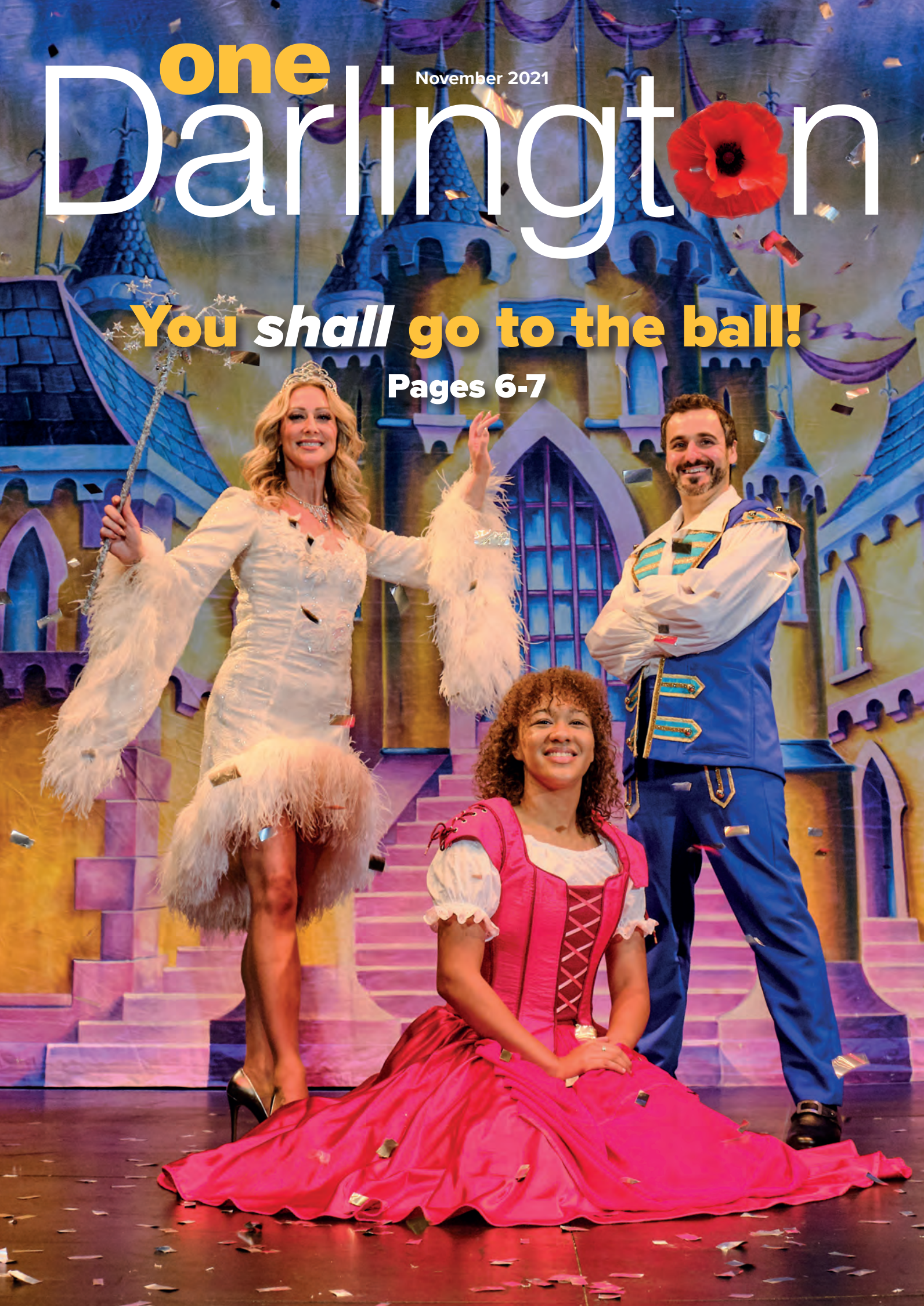


one Darlington

November 2021

You shall go to the ball!

Pages 6-7



CHRISTMAS AT THE HULLABALOO

M6 Theatre presents

Mavis Sparkle

Join us this Christmas at The Hullabaloo to meet the magical Mavis Sparkle in this warm and funny show that will delight the whole family!

With a cleaning trolley full of surprises, and a little help from Spike the hedgehog, this life-affirming production inspires us all to reach for the stars!

"Enchanting, a treasure trove of delights" The Stage



For everyone aged 4+

Tickets £8 - £10



Thu 9 - Fri 24 December 2021

BOX OFFICE: 01325 405 405 • theatrehullabaloo.org.uk

The Hullabaloo Borough Road Darlington DL1 1SG



Welcome to One Darlington

Our job is a varied one but this time of year we help get everyone in the Christmas spirit by putting up the town centre lights!

We start to put the decorations up in October but the planning, testing and repairing of all the lights starts in the summer.

We are a small, dedicated team and work hard to make sure the town stays lit up throughout the Christmas period.

We know how important the Christmas lights are to the town, to residents and visitors. It takes about six weeks to put up all the lights and test them, so they are ready for the big switch on Sunday 21 November.

On the day of the big switch on we test every decoration again just to make sure everything is ready for the countdown. I can't tell you how we get all the lights to come on at the same time – let's just say it's a bit of Christmas magic!

Our work doesn't stop there. Once the lights are on, we check them every day to make sure they are all working and we carry out any repairs that are needed.

When all the festivities are over, we take all the decorations down in the first week of January and store them safely ready for the next year.

We are not the only ones bringing some Christmas sparkle to Darlington this year – check out the what's on guide for festive events around the town and turn to page 6 and 7 to meet this year's panto stars.

Hopefully this Christmas we will be able to travel to see family and friends – turn to pages 23 and 25 to see how council teams are helping you get on the road.

If you are planning on spending time with loved ones, turn to pages 8 and 9 for the latest Covid advice and pages 16 and 17 for flu vaccination information so we can all stay safe this winter.

Whatever your plans, I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and enjoy the town centre lights!



Malcolm Mills, council construction manager, and some of his team.

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

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

Station plans take a step forward



Ambitious plans to transform areas around the station have taken a step forward as planning approval was granted for the £105m scheme. The council is working with the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority, plus other rail partners, to deliver the scheme which forms part of a wider plan to improve rail services across the Tees Valley.

Plans for the east side of the development, in Neasham Road, include a new entrance, multi-storey car park, new station building, concourse and upgrade to transport links.

Three new platforms will be created to accommodate current and future services, along with a footbridge linking the new platforms to the existing station, tying it more closely to the town centre.

