

A woman wearing a large sunflower costume with her face in the center of the seed head, wearing sunglasses and smiling. In the foreground, a man with a mustache, wearing a flat cap, glasses, and a green vest over a checkered shirt, is also smiling. The background shows a street scene with a sign that says 'A 10 mins' and 'A 10 mins'.

**one**  
**Darlington** July 2021

**Support  
for hidden  
disabilities**

**– pages 4 & 5**

**Plus: A bloomin' great  
summer of events**

**– pages 20 & 21**

Theatre Hullabaloo presents

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ENJOY  
DARLINGTON

# Welcome to One Darlington

**As the council's new chief executive, I am delighted to welcome you to this summer edition of One Darlington magazine.**

Last year, many of our much-loved and popular town centre events were cancelled because of the pandemic and I am pleased to see that we are literally up and running again, with the 10k road race, Darlington Pride, specialist markets, and many other events returning this year.

I hope you will come out to support these fantastic events and enjoy the many independent shops, bars and cafes that we have in Darlington. If you are in town, don't forget to pop down the yards to see the amazing newly commissioned art, the improvements to Post House Wynd and the refurbishment of the market hall which is progressing well.

It is an exciting time for the town centre, and I am delighted to see so many people enjoying what we have to offer. Find out more on page 20 and 21.

Hopefully we will have some good weather this summer, but while you are out and about I urge you and your loved ones to be extra vigilant around water. 'It can be hard to get children and young people to understand the dangers of rivers and ponds but we are working with the fire brigade and police to get the message across and to try to keep everyone safe. Find out more on page 27.

I am sure many of us will be enjoying summer barbecues and get togethers as restrictions ease and spend more time with family and friends. Please remember to recycle right, help us to improve our recycling rates and reduce the amount of contaminated recycling we have to deal with. See page 31 and turn to the back page to meet Benji – a new character who will be helping us spread our recycling message in the coming months.

The school holidays haven't started yet but many parents will soon be turning their attention to the new school year. Don't forget about Darlington Cares' uniform shop in Queen Street Shopping Centre which will be open throughout the summer holidays. They have uniforms from lots of our schools for anyone who needs a helping hand – and everything is free! Find out more on page 12.

And finally, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, enjoyable and safe summer. Fingers crossed for some sun!



**Ian Williams**

Chief executive of Darlington Council

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The next edition is due to be delivered in early September. If you have not received your copy by mid-September, please call 0800 160 1552.

An audio version of One Darlington is also available at [www.darlington.gov.uk/onedarlington](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/onedarlington)

# Flying the fl

**Darlington is aiming to be the UK's most inclusive place to visit, having been chosen as a pilot for a national project, aimed at providing safe spaces for people with non-obvious disabilities.**

Hot on the heels of our Purple Flag status – meaning Darlington is one of the safest places to enjoy a night out – we are now aiming to be recognised as one of the most inclusive places in the UK.

We will be the first 'sunflower friendly town' in the north east, showing our commitment to recognising people with invisible disabilities.

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme helps support and raise awareness of people living with an invisible disability, and they are encouraged to wear a sunflower lanyard as a discreet sign to others that they may need additional help.

As a mark of our commitment to welcoming people with hidden disabilities, the town has been yarn bombed.

Sunflowers, leaves, bees and butterflies have filled the streets and bollards have been covered in knitted creation to create a bright, welcoming atmosphere for everyone and to show Darlington is accessible to all.

## ENJOY DARLINGTON



**Artist Sarah Oatley created the knitted creations along with 120 volunteers. She has a non-obvious disability and knows how important the project is.**

Ms Oatley said: "It's been an incredibly busy few months of knitting and so many people have got involved. My own hidden disability - Psoriatic Arthritis - is not visible but can still affect my everyday life. As someone who wants to feel like everyone else, knowing Darlington is part of this scheme is amazing. Darlington is such a wonderful place. I visited the Dolphin Centre recently for a swim and they were brilliant when I asked for a disabled changing room and I felt absolutely no judgment which is a credit to the town. We hope visitors enjoy the new look of the town centre and it makes everyone smile."

Nearly every shop in the town centre has had hidden disabilities training by the Council's town centre team. Shops that are supporting the scheme will display a window sticker which says that the sunflower lanyard is recognised, making it even easier for people to seek out support.

# ag for inclusivity



## Loyalty card scheme launched

### Shoppers are set to benefit from a new town centre loyalty card scheme.

More than 60 stores have signed up to the Love Darlo loyalty card, including the likes of Superdrug and independent retailers such as Guru, with the aim of bringing more shoppers to the town centre.

The cards are free from participating outlets across the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, as well as health, hair and beauty salons.

Customers receive a stamp for every £10 they spend and once they have gained 10 stamps, they hand the completed card to a participating venue and will be entered into a monthly prize draw with six lucky winners receiving a prize.

The first winner will receive £250 worth of vouchers to spend at a store of their choice and five runners up will each win £50 worth of vouchers.

To see the full list of participating venues, visit [enjoydarlington.co.uk/loyaltycards](http://enjoydarlington.co.uk/loyaltycards)



*"It's a lovely way to ensure that our customers know that we appreciate their loyalty, and to give something back to local residents,"*

**Sarah Doudican  
of Winroths  
Hairdressing in  
Clark's Yard**

# Summer wellbeing



## Summertime is fun time right?

Whilst many of us look forward to summer with lighter nights and, good weather, the pressure to have fun with family and friends can be a strain for some people.

It's important to remember that people's mental health and wellbeing can suffer all year round.

A small act of kindness - a friendly chat, short walk or catch up in the garden - could make the world of difference to someone who is struggling.

**24 July** is Samaritans Awareness Day and **30 July** is International Friendship Day



**Remember to take care of your own mental health, check friends, family, neighbours and loved ones are ok. Nobody knows what anyone is dealing with so the single best thing you can be is kind.**

The Samaritans can be reached free, from any telephone on 116123 any time; or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

For free, safe, anonymous support, information help and advice visit or contact:

[www.darlington.gov.uk](http://www.darlington.gov.uk) and search mental health support

[www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

[www.darlingtonmind.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonmind.co.uk)

[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

Kooth.com is a great online support young people can access

For more health information visit [www.changeforlife](http://www.changeforlife) and [www.nhs.uk/live-well](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well)



## Tips to help you enjoy the summer

### Nourish the body and the mind will follow

Summer brings a variety of delicious foods that provide your body with vital nutrition. Relaxing and enjoying a healthy meal, especially with family and friends, can be a great break from the anxieties of the day, and produce feel-good chemicals in your brain.

### Sleep tight – get the rest you need

Studies prove that a healthy sleep pattern is beneficial for your mind and body - get into regular sleep routine, don't lie in and exercise more!

### Hydration is key

Drink lots of cold water – a minimum of eight glasses a day to keep hydrated. Sometimes when you think you are hungry, you are actually thirsty and drinking water helps to maintain a healthy weight and improve your skin.

### Manage your stress and anxiety

Summer brings with it beautiful weather. Get away from your screen and take a walk in nature. Spending time in nature has been proven to help with stress management, anxiety and even depression. Enjoy the sunny days and get some exercise, which is as important for your mind and spirit as it is your body. And finally, do the things you enjoy that provide you some respite and relaxation. Meditation, reading, gardening, a hobby you enjoy—anything that gives you joy can improve your health.

# Could you become a foster carer?



**Have you considered becoming a foster carer? There's a critical need for more foster carers and supported lodgings providers in Darlington.**

We're particularly keen to speak to residents who can care for brothers and sisters together, as well as people to provide a home and structure for teenagers to help them thrive and take the next step in life.

Nicola and Mark from Darlington started fostering just six years ago. They have four children of their own and have fostered 19 children from Darlington, including large sibling groups.

