

one Darlington

September 2022



Bursting with summer fun!

Pages 4 & 5

Learning & Skills Darlington

LEARN SOMETHING NEW THIS SEPTEMBER

The summer holidays are over. The kids are back at school.
Why not take the chance to do something for yourself this September?
How about joining a free adult learning course with Learning & Skills Darlington?



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- The Coleridge Centre, Coleridge Gardens, Skerne Park, Darlington, DL1 5AJ
- Bennet House, 14 Horsemarket, Market Square, Darlington, DL1 5PT

CALL 405601 **TEXT** 07932 869325

EMAIL I&s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

 @DarlingtonL_S

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Welcome to One Darlington

Darlington LGBTQIA+ Pride is flourishing now more than ever. I work with colleagues, volunteers, sponsors and many local businesses to piece together our community's ambition and organise a week-long, inclusive annual Pride programme.

Society has come a long way in the 55 years since homosexuality was legalised in the UK. The series of protests and public confrontations known as the Stonewall Riots in New York in the 1970s have become a worldwide symbol of resistance against violence and discrimination. There is a real sense of joy to be found in the significant, though gradual, progress Pride events have delivered across the globe in that time. It is still vitally important that we highlight ongoing prejudice, tackle discrimination and counter hate crime here in our town.

There are lots of ways we can all celebrate or show Pride in our town. It could be through partying, protesting, educating, crafting, picnicking with friends or just by having honest, respectful conversations about who we are and how we identify. This year Darlington Pride endeavoured to combine all of these activities and give everyone a chance to participate. You don't have to be LGBTQIA+ to get involved. It is just as significant for allies to join the conversation and express solidarity. Turn to page 4 and 5 for some photos from Darlington Pride and our other summer events.

All year round, Darlington town centre has many LGBTQIA+ friendly venues. There are not only bars and pubs but many cafes, shops, salons and retailers too and they all decorated their premises especially for Pride to make visitors feel welcome. We have a town centre which proudly advocates for equality, inclusion and diversity and I'm looking forward to the progress we will make as the Pride programme develops even further in years to come.

I hope you enjoy this edition of One Darlington. It is full of articles celebrating everything that is great about our town.

Turn to page 9 to find out the latest on Northumbria in Bloom and on page 16 and 17 there's information about our plans for Northgate.

Looking for a job or a change in career? Turn to p27 and p33 for some inspiration.



Katie Greenwood (she/her)
Town centre partnership and events officer

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One Darlington, Room 106, Town Hall, Darlington.

Email editor@onedarlington.org.uk

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The next edition will be delivered in early November. If you have not received your copy by the middle of November, please call 0800 160 1552.

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

What a summer

It was a scorching summer of events and activities across Darlington, with non-stop entertainment for all the family.

Following on from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we've seen the Market Square turned into a beach for Darlington By The Sea, enjoyed the Proms in the Park, laced up our trainers for the fun run, junior 3k and 10k road race and celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community at Pride among many others.

As well as these fabulous events, hundreds of children and young people enjoyed free games and activities every weekday of the summer holidays at our children's outdoor activities sessions. Also children who attended the DfE funded holiday activity programme had a great time learning new skills, taking part in activities, including weird science and skateboarding and enjoyed a hot meal.



Summer!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



SAVE £££s ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS WITH THIS FREE SERVICE

The Green Doctor team is heading to Darlington. Every year, we help thousands of people save money on their energy and water bills and make their homes warmer and healthier at the same time.

Our service is completely free and available to anyone living in all types of property be that housing association homes, council properties, privately rented and privately owned.

Drop in and have a chat with a friendly expert who can review your energy bills, discuss how to make your home more energy efficient and help you access grants and additional support.

Northern Powergrid, the region's electricity network operator, is funding our sessions in your area.

We're proud to be working in partnership with **Darlington Borough Council** and sharing these drop in events with **The Bread and Butter Thing**. Operating through a membership model, this brilliant charity helps people access deeply discounted food to help their money go further.

Elim Pentecostal Church, Bowman Street, DL3 OHE

2:00pm – 3:00pm – Mondays 5 September, 3 October

Red Hall Primary School, Headingley Crescent, DL1 2ST

1:15pm – 2:15pm – Thursdays 8 September, 6 October

The Cockerton Club, Woodland Road, DL3 9AB

1:15pm – 2:15pm – Tuesdays 13 September, 11 October

Firthmoor Community Centre, Burnside Road, DL1 4SU

1:15pm – 2:15pm – Fridays 16 September, 14 October

Skerne Park Youth & Community Centre, DL1 5AN

11:15am – 12:15pm – Tuesdays 20 September, 18 October

Corporation Road Primary School, DL3 6AD

2:00pm – 3:00pm – Wednesdays 21 September, 19 October

The Well Methodist Church, 164 North Road, DL1 5TD

1:15pm – 2:15pm – Wednesdays 28 September, 26 October

Eastbourne Community Hub, Eastbourne Park, DL1 4AY

1:45pm – 2:45pm – Thursdays 29 September, 27 October



**For further information contact The Green Doctors on freephone 0808 168 3547 or 0113 238 0601
Email: greendoctorleeds@groundwork.org.uk**

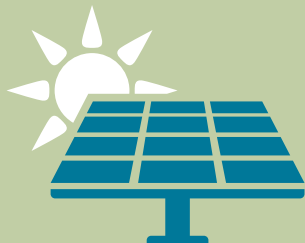


Climate change... how are we doing?

With record breaking temperatures recently, now is the time to tackle climate change.

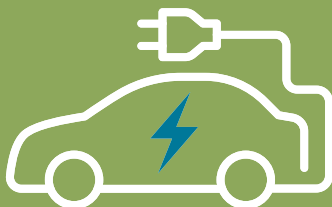
In 2019 we made a pledge to become carbon neutral by 2050 and, almost a year ago, we set out a detailed action plan on how we will achieve this. Here's how we're getting on:

We said we'd reduce our reliance on fossil fuels



We have added extra solar panels to the Town Hall roof, tripling our capacity to generate electricity for our own use.

We said we'd improve our fleet



We have bought 17 electric vehicles and have plans for more.

We said we would train our staff



79% of our staff have completed climate change training and information has been sent to councillors.

We said we would plant 10,000 trees



Since 2015 we have planted 24,577 trees.