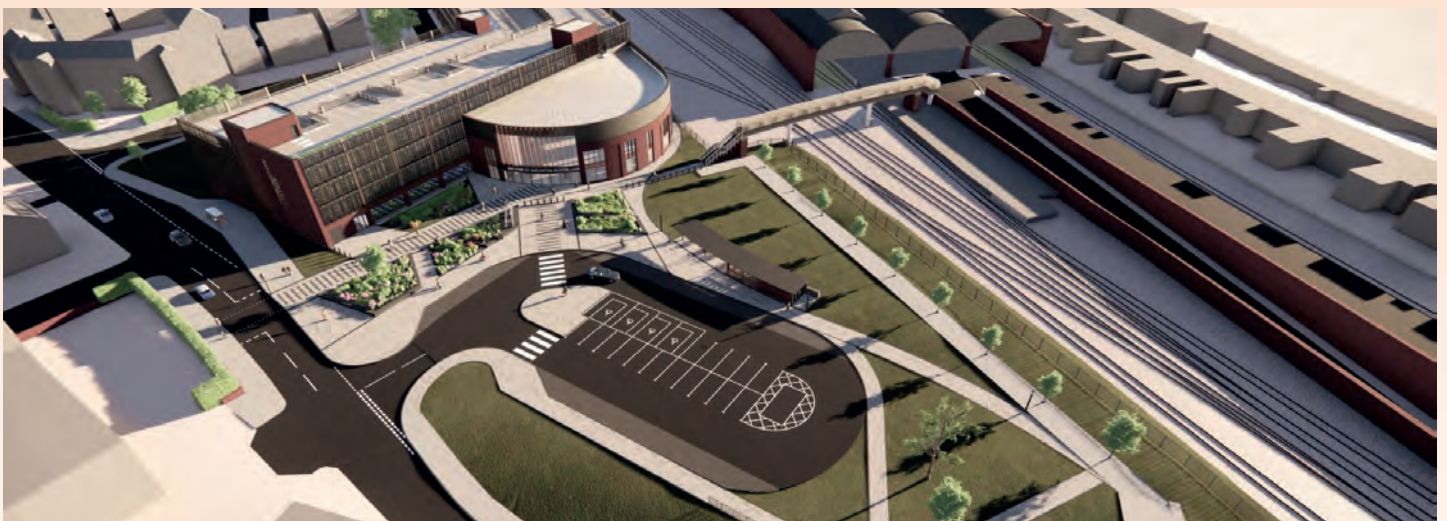
An upgrade to the western side of the station (Victoria Road entrance) is also planned, with changes to car parking, a new road layout, wider pavements and improvements to walking and cycling access to make the station more accessible.

The council's plans involve areas around the existing station building, rather than the building itself.

The overall scheme aims to improve the frequency and reliability of services, as well as connectivity along the East Coast Main Line and across the region.

Work is planned to be completed in time for the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 2025, recognising Darlington as the birthplace of the modern railway.

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



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



TEES VALLEY
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

TEES VALLEY MAYOR



HM Government

We will remember them

Our official Remembrance Day service will be held on Sunday 14 November.

There will be a service in Holy Trinity Church, Woodland Road, starting at 10am, followed by a procession to the Cenotaph in the grounds of the Memorial Hospital where an act of remembrance and laying of wreaths will be held.



All those who attend are asked to follow public health advice for Covid-19.

Reading for pleasure



Last year's winners from Hurworth Primary School

Schools are being urged to sign up for Darlington Library's latest reading for pleasure initiative – 100 books to read before you are 11.

Year 5 pupils in each school will be challenged to read 100 books collectively across the school year for the chance to win a visit to their school by an author or illustrator.

Four schools took part last year, with pupils at Hurworth Primary School the lucky winners who enjoyed a trip to Darlington Hippodrome to see the Dragons and Mythical Beasts show. This year's scheme starts this week and runs until the end of the school year.

Schools wanting to find out more and to sign up should contact Laura Pattison at Darlington Library on 349610 or email laura.pattison@darlington.gov.uk



Darlington's Christmas panto wish is granted!

You shall go to the ball this Christmas as Cinderella comes to the Hippodrome from 10-31 December. Tickets are on sale at www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call 405405. Before the curtain rises on this fantastic show, we met three of the cast.

Tanisha Butterfield – Cinderella

Tanisha, from Leeds, is a third year student at the Performance Preparation Academy in Guildford. This is her debut professional role.

This is your first professional role – are you nervous?

I am so delighted to have been given this opportunity. I love Christmas, so panto is perfect for my first professional role. I do get nervous but I don't recognise my nerves until I am in the wings and by then it's too late and I have to go on!

I have great support from my family and friends and they will be coming up from Leeds to see me. It's close enough that my mum can visit or I can pop home too!

Was it good to meet the rest of the cast?

It's been amazing to get to know them. They have all been so supportive and fun. Faye has so much experience and Patrick is just so slick, I can't wait to learn from them.

What advice would you give to anyone wanting to be a performer?

My advice is to believe in yourself. People might not think you are right for a certain role but everything happens for a reason, and if you believe in yourself you will get there eventually. I didn't get into drama school the first year I auditioned and looking back I can see that I wasn't ready. It was much better for me to wait.

Faye Tozer – Fairy Godmother

Pop star with Steps, TV personality and West End musicals leading lady, Faye lives in South Tyneside with her husband and son.

Are you excited about your role?

I am so excited! When I got the call asking if I could do panto I wondered if I could fit it in with being in Singing in the Rain in the West End and the arena tour with Steps, but when they said it was in Darlington I said "yes" straight away. The Hippodrome is such a beautiful theatre, the cast are fantastic, and I am close enough to home that I can commute and sleep in my own bed!

What do you love about panto?

Panto is so special because children can just let go, have fun, shuffle in their seats, shout and laugh – it makes for a magical atmosphere.

The rest of the cast are fabulous. Patrick has obviously performed in Darlington before and is so funny – I am looking forward to working with him. It's such a good opportunity for Tanisha – panto is a great first professional job as it is relentless, you need energy all the time to sing, act and dance. It's a lot of hard work but has such great rewards.

Where will you be spending Christmas Day?

We get Christmas Day off so I will be able to spend it with my family which is so special. I will be able to plan family outings with my son, put the Christmas tree up and all those usual traditions. It's fantastic that I can be in pantomime and be so close to home. My family will be coming to support me in the show as well so it will be so magical.



If you had your own fairy godmother what would you wish for?

If I could ask for one wish it would be that we have a really good panto season with full houses and audiences who have fun. Christmas is such a special time and panto is a great way to bring families together, which is something we all need after the last 18 months.

My fairy godmother in Cinderella is going to be a bit different this year – she's going to have a bit of an edge and be a bit sassy so I will have fun with that. I can't say too much, but needless to say, my first entrance is spectacular!

You were in Strictly Come Dancing in 2018 – what do you think of the cast this year?

I love when Strictly comes on the TV – it's a sign that Christmas is on its way! There are some great dancers this year and some real surprises. I love it when the celebrities are good dancers because that's why we watch it, to see great dancing. I am sat shouting at the TV every Saturday night! I wanted to do Strictly for so long and was thrilled when I got the chance although it was like training for the Olympics – such hard work and very physical.

Patrick Monahan – Buttons

Patrick is a comedian from Teesside who has appeared on TV and at gigs and festivals around the country.

How does it feel to return to performing after the pandemic?

I was in Snow White in Darlington in 2017, when the Hippodrome reopened after its major refurbishment and that was such a great atmosphere. I think it will be the same this year, following Covid. It will feel like a real homecoming and ten times more magical than normal as we have all missed spending time together and us performers have missed having a live audience. I love Darlington and performing here.

Why do you enjoy panto so much?

Panto reignites the magic of Christmas for me. It makes me feel like a child again – it's so exciting. I love that I will be living in the town centre – I can see the theatre from my apartment. Living where you are working is great for a comedian as you can put local references into the act which gets the biggest reaction.

One of the best things about panto is the family atmosphere – there's nothing better than making mums, dads, grandparents and children all laugh at the same time. The school shows are great. It can be mayhem, especially when we pick on the teachers - the kids go mad. For some children it's their first experience of theatre and in that way we have an important job to introduce them to this world and show them a great time.





DARLINGTON
Borough Council

HELP KEEP **DARLINGTON** SAFE

Covid-19 has not gone away

Here's how you can help keep Darlington safe this winter



Wash your hands regularly

It is important that you wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and only use hand sanitiser between washes. Although hand sanitiser is useful when you are out and about with no access to soap and water, it cannot prevent the spread of some viruses, such as coronavirus and norovirus, as well as regular handwashing can.



