamper Happiness

Our successful Christmas fund raising campaign meant that all our Friends received a Happy Christmas hamper loaded with festive foods supported by, and bought from, local suppliers including Alderson Butchers, Ulnaby Farm Shop and local Co-op stores.



A huge thank you to everyone who donated and gave their time on this project.

Every pound you donate goes towards alleviating isolation and loneliness and helping the elderly enjoy happy lives.

Visit our website to see how you can help.



**Darlington
Town
Mission**
Enriching Elderly Lives

A local charity trusted since 1838
www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk

Missioner 0794 3251357
✉ dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk
f /Darlingtontownmission

Gently does it for exercise

This month's Move More Stars are Darlington's Tai Chi groups.

The town has a number of very popular Tai Chi sessions. They're so popular that the Tai Chi group that normally meets at St Andrew's Church Hall braved the elements and stuck with the sessions when they could only be delivered outdoors at the Eastbourne Sports Complex, because of the pandemic!

We also run a modified, chair-based session of Tai Chi in various sheltered housing accommodation across the town. In addition we have the ever popular session at the Dolphin Centre.

Tai Chi is great for the mind, body and soul and once you get a taste for it you soon find that it becomes part of your exercise routine.

For more information about our Tai Chi sessions please call 405400, or email MoveMore@darlington.gov.uk



Healthy Darlington
eat well, move more, live longer



Council looks to balance budget despite pressures of pandemic

The council has announced it is set to achieve a balanced budget and is financially stable for the next four years, putting it in a stronger position than many other local authorities.

The budget will be achieved by concentrating resources on core services, with some limited investment in discretionary services and continued investment in the Futures Fund into 2024/25.

The Futures Fund targets investment into five specific areas to stimulate economic growth: community safety; maintain an attractive street scene environment; maintaining a vibrant town centre; developing an attractive visitor economy and neighbourhood renewal.

The money will be used to provide services such as street cleaning, clearing back lanes, grass cutting, encouraging visitors to the town centre, preserving the town's history, employment initiatives and tackling holiday hunger.

The coronavirus pandemic caused extra pressures on the council's finances including a drop in income particularly from the closure of leisure and culture facilities; a fall in car parking revenues and reductions in council tax and business rates income.

Despite these challenges we are continuing to invest in social care services and plan to increase spending on both adults and children's services. Savings and income from various investments and projects will help fund this extra spending.

To help offset some of the exceptional pressures this year, a council tax increase of 1.99% has been proposed. A further 3% social care precept will also be levied on top of the council tax increase, in line with the government's approach to funding social care.

This 4.99% overall increase on council tax bills equates to £1 a week on a Band A property.

Comments are welcome on the budget proposals until 26 January.
Go to www.darlington.gov.uk/consultation





Working to prevent reoffending

Work to prevent reoffending is ongoing throughout Darlington and County Durham as organisations come together to tackle crime and the threats felt by local communities.

The Cleveland and Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership is made up of agencies with responsibility for delivering criminal justice services working together to achieve common goals.

There are a number of projects running across the area to help stop reoffending, many delivered by the youth justice and youth offending services, as well as Checkpoint which is run by Durham Police.

Checkpoint gives eligible offenders the opportunity to tackle any underlying issues such as mental health, alcohol and drug misuse which may be causing them to offend.

The scheme, which is an alternative to prosecution, is tailored to each participant and aims to improve their prospects and make them aware of the support available to them, as an alternative to crime. This could include agreeing to work with an alcohol or drug worker, helping them to sort their benefits or seeking help to get a job.

Checkpoint is obviously not suitable for everyone and we are working hard to identify and manage the most persistent and problematic offenders. We are ensuring that resources are focused on catching and convicting the most prolific reoffenders, as well as providing appropriate support for those wanting to change their behaviour.

All our partners worked hard during the pandemic to ensure these vital services could continue their good work and support those who need it.

In the future we are keen to strengthen the impact of community sentences, which involve offenders carrying out unpaid work in the community as an alternative to prison.

We are also working to ensure that schemes supporting female offenders are prioritised to help stop them reoffending.