We said we would improve the energy efficiency of our buildings



We have successfully bid for government grant funding for work on our buildings and almost 900 properties across the Town.

We said we would signpost businesses to information on how they can adapt



We have published a business resilience manual to help guide businesses as they work to become more green.

We said we would improve our council homes



We are developing a housing and climate change strategy.

We said we would encourage bus companies to upgrade their fleet



We are working across the Tees Valley to develop a bus service improvement plan. If funding bids are successful, the region will be one of the first in the UK to have an entirely zero emission local bus fleet.

We said we would develop a climate change action plan



Our plan, with nearly 200 actions, was published last October. An independent benchmark review has scored us well above the national average.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

We said we would update our governance procedures



Climate change is now a standing item on the economy and resources scrutiny committee agenda.

Find out more about how we are working towards becoming carbon neutral by

2050

and how you can get involved at:

www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable

CHRISTMAS at The Hullabaloo

Branar
presents:

How to CATCH A STAR

Combining spell-binding storytelling
with puppetry and a magical score

Friday 2 December - Saturday 24 December 2022

For everyone aged 3+

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS
AT THE HULLABALOO

Make your own Christmas decoration or gift for a loved one
with Create and Paint, send a letter to Santa via Reindeer Post.
Decorate a star and make a Christmas wish in our magical
Wishmas Forest and look out for our Christmas crafts.

Buy tickets here:



BOX OFFICE: 01325 405 405
theatrehullabaloo.org.uk

THEATRE
Hullabaloo

The Hullabaloo Borough Road Darlington DL1 1SG

LOTTERY FUNDED
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

A blooming update!

In July we were proud to welcome official Northumbria in Bloom (NIB) judges to view our summer floral displays as part of the annual competition.

Floral displays were submitted in the following categories:

- ✿ **BEST CITY CENTRE**
– town centre
- ✿ **BEST RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT**
– Atisha KMC Buddhist Centre
- ✿ **BEST PARK**
– South Park
- ✿ **BEST PUBLIC HOUSE**
– The Tapas Bar
- ✿ **BEST SMALL COMMERCIAL PREMISES**
– Hash bar

Last year, the hard work carried out by our park and horticultural teams earned us a Silver Gilt in the 'best city centre' category. This year, we hope our horticultural efforts and floral displays will result in us bringing home a Gold!

Results are announced on 29 September - so it's fingers crossed till then!

As part of the NIB competition, we held two of our own competitions and we are delighted to introduce our winners.

Mini magical garden

We invited mini young gardeners to design and plant up a mini magical garden. All the entries were fabulous, and, Lucas O'Neill, aged four, pictured with his gran and grandad, Paula and Bryan Stapley, scooped first prize. The judges loved that Lucas had reused and recycled a broken pot in his design. Well done Lucas!



Wildlife photography winner

To highlight the flora and fauna around the River Skerne, we invited you to send in photos. We received so many fantastic entries. Guest judge, professional photographer Sarah Caldecott, especially loved how our winner Chris Turford had captured the reflection of the willow trees on the river. Congratulations Chris!



Thank you to everyone who has supported our bid to keep our town on the horticultural map. Whether you helped to keep the town litter free; looked after your garden, yard or communal space; took part in our competitions or showed your support on social media - you are all very much appreciated.

Darlington Cares supported us with litter picks and tidies. If you would like to register your interest, in a future event visit www.darlingtoncares.co.uk and send a message via contact us or call 406096.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Council leader Jonathan Dulston reflects on work to ensure the legacy of Cleveland Bridge is protected and looks to a bright future for the iconic Victorian indoor market



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Bridging the gap

“ A permanent home has been found for a lasting memorial to a bridge-building business that closed in 2021 after 144 years of trading.

A red model bridge that used to stand at the entrance to the factory, in Yarm Road, will have a new permanent home at Cleveland Bridge Social Club, in Neasham Road. The news was revealed at a recent reunion for former staff.

The social club will also be home to two memorial plaques that commemorate workers from Cleveland Bridge lost in wartime.

Arguably one of the greatest bridge manufacturers in history, the company's legacy lives on through the role it played in structures such as Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Wembley arch and, closer to home, the Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge.

It's important that we keep the memory of Cleveland Bridge alive and we felt the social club was the right home for the model bridge, along with the memorial plaques.

We are pleased to have played a part in keeping that heritage and history in Darlington for future generations to learn about.

”



Market update

“ Work is well under way on the next phase of the major redevelopment of the market.

Due to be completed well before Christmas, the makeover will create new jobs and includes a new basement bar, as well as a café and revamped shop fronts and entrances.

The work will be carried out with minimal disruption to shoppers and traders, with the market remaining open for business as usual throughout.

I can't wait to see this next phase in the exciting redevelopment of our iconic indoor market start to take shape.

These improvements will have a massive impact on how the market looks and feels going forward.

Very soon, our market – one of the many jewels in Darlington's crown – will have a whole host of new facilities for everyone to enjoy.

”

Contact your councillor

Key: (C) Conservative
(G) Green (I) Independent
(L) Labour (LD) Liberal Democrats

Your councillor is there to listen to you and find out about the issues that are affecting life in your ward. Scheduled ward surgeries are detailed below, but you can email or call your local councillor.

Find out more at

www.darlington.gov.uk/your-council/democracy

Emailing councillors

To email your councillor, their email address is **firstname.lastname@darlington.gov.uk**

For example, if you want to email Jonathan Dulston, type jonathan.dulston@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: 406444.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553. **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School, Monday 19 September and 17 October, 6-7pm.

EASTBOURNE

Jonathan Dulston (C) Tel: 07775 555251. Wednesday 28 September and 26 October, 3-4pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629. **Steven Tait (I)** Tel: 07825 303036. Firthmoor Community Centre, Thursday 15 September and 20 October, 6-7pm.

HARROWGATE HILL

Ian Bell (C) Tel: 07581 300111, ian.bell2@darlington.gov.uk. **Jon Clarke (C)** Tel: 07875 057253. By appointment only at Whessoe Parish Hall, Wednesday 14 September, 12 October and 9 November, 6-7pm. **Lynn Paley (I)** Tel: 07963 706171. By appointment only at Harrowgate CIU Ltd, Wednesday 14 September, 12 October and 9 November, 6-7pm.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 07947 016598. **Andy Scott (L)** Tel: 253707, andrew.scott@darlington.gov.uk. **Nick Wallis (L)** Tel: 07960 247554. Asda foyer, Saturday 1 October and 5 November, 10-11am.

HEIGHTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Gerald Lee (C) Tel: 314622. **Paul Crudass (C)** Tel: 374537. St Mary's Church, Saturday 1 October, 10-11am; Brafferton Village Hall, Saturday 5 November, 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Charles Johnson (C) Tel: 463712. **Jack Sowerby (C)** Tel: 07730 480295.

HURWORTH

Christy Chou (C) Tel: 405998. **Lorraine Tostevin (C)** Tel: 333382. By appointment only at Hurworth Grange Library, Monday 3 October and 7 November, 6-7pm.

MOWDEN

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482. **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106. Mowden Junior School, Monday 3 October and 7 November, 6.30-7.30pm.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998. **Eleanor Lister (L)** Tel: 406444.

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. Morrisons café, Tuesday 13 September, 11 October and 8 November, 6-7pm; St Thomas Aquinas Church, Tuesday 27 September and 25 October, 1-2pm.

PARK EAST

Cyndi Hughes (L) Tel: 480975. **Libby McCollom (L)** Tel: 07910 369887. **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 240750. St Columba's, Friday 23 September, 6-7pm; St Augustine's, Tuesday, 4 October, 6.30-7.15pm; The Forum, Tuesday 8 November, 6-7pm.

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. Reid Street Primary School, Wednesday 5 October and 2 November, 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Hilary Lucas (L) Tel: 249215. Red Hall Community Centre, Wednesday 14 September, 12 October and 9 November, 6-7pm. **David Willis (C)** Tel: 07451 214343.

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. Wesley Court, Tuesday, 27 September; James the Great Church, Tuesday 25 October, 6-7pm.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07554 645651. **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. The Shuttle & Loom, Saturday 1 October and 5 November, 11am-noon.

MPs' SURGERIES:



Peter Gibson (Darlington MP)

can be contacted through his constituency office at 34 Duke Street, Darlington, DL3 7TZ. Call 711711 or email peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk



Paul Howell (Sedgefield MP)

can be contacted by email at paul.howell.mp@parliament.uk or through his constituency office at Unit 2, Sydney House, Ricknall Avenue, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6AS or call 790580.



Ben Houchen – TEES VALLEY MAYOR

Cavendish House, Teesdale Business Park, Stockton-on-Tees, Tees Valley, TS17 6QY
Call 01642 524401 or email mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk



BUILDING DEMOLITION STARTS FOR STATION TRANSFORMATION

Work is now under way to demolish the first buildings alongside Darlington railway station, paving the way for its £100million-plus redevelopment.

Local firm Thompsons has been carrying out a “soft strip” of properties to the east of the station over the past weeks, removing any remaining contents and all non-structural elements of the interior and exterior, as well as ensuring the utilities are no longer connected.

I previously provided £25million for this massive, transformative project and now, in 2022 our year of construction, we are demolishing to deliver.

Heavy demolition will now follow the soft strip in this all-important next step in the station’s overhaul – a major building block for a fast,

reliable and smooth rail service for the whole of the region. As Darlington Borough Council takes possession of further properties, this process will continue ahead of the new build’s start later this year.

The space to the east is earmarked to become a station extension, with the old and new sites linked by a bridge joining the historic train shed with the modern facility.

The redevelopment includes a multi-storey car park, transport interchange and gateway entrance tying the station even more closely with the opportunities at



Central Park. New platforms will accommodate current and future services to ensure the town and wider region have the excellent transport links local people rightfully demand and deserve.

An upgrade to the Victoria Road entrance and car park pick-up and drop-off points on the western side of the station is also planned, alongside new road layouts, wider pavements and improvements to walking and cycling access. These will improve the route to the exciting investments in the town centre and the Darlington Economic Campus.

This will breathe new life into the station and its surroundings, unlock more capacity for faster and more reliable local and national services and give the people and businesses of Darlington the rail links they’ve been crying out for.

Tees Valley Mayor | **Ben Houchen**

TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR MAJOR RUGBY CLASH

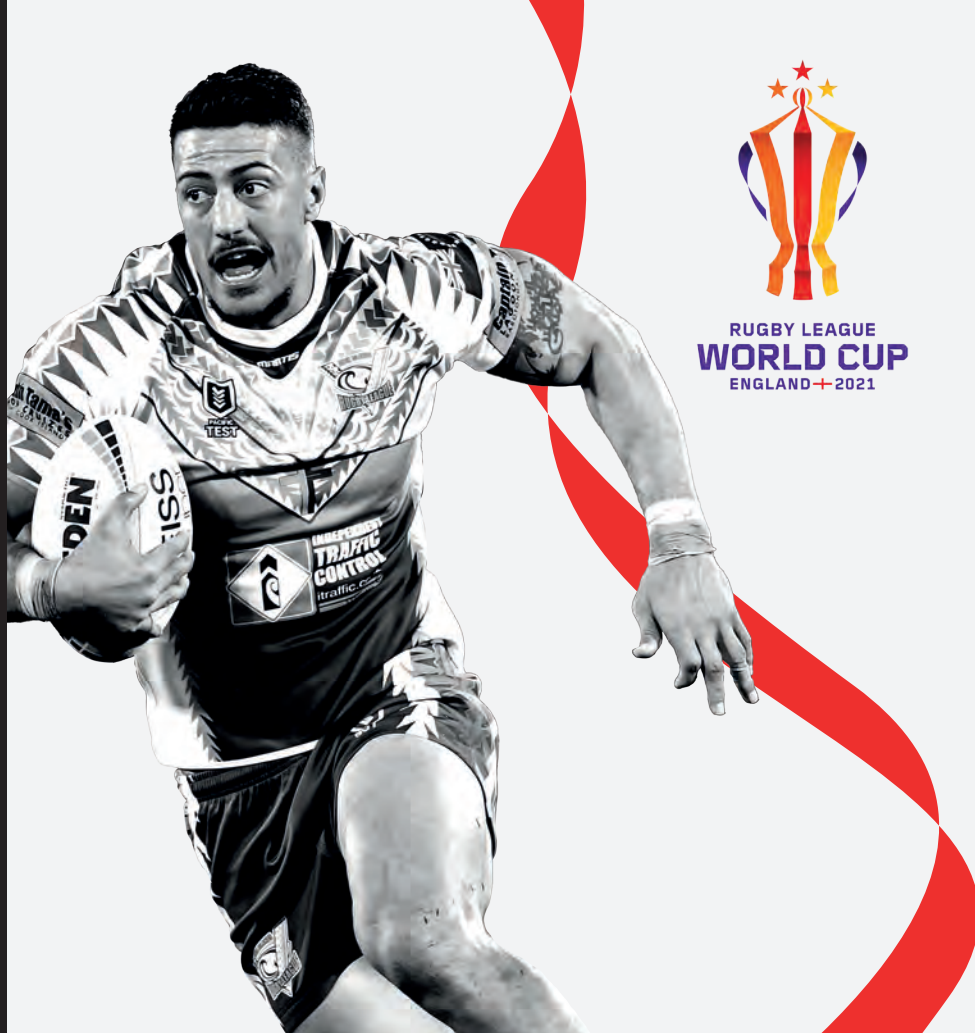
With just a handful of days until Rugby League World Cup 2021, there's still time to snap up a ticket for one of the region's biggest sporting events.