Wear a face covering

Wearing a face covering in crowded places with people you do not normally mix with helps to protect yourself and others around you from the spread of Covid-19, especially indoors.



Get fresh air

Even in the colder weather, fresh air is one of the best ways to stop the spread of Covid-19. Fresh air helps to blow the virus away, so even if you're meeting others at home or indoors, remember to open the windows at regular intervals and wrap up warm.

For more information visit **www.darlington.gov.uk**

To find out more about COVID testing, including the two types of test available and how you can get them, visit **www.darlington.gov.uk/testing**



Keep testing

Taking regular tests, even if you do not have any symptoms, is the best way to find out if you may have Covid-19 but do not know it. It's estimated that up to one in three people with Covid do not feel ill at all, but it's still very important to self-isolate if you test positive.



Get vaccinated

The Covid-19 vaccinations are the best protection we have against the virus. By getting both doses of the vaccine (if you're over 18) or one dose of the vaccine (if you're under 17) you can help protect yourself, your loved ones and our wider communities.

For more information on the winter vaccination programme, turn to pages 16 and 17.

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

To find out more about the NHS coronavirus vaccination programme and to book your COVID vaccine appointment, visit **www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination**



Getting the most from our resources

Councillor Scott Durham was appointed cabinet member for resources earlier this year. He reflects on some highlights from his first few months in the role and looks forward to what's ahead.

I was delighted to be asked to take over the resources portfolio in cabinet back in the summer. Since then, I've been busy taking stock of all the responsibilities that come with the role.

They include financial management, including the medium term financial plan (MTFP), as well as oversight of several critical council functions such as human resources, procurement, health and safety, communications, One Darlington magazine and IT to name just a few.

My professional background is in finance, so it made perfect sense to be asked to look after this portfolio. In terms of the MTFP, we'll be bringing a report to cabinet shortly, which will detail our proposals for the next financial year and beyond. There'll be a public consultation in early 2022, so you will get the chance to have your say, before the proposals are voted on in February.

I thought you'd be interested to see where our funding

comes from and how it's spent - see the pie charts below for full details.

Speaking of consultations, I was pleased with the response to our recent consultation on the council's Customer Services and Digital Strategy 2021-24.

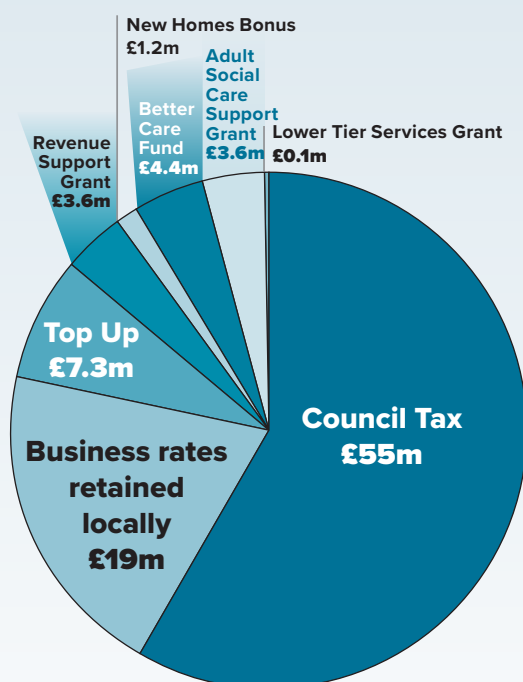
The document sets out how we will deliver excellent, value-for-money customer services through increasingly digital means, without excluding those who can't or don't want to use the internet.

The way residents do business with the council is changing and we have to respond to that. More services are being made available through our website and this trend will continue, while always ensuring we don't leave anyone behind.

Although the consultation has now ended, you can read more about our plans at www.darlington.gov.uk/digitalstrategy

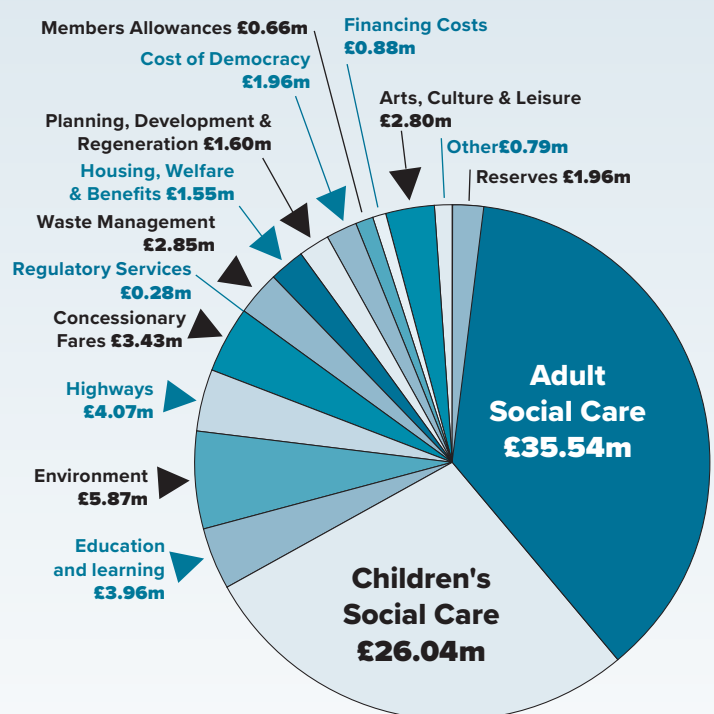
Coming soon - look out for more innovative ways in which residents can interact with council services.

Finally, with the festive season now just a few weeks away, I would like to wish all One Darlington readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy, prosperous new year.



INCOME TOTAL £94.25m

* excluding Covid-19 grants and pressures



EXPENDITURE TOTAL £94.25m

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 (Haughton 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 (I)** 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. **Jack Sowerby (C)** Tel: 07730 480295.

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)** 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



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



#DOYOURBIT

**Emergency departments are very busy
Please don't turn up at A&E unless it's serious**

Think pharmacy, GP and 111 first

#PROTECTOURNHS

#DOYOURBITDURHAM&DARLINGTON

Enhanced paediatric emergency unit opens

An enhanced dedicated paediatric emergency unit has opened at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

The unit provides care for infants, children and young people from Darlington and the surrounding areas.

Dr Sri Perumal, emergency department consultant, said: "We are delighted that the enhanced paediatric emergency unit is now open. It will be staffed by paediatric trained nurses 24 hours a day and we have a paediatric consultant lead in the department. It has been designed to be a child friendly environment to make children feel comfortable when they come in."

The unit includes a triage room, treatment rooms which have been decorated with colourful murals, a paediatric resuscitation room and a sensory room as well as a waiting area. The paediatric emergency unit is to the left of the main entrance to Darlington Memorial Hospital, with a designated secure intercom entrance to ensure the safety of children.

Jane Carr, matron for the paediatric emergency unit, said: "Having a dedicated paediatric emergency unit allows for a much better

environment for the infants, children and young people that we care for. It is a much more age-appropriate, relaxing and calm environment that is separate from the adult emergency department.

"The new waiting area is a large open space with lots of seating, a television, toys and books. This is also a key area for us, as our colleagues can observe children playing as part of diagnosis and treatment.

"Donations to the trust's charity meant that it was able to enhance the unit with beautiful murals, toys and games. It also kitted out a sensory room with a light projector and other sensory needs equipment. The room has been designed for those infants, children or young people who are particularly anxious or sensitive to noise and lights who could benefit from a very relaxing calming space."