Nicola said: "For us it's really important to keep siblings together. Our emphasis now is on keeping sibling groups together, so that brothers and sisters are not split up between different families.

"I think when you're taken into care it's a scary enough time without losing your brothers and sisters and all of that past you have together."

## Don't count yourself out

**Have you ever thought about fostering, but always had a nagging doubt at the back of your mind?**

You may wonder if you're too old or young, if your relationship status would hold you back or what kind of financial support would you receive?

If these type of concerns are holding you back from becoming a foster carer, please get in touch with our friendly fostering team, or try our quiz at [www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering-quiz](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering-quiz)

To find out more about becoming a foster carer, please visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering) to hear from foster carers and take the next step to contact our team.

# Play Your Part

# Darlington Co

As the town's first coronavirus vaccination site provides its last dose of a vaccine, we look back at the incredible work of the Feethams House team and reflect on how the town's first vaccination site has brought Darlington together.

As part of the national effort to vaccinate as many eligible people as possible, teams of GPs, nurses, pharmacists, care home staff and volunteers have come together to protect our communities from Covid-19.

## Final doses

Feethams House is closing after providing more than 62,000 doses of a Covid vaccine, including first and second jabs.

Darlington Primary Care Network has been managing the vaccination roll-out at Feethams House – with the invaluable support of volunteers and council staff.

## Bringing the town together

Since the site opened to offer Covid vaccines to the top nine most vulnerable cohorts, 110 volunteers have helped to ensure the vaccination programme ran as smoothly as possible.

Members of the public and businesses from across Darlington have made their appreciation known to staff and volunteers by sending letters of thanks and gifts of food parcels throughout the vaccination programme.

Dr Amanda Riley, Clinical Director of Darlington PCN and Chief Executive of Primary Healthcare Darlington, said: "It really has been a once in a lifetime experience for everyone involved in running the Feethams House vaccination site.

"From the wonderful vaccination team who have done their utmost to not waste a dose, to every volunteer who has offered their invaluable time to help out at the site, the Feethams House team has shown that Darlington can pull together to protect communities.

## A message from Councillor Kevin Nicholson, cabinet member for health and housing

"It's fantastic that so many Darlington residents have chosen to protect themselves and our communities by getting the Covid-19 vaccine – but for the vaccination programme to be a success, we all need to book our vaccine appointment – including young people.

"Every vaccination gives us hope. Keep Darlington on the right track by getting the vaccine as soon as you are eligible."



# KEEPING DARLINGTON

# Coronavirus Update

“The kindness and support from the town has been absolutely amazing, and on behalf of the team, I would like to thank everyone involved in making the vaccination programme at Feethams House such a huge success.”

## Join the thousands already vaccinated in Darlington

More than 70% of Darlington residents over 16 have had at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. All Darlington residents over the age of 18 or over the age of 16 with a long-term health condition, will be offered the Covid-19 vaccine before the end of summer. When you are eligible, the NHS will invite you to book an appointment. They may contact you by sending you a letter, a text or an email.

## You can get the Covid-19 vaccine in Darlington

When you receive your invitation, you will be able to book your appointment in Darlington via the national NHS booking system.

There is more than one option for having your vaccination in Darlington, including:

- The Mass Covid-19 Vaccination Centre at Darlington Area
- At community sites throughout the town, including Cockerton Pharmacy and Firthmoor Community Centre

For more information on the Covid-19 vaccine, visit [nhs.uk/CoronavirusVaccination](https://www.nhs.uk/CoronavirusVaccination) or call 119.

To book your free rapid community testing kits, visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/testing](https://www.darlington.gov.uk/testing)

## Continue to take regular community tests

Even after you have had one or both doses of a Covid vaccine, it is essential to continue to take regular community tests and follow all national guidelines – including hands, face, space and fresh air.

By taking a test before meeting others outside of your household, you can ensure that you are playing your part to stop spreading Covid-19 across Darlington without realising.

## Click and collect community testing kits are available at the following sites:

# Click and collect



-  **The Dolphin Centre**
-  **Head of Steam Railway Museum**
-  **Firthmoor Community Centre**
-  **Eastbourne Sports Complex**
-  **Darlington Hippodrome**

Collect two boxes of lateral flow tests (14 in total) to take at home.

# ON THE RIGHT TRACK

# On the crest of a wave...

If you haven't already, chances are you'll be seeing a lot more of this coat of arms in the coming months. But what do its different elements signify? Let's take a closer look at some of them...

The locomotive represents Darlington's proud heritage as the birthplace of the passenger railway.

The dragon and lion were added to the coat of arms after the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Darlington in 1967.

Links to the town's beef farming trade.

Another nod to our rural and agricultural economy.

Interpreted as 'let us seek the best', the Latin inscription on the coat of arms sums up the Council's vision for the town.

The wavy blue chevron represents the River Tees, which separates Darlington from North Yorkshire.

The St Cuthbert's cross acknowledges the significance of St Cuthbert's Church.



# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. **Jack Sowerby (C)** Tel: 406444.

## 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](mailto: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)** 491802 or 07460 980776.

## RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

**Hilary Lucas (L)** Tel: 249215. **David Willis (C)** Tel: 0113 3280943.

## 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 Barch (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](mailto:peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk)



### Paul Howell (Sedgefield MP)

can be contacted by email at [paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto: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](mailto:mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk)

# School Uniform Exchange

## Queen Street Shopping Centre



**We need donations of polo shirts, shirts, jumpers, cardigans, blazers, trousers, skirts, coats, shoes and PE kits**

**OPEN Mon, Wed and Fri, 9am-4pm**  
**Come and get any uniform you need for free!**

### **DONATION DROP OFF POINTS**

**School Uniform Exchange Shop** – Queen Street Shopping Centre – Mon, Wed and Fri, 9am-4pm

**Crown Street Library** – Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm

**Cockerton Library** – Mon, Wed and Fri, 9.30am-1pm, Tues and Thurs, 1-4pm

**In A Spin** – 367 North Rd – Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5:30pm and Sat, 8.30am-12:30pm

**Firthmoor Community Centre** – Mon-Sat, 8am-9pm and Sun, 9am-3pm

**Red Hall Community Centre** – Tues, 5-8pm and Sat, 10am-3pm



**COCKERTON  
COMMUNITY  
& BUSINESS  
GROUP**

 [Facebook.com/Darlingtoncares](https://www.facebook.com/Darlingtoncares)

**Darlington  
Borough  
Council**

# SAVE TIME, DO IT ONLINE

DO IT  
ONLINE

# WITH... **BIN** **REMINDERS**

It can be a hassle remembering your bin days, especially when you've had a busy week. Thankfully our bin reminder service means you never have to miss a bin collection day again!