One of the tournament's fixtures – a clash between the Cook Islands and Tonga – is taking place at Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium on October 30.

But Darlington will also be part of the action, and the Cook Islands team will stay at the town's Rockliffe Hall and train at Mowden Park.

In the lead up to the event, there will even be the chance for communities to meet the team too.

For tickets, visit
www.rlwc2021.com/tickets



AVIATION FIRM PLANS MAJOR AIRPORT INVESTMENT

A global aviation firm based at Teesside Airport has shown further confidence in our airport and our region, with plans to invest up to £25million at its base there.

Willis Lease Finance Corporation, along with its subsidiary Willis Aviation Services, is currently working on the planning process for a new aircraft maintenance facility and has taken over operations of the airport's existing Jet Centre.

The plans could create 200 good-quality, well-paid jobs.

It is setting out to build maintenance hangars on 13 acres of land which would have become 350 homes had I not saved the airport from closure and brought it into public ownership.

It will improve the Jet Centre – offering a full range of ground handling services – and expand its aircraft maintenance, storage

and disassembly capabilities. The land also forms part of the Teesside Freeport, the UK's largest and first operational Freeport, one key reason why Willis is beginning the process.

Our routes and summer holiday flights are hugely important for our airport, but it's these multimillion-pound private sector investments that will truly secure its future.



Throughout each edition of **One Darlington**, we've been getting to know the adult social care team to understand which services make up the team and how they help our communities. So far, we've spoken to the adult contact team, the responsive integrated assessment care team (RIACT) and the occupational therapy and sensory impairment team. This edition, we're meeting the ongoing assessment and intervention team.

Known as OAIT, the team comprises of 15 social workers and are based in the Town Hall. The team provides social work assessments and support and intervention for adults who have a range of physical, sensory and/or mental health impairments. Some of the daily cases the team will deal with include health care assessments, initial enquires for safeguarding, crisis intervention work, mental capacity and best interest assessments, court of protection referrals and reports, and residential and nursing assessments.

Another element to OAIT is working with the families and carers of those being supported to help them understand their loved ones needs so they can better support them if needed. The team also works with a variety of other professional services across the region to ensure the needs of the client are met. The goal of the service is to maximise a person's independence which often involves extensive work with occupational therapists, hospitals and doctors' surgeries, housing providers, and community-based services. By working together with other agencies, the support not only helps

develop the client's personal strengths but also expand their network of help to prevent, delay or reduce the need for long term intervention.

Team manager, Olivia Johnson said: "We care immensely about the people we support and I am very proud of that. Our job allows us to see the difference we can make to people's everyday lives. Over time we hope they will become more confident, motivated and recognise their strengths and, most importantly, be happier. Promoting the wellbeing of the people we support is the most rewarding part of the job and why we want to help in our communities."

Councillor Lorraine Tostevin, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We are incredibly lucky to have such a valuable service in our communities and with such a dedicated team. All our adult social care teams are vital in Darlington and without them, recovering from a significant injury or illness with the right support or managing in your own home and maintaining your independence as we grow older, may not be an option for some. I would like to thank the teams for their hard work and commitment, their roles really do make an incredible difference to many, many people and their families."

Could you work in adult care?

We're looking for passionate people to join our expanding team. Find out more at www.darlington.gov.uk/workwithus

Getting Bob back on his feet



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Meet Bob, the 78-year-old who was once a nurse and now lives alone with dog Judy, after his wife passed away four years ago. As the years have gone on, Bob and his family began to see signs of a deterioration in his mental capacity, with very low mood, feeling socially isolated and a decline in his ability to manage at home alone, Bob was diagnosed with Alzheimer's dementia and depression.

A referral was made to our adult social care team who, alongside a mental health nurse, assessed Bob's needs for support. After understanding Bob's decline, his diagnosis, and the struggles he faced, a care plan was put into place to assist him with tasks around his home, making meals, taking medication safely, integrating him into the community and monitoring his welfare.

The ultimate goal of the care plan was for Bob to have a better quality of life, to be back in control and able to make decisions. It also aimed to help him engage with people, be more independent and do things he once enjoyed.

Working effectively with other agencies in the town is vital to a successful outcome for people like Bob. Each service involved in a care plan brings another element of support to ensure needs are met and that family feel confident in the care their loved one is receiving.

The adult social care team supported Bob to engage with a local charity who could help with walking his beloved dog, Judy. The team encouraged Bob to attend pottery classes which was a big step after years of isolation – and Bob went on to lead the sessions!

The adult social services team also supported Bob's family to understand his diagnosis and how dementia had impacted their father and grandad. As well as regular visits to his home, help to manage jobs around the house, help with meals and nutrition and emotional support.

Bob received a combination of support from professional services such as the adult social care team and the NHS as well as voluntary services in the town such as The Cinammon Trust and Age UK.

Fast forward to today and Bob's mental health has improved a lot. The services involved in his care have noticed an improvement in his depression and moods. Bob has said he recognises that his quality of life has improved, he appreciates the new things he now gets involved in and is grateful for the support.

Bob added that he now feels empowered to make decisions about how to take his life forward and hopes to move into a smaller house with Judy at some point in the future.

Cases like Bob's are common in Darlington and many people are unsure of how they can get help and may struggle on themselves. If you or someone you know could benefit from the advice and guidance of the adult's social work team, please visit www.darlington.gov.uk/livingindependently or call 406111.