Pat Chambers, charity development manager, added: "We are grateful for the support received via external funders, Screwfix Foundation and Darlington Building Society for helping us to transform the new paediatric emergency unit creating a welcoming, vibrant and fun space for children and families."



Taking action to tackle climate change

The eyes of the world were on Glasgow as leaders and decision makers gathered at the COP26 Climate Change Conference to address the climate change emergency facing the planet.

Here in Darlington, the council has declared its own climate change emergency and has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2050.

We are responsible for around 2-5% of the town's emissions and, with this in mind, a climate change strategy and action plan have been created to help reduce the amount of carbon we use and the amount we emit into the atmosphere. Through our plan we aim to put climate change at the very heart of what we do.

We deliver a wide range of services and our action plan cuts across everything we do. It aims to:

- **reduce our energy consumption**
- **reduce the demand for fossil fuel**
- **contribute to a greener grid**
- **promote a greener town.**

Things will not happen overnight but already we have:

- successfully bid for funding to install energy efficient boilers at the Dolphin Centre and Darlington Hippodrome and are working on improving the energy efficiency of our other workplaces
- switched to a greener electricity tariff
- increased our fleet of electric vehicles and offered incentives to staff to buy their own electric vehicle
- installed and replaced streetlights with more energy efficient LED lights
- adopted new powers to improve the energy efficiency of private rental properties.
- improved the efficiency of our housing stock
- used recycled road materials to repair roads
- delivered climate change training to more than half of our workforce and recruited a team of climate champions
- set aside £100,000 to fund ideas that will help meet the council's climate targets
- assisted in plans to plant 20,000 trees
- promoted climate change toolkits to local businesses.

There is still a lot to do but we are committed to play our part in addressing climate change. Find out what you can do to help at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable



CHURCH VIEW APARTMENTS

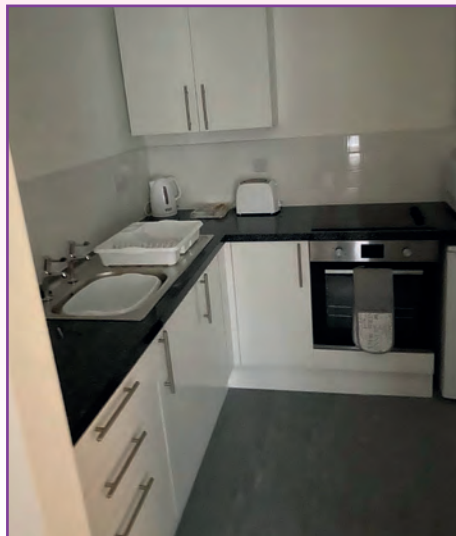
Stepping out to independence

Church View Apartments is made up of 32 brand new move-on flats for people aged 18+, who are capable of living independently but who lack the skills or confidence to do so.

The aim of the project, which has a 24/7 staff team, is to prepare people for independence and then support them to find and settle into independent accommodation and to become part of the community.

We understand that starting to live independently is a massive step for some people. Our aim is to make the process less daunting by supporting people to:

- overcome barriers such as lack of skills and confidence that prevent them from living independently
- manage personal finances (rent, budgeting, bills and debt)
- understand the obligations and responsibilities of having a tenancy
- establish and maintain personal support networks and engage with activities designed to promote skills, confidence, and independence
- manage their physical and mental health
- learn daily living skills – shopping, preparing healthy meals, room presentation and safety in the home, etc
- make positive life choices and contribute to the wider community.



If you, or someone you know, would benefit from support, please contact us on 07791 166111 or email Yvonne.Beattie@700Club.org.uk

Protect yourself this winter – get your vaccination

More people are likely to get flu this winter as fewer people will have built up natural immunity to it during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you get flu and COVID-19 at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill.

Why to get your winter vaccinations

Getting vaccinated against flu and COVID will provide protection for you, and those around you, for both these serious illnesses.

If you have had coronavirus it's still safe to have the flu vaccine and it will still be effective at helping to prevent flu.

Just like the COVID-19 vaccine has reduced the risk of serious illness and hospitalisation, the flu vaccination will help to reduce the risk of becoming very unwell with the flu this winter.





The Darlington Primary Care Network team at The Old Exchange winter vaccination hub



Who is eligible for the winter vaccinations

You are eligible to have both free NHS flu and COVID booster vaccinations if you:

- are 50 and over
- have certain health conditions
- receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- are a frontline health or social care worker.

However, it must have been at least six months since your second dose of the COVID vaccine before you can get your booster.

Where to get the winter vaccinations

You can have the free NHS vaccinations at various locations, including:

- a local vaccination service, such as the new vaccination hub at The Old Exchange and at Cockerton Pharmacy
- your GP surgery
- your local pharmacy offering the service
- your midwifery service, if you're pregnant.

Anyone in Darlington who is eligible for either their flu or Covid-19 booster vaccination can book their appointments at The Old Exchange, which will be managed by the same team who provided COVID vaccinations at Feethams House earlier this year.

People who book an appointment for their flu vaccination at the new site will also be offered their COVID vaccine booster at the same time, but only if it has been a minimum of six months since their second dose.

If you choose to have both vaccinations at the same appointment, the vaccinations will be administered into an arm each.

When you're invited for your flu and/or booster vaccination, make sure you take up the offer.

To find out more about the local NHS winter vaccination programme, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/wintervaccinations.

Christmas and New Year bin collections

Garden waste collections will end in December and will start again in April. Look out for more details on social media and at www.darlington.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Good news! All waste and recycling bin collections will remain the same this Christmas and New Year. Please make sure your bins are ready for collection at 7am as collection times may change.

St Teresa's Hospice and the Rotary Club will be collecting Christmas trees for a donation on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 January.

For more information and to book your collection visit www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/christmas-tree-collection

Make your bin happy this Christmas

The best present you can give us is to recycle right this Christmas.
Here's a quick guide to festive recycling.

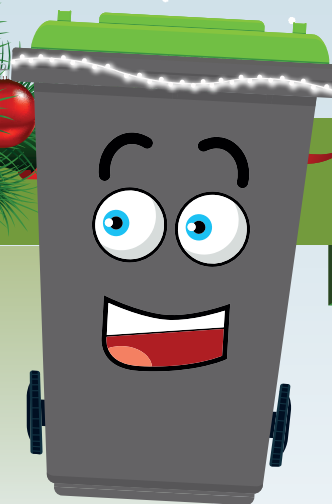
WE CAN RECYCLE

Cards and envelopes (no glitter or decoration)

Cardboard tubes from wrapping paper and crackers

Glass and plastic bottles and cans

Chocolate tins ● Food boxes (party food, mince pies)



WE CAN'T RECYCLE

Gift bags ● Decorations ● Plastic bags

Containers, boxes or trays with food on them



Looking for a safe and green way to recycle a device?

Many of us have devices at home that connect us to the digital world.

However lots of people in our town and surrounding villages have no way of getting connected.

We are working with partners to organise a campaign – Let's Do Digital – to help people get online by providing them with a device and access to training and support, and we need your help!

There are four things we need you to do:

1. Check if you have any devices lying around your home that you no longer use - smart phones, tablets, or laptops.
2. Make sure they are in reasonable, working condition (still usable, but a couple of scratches are fine) and ideally have working chargers.
3. If possible carry out a factory reset (this clears your personal data, search reset in your settings or instructions on our website).
4. Take them along to a donation point.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Donation points



Drop your reset, working devices and chargers at the following reception areas:

Dolphin Centre

Crown Street and Cockerton libraries

Head of Steam Railway Museum

Please check the opening times on the council website before donating.