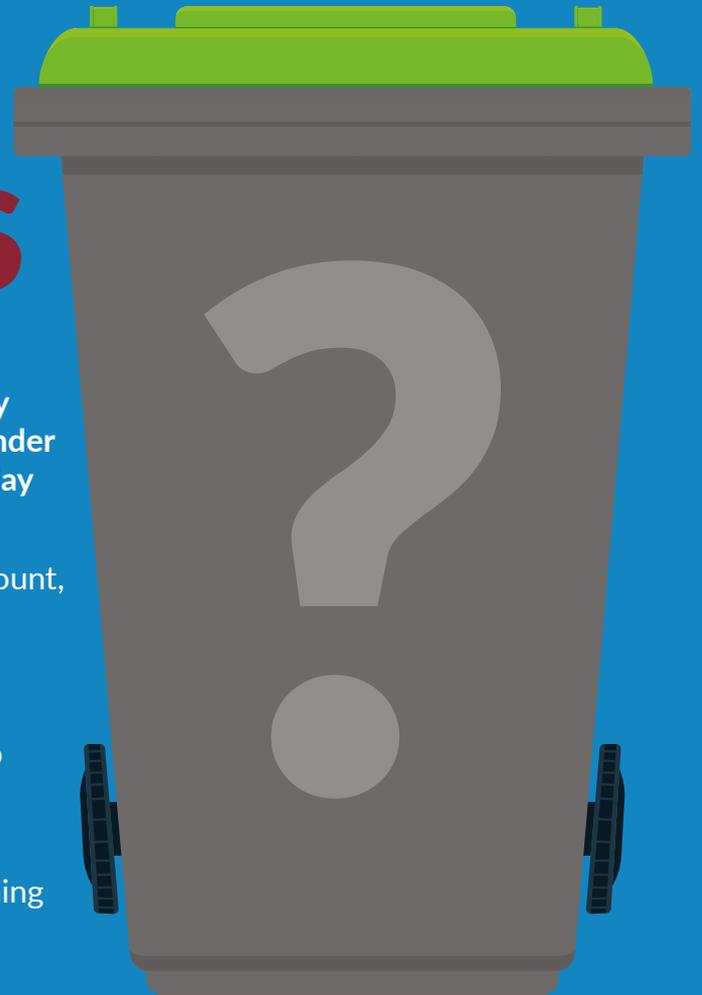
It's simple to use – all you need is a My Darlington+ account, which you can log onto or create an account [www.darlington.gov.uk/my-darlington](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/my-darlington)

After you've made an account or logged in, just visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/bin-reminders](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/bin-reminders) for a step by step guide on how to sign up to our bin reminder service.

You can choose to get reminders the night before collections for garden waste, recycling, and refuse meaning you never have to worry about missing bin day again. Notifications will either be via email or through push notifications on an Android phone.

Bin reminders aren't the only thing you can do online. We offer loads of online tools and information to make your life just that bit easier.

Check out the full list here:  
[www.darlington.gov.uk/doitonline](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/doitonline)



**BINS AND  
REFUSE  
ONLINE**

# A job that's paw-some...

In the latest instalment of our #50Faces series – in which we profile some of the council's behind the scenes heroes – we hear how there's never a 'ruff' day and always something different for dog warden... **ANDY WOOD**

"I've been a dog warden for around 25 years. My job is always very interesting, even the times when a dog wants to try and bite me, which has sadly happened several times over the years.

"It's always very rewarding when you find a lost dog and reunite it with the owner.

"One highlight of my job is that no two days are the same - I've been called upon to help capture different types of animals from racoons and ferrets to swans. I've also assisted the police and other organisations to deal with stray and dangerous dogs.

"During lockdown I helped the community in different ways too, including delivering medicines and food parcels to vulnerable residents.

"The council has set up a new community group called DOGwatch to highlight issues to dog owners and offer some useful advice in relation to things like dog theft.

"I enjoy being a dog warden as I've met so many different people over the years and worked with a lot of interesting people.

"Being able to make a difference and help is always very rewarding."

#50Faces

[www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces)



Andy is part of the council's community safety team, for more information visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/communitysafety) or follow the Darlington dog warden page on Facebook.

You can hear more from Andy, and others from the #50Faces series at [www.darlington.gov.uk/50Faces](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/50Faces)



# Reimagining historic wynds and yards

**Work is pressing ahead with exciting development plans to regenerate the town's historic wynds and yards.**

Bright, custom-made, timber doors have added a splash of colour to 17 properties in Buckton's Yard and Clark's Yard.

The eye-catching additions are Instagram gold and the perfect spot to snap a selfie.

Hand-painted stripes and signage have also started to appear in Post House Wynd as shopfront enhancements get underway.

"I wanted plenty of colour and a bold, fresh approach to brighten the kerb appeal of this charming but somewhat underrated thoroughfare. Stripes never go out of style and colour lifts the spirits. I really wanted Darlington to have a motif all of its own – something memorable, surprising, and joyous – enter the candy-striped shop fronts," said artist Nicky Peacock, who designed the proposals

A living green wall, festoon lighting, benches, pots, planters and wall art are also in the pipeline.



**The council's £23.3m Towns Fund project aims to transform the town centre and boost the local economy.**

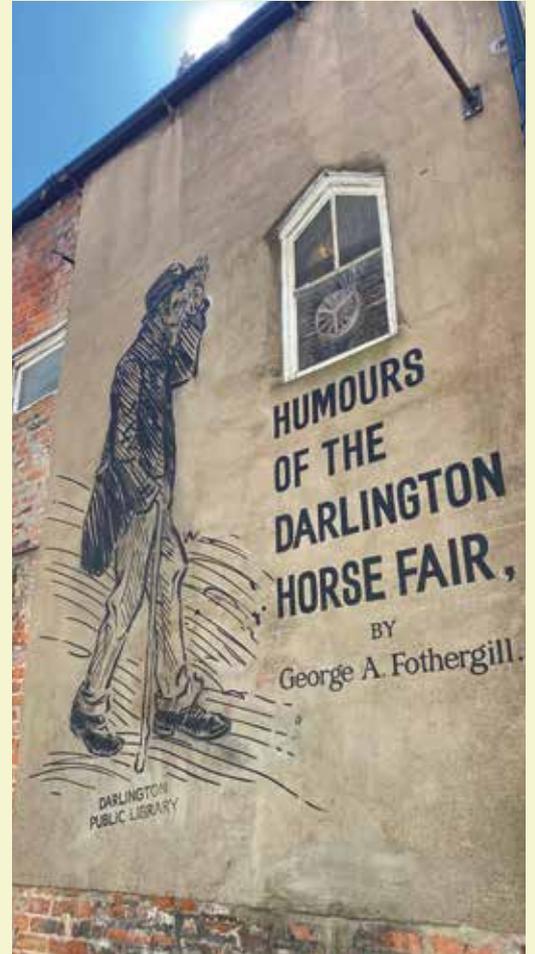
"Investing in our heritage assets like the historic yards and wynds is a key part of our vision and commitment to build on what's here and take it forward. We want to create a resilient town centre rooted in its rich history. There is a growing cluster of independent retailers in the yards and they are real gems," said council leader Heather Scott



**Free public Wi-Fi has been launched across the town centre.**

Simply select Darlington Free Wi-Fi and you will be connected.

"The regeneration here has been long overdue but there's a real classy, artisan vibe now. Great steps in a positive direction and a sign of things to come," said Paul Colman of Little Quaker Distillery in Clark's Yard



## New wall art in Buckton's Yard!

The mural depicts the work of renowned artist George A. Fothergill – a doctor who moved to Darlington in 1898 and lived at 18 Duke Street. He gave up his profession to become an artist and became well-known for his sketches and paintings.

Enjoy a wander around town and see what changes are happening in the yards, off High Row. These fascinating places are jammed with history and bursting with potential.

# Chief Executive Team Award: ITU Teams – DMH and UHND



ITU Teams – DMH and UHND

**Our annual staff awards are one of the many ways in which we highlight individuals and teams for particular recognition.**

This year, the Chief Executive Team Award went to the Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) teams at both University Hospital of North Durham and Darlington Memorial Hospital. Chief Executive, Sue Jacques, said: “Our staff constantly amaze us with their dedication to patient care – and to caring for each other – never more so than in the past 18 months. Along with our emergency department teams, our ITU teams were

amongst those working very much on the front line of the pandemic. Their response included managing a second ITU on each site, set up at very short notice to expand our capacity to care for extremely sick patients, and adopting treatments and techniques as they were identified as effective for managing this new virus. The teams did this for many weeks during spring/summer 2020, then again during the second wave when our patient numbers were even higher. They showed enormous strength of character, and compassion – stepping in for families when visiting was restricted. We’re incredibly proud of them.”