Transforming North

Exciting plans to regenerate Northgate, one of Darlington's most historic areas, have been revealed.

Improved housing, urban green space and opening up access to the banks of the River Skerne are all part of the Connecting Northgate project.

Northgate is one of the town's key gateways, but the ward is also one of our most deprived. The Connecting Northgate project aims to improve the lives and opportunities of residents living in the area, while also securing the future of key heritage assets and supporting the development of the £35m Rail Heritage Quarter at the Head of Steam Railway Museum.

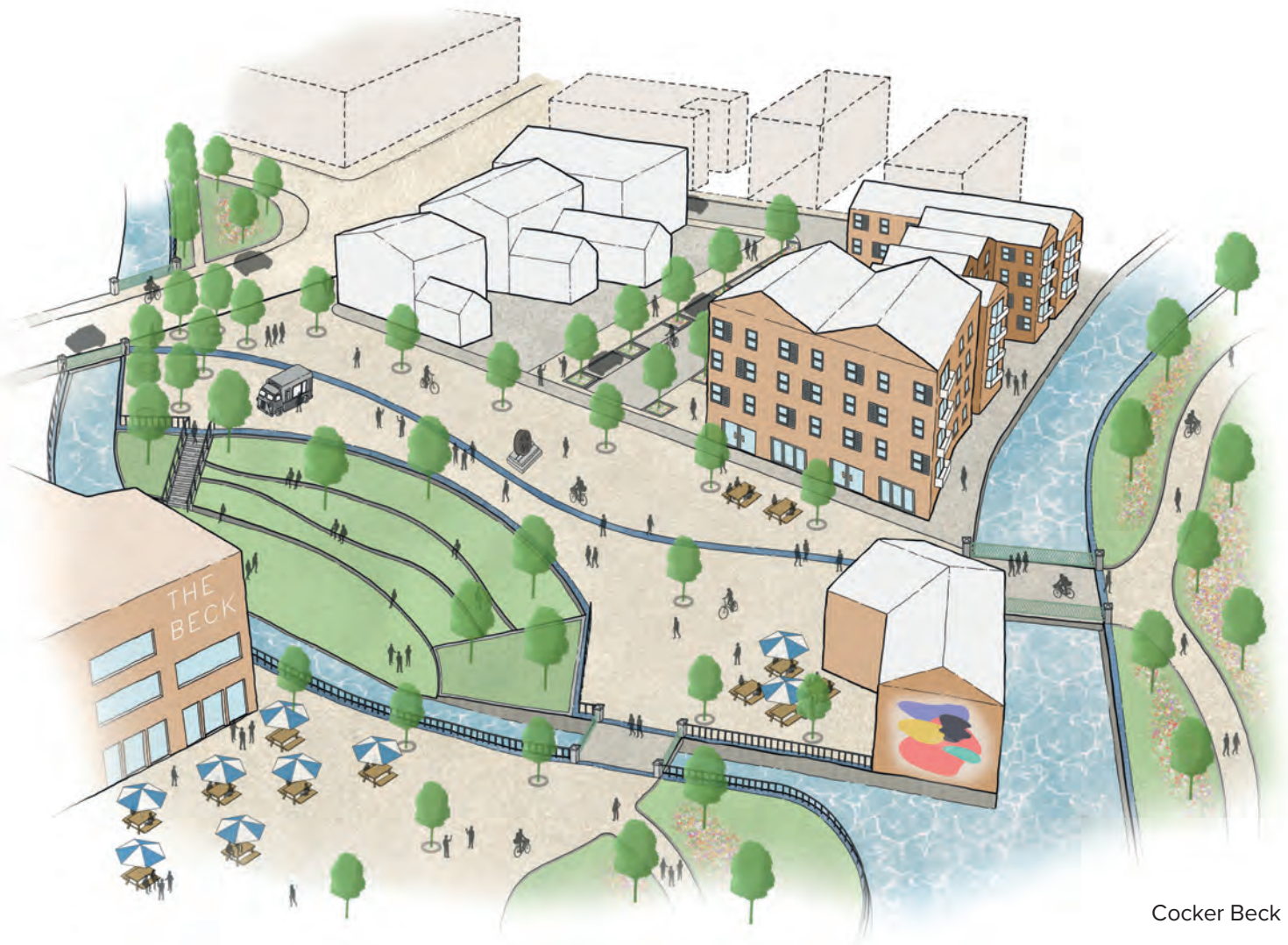
Funding for the planned works will come as part of the wider £23.3m secured from the government's Towns Fund, which also includes projects in the town centre and Victoria Road. The council has also made a £20m bid to the government's Levelling Up Fund, which will

focus on Northgate and transport improvements on the busy A68 commuter route.

The first small step in the Northgate project is the purchase of a derelict plot of land in Garden Street. This was part of the Pease family gardens, most of which is now covered by a car park and other modern development. In the short term the land will be opened up as a community garden, with longer term plans to include it in the wider regeneration of the area.

These images show some of the artist impressions of the proposals for Northgate, as well as a map showing the ideas for the whole area.

These are also available to view on our website, along with a more detailed report about the plans, in the Connecting Northgate section of the Towns Fund pages at www.darlington.gov.uk/townsfund



Cocker Beck

- ★ Existing historic feature to be retained (outside of CA)
- Existing gateway to be improved / Proposed gateway to enhance pedestrian movement
- Two storey development
- Three - five storey development
- Existing green space
- Proposed green open space with planting
- Proposed private gardens
- Public realm with green infrastructure
- Proposed trees with SuDS
- Riverside pedestrian / cycling movement
- Pedestrian / cycling movement
- ★ Proposed bridge
- Development forming part of the Head of Steam masterplan
- Opportunities for property enhancement
- Improvement of boundary treatments



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



A day out in Darlin

Darlington has lots of child-friendly businesses, many of which are owned and run by local people. Full of friendly faces and fun activities, you don't need to travel far to fill an afternoon.



For the youngest members of the family, try **Hartbeeps** – magical music and sensory classes for babies and toddlers. Each class offers songs and dress up activities, from the tiniest babies to pre-schoolers. Based in Queen Street. Information and booking is available at www.hartbeeps.com/darlington



Imagizone, just outside the town centre on Valley Street, is another popular choice for pre-schoolers, offering role play activities in its purpose-built 'real-life' scenarios, from a fire station to a vet and a supermarket. No booking is necessary. It also has areas for newborns and pre-walking babies. More information at www.imagizone.co.uk



There's always something happening at **Darlington and Cockerton libraries**, including interactive Rhymetime sessions and junior Lego club. Both libraries have revamped children's sections, where everyone is welcome to spend time. Check out the library website, www.darlington.gov.uk/library for more details.