All devices will be professionally wiped of data before being used as part of the Let's Do Digital campaign.

If you have lots of devices we can arrange to collect them.

Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/letsdodigital or email letsdodigital@darlington.gov.uk for more information.



WHAT'S ON IN DARLIN

The festive season will soon be on its way, but whether you love the yuletide frolics or feel a bit bah humbug, there's always plenty going on. Please be aware the events may be subject to change/postponement if government guidelines change. You should always check with event organisers/venues before travelling. For more details of what's on visit enjoydarlington.co.uk or follow #LoveDarlo on Facebook.

Want to be in the next edition of One Darlington? Email your events for early November–January to communications@darlington.gov.uk

parkrun and junior parkrun – weekends, South Park. A free, weekly, timed run, walk or jog. The 5km event is on Saturdays at 9am. The 2km junior event, for those aged 4-14, is on Sundays at 9am.

Saturday Lego Club – Saturdays, 10am-noon, Darlington Library. Book a table via www.darlington.gov.uk/library

NOVEMBER

Streetwise display – Monday 2 – Friday 29, 10am-4pm, Centre for Local Studies at Darlington Library. Discover the history behind some of Darlington's street names.

Original Band night – Thursday 4, 7pm, The Forum. Featuring local indie rock band The Waynes and Brit pop/mod band The Bluff. Tickets £4.40.



toooB – Thursday 4 – Saturday 6, The Hullabaloo. An enchanting wordless show for grown-ups and their babies (6–24 months) with music, movement and sensory interaction.

Station Scamps Bonfire Night – Friday 5, 10am-noon, Head of Steam museum. Drop in.

Bootleg Blondie – Friday 5, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £13.

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club – Saturday 6, 7pm, The Forum. Tickets £10.

Rings and Wheels – runs until Sunday 9 January, 11am-3.30pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Darlington Stitch & Create showcases work created by members.

Station Scamps' Toddler Takeover – Friday 12, 10am-noon, Head of Steam museum. Booking required.

Darlington RnB Club presents Redfish Blues B – Friday 12, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Ultimate Bowie – Saturday 13, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £13.



The Legend of Sleepy Hollow – Tuesday 16 – Saturday 20, Darlington Hippodrome.

Dementia Café – Wednesday 17, 11am-noon, Head of Steam Railway Museum. For people living with dementia and their family/carers. Free admission includes entry to museum.

Moonlight and Memories – Friday 19, start 6pm, South Park. Sponsored walk in aid of St Teresa's Hospice. For more information call 254321 or email events@darlingtonhospice.org.uk

Station Scamps' Little Learners – Friday 19, 10.30-11.30, Head of Steam museum. Booking required.

Gasto Promotions presents 10CCLO – Friday 19, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.



Rock of Ages – Tuesday 23 – Saturday 27, 7.30pm, Thursday matinee 2pm, Saturday matinee 2.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome.

Station Scamps' – Friday 26, 10am-noon, Head of Steam museum. Drop in. Check with museum for details.

The Mentalls – Friday 26, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £10.

Sacconi String Quarter & pianist Emma Abbate – Saturday 27, 7.30pm, Central Hall, Dolphin Centre. First of Darlington Music Society's 2021/22 concert season. Tickets £15 at the door or online at www.darlingtonmusicsociety.org.uk Season ticket £60, free for under 26s. For more information call 467163.

The Smyths paying homage to The Smiths – Saturday 27, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £15.

DECEMBER

Ska Night featuring King Hammond & The Rude Boy Malta and The Skapones – Friday 3, 7pm, The Forum. Tickets £10 advance, £12 on the door.

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club – Saturday 4, 7pm, The Forum. Tickets £10.

Santa at the Station – Saturday and Sunday 4 & 5, 11 & 12 and 18 & 19, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Railway Museum. Meet Santa in his grotto and receive a gift. Adults £4 (members free), children £8, family ticket £25 (2 adults + 3 children). Booking via www.eventbrite.co.uk

Santa Run – Sunday 5, start 11am, West Park. Sponsored run in aid of St Teresa's Hospice. For more information call 254321 or email events@darlingtonhospice.org.uk



Mavis Sparkle – Thursday 9 – Friday 24, The Hullabaloo. Reach for the stars with Mavis Sparkle! Age 4+ Tickets: £8-10.

Darlington RnB club presents Aynsley Lister Band and support – Friday 10, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £18.



Cinderella – Friday 10 - Friday 31 December, Darlington Hippodrome. Steps star Faye Tozer heads the cast of the festive family pantomime. Tickets £17.50 to £35.50.

OUR TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS EVENTS



The town centre really comes alive at Christmastime, with festive activities, great events and plenty of decorations guaranteed to get shoppers in the mood. Keep up to date with all that's happening, visit enjoydarlington.co.uk and follow #LoveDarlo on Facebook.

Christmas Lights Switch On – Sunday 21 November, from 4.30pm, Market Square. Join in the fun and games as Santa drops in with his little helpers to say hello and a special star will flip the switch to light up the town and a grand finale with fireworks and music.

Ice Sculpture Trail – Saturday 4 and 11 December, town centre. Spectacular ice sculptures will transform the streets across two weekends. Follow the trail to see lots of intricately carved figures, wander through the yards and wynds to see what icy creatures you can find and watch live ice carving in the Market Square. Entertainers will also fill the town with fun and music.

Ice Skating Rink – Saturday 18 to Friday 24 December, Market Square. Get your skates on for some ice skating or take a step back in time on a wonderful Victorian carousel.

Christmas Party Nights – Friday 10, Ed Sheeran songbook; Saturday 11, 80s sensation; Friday 17, Elton John tribute, Dolphin Centre. Tickets £31.50, includes three-course meal.

The Killerz – Saturday 11, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £13.

Dementia Café – Wednesday 15, 11am-noon, Head of Steam Railway Museum. For people living with dementia and their family/carers. Free admission includes entry to museum.

The Jam'd paying tribute to The Jam – Saturday 17, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £11.

New Year's Eve party – Friday 31, The Forum. Bands to be confirmed.

CONTACTS

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

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

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

Darlington Libraries – call 349610 or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/library.

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

The Forum Darlington – visit www.theforumonline.co.uk

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

ENJOY TEES VALLEY

Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen pledges support to One Punch North East



PCC Joy Allen recently met with One Punch founder and CEO Maxine Thompson-Curl, as well as deputy council leader Jonathan Dulston, in the town centre to help promote the campaign.

Maxine started One Punch after her son Kristian, who was just 18, was punched on a night out in Consett in 2010. He sadly passed away 10 months later. Maxine set-up One Punch North East as a campaigning group in 2014. It has now become a registered charity. It has continued to raise awareness of the devastating consequences just one punch can have, as well as provide support to families in the same situation.

One Punch organises different activities and fundraising events alongside a variety of different organisations within local communities throughout the year.

Durham PCC Joy Allen said: "I fully support the One Punch campaign, helping to raise awareness of the consequences that one punch can have on somebody's life. One of my key priorities as PCC is to help promote awareness of the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption through engagement with charities such as One Punch."

As part of her priority

to make businesses safer, Commissioner Joy Allen will support and respond to feedback around the night-time economy as well as help to promote preventative measures such as Pubwatch across the region.

One Punch founder Maxine Thompson-Curl, said: "We are so happy that we have the continuous support from Joy Allen and the PCC's Office. We are looking forward to working alongside Councillor Dulston to make positive changes around Darlington and Durham."