## Planning for carbon-neutral

**The NHS is responsible for around 5% of UK annual emissions and each year produces over half a million tonnes of waste. Pre-Covid, it was also responsible for 13% of all UK road travel – almost 10 billion miles a year.**



# Transforming bowel cancer investigations

**Research into, and development of, investigations and treatments to advance patient care across a wide range of specialties, has continued – despite the demands on the NHS posed by Covid-19. Patients from Darlington and the surrounding areas are amongst the first to benefit from a pilot programme using an amazing new technique in place of a colonoscopy.**



Dr Francisco Porras-Perez (pictured above), Consultant Gastroenterologist/Endoscopist explains: “Patients referred to us with symptoms such as a recent change in bowel habits – which could be linked to bowel cancer or other bowel conditions – often have a colonoscopy, which can be uncomfortable.

“So, we’re very excited to have been chosen as one of just over 40 centres to pilot an amazing new technique – Colon Capsule Endoscopy – which involves swallowing a tiny capsule containing two tiny disposable cameras powerful enough to help rule out bowel cancer and other problems of the gastro intestinal tract.

“The cameras take thousands of images as the capsule passes through the gastro-intestinal tract – from oesophagus, stomach and duodenum to the small and large bowel. The patient wears a small shoulder bag containing a data recorder and the images are transmitted from the camera to the recorder, and stored. The camera then leaves the body when the patient next goes to the toilet. The images are downloaded using specially developed software which identifies those that need to be looked at more closely.

“I understand that some people may be nervous about swallowing the capsule, but it really is tiny. They just need a 15-minute appointment after which they go about their daily lives. A colonoscopy on the other hand, usually involves around two hours in hospital, with the colonoscopy itself taking 35-45 minutes.

“Bowel cancer is one of the four cancers that account for more than 50% of all cancer diagnoses in the UK and early identification can significantly improve the outcome for patients. This new technique will enable us to investigate patients quickly. Thankfully, around 60% of investigations for bowel cancer are negative and this new technique should enable us to spend more time focusing on the 40% of patients needing further care.”

As the largest employer in the UK, we need to lead by example and in April we launched our Green Plan. This sets out our short and long term goals to be carbon neutral by 2045.

We’ve identified key areas, including waste, procurement, energy, travel and transport – each with specific targets. We’ve already introduced electric charging points on our largest sites and our fleet vehicles will become fully electric as individual vehicles are replaced. We’re expanding our use of secure virtual outpatient appointments, where appropriate, saving patients unnecessary journeys to hospital. We’re also upgrading cycle storage, encouraging ‘active’ travel.

Between 2016–2020 we reduced our total waste by 16% and stopped sending household waste to landfill as long ago as 2012. Annually, we also recycle 900 tonnes of cardboard. Our catering team sources food locally and has introduced meat and dairy-free days to our menus. A can-crusher purchased two years ago has helped us clean, crush and recycle over 12 tonnes of cans.

Delivering clinical care can in itself be harmful to the environment, and we’re proud that we’ve more than halved our emissions of the greenhouse gases associated with anaesthetics.

We’ve come a long way already but are determined to continue ambitiously, taking our staff, partners and local communities with us.

# Get active outdoors!



## Helping to maintain good health requires smart lifestyle choices, will power, and hard work.

A healthy diet and regular exercise have been medically proven to help us live healthier lives, reducing the risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, breast and colon cancer as well as boost low mood and help improve sleep quality and concentration levels.

There are many ways to move more – take the stairs rather than the lift, walk rather than drive or catch the bus. Lovely parks and open spaces; great walking and cycle routes and a new indoor bowling alley are in easy reach, so why not get those trainers on, embrace the healthy you and move more to reap the health benefits?

Children benefit from moving more too. Playing, walking, running, jumping, dancing, riding bikes and scooters\* all help to improve behaviour, attention levels, self-confidence, social skills, health and fitness, mood, sleep and maintain a healthy weight and strengthen muscles and bones.

## Free children's summer activities!

Free sports and games for children aged 8-12 years are coming to a field near you!

Whether it's a game of rounders, a kick about or trying some team challenges free summer fun activities are on offer during the summer holiday (Mon 19 July – Friday 27 August).

Check out the timetable below to find the nearest location to you. All activities are free and will run at the same time each week for the full school summer holidays. There's no need to book, just turn up and join in but please make sure you wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring a bottle of water.

	10am-noon	1-3pm
Monday	Lingfield Green	Skerne Park football pitches
Tuesday	Firthmoor – opposite community centre	Red Hall – grassed area near community centre
Wednesday	Albert Hill – next to play area	Field opposite Hummersknott School
Thursday	Dene's field – near Tennis courts	North Lodge Park
Friday	West Park - near Comets Garth entrance	Springfield Park

If you have loved the Euros, or maybe the Olympics are inspiring you to try something new, check out the Move More webpage [www.darlington.gov.uk/movemorejourney](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/movemorejourney) to find details of fun activities. For health information visit [www.changeforlife](http://www.changeforlife) and [www.nhs.uk/live-well](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well)

\*safety helmets are recommended

Many of the events listed below may be subject to change/postponement if government guidelines change. Please check with event organisers/venues before travelling. For details of what's on in Darlington visit [enjoydarlington.com](http://enjoydarlington.com) or follow #LoveDarlo on Facebook Email your events for early September – November to: [communications@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:communications@darlington.gov.uk)

## JULY

**Junior parkrun** – Sundays, 9am, South Park. A free, weekly timed 2k run, walk or jog for youngsters aged 4-10.

**Theatre Hullabaloo in the Park** – 12-25, South Park. A two week festival of family fun, including everything from live theatre to messy play, storytelling to magical trails and much more! Perfect for everyone aged 0-10 years and their families.

**Creation Station** – Tuesdays 20 & 27, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Get crafty and enjoy some creative family fun.

**First Class Mystery From Tall Tales** – Thursday 22, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Join in some real life detective work.

**Walworth Birds of Prey** – Wednesdays 21 & 28, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Learn more about these fascinating animals.

**Station Scamps & Crafts** – Friday 23 & 30, Scamps, 10am-noon, crafts, 1-3pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Book your place on these popular craft and story times.

**Captain Raggybeard** – Thursday 29, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Enjoy some hearty pirate fun.

**The Illegal Eagles** – Friday 30, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome The very best from the Eagles including Hotel California, Take It Easy, Life In The Fast Lane.

## AUGUST

**Horrible Histories: Barmy Britain** – Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4, 3pm & 6pm, Darlington Hippodrome. It's the horrible history of Britain with the nasty bits left in to entertain the whole family.

**Creation Station** – Tuesdays 3, 10, 17 & 24, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Get crafty and enjoy some creative family fun.

**Walworth Birds of Prey** – Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 & 25, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Learn more about these fascinating animals.

**Trainmaster** – Thursday 5, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Train fun for the young ones.

**Station Scamps & Crafts** – Friday 6, 13, 20 & 27, Scamps, 10am-noon, crafts, 1-3pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Book your place on these popular craft and story times.

**In The Night Garden** – Saturday 7 & Sunday 8, 10am & 1pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Iggle Piggle, Upsy Daisy, Makka Pakka and friends are back in their fun-filled live show.

**Construction Kids** – Thursday 12, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Fun time for busy builders. All sessions require advanced booking and are included in admission/annual passes.

**The Railway Children** – Thursday 19 & 26, 11am & 2pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Applause Theatre Presents this well-loved tale set against the perfect back drop of the museum.