For crafty kids, why not try **Create and Paint**, on Grange Road? The family-run creative studio offers the chance to try a number of different activities including ceramic painting, build a bear and foam clay making. Bookings can be made through its website www.createandpaint.co.uk

gton is child's play



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

**ENJOY
DARLINGTON**



For free fun visit **Theatre Hullabaloo**, the specialist children's theatre, with its creative play space, which changes to a new theme twice a year. The play space is open Monday to Saturday, between 10am and 2pm. Don't forget to check out its programme of specialist theatre shows for children of all ages at www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk



If you've a youngster who loves trains, then there's no better place to visit than the **Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum**.

The museum also hosts events and weekly Station Scamps sessions for pre-schoolers on a Friday. Visit www.head-of-steam.co.uk for more details.



Let's not forget the teenagers – **Sim King Gaming**, on King Street, is the ultimate gamers lounge. Offering X-Box and Playstation with reclining seats and gaming headsets, the centre also has direct drive simulators. Walk-ins are welcome but it is advised to book in advance by calling 488388 or messaging its Facebook page.



Last but not least, the **Dolphin Centre** has something for all ages, from the Under the Sea soft play centre for children aged up to eight, swimming and diving sessions and of course the popular bowling alley. Visit www.healthydarlington.gov.uk for more details.

ENJOY WHAT'S ON

There's so much fun to be had this summer in Darlington! Please be aware the events may be subject to change/postponement. You should always check with event organisers/venues before travelling. For more details of what's on visit enjoydarlington.co.uk or follow Darlington Council on facebook

Want to be in the next edition of One Darlington?

Email your events for November and December 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.

SEPTEMBER

David Walliams' Demon Dentist – Thursday 8-Sunday 11, Hippodrome. Start times and ticket prices vary. See website for details.

Rhythm and Blues Weekender – Friday 9-Sunday 11, town centre.

Gig for Kenny – Saturday 10, The Forum, Borough Road. 7pm. Punk night. Tickets £6.

Heritage Open Days – Saturday 10, Sunday 11, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Museum. Enjoy free entry as part of the National Heritage Open Days.

Jazz: Stu Collingwood Organ Trio – Tuesday 13, The Forum, Borough Road. 7.30pm. Tickets £10.



Lionel: The Music of Lionel Richie – Wednesday 14, Hippodrome. 7.30pm. Tribute act. Tickets from £14.50.

Martin Turner – Friday 16, The Forum, Borough Road. 7.30pm. Founder member of Wishbone Ash in concert. Tickets £15.50.



Bootleg Blondie – Saturday 17, The Forum, Borough Road. 8.30pm. Tribute act. Tickets £13.

Paw Patrol – Saturday 17, Queen Street Shopping Centre. 11am-3pm. Meet Chase and Marshall from the popular children's series. Free.

Family Fun Day – Sunday 25, 10am-4pm, Head of Steam Museum. Celebrate the anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. Entry £2 for adults, £1 for children, under 5s free.



Justin Live – Monday 26, Hippodrome. 11am and 2.30pm. Children's favourite Justin Fletcher. Tickets from £12.50.

Platinum Jubilee Concert – Friday 30, 6.45-10pm, Dolphin Centre. £10. Featuring the Band of the Coldstream Guards. Proceeds and donations to ABF The Soldiers' Charity. Tickets from www.eventbrite.co.uk



Blakk Sabbath – Saturday 30, The Forum, Borough Road. 8.30pm. Tribute act. Tickets £12.

N IN DARLINGTON

OCTOBER

Model Railway Exhibition – Saturday 1 and Sunday 2, 10am – 4pm, Head of Steam Museum. Entry £6.50 for adults, £6 for concessions, £3 for children over 5, under 5s free.

Hilarity Bites – Saturday 1, The Forum, Borough Road. 8pm. Comedy night. Tickets £10.

Middleton St George scarecrow trail – Saturday 1 and Sunday 2, 9am-2pm. Maps £2 from cricket club. Raffle and tombola too! Email scarecrowmsg@gmail.com for more details.



Great British Dog Walk – Sunday 2, Raby Castle. Start times available from 10am-noon. Adults £10, under 16s free. 3km and 8km route options available. Book at www.hearingdogs.org.uk

Open Mic Night – Tuesday 5, The Forum, Borough Road. 8pm. Free entry.

The Clashed – Saturday 8, The Forum, Borough Road. 7.30pm. Rearranged from April, original tickets still valid. Tickets £10.50.



Motown Magic – Thursday 13, Hippodrome. 7.30pm. Celebrating 60 magical years of Motown. Tickets from £17.

Definitely Oasis – Saturday 22, The Forum, Borough Road. 7.30pm. 90s tribute band. Tickets £12.50.

Shrek The Musical – Wednesday 26 October – Saturday 5 November, Hippodrome. Ticket prices vary. To book, contact Darlington Operatic Society on 244659 or visit www.darlingtonos.org.uk



Halloween Fun Day – Sunday 23, 11am–3.30pm, Head of Steam Museum, Entry £4.95 adults, £3.75 for concessions, £3 for children, under 5s free.

Spooky Trail – Saturday 15-Sunday 30, Raby Castle. Family fun. Trail included in admission.

Halloween Half Term Fun – Wednesday 26 - Friday 28, 11am-3.30pm, Head of Steam Museum. Fun half term activities for children, Entry £4.95 adults, £3.75 for concessions, £3 for children, under 5s free.

Family Halloween Party – Sunday 30, Harrogate Club, Salters Lane North, noon-2pm and 4-6pm. Tickets £4.50. Prizes for best costume and pumpkin



Fireworks spectacular – Saturday 5 November, South Park. Free – but you will need a ticket. See social media and local press for full details soon!

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 Music Studios – visit www.theforumonline.co.uk



Cost of living – help is out there

Energy bills are soaring, inflation is rising and lots of people are feeling the pressure as we move to colder months.

If you're struggling to cope, help and advice is at hand. We've pulled together a few hints and tips on this page and visit www.darlington.gov.uk/moneyadvice for more details.