LCJP
Cleveland & Durham
Local Criminal Justice Partnership

Check

POINT
Critical Pathways

Clubs and Societies

Happy New Year! 2020 was a tough year for everyone and lockdown measures forced many clubs and societies to put their activities and meetings on hold.

Some groups are still able to meet up in a virtual way, keeping everyone connected through technology.

If your club or society is meeting up (virtually or in person), or you have news to share, please email: communications@darlington.gov.uk

Call out for young footballers

Red Hall Rangers FC is looking for players to join their youth football club.

They are looking for players for U12s, U14s and U16s teams. All abilities welcome, games and training take place at their pitch alongside Red Hall Community Centre. All coaches are advanced FA DBS checked and they have an appointed welfare officer. For details contact Andrew Kennedy on 07399 474927 or find them on Facebook.

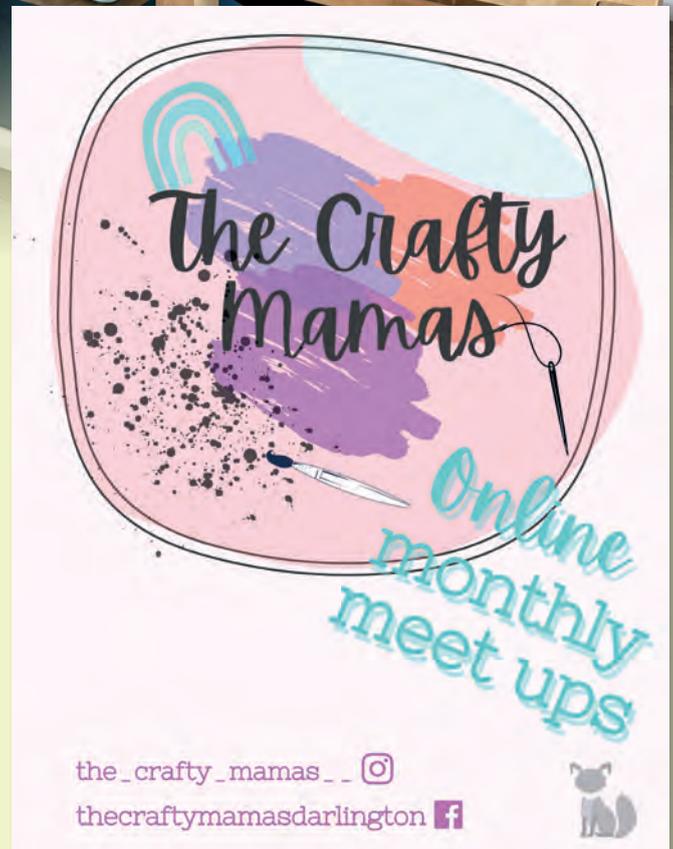
Mums get crafty

Sarah Blackburn describes how her Facebook group The Crafty Mamas began: "The Crafty Mamas started life at my kitchen table, with just one friend, me, and our babies. There are lots of groups for mums and babies and I felt it was important for mums to be able to get together and do something just for them.

"We are an activity group for mums who love to create. Whether that's knitting, painting, making cards, sewing or just 'cutting and sticking' (as it's always been known as in my house!), it doesn't matter. We hold monthly virtual get togethers for mums who are into crafting and want some time to enjoy something for themselves, and we are always happy to see new faces.

"I am hoping that, by creating a virtual group, we can keep the sense of community going that we had started, and still create a space for us to share the things we enjoy. I aim to run 'real life' activities when things change."

For details, search for the Crafty Mamas on Facebook and Instagram or email admin@thecraftymamas.co.uk





**1. Do you have a
Darlington Borough Council
concessionary bus pass?**

**2. Have you changed either your
name or address in
the last 5 years?**



If the answer
to **BOTH** questions
is **YES**, then you need to tell us if you haven't
done so already. Call **01325 405222** or
email **concessionarytravel@darlington.gov.uk**

If your bus pass is due to expire on 31 March 2021, please visit
www.darlington.gov.uk/bus-pass for information on replacing your pass.



Coronavirus Advice

For more information, visit
www.darlington.gov.uk/coronavirus



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 **01325 406222** (option 7)