**Bouncing back from lockdown** – Saturday 21, 10.30am-2.30pm Middleton St George Community Centre, Station Road. A family celebration of life after lockdown including children's activities, dance displays, local businesses, classes and refreshments. Free entry.

**Teddy Bears Picnic** – Monday 30, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Bears at the ready, it's time for fun at the annual picnic.

## CONTACTS

**Darlington Hippodrome** visit: [www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk) or call 405405

**The Hullabaloo** – call 405405 or visit [www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

**Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum** – call 405060, visit [www.head-of-steam.co.uk](http://www.head-of-steam.co.uk) or email [headofsteam@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:headofsteam@darlington.gov.uk) Entrance fees apply in most cases and booking is essential.

**Darlington libraries** – call 349610.

**Dolphin Centre** – call 406000 or email [healthydarlington@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:healthydarlington@darlington.gov.uk)

**The Forum Darlington** – visit [www.theforumonline.co.uk](http://www.theforumonline.co.uk)

ENJOY  
TEES VALLEY

There's lots to see and do across the Tees Valley. Visit [www.enjoyteesvalley.com](http://www.enjoyteesvalley.com) for full details.

# A bloomin' gr



Look forward to a sizzling summer here in your Darling Town. There's so much lined up for all the family, you'll be spoilt for choice. Take a look at what's on offer and enjoy your staycation. Keep an eye out for updates through #LoveDarlo on Facebook and at [www.enjoydarlington.com](http://www.enjoydarlington.com)

## Pease Pudding Market

Every Thursday 4-8pm

Enjoy more alfresco dining in the summer evenings and browse the wonderful food and drink stalls as the popular Pease Pudding Market returns to town. Check out Darlington Market's Facebook page for updates.



## Dolphin Centre

Whatever the weather, you can head indoors for fantastic family fun in the pool, DC Bowl or in the recently improved and extended Under the Sea soft play area.

Plus – keep the kids active with a wide range of sports courses and activities throughout the summer holidays. Find out more at [www.healthydarlington.co.uk](http://www.healthydarlington.co.uk)



## Darlington Vintage Vehicle Rally

Saturday 17 July, 10am-4.30pm

Take a step back in time as you browse the wonderful motors of yesteryear in the town centre. Find out more about this free event on Facebook, search for DarlingtonVintageRally

## The Two Fridas

Thursday 22 July, 6pm, Market Square

Hot foot from Billingham's International Folklore Festival, The Two Fridas brings an intriguing mixture of storytelling, dance, music and live performance to Darlington. Inspired by one of the world's most famous self-portraits [The Two Fridas by legendary Mexican artist Frida Kahlo], the show brings the canvas to life in a fusion of classical Indian, Western contemporary and Mexican folk dance.

The 50-minute socially distanced show is free, no tickets required.

**NE Tour 2021**  
Back by popular demand  
After SOLD OUT  
UK Premier!

**The Two Fridas: united yet apart**  
The partial lives of Frida Kahlo and Anitta Sher-Gil  
Told through dance, music and storytelling by Barbir Singh

**Thursday 22 July, 6pm**  
Market Square, Darlington Town Centre  
FREE. To book: [www.darlington.gov.uk](http://www.darlington.gov.uk)

Commissioned and produced by Bingham International  
Folklore Festival of World Dance (BIF) in collaboration with Barbir Singh Dance Company

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND Danoe Company

# eat summer

## **The SG Petch Darlington 10k**

Sunday 1 August – Fun Run, 9am, Junior 2K, 9.45am, 10k, 10.30am start.

The race is on to book your place as this popular run returns to the town centre. Ideal for experienced runners or your first attempt to be part of a local run. We also have a fun run open to all ages including pushchairs and a popular Junior 2km run beforehand.

## **Darlington Pride Weekender**

**Everyone is welcome at Pride!**

Saturday 7 – Monday 9 August, Town Centre.

A vibrant celebration of our local LGBTQI+ community involving live performances, activities and special guests in the town centre. More information coming soon on [EnjoyDarlington.com/Pride](http://EnjoyDarlington.com/Pride) and on #LoveDarlo Facebook

## **Darlington Food & Drink Festival and Mish Mash Festival**

Friday 27 – Monday 30 August, 10am-4pm, Market Square.

Enjoy a four-day feast of fantastic food from around the world, great stalls and fabulous entertainment.

Live cookery demos, hints and tips, family entertainment and much more make this the perfect recipe for the long Bank Holiday weekend.

If you're a food business there's still time to get involved. Contact Darlington Markets via its Facebook page or check out the event on [www.enjoydarlington.com](http://www.enjoydarlington.com)

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

## **Darlington Rhythm & Blues Festival**

Friday 10 – Sunday 12 September, Town Centre and Market Square.

Enjoy a double celebration as the ever-popular Rhythm & Blues Festival marks a belated 25 anniversary. There'll be fantastic free music throughout the town all weekend with a grand outdoor stage in the Market Square. Look out for details of the line-up coming soon.





# Tribute to those lost to Covid-19

**Dozens of trees have been planted across the town as a special memorial to those who lost their lives to Covid-19.**

The trees have been planted at nine public spaces, with a specially-commissioned plaque placed at each site. A memorial seat will also be installed as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The memorial trees can be found at: South Park, Springfield Park, Eastbourne Park, North Park, Staindrop Road/Parkland Drive, West Park and three rural locations (to be confirmed).



If you're out enjoying our beautiful area this summer...

**Be wildfire aware!**

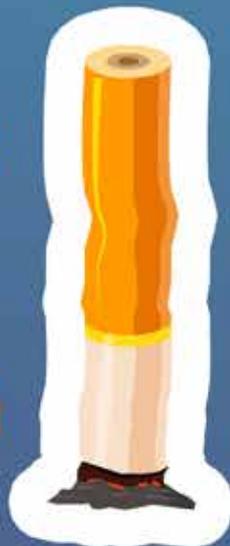
**No campfires**



**Only have BBQs in designated areas**



**Ensure cigarettes are put out & not thrown on the floor**



**Take your litter home with you especially glass bottles**



**If you see a wildfire stay away and call 999.**

We want you to stay safe outdoors and indoors. That's why we offer Safe and Wellbeing Visits. To find out more and to fill out a referral form visit our website - [www.ddfire.gov.uk](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk) or phone us on 0345 223 4221



County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Service

# Darlington station d

## Time to have your say on

**Thank you to everyone who shared their views on the ambitious transformation plans for the areas around the station. The plans were open for consultation in May as part of the pre-planning application process.**

Following the consultation, the formal planning applications have now been submitted for the east and west gateways to the station.

Design details of the planning application are available to view on the council's planning portal at [planning.darlington.gov.uk](http://planning.darlington.gov.uk). We now want more of you to share your views on the plans.

These plans, alongside improvements to the existing station building and other regional rail developments, will ensure Darlington and the Tees Valley offer a modern and sustainable transport network, with excellent local and national links.

Funding is being sought from the Government alongside funds already committed by the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority. The plans detailed here do not cover any work on the existing main station building, this work will be covered at a later stage. The council is working in partnership with TVCA, Network Rail and LNER.



# Development plans

## the latest proposals



### **EAST GATEWAY (Neasham Road) PROPOSALS**

A new station building with platforms serving local and national lines

The new platforms will allow for an increase in train numbers and quicker journey times to other parts of the region and beyond, helping improve journey times. The station will offer new food outlets and shops with modern ticketing and information services.

#### **New multi-storey car park**

This will be built above the station building and will offer secure parking for over 600 vehicles with provision for wheelchair accessibility, disabled users and electric vehicle charging points.

#### **Transport interchange and cycle facilities**

These will provide connections to local bus services, cycle shelters and cycle lanes.