INCOME – can you increase yours?

Make sure you're claiming all the benefits you are entitled to – there are millions of pounds worth of benefits not being claimed in Darlington. BEAT at Citizens Advice Darlington (beat@darlingtoncab.co.uk) can help you to make sure you are getting everything you're entitled to, or you can check out the Benefit calculator on www.gov.uk

Are you eligible for Pension Credit? If you are over State Pension age and on a low income, you could claim. People in receipt of Pension Credit have been eligible for support with their energy bills. Check here for details - www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility

BILLS – can you reduce yours?

Energy bills

Many people have seen their bills double and even treble this year. If you are struggling to pay please ask for help from your energy provider or check what help is available at Darlington Citizens Advice. If you are worried about how you pay your bills this month call Citizens Advice on 266888, email admin.desk@darlingtoncab.co.uk or drop in for advice Monday to Friday between 10-noon.

SupportPlus

If you are on a low income or Pension Credit you can get support with your water bills from Northumbrian Water's SupportPlus scheme. Call 0345 733 5566 for information.

Food

There are various food banks around the town where, if you are eligible, you can collect free food to help feed yourself and your family. Check out darlingtoncab.co.uk/darlington-food-banks for details

The Bread and Butter Thing

If you live within a one-mile radius of Mount Pleasant Primary School (Cockerton), Corporation Road Primary School (Northgate), Red Hall Primary School, Firthmoor Community Centre and Skerne Park Youth and Community Centre, you could save on your food bills with discounted food. Text 07537416040 with your full name, postcode and the location of your nearest hub and they will get in touch.

Use less and save more

For energy saving ideas and food waste tips, check out our pages at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable



Could you foster a teenager?

Almost half of the children in care are aged 11 to 15 years. Finding carers for teenagers is a priority for our fostering and Supported Lodgings team, as it is for most fostering services in the UK.

We would love children and young people in Darlington to be cared for by our council approved foster carers and supported lodgings providers.

It keeps young people close to what is important to them - maintaining links with their family and having the continuity of school and friends.

Local approved foster carers and providers who are familiar with our town and region not only provide a safe, loving home in a familiar area, they are able to help the young person prepare for their future in the workplace and community.

We are lucky to already have a number of fabulous, dedicated foster carers and providers who care for teenagers and young people, but we urgently need more to meet the increased number of looked after children.

Teenagers in the care system may not have the same family supports as other young people. Some teenagers may need to have additional support networks around them to help guide them through those tricky years – to give them the right support when needed.

The great thing about fostering teens

Watching a young person grow in confidence, helping them to manage relationships with their peers, develop independence skills, supporting them through their fears and being the person they can turn to and trust. Ensuring you will provide them stability and consistency, respect their privacy and be a positive role model is what is needed from a teen foster carer or supported lodgings provider.

Can you help to develop life skills? Do you have a good sense of humour, resilience, and patience, and enjoy being in the company of young people? If you answered yes – fostering a teen could be for you and you could really make a difference.

If you think fostering a teenager or teenage siblings is for you and you have passion and determination to make a difference, please find out more. Training and support will be provided if you decide to join our dedicated foster carer or provider team, ensuring you are fully equipped to help teenagers with their health, educational and emotional development and needs, every step of the way.

**To find out more visit www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering
email fostering@darlington.gov.uk or call 406222 option 6.**

Watch our new fostering ad here ►



Recycle

A guide to what you can put

SCHEME A



- **Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles**
(give them a rinse. Please no bottle lids or pumps and no black plastic)
- **Cans, aerosols and tin foil**



- **Paper and cardboard**
(remove plastic windows and any decoration)



- **Glass bottles and jars**
(please give them a rinse and place metal tops in with your cans recycling)

NO THANKS Please do not put any of t

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| ✗ Black bags/carrier bags/bags for life | ✗ Clothes/shoes/t |
| ✗ Food | ✗ Takeaway boxe |
| ✗ Nappies | ✗ Crisp packets/s |

Help us continue to be a responsible recycler and reach our target of re

Find out how you can work towards zero waste, check out the map at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable

Put the Right

in your recycling bin and box

SCHEME B



- **Plastic pots, tubs, trays and bottles**
(give them a rinse. Please no bottle lids or pumps and no black plastic)
- **Cans, aerosols and clean tin foil**



- **Paper and cardboard**
(remove plastic windows and any decoration)



- **Glass bottles and jars**
(please give them a rinse and place metal tops in with your cans recycling)

Put these items in your recycling bin or box

Textiles

Shoes

Sweet & biscuit wrappers

✗ Kitchen roll/tissues/wipes

✗ Coat hangers

✗ Batteries/lightbulbs

Reducing, recycling or composting 50% of your household waste by 2025!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Pauline Crellin, director of trade advocacy and world events at the Department for International Trade, with council chief executive Ian Williams

Darlington welcomes Business Summit



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Darlington Business Summit (formerly Darlington Business Week) is back, refreshed and revitalised to ensure local businesses and residents get information and support to help them succeed.

This year's events will consist of a series of focused activities over three days, dedicated to local businesses and jobseekers' needs.

It begins on Wednesday 5 October with the DL Expo, organised by Darlington Business Club, and will celebrate and showcase a wide range of products and services from local businesses.

Thursday 6 October sees the return of the ever-popular Jobs Fair with over 60 employers, all with job vacancies from a range of sectors, including construction, engineering, commercial and public services. Among those attending will be Cummins, the Civil Service, HC-One, the Army, Redde Northgate, Teesside Airport and Aldi.

The final day begins with an event showcasing all of the business support available to businesses in Darlington and the local area, under one roof, along with a series of workshops. The Business and IP Centre Tees Valley will provide information on how to prepare and apply for funding. This will be followed by a workshop focused on top tips for marketing your business and increasing your sales, as well as a talk on attracting new staff and accessing training support.

The summit closes with the popular Darlington Economic Update event, with Ian Williams, the council's chief executive, leading the presentation. Joining him will be guests from the Government's Darlington Economic Campus. This event will give an overview of what is happening in Darlington and highlight the new developments and opportunities ahead.

To sign up to find out more about Darlington Business Summit 2022 head to
www.investindarlington.co.uk/events



Free to
attend

Darlington Jobs Fair 2022

Thursday 6 October 2022

10am - 2pm

Sports Hall, Dolphin Centre, Horsemarket Darlington DL1 5RP

Hundreds of jobs across different sectors from over 60 employers.