Cllr Dulston said: "Tragically, we have seen all too many times the devastating impact a single punch can have. I'm proud to stand alongside Maxine and Joy in promoting this campaign, to raise awareness of the consequences a single moment of violence can bring."



The charity will continue its work throughout the year including awareness campaigns during the upcoming festive period when the night-time economy is at its busiest.

You can find out more about One Punch and how you can get involved at www.onepunch.org.uk and by following the charity on Twitter @OnePunchNE or on Facebook @OnePunchUK.

Looking into the problem of potholes

We know that the condition of our roads is one of your top concerns and our highways maintenance team work throughout the year to repair damage and carry out preventative work called micro-surfacing.

The aim of micro-surfacing is to repair cracks and other minor defects. Thanks to this work and our resurfacing programme we have seen a drop in the number of potholes we have had to repair.



What causes potholes?

Potholes are caused when water gets into tiny cracks in the road. The problem is worse in the winter, when the water freezes and thaws, causing the cracks to get larger. Traffic running on the cracked surface causes it to collapse and creates potholes.



Recycling repairs

We have started using recycled materials to repair some of our roads in a more sustainable way. The repair system works by pulverising the existing road material, which would normally be removed and replaced. The pulverised material is mixed with cement and water on site and relayed before a new surface layer is put on top.

This is great for the environment and is also a lot quicker than traditional road repairs as the old material does not need to be excavated - it is simply treated and reused, minimising the time the roads need to be closed.

**DO IT
ONLINE**

Reporting a pothole

Inspectors are out on the network every day but they can't spot every pothole that appears. You can help us by reporting potholes – once we receive a report an inspector will go out to look at it within 24 hours. Potholes less than 40mm (1.6in) on the road will not be repaired but we will keep inspecting them.

You can report a pothole using our Report It page on our website www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit or call 405222.



In the last three years

- 17,648 potholes repaired
- 221 streets resurfaced
- £1.988m spent on road repairs



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

A love of history and meeting people create a perfect combination



www.darlington.gov.uk/50faces

Sarah Gouldsbrough, Learning and access officer for Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum

I work with schools, families and community groups, and run activities such as our dementia café, as well as lots of other things. I've worked at the museum for 15 years and it combines my love of history with meeting lots of people. I trained as a primary school teacher and love working with children and helping them to find out all about our town's history and the part it plays in the world around us.

It's rare to have a typical day in the museum as we are a small team and have to be able to do all sorts of different jobs. Recently I led a small school group on activities around the museum, later I did a zoom workshop with a school in Stockton. I then worked on promoting our dementia café and family activities, as well as helping develop some new educational resources.

I love that my job is so varied, and that I get to work with so many different people.

Working in a building that is open to the public has been impacted by COVID as we have had to make changes to how visitors can access everything. As you can imagine, we can't clean our objects with antibac wipes – so we have to think of other ways for people to be able to see as much as possible.

We were also open as a rapid testing centre from January to May this year, with myself and several colleagues working alongside staff from the Hippodrome and other departments to provide

a service to the public. Being able to get out of the house and be useful in a really practical way helped my mental health at the time.

The support of colleagues is amazing! Working together really helps to get stuff done. I enjoy being part of a network of people who come together in different ways.

I love the 'aha!' moment children have when they see or find out something about Darlington's railway history – the museum, its objects and collections combined with our beautiful railway station building really brings the subject to life.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Did you know... winter maintenance

As the temperatures plummet and the dark nights draw in, you will probably spot our gritters out and about but did you know?

- ❁ We look at weather forecasts to decide what time to send the gritters out and how much salt to spread. Gritters go out any time of the day or night if the temperature demands it.
- ❁ Our gritter drivers work on a rota basis alongside their usual day jobs. Give them a thought when you're tucked up in bed during bad weather, because they'll be out there working hard to keep the roads as clear as possible!
- ❁ We have seven gritters, one gritter trailer and two quad bikes fitted with snow ploughs.
- ❁ There's around 5,500 tonnes of salt in stock for this winter.
- ❁ Salt dissolves on wet roads creating brine – it's the brine that melts the ice. When the salt is driven over it works more quickly and so if there's plenty of traffic it helps keep the roads clear. If there's heavy snowfall overnight, with no traffic, the snow lays over the salt and it

will look as though we haven't been out. Once traffic gets going the snow will start to clear. We try to treat the roads before snow falls as putting salt on top of snow doesn't have the same effect.

- ❁ We can't treat every road in the town so instead we concentrate on around 190 miles of 'priority routes' which make up more than half of the road network. This includes the main routes in and out of town and all scheduled bus routes.
- ❁ We inspect council car parks every morning and, once the priority routes have been treated, we will clear and treat those that need it.
- ❁ There are 112 salt bins across the town which you are free to use on paths and roads where needed. If you are able, don't be afraid to clear paths outside your home. Spread salt or sand once you have cleared the area to improve grip.
- ❁ If you find an empty salt bin you can let us know by emailing its location to customerservices@darlington.gov.uk

For more information about winter maintenance and gritting, visit
www.darlington.gov.uk/wintergritting

Business Week success

Hundreds of people from all business backgrounds took advantage of the wide range of free events and workshops at the fifth Darlington Business Week last month.

Sessions covered all aspects of business recovery, including funding, support for going digital, developing new markets, and exploring the opportunity for improving workforce skills. A series of workshops helped to guide people through setting up their own business and networking events gave businesses the chance to share their ideas and experience and build contacts to help them succeed.

International speaker Paul McGee zoomed in to motivate his audience on change, workplace relationships, leadership, and customer service; whilst the council's chief executive, Ian Williams ended the week with a presentation on how new developments in Darlington and the Tees Valley are set to have a positive impact on the area and the wide-ranging benefits and opportunities they will bring.

The event was organised by the council's business support team who are on hand to offer advice and assistance to local businesses and those who are thinking of moving here. For more details email business.support@darlington.gov.uk

DARLINGTON BUSINESS WEEK

Help Support The Elderly In Darlington This Christmas



CHRISTMAS HAMPER HAPPINESS

Once again we are raising funds to ensure all of our Friends receive a Happy Christmas Hamper loaded with festive foods

all bought from local suppliers. Please donate today. Every pound you give goes towards alleviating isolation and

loneliness for an elderly person in your community. Help make live happier this Christmas.

To donate online visit www.localgiving.org/donation/darlingtontownmission or send your kind donation to our address below.

Order Your Christmas Cards Early

Our wonderful designed Christmas cards are on sale once again. These high quality A5 cards come in two designs and are in packs of 10 with envelopes. Priced at only £5 per pack.

All proceeds go towards the crucial work our Missioners do, visiting our 'Friends' in their own homes, arranging shopping trips and free outings. You can help us continue to provide a vital lifeline for a local elderly person.

To place your order call **01325 264 145** and we will deliver to your door

Pack 1



Pack 2



Missioner **0794 3251357** dtm@darlingtontownmission.org.uk
www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk

A local charity trusted since 1838

Registered Address 2 Davison Road, Darlington, DL1 3DR - Reg.charity no. 235572



**Darlington
Town
Mission**
Enriching Elderly Lives

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

Check your child's eligibility for up to 15 hours
a week - just have your national insurance
number to hand and go online

www.darlington.gov.uk/childcarechecker

email pfis@darlington.gov.uk

or call Darlington Families Information Team on
406222 (option 7)



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



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, would like to thank local people for their ongoing patience while it continues to progress its £9 million investment to improve the reliability of the power network serving Darlington, both now and in the future.