#### **Landscaped pedestrianised areas**

Improved public spaces will enhance the look and feel of the area outside the station and will reflect the economic ambitions of Darlington and the wider Tees Valley region.

A new footbridge into the existing station building and improvements to Neasham Road are also included in the scheme.

### **WEST SIDE (Bank Top) PROPOSALS**

New road layout to improve pedestrian safety - the sharp right turn at the top of Victoria Road will be 'smoothed out' to allow for better visibility for pedestrians and two-way traffic approaching the station, removing what is now a blind corner. This will involve the demolition of a number of buildings at the top of Victoria Road.

#### **A pedestrianised concourse in front of the main station entrance**

There will be no vehicle access to the front of the main station. This change, along with wider pavements and a pedestrian concourse area in front of the station, will give station users a safer way to enter and exit the station on foot.

#### **Redesign of the station car park**

The redesign of the car park next to the station entrance will allow for short stay vehicles; and alongside improved drop off and pick-up points, new bus stops will improve accessibility for all.

Keep up to date with developments on our social media and at [www.darlington.gov.uk](http://www.darlington.gov.uk)

# Avoiding courier fraud

**Courier fraud is when a fraudster contacts you by telephone claiming to be a police officer or bank official. To substantiate their claim, the caller might be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details, such as the your full name and address.**

They may offer a phone number for you to call which, in some cases, matches the number on the back of your bank card to give the impression that the call is genuine. The number offered is not genuine or, where a genuine number is suggested, the criminal will keep the line open and pass you to an accomplice in order to validate the scam.

## Spot the signs

If a caller says they are from your bank, they may say their systems have spotted a fraudulent payment on your card or it is due to expire and needs to be replaced.

They may try to put your mind at rest by having somebody pick up your card to save you the trouble of having to go to your bank or local police station.

If the caller claims to be a police officer, they may say they are carrying out an investigation and they need you to give them money for evidence, or buy high value goods for safe keeping.

They may tell you to go to your bank and withdraw money, which will be picked up by a courier with the promise of it being returned once the investigation is complete.

They may also ask that money is sent to them by bank transfer, or by recorded delivery.

## Always remember

Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN number by phone or offer to pick your card or money up by courier. Hang up straightaway if you get a call like this.

If you want to call your bank back to check if the call is genuine, wait five minutes as the fraudsters may stay on the line after you hang up. Alternatively, use a different line to call your bank.

The police will also never contact you out of the blue to ask you to participate in an investigation, withdraw money from your bank or buy goods.

Your debit or credit card is yours – don't ever let a stranger take it from you. You should only ever hand it over at your bank. If it's cancelled, destroy it yourself. Your bank will never send a courier to your home to collect your card and PIN.

If you think you've fallen for a scam contact your bank immediately on a trusted number, such as the one on a bank statement, their website or on the back of your debit card.

**Report it to Action Fraud  
on 0300 123 2040 or via  
[actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk)**

**You can also call Durham  
Constabulary on 101.**



**Your bank or the police  
will NEVER contact you  
out of the blue to ask for  
your PIN, password or  
bank details**



# Be water aware!

**Drowning is one of the main causes of accidental death in the UK. As the weather warms up, we're working with partners to help keep people safer by raising awareness of the risks and dangers around water.**

We want everyone to have a great time this summer, but help us to make sure your children are safe if they are around water.

**Children don't always listen to parents, but taking a few simple steps could save their lives.**

Remember 999 calls on mobiles will find any network signal, even if your own network isn't covered.

Download the 'what3words' app on your phone – this gives emergency services your exact location, even if you are in a remote spot, and will help them reach you more quickly. Do it now and encourage your kids to do it too before you forget!

**Never let your children go near water, without being accompanied by an adult. An adult can point out dangers or help if someone gets into trouble.**

Never let them jump in or suddenly immerse themselves in cold water as the shock can kill.

**Look out for warning signs and follow their instructions.**

Remind them to stay together, never swim alone, always go with friends or family.

**Alcohol and water don't mix, so remind your teenagers not to drink it they are planning to swim and to avoid walking near water if they have been drinking.**

If you fall in the water, don't panic – extend your arms and legs and 'float to live' and shout for help.

**Learn how to help in an emergency - if you see someone in difficulty do not enter the water to try to rescue them. Shout for help. Call 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service. Throw them something that floats.**

**More information and water safety advice can be found on the Royal Life Saving Society UK website at [www.rlss.org.uk](http://www.rlss.org.uk)**



# Climate change – we're in it together

**'We're all in it together' was a phrase often used at the height of the pandemic when everyone was called on to play their part. Through lockdown, social distancing and hands, face space; everyone has been doing their bit to help stop the spread of Covid in our local community.**

As Covid restrictions ease there's still an emergency that we can all play our part to avert – climate change.

Two years ago, the Council declared a climate change emergency and agreed a climate change strategy a year later.

This strategy details the targets the Council must meet to become carbon neutral by 2050. One year on, we take a look at how far we've come:

- Our carbon emissions have reduced by 6,021 tonnes from our 2010 baseline
- We've received more than £2million of government funds for a range of projects including one to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon usage at the Dolphin Centre and Hippodrome and others to deliver energy efficiency, carbon savings and tackle fuel poverty for local residents

- We've developed and promoted a manual to help businesses be more resilient to climate change
- We've recruited climate change champions from our staff to help spread the word on tackling climate change; and used some of their ideas to improve our sustainability
- We've replaced 17 fleet vehicles with electric, and plan to convert the entire fleet
- The climate change cross party working group has met five times and has helped to develop an action plan and act as ambassadors of climate change
- So far, more than 900 council staff have completed climate change training.

## Get on board

We've made a good start on reducing our carbon emissions and you can play your part. For hints and tips on reducing your own carbon footprint, visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable)

Got questions about climate change in Darlington? Email [climate@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:climate@darlington.gov.uk)

Let's all do what we can together.



Darlington councillors pictured on a recent visit to Moor House Wind Farm

## “Being a Friend of Darlington Town Mission makes me feel that someone really cares “

It is wonderful that our Missioners are once again able to visit our elderly “Friends” face to face, having spent many months conducting socially distanced doorstep visits and making regular phone calls.

Our “ Friends” are looking forward to their free monthly afternoon outings that provide relief from isolation and an opportunity to socialise and have fun.

Only through your donations can we continue to carry out this critical work. Every pound goes directly towards our daily expenses and providing a vital lifeline for a local, elderly person. Please help Darlington’s elderly enjoy happier lives.



You can help us raise these much needed funds by making a donation either by visiting our website or by sending a cheque made payable to Darlington Town Mission to our registered address below.

## Happy Easter Bags for All Our Friends

Local MP for Darlington, Peter Gibson gave his support by helping to pack and deliver our Happy Easter Bags containing Easter egg, hot cross buns, biscuits, daffodil plant and card to all our Friends.

Peter said: “It was lovely to see the positive impact Darlington Town Mission has across Darlington.

“It is vital during this difficult time that we keep up the momentum of the amazing community work that is being done in Darlington to ensure that elderly residents do not feel isolated and delivering Easter gifts is very much part of that.”



## Enter our Happy Snappy Photo Competition

For the chance to win £200

Visit our website for your entry form & terms & conditions.

This article has been kindly sponsored by BHP Law Solicitors

Missioner 0794 3251357 [E dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk](mailto:dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk)

[f /Darlingtontownmission](https://www.facebook.com/Darlingtontownmission) [www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk](http://www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk)

Registered Address 2 Davison Road, Darlington, DL1 3DR



**Darlington  
Town  
Mission**  
Enriching Elderly Lives

# Young leaders volunteer to help primary school children

The Move More Team organised a holiday programme for primary school children at various venues throughout the town with the help of several young leaders from the Education Village.



This edition’s Move More Star is dedicated to those young leaders who showed their passion and commitment; they embraced the opportunity and were excellent role models for the children.

One young leader said: “We had lots of fun with the children doing different activities and it was nice to give back to the local community. Volunteering gave me a real sense of responsibility and even what it would be like to work with children in the future.”

The Move More team will be offering more holiday activities in the summer for children, if you are interested in volunteering for the programme or for more information email [movemore@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:movemore@darlington.gov.uk) or call 405400.



# News in brief

## We need your help

South Park Foundation is looking to secure funding to develop as a group and support South Park. They want to know what you love about South Park and if there are things that could be done to make it better. Please take a few minutes to complete a questionnaire to support the consultation and funding applications at: <https://forms.office.com/r/6GAG4ftEh9> or follow the group on Facebook.

## Breastfeeding support

August 1-7 is breastfeeding week, a chance to highlight the benefits that breastfeeding can bring if mums choose. The council's health visiting and 0-5 growing healthy team is taking part in the Big Latch On where people gather together to breastfeed and offer support to each other. Find the team on Facebook or call 0300 0030013 to arrange a visit. For more details, visit [www.biglatchon.org](http://www.biglatchon.org). The national breastfeeding helpline is on 0300 100 0212.

## Get reading this summer

Join this summer's exciting reading challenge at Darlington Library and Cockerton Library for children up to 16 years. Any child who borrows a book over the summer holidays can enter a draw to win one of a range of prizes including a Nintendo Switch, scooter, Lego and books! Find out more at [www.darlington.gov.uk/library](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/library)



## An urgent appeal for help has been issued to combat vandalism in our parks and play areas.

Between April and May this year, 73 incidents of vandalism were recorded and, in some cases, play equipment was damaged beyond repair and had to be removed. The cost to make play areas safe was more than £12,000.

This is an alarming increase on the same period in previous years – 22 incidents in 2018, 27 in 2019 and 38 in 2020. It's even more worrying as we approach the summer holiday when there is usually a peak in such vandalism.

To combat this mindless behaviour, our civic enforcement team is carrying out extra patrols and is working with the police and fire and rescue service.

A zero tolerance approach will be taken in dealing with those responsible for causing damage and the police will use dispersal orders to tackle groups of people who they believe are causing antisocial behaviour.

We're asking for your help too – be extra vigilant when out and about and report anything suspicious to police. We also urge parents to encourage teenagers to think twice before getting involved in antisocial behaviour.

If you spot anything suspicious contact police on 101 or our civic enforcement team on 406999.

To report damaged play equipment email [customerservices@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@darlington.gov.uk) or call 405000.



# Keep recycling

## RIGHT



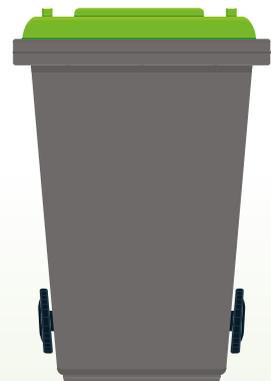
### Paper and cardboard

(remove plastic windows and any decoration)



### Glass bottles and jars

(give them a rinse and remove labels if you can)



### Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles

(give them a rinse and remove labels if you can. Please no bottle lids or pumps and no black plastic)

**Cans, aerosols and clean tin foil**

Most of the waste you throw in your normal bin can be treated and used as fuel in various industries, avoiding landfill.

[www.darlington.gov.uk/recycleright](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/recycleright)



# Meet Joy Allen - the new County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner

## Joy Allen has been elected as the new police and crime commissioner for County Durham and Darlington.

Her role involves holding the chief constable to account for the performance of the police force, effectively making the police answerable to the communities it serves.

In the first months of her new role, Joy has been out and about meeting MP Peter Gibson, fellow PCCs and local government figures including the leader and deputy leader of Darlington Borough Council.

She has also met Durham police officers to discuss policing across the force area and the demands the service faces.

Joy said: "Throughout my campaign, I listened to the people of County Durham and Darlington and I look forward to working with the chief constable to bring their priorities to fruition.

"From my police and crime survey, I know residents are concerned about the crime and disorder they see in their neighbourhoods and I will focus on their top priorities including anti-social behaviour, drug use and drug dealing, fly tipping, speeding and vandalism.

"My vision is to ensure local communities are safer,



stronger and more resilient to crime and anti-social behaviour. I can't wait to deliver a plan that focuses on people's priorities, working with a wide range of partners to reduce crime, victimisation, offending and anti-social behaviour."

Joy is working on her police and crime plan and will be consulting with residents on the plan in the coming months.

You can contact Joy via email – [general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk) or via Facebook (@PCC.Durham), Twitter (DurhamPCC) and Instagram (@durhampcc)

## Keeping our streets safe

The Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner has been awarded £670,864 from the Home Office to tackle neighbourhood crime and make streets safer.

The money, from the Government's Safer Streets Fund, will go towards measures proven to cut crime, including installation of new CCTV and automatic number plate recognition cameras, securing empty properties and providing window locks, door locks, interior and exterior lighting to residents.

You can stay up to date with all the news from the Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner at [www.durham-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk)

# Supported housing

**Two new initiatives have been launched to help support people in need develop the skills and confidence to live independently. We take a look behind the scenes at the council's Next Steps initiative and the 700 Club's Church View apartments.**



## Next Steps

**Four empty, run-down properties have been bought and refurbished with the support of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government to provide accommodation for vulnerable people.**

Next Steps aims to help reduce the number of people rough sleeping, or at risk of rough sleeping. It offers intense, personalised, accommodation-based support.

Work includes addiction and mental ill-health support alongside how to manage and sustain a tenancy, and offering long-term solutions to those with the highest needs.

Some clients have already moved into the first property, with others to follow soon. They will be supported and taught the skills needed to manage their tenancy and there's an opportunity to access social housing in the future.

## Church View

**The complex of 32 self-contained apartments in Neasham Road, opened earlier this year, offering individuals and couples the chance to live independently, with 24/7 support from a team of staff.**

The project aims to teach people how to create a home and care and look after themselves. Where there are gaps in someone's knowledge, staff will support them and help build confidence.

Residents can stay at Church View for up to a year and are then supported to find their own accommodation, suitable to their needs.

For more information visit the Move-on accommodation page of the 700 Club website [www.700club.org.uk](http://www.700club.org.uk) or call Yvonne Beattie on 07791 166111.

**For more information about homelessness support visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness)**



# NEW-LOOK TEESSIDE AIRPORT

## Teesside International Airport is back, ready to welcome passengers jetting off on a fantastic summer break into its new terminal building.

The reduced operations at the airport due to coronavirus let us bring forward a multimillion-pound redevelopment, but now we're throwing our doors open to welcome people from Darlington looking for a foreign getaway or staycation to a destination in the UK.

Ryanair, Europe's number one low-cost carrier, has launched its much-requested flights to Palma in Majorca, Alicante and Faro, capital of Portugal's Algarve region, with the Greek island of Corfu coming in just a few short weeks.

If you're looking for something closer to home, Loganair has you covered, with flights to Aberdeen, Belfast, Bristol, Jersey, London and Newquay all taking off right now.

Loganair's link to London Heathrow is going three-times daily from 12 July, providing more options for international connections.

The airline's newly announced deal with British Airways also means passengers can now travel globally from Teesside via Heathrow on one single ticket.

Under the deal, there is no need for passengers to recheck their bags at the capital and there is added protection against missing connections due to delays.

To make our airport even better for passengers, our overhaul includes a new check-in area and state-of-the-art body and baggage scanners in an upgraded security zone so you can get to relaxing in our transformed departures lounge faster than ever.