For more information about our investment visit northernpowergrid/darlington, email generalenquiries@northernpowergrid.com or call 0800 011 3332.



New facilities improve families' lives



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



The new SEND facilities at Red Hall Primary and Rise Carr

New facilities for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have been welcomed at Red Hall primary school and Rise Carr College.

Public consultation identified more places for young people with social, emotional and mental health needs were needed and, as a result, funding from the department for education was used to build the new facilities.

Children and young people with SEND may need extra help due to a range of needs, such as thinking and understanding, physical or sensory difficulties, emotional, social, or mental health issues, difficulties with their speech and language, or how they relate to and behave with other people.

The council's SEND team offers advice, support and guidance to children and young people with complex needs and disabilities and works closely with other services and agencies to ensure the needs of the children are met and families are appropriately supported.

Carla Scaife and Jodie Oates (pictured) are members of the Darlington Parent Carer Forum (DPCF). The forum, supported by the council and health services, is led by parents and carers and

provides opportunities for parents and carers of disabled children, and those with special educational needs, to meet to discuss issues that affect them.

DPCF believes that parents and carers are the experts in understanding how information, services and support can best meet their child's needs and their views are key to the future development of support. Visit their website for more information darlingtonpcf.co.uk

Carla said "These new facilities provide much needed services and support for our families. Some children were having to travel to Sunderland for the support they needed, which, as you can imagine, put a great strain on families, making their days long and extremely tiresome, which led to tired pupils in the classroom."

Sally Hudson, Headteacher at Rise Carr College, said: "The facilities are a great addition to the school and the children have settled in really well, so quickly."

If you think your child has special educational needs you can contact the SEND team on 405891, or your child's school.

For more information visit darlington.gov.uk and search SEND.



DfE funding was used to build new SEND facilities at Red Hall primary school and Rise Carr college

Dear Constituent,

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

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

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

Please do get in touch if you need any help, support or advice.

Peter Gibson

Get in touch

PETER GIBSON MP



34 Duke Street
Darlington
DL3 7AQ



TELEPHONE
01325 711711



EMAIL
peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk



DARLINGTON
CONSTITUENCY
AREA (GREEN)

CUT OUT AND SAVE THE DETAILS



SOCIAL MEDIA
SEARCH

Gibbo4Darlo



petergibson.org.uk



THOUSANDS TURN OUT FOR A SUMMER OF FESTIVAL FUN

This summer, more than ever, people have needed a boost to lift their spirits after a very difficult couple of years.

Thanks to support from our £350,000 Festivals 2021 Recovery Fund, the show could go on across Darlington this year, with almost 30,000 people flocking to five great events.

The town's Mish Mash festival, Last Train Home, Darlington Pride Weekender and R&B Festival all drew fantastic crowds with their line-ups of great live music. Hundreds of families also visited South Park for the live theatre, storytelling, trails and more that made up Hullabaloo in the Park.

As well as having fun, meeting friends

once again and relaxing as coronavirus lockdown restrictions eased, there is also a serious economic point to this support.

The fund was part of our £16.5million investment to back our culture, leisure and hospitality sectors in the face of the coronavirus. It not only shows how we're backing our artists, musicians and everyone in our important creative sector, but also gets people back into Darlington town centre and attracts more tourists to our region. This, in turn, helps out our high street with people back in shops, restaurants and hotels to support people's livelihoods, putting money back in tills and pockets following a very difficult time.

The fund was the latest of our successful schemes backing our culture, leisure and

hospitality sectors. These included the £1million Welcome Back Fund helping firms to reopen safely after the first national lockdown, and projects under the £1million Recovery Programme for the Cultural Industries and Visitor Economy.

There's plenty still to look forward to, including next year's Rugby League World Cup. As well as the event itself, there'll be a host of other events as the Cook Islands national team base themselves at Rockliffe Hall and Mowden Park.

Whether it's specialist music events or as part of international competitions, we're helping even more people to enjoy Darlington and back its businesses.

Tees Valley Mayor | Ben Houchen

MORE CIVIL SERVICE JOBS ON THEIR WAY

Darlington is being given yet another boost as more Government departments have committed to basing hundreds of civil servants in the town.

As part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda, the town will soon be home to workers from key departments. Ahead of the move, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak MP was in the town working on the Autumn Budget, with the Treasury set to launch a recruitment drive soon.

It has recently been announced hundreds

of staff from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Department for International Trade and the Office of National Statistics will also be coming to the town, further cementing its link with Westminster and putting jobs up for grabs for local people.

Ahead of the new campus being built, Government workers will join colleagues from the Department for Education, who are already based in the town at Bishopsgate House and Feethams House.



To discover what civil service jobs are on offer – alongside thousands more from across the region – visit teesvalley.jobs

Where we fly to



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AIRFRANCE

BRITISH AIRWAYS



teessideinternational.com

Making Darlington safer for all



Improved street lighting, e-bikes which allow more patrols in remote areas and a series of training and education projects are being introduced to make the streets safer.

More than £450,000 has been awarded for schemes in the town centre, including improvements to lighting around taxi ranks, bus stops and popular night-time routes.

The money will also be used to buy e-bikes, which help the police and council officers respond to incidents and carry out high visibility patrols in more hard-to-reach areas such as walkways, cycle tracks, parks and woodlands.

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office has been awarded the money from the Home Office under the Safer Streets 3 fund, government money designed to help women and girls feel safer in public spaces.

Some of the funding will allow Durham Constabulary and the council to work with the Alice Ruggles Trust to develop teaching packages about stalking and coercive behaviour for secondary schools and colleges.

In April, Durham Constabulary launched the Call It Out survey, supported by Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and the two local authorities, to try to gauge how safe women and girls felt and what improvements they wanted to see.

Almost 1,300 people responded to the survey, which found that women felt significantly less safe

on an evening and when out and about in local neighbourhoods and town centres. Street lighting was highlighted as a significant issue.

Joy Allen, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "This funding is essential as we need to focus on helping make women and girls feel safe on our streets and look at changing behaviours and attitudes in local communities through partner projects.

"We wanted women and girls in our community to have their say on their personal experiences and we wanted to know what they think the police and our partners could do better, which is why the proposals outlined in the bid were informed by the respondents to the force's Call It Out Survey."

Councillor Jonathan Dulston, deputy leader of the council, said: "We're delighted that Darlington's latest bid for Safer Streets funding has been successful and look forward to continue working closely with the PCC, police and other partners to help ensure Darlington is a safer place to live, work and visit."

Chief Superintendent Adrian Green, of Durham Constabulary, said: "I am really pleased to have been successful with this bid which will provide the funding to support a range of activities by police and our partners to reduce crime and improve public confidence, particularly among women and girls in Darlington."

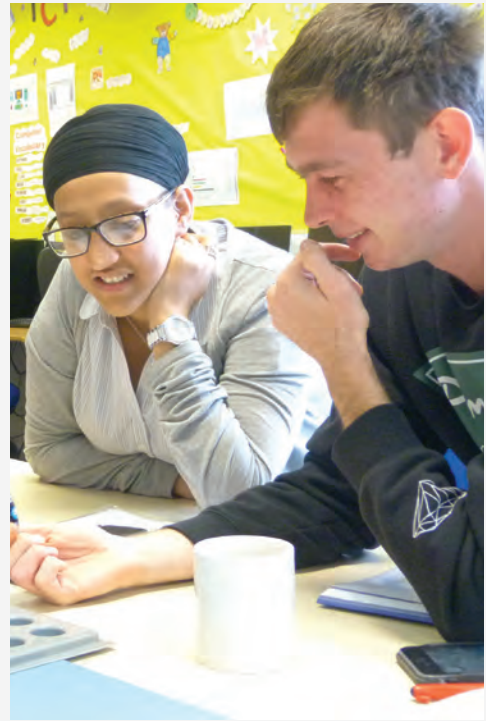
Learning & Skills Darlington

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- Children's Workforce
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- Children and Education
- Dementia Care
- Understanding Mental Health



YOU MUST RESIDE IN THE DARLINGTON OR TEESSIDE POSTCODE AREAS (DL/TS) TO QUALIFY

FREE

Maths, English and ICT qualifications

Are you aged 19+ and need an English, maths or ICT qualification to progress at work, assist with your studies or to help you find employment?

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- 2 to 3 hours classes per week
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CALL 01325 405601 TEXT 07932 869325


EMAIL l&s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

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 **DarlingtonL_S**

 **Learning & Skills**

 **07932 869325**



News in brief

Tip update

From Monday 8 November, you will no longer need to book to use the tip, but please remember it is only for people who live in the borough. For more details visit www.darlington.gov.uk/tip

Blooming success

Darlington scooped a silver gilt award to win the award for best city centre in this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition. South Park was also awarded a silver gilt while the Hash Bar gained a silver and The Tapas Bar and St Augustine's Church each received a bronze. The judges said we should all be proud of what had been achieved and "praise should be given to all concerned".

School admissions

The council is proposing to reduce the pupil admission number for Harrowgate Hill Primary School from 90 to 60 for the academic year 2023/2024 following consultation with the school's governing body. Details of the consultation are available at <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/consultations> Any comments must be made by Friday 31 January. Email schools.admissions@darlington.gov.uk or write to schools admissions manager, People Services, Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT. All comments will be confidential.

Domestic abuse support available



The council is running a domestic abuse awareness raising campaign during November and December.

Activities will include pop up stalls and visits to community venues as well as virtual events such as webinars, training sessions and links to useful resources.

For more information, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/16daysofaction

Abuse comes in different forms and can happen during a relationship as well as after it has ended.

Bronwyn Lilley, the council's domestic abuse commissioning officer, said: "Domestic abuse is never OK. No one should live with abuse and there are support services available for every member of our community."

If you need support, please contact



Harbour Support Services: 03000 202525; info@myharbour.org.uk

Family Help Refuge: 488736; info@familyhelp.org.uk or contactus@familyhelp.org.uk

If you have ideas about how we can improve domestic abuse services please get in touch by emailing bronwyn.lilley@darlington.gov.uk

Your voice is important and you are not alone.

Making the school run safer

Pupils are back on the streets getting practical lessons in road safety.

The town-wide pedestrian training programme had to stop during the pandemic but now restrictions have eased, pupils are meeting the council's road safety team for regular sessions.

The emphasis is on children making their own decisions about traffic and road safety under close supervision. The sessions take place close to school so the children get used to roads they will have to cross on a regular basis.



Pupils from Abbey Junior School

Private landlords urged to go green



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Do you rent your home from a private landlord? Does your property meet the national minimum energy efficiency standards? If not, your landlord could be fined.

New powers have been introduced to help tackle the least energy-efficient properties – those rated F or G on the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). The aim is to ensure homes are more energy efficient; tackle fuel poverty by bringing down energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.

More than 250 private rented properties in the borough have already been identified as having an EPC rating of F or G and landlords are being urged to go green or face fines of up to £5,000.

Both tenants and landlords can get advice on energy efficiency grants to improve their properties from our private sector housing team so there is no excuse not to carry out the work.

You can check your home's EPC rating at <https://find-energy-certificate.digital.communities.gov.uk/>

For more information about fuel poverty and home energy saving schemes visit www.darlington.gov.uk/homeenergy

In July 2019, the council declared a climate change emergency and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2050. This pledge includes working towards becoming more energy efficient in our buildings and working practices. More details can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable

Your waste – YOU

When you're having a clear out or doing some DIY it's easy to click on a Facebook post and arrange for someone to pick up your rubbish – but do you know where it will end up?

There are many unscrupulous people out there who will claim to be legitimate waste carriers, charge you to take away your rubbish and then just dump it - sometimes just around the corner from your home!

Our civic enforcement officers will always investigate fly tips and if they find any evidence that can trace the rubbish back to you, you could be fined – even if you acted in good faith.

Always check that the person you pay has a waste carrier licence, issued by the Environment Agency, and ask for a waste transfer note. You can check they are licensed at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register>

Also, take a photo of the vehicle and its registration and ask for assurances your waste will be taken to a waste disposal facility permitted by the Environment Agency.

Most household items such as furniture, cookers, rugs, furnishings, electrical items and toys, can be left at the tip for free – book a slot in advance at www.darlington.gov.uk/tip

If you can't get to the tip, we offer a bulky waste collection service, with up to six items taken away for £18.80. Find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk/bulkywaste

You could also donate furniture and other large items to charities, like Frade and the King's Church.

If you see someone fly tipping let us know using our online form www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit



R responsibility!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Clubs and Societies



Darlington Music Society – has been running classical music concerts in the town for almost 80 years, featuring many world class artists over the years. Its 2021/22 season begins with an outstanding concert by the returning, ever-popular Sacconi String Quartet who are joined by pianist Emma Abbate. They will perform the piano quintets by Elgar and Shostakovich – a contrasting but brilliant programme. The concert is at the Dolphin Centre's Central Hall on Saturday 27 November, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15 at the door or online www.darlingtonmusicsociety.org.uk. Season tickets for the full season of six concerts are £60. Entry is free for under 26s. For more information call 467163.



Darlington Probus Club has started meeting again and welcomes new members who are retired or semi-retired. Current membership is about 30, with most from business or professional backgrounds, but anyone is welcome to join. Prospective members can come and sample a meeting before joining. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday mornings of each month and are held at Elm Ridge Methodist Church. Members arrive from 10am for a chat over coffee and cake, followed by a talk at 10.30am. Occasional lunches are organised during the year. The membership fee is £30. For more information, contact the secretary, Alan Wright, on 461835.

Darlington Indoor Bowls Club is keen to welcome new members to its eight rink bowling green at the Morrisons Centre on North Road. All ages and abilities are welcome and there is a free trial session with use of equipment for anyone who wants to give bowling a try. It's a great way to stay active and make new friends. Qualified coaches are on hand to offer help and advice and there is the opportunity to get involved in competitions locally and nationally or social bowling. A licensed bar is available, and the centre is open most days. For details call 485414 or email darlingtonibc@btconnect.co.uk or visit the website at darlingtonibc.co.uk

If you have club news for us, please email communications@darlington.gov.uk

1

SPEED

Speed limits are imposed for a reason - safety. They are also the law.

2

DISTRACTIONS

Distractions can compromise the safety of the driver, passengers, pedestrians, & people in other vehicles.

3

DRINK/DRUG DRIVING

Even very small amounts of alcohol or drugs affect your driving and could cause a devastating crash.

4

SEATBELTS

You're twice as likely to die in a crash if you don't wear a seatbelt.



**GET TO KNOW THE
FATAL 4 THIS CHRISTMAS**

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue are encouraging drivers to become aware of the Fatal 4 this festive season, we want everyone to enjoy the festive period safely.

For more safety advice and information visit our website, ddfire.gov.uk or follow us on social media!



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service



Festive Fun

at DCBOWL

THE DOLPHIN CENTRE

**FOR OUR CHRISTMAS
OPENING TIMES, VISIT**

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TO BOOK A LANE IN DC BOWL, VISIT

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