There, you can grab a drink or bite to eat in the Transporter Bar and Kitchen or the Goosepool Bar or



The new Landside Cafe



# GETS OFF TO A FLYING START

book one of two new executive lounges, the Middleton Lounge and Rockcliffe Lounge, which has been created thanks to a partnership with the Tees Valley's only five-star hotel.

If it's shopping you're after, the boutique House of Zana and Rejoy store offers the best products from local retailers, our newsagent stocks newspapers, magazines and books plus holiday essentials and World Duty Free will soon be setting up shop as part of a new 12-year deal.

As we've done since day one of bringing the airport back into public ownership, we've continued to back our brilliant local businesses throughout the renovations, with 92% of the works carried out by contractors from the local area too.

We have also scrapped the unpopular £6 passenger facility fee, which means there's no reason for people from Darlington to go anywhere else when they're taking off for a great getaway.

**Tees Valley Mayor** | Ben Houchen



The new-look security area leading to Departures



Airport staff at the newly opened Goosepool bar

# DC BOWL

AT THE DOLPHIN CENTRE

**Come and experience  
our new facilities!**

**Dolphin Centre 01325 406000**

**[www.healthydarlington.co.uk](http://www.healthydarlington.co.uk)**

**Under The Sea**  
SOFT PLAY AREA





Staff from Al Forno with Cllr Kevin Nicholson, the council's cabinet member for health and housing

# More healthy eating options for families

**Restaurants and cafes are being encouraged to offer customers more healthy options with the launch of a new initiative.**

The council's public health team has launched a healthy families catering award to encourage restaurants and cafes to offer a wider choice of healthy foods.

Town centre restaurants Uno Momento and Al Forno have worked with the council to improve their healthy options on children's menus, with their meals not exceeding government

guidelines for calories and portion sizing for children under the age of 11.

Both restaurants achieved the gold version of the award by including fruits, vegetables and healthy drinks.

The healthy families catering award supports the childhood healthy weight plan, which aims to help improve young people's physical health and provide access to healthy foods.

To find out which venues offer healthy options on their menus visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/healthyfamiliescateringaward](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/healthyfamiliescateringaward)



Also with Cllr Kevin Nicholson, staff from Uno Momento

# New club for aspiring rugby league players

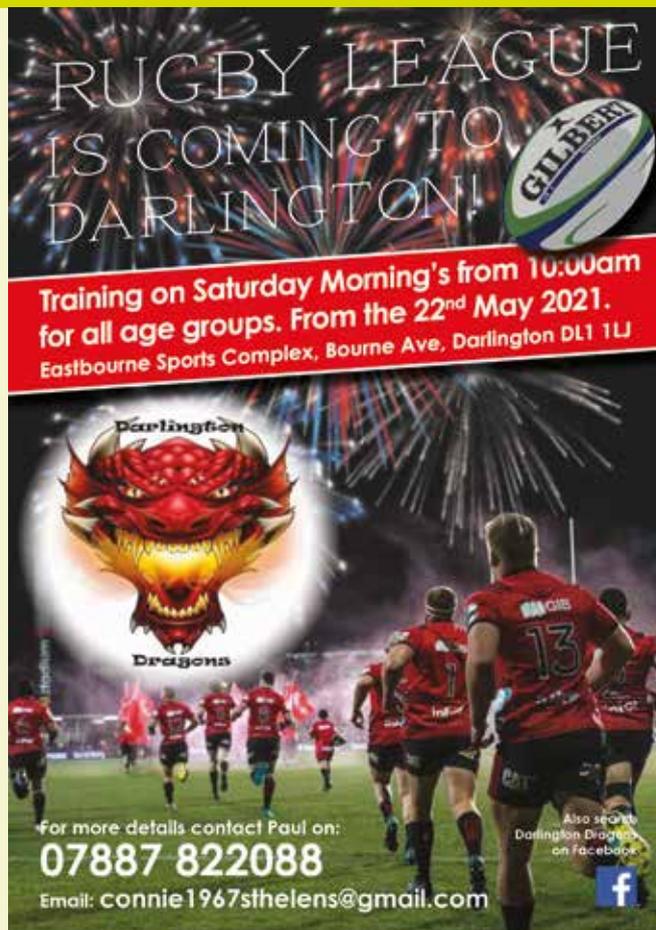
**Darlington Dragons is a new rugby league club training at Eastbourne Sports Complex and looking to develop players from Under 5s upwards.**

With support from Newcastle Thunder, it is running sessions on a Saturday morning at 10am at the centre. It plans to start building up the youngsters in training and develop the club for all ages and groups.

Jason Grant from Newcastle Thunder said: "The sport of rugby league is well established in the North East with clubs in Catterick, Yarm and Hartlepool as well as Newcastle and Cramlington. Darlington has a rich history in rugby; the World Cup will spark interest and we want an outlet for Rugby League stars of the future to start their journey in Darlington."

All are welcome and players will have the chance to play no matter what their ability. Chairperson Alison Bell and experienced coaches, including ex-Leeds Rhinos Ladies player Lucy Hewitt, will be helping to develop all ages, genders and support staff in this new venture.

The club is keen to find new sponsors and is offering opportunities for local businesses to get involved.



For more details email [connie1967sthelens@gmail.com](mailto:connie1967sthelens@gmail.com), call 07887 822088 or search for Darlington Dragons on Facebook.

**The Royal Osteoporosis Society is the only UK-wide charity dedicated to ending the pain and suffering caused by osteoporosis.**

It is committed to helping people with osteoporosis live the life they want to lead. Regular free local support group meetings are held in the Tees Valley.

Meetings are currently held virtually with plans to return to face-to-face meetings later in the year (dependent on government guidelines).

If you have osteoporosis, or care for someone with it, and are interested in finding out more about local meetings, please email [teesvolunteers@theros.org.uk](mailto:teesvolunteers@theros.org.uk) or call 01761 473112/473113.

There is a free helpline operated by specialist nurses, who offer confidential, professional advice on 0800 800 0035, Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2-5pm. Visit the website for more information [www.theros.org.uk](http://www.theros.org.uk)

If you have club news you would like to share, please email [\*\*communications@darlington.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:communications@darlington.gov.uk)



## Investing £9 million in Darlington

Northern Powergrid, the company responsible for the network that powers everyday life for 8 million customers across the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire, is making good progress with its £9 million investment to improve the reliability of the power network serving Darlington, both now and in the future.

Work started in January 2021 and will be ongoing until early 2024. The company has already completed around a quarter of this planned work, mostly in and around Whessoe Road and Hundens Lane.

### Road closures in August

As part of our work we need to close two roads but will be doing this in August while schools are closed and roads are quieter.

- Otley Terrace is closed between the junction of Whessoe Road and the junction of Alliance Street from Monday 2 August 2021 for up to two weeks
- The section of Cleveland Street beneath the railway bridge (near to the junction of Dodsworth Street/Allan Street) is closed from Monday 16 August 2021 for up to two weeks

Signposted diversions will be in place.

Northern Powergrid advises people to allow longer for journeys and thanks everyone for their ongoing patience while these important improvements to the town's electricity network are carried out.

For more information about this investment visit [northernpowergrid/darlington](https://www.northernpowergrid.com/darlington), email [generalenquiries@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:generalenquiries@northernpowergrid.com) or call **0800 011 3332**.



**Priority Services  
Membership**

Making you our priority

If you're medically dependant on electricity and would benefit from joining our free Priority Services Membership visit [northernpowergrid.com/care](https://www.northernpowergrid.com/care) or call **0800 169 2996**.

**POWER CUT?  
CALL 105**



# MEET BENJI



## COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU SOON

KEEP YOUR BIN HAPPY #RECYCLERIGHT