If you are searching for a job or looking for a new opportunity make sure you come along!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

THE DOLPHIN CENTRE



E BORN IN THE 80s!

A family fun day was held recently to launch the celebrations for the Dolphin Centre's 40th anniversary, which is coming up in November.

The much-loved leisure centre has changed and evolved since first opening its doors in 1982.

As well as some snaps from the fun day, we've dug out some memories from the past 40 years.

Watch this space to see what the next 40 years have in store!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council





Bag it, bin it – any bin will do!

As part of our ongoing efforts to tackle dog fouling, we installed new signs and lamp post wraps at hotspots around the town.

Patrols were also increased and in the first three months of the initiative the number of reports of dog fouling in these areas dropped from 50 to 16.

Dog warden Andy Wood said: "It's a good sign that hopefully the message is getting through and we're planning to extend the initiative to other areas following feedback from residents.

"We know most dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets and we thank them for everything they do. Sadly, there are those who don't, and this campaign targets those people to educate them and prosecute if they continue to offend."

Remember, if there isn't a dog waste bin handy, you can put dog mess in any general waste bin – or take it home to put in your household waste bin. The message is simple – bag it and bin it! If you don't, you could be fined up to £1,000.

**TO REPORT DOG FOULING ISSUES PLEASE
EMAIL customerservices@darlington.gov.uk**

We don't expect you to take photos or confront dog owners, just report any issues with as much information as you have, and we will investigate.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Could you be a school admission appeal panel member?



School admission appeal panel member, Esme Mason.

We need people to join us as school admission appeal panel members – could it be you?

What is a school admission appeal panel member?

A school admission appeal panel member considers cases of both the person appealing and the admission authority, when a child doesn't receive the school place they requested, and comes to a considered, fair, independent conclusion.

Panel members work on a voluntary basis. Due to the number of appeals varying from year to year, you will be contacted as and when required. You don't need any special qualifications, just the quality to be fair and considerate in decision making.

We caught up with one of our longest serving school admission appeal panel members, Esme Mason, and asked her a few questions to highlight the great work panel members do.

If you are interested in finding out more information or are interested in becoming a school admission appeal panel member, call 405801 or email education.schoolsappeal@darlington.gov.uk

How long have you been a school admissions panel member?

For more than 20 years.

What attracted you to the role?

I had just left a full time job and was working part time. I felt I needed a fresh challenge.

What duties do you carry out?

I listen to, and read, information relating to school admission cases from schools and parents and then consider the information and make decisions on the strength of the reasons put forward. A typical case would be that the school is full, but the parents believe it would be the best place for their child.

What kind of issues have you dealt with?

I have dealt with all kinds of issues. Parents offer explanations such as house moves, reasons for late applications, and having another child already in the school.

What do you love best about the role?

I like to think I have done my best to help someone else. Not all appeals are successful, but I do try to reach the best outcome.

What type of person do you think is best suited to the role?

People from all walks of life are panel members. I have worked with driving instructors, paramedics, and retired office staff. You need to be sympathetic and be able to weigh up the facts and make sound decisions. It can be difficult at times, but it is always rewarding.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



**County Durham
and Darlington**
NHS Foundation Trust

safe • compassionate • joined-up care

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 27 September 2022

Darlington Memorial Hospital,
DL3 6HX

4.30 – 5.45pm: Come and meet some of our teams and services in our information marketplace event.

5.45 – 7.30pm: Join the Trust Board as we look back on our performance in 2021/22, including an open question and answer session for members of the public.

To register your attendance, go to Eventbrite: cddft.eventbrite.co.uk

For any other information:

Email: cdda-tr.foundation@nhs.net

Phone: 01325 743625



Help Tackle Loneliness in Darlington's Elderly

We support anyone in the elderly community who lives with loneliness and isolation regardless of having any faith or not.

We provide a vital lifeline of companionship for many elderly local residents.

Our Missioners are responsible for

the coordination of home visits and together with a team of trusted volunteers provide assistance with medical appointments, shopping trips and practical help where needed.

We believe in giving older people the chance to socialise by joining us on our programme of free monthly outings and other social events.

Being an independent charity we rely entirely on donations, fund raising events, business sponsorships and legacies for us to continue with our

crucial work. If you would like to make a donation, learn more about the work we do or become a volunteer then please visit our website.

Alternatively you can kindly make a donation by cheque made payable to Darlington Town Mission and send to our registered address below.

SEATON LENG
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
EST. 1891

This article is kindly sponsored by
Seaton Leng Funeral Directors



**Darlington
Town
Mission**
Enriching Elderly Lives

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

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

A local charity trusted since 1838



Are you looking for a new career?

Perhaps you're ready for a change of scenery?

We're recruiting motivated, ambitious people to join our thriving team of passionate colleagues.

Some of our fantastic benefits include:

- 31 days holiday
- Flexible and hybrid working
- Excellent rates of pay compared to similar roles
- Training and development opportunities so you can be the best you can be
- A generous pension scheme to help plan for the future
- Counselling service
- Physiotherapy service
- Cycle 2 Work scheme
- Great family friendly policies

We've vacancies across the entire organisation and would love for you to join us!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

View all of our current vacancies at
darlington.gov.uk/workwithus



How are you feeling – really feeling?

We all have mental wellbeing in the same way we have physical wellbeing and some days we feel better than others.

Sometimes we find it hard to talk about our mental health, we don't like to admit we feel a little down or not quite ourselves, yet we will freely tell people when we have a headache or are feeling under the weather.

World Mental Health Day, on October 10, is an ideal opportunity to talk about our mental wellbeing, tell someone how you feel and ask someone how they feel, really feel. Make time to talk to a neighbour, workmate, or someone you see in a shop, on the bus or going about your day.

Say hello with a smile to someone you pass in the street, and compliment people when you can. If you are feeling not quite yourself or your mood is low, be as open as you can to a friend, colleague, or your family GP and tell them how you are feeling. Talking can be the first step to feeling better.

It is important to ensure good mental wellbeing as well as physical wellbeing. We have begun to

better understand and accept mental health and wellbeing and, although sadly, there is stigma still associated with mental wellbeing issues, as we understand more, the stigma fades.

It really is OK not to be OK. We are all likely to feel lonely, down, not quite ourselves at some point in our life and that's not unusual. Don't be afraid to admit it, talk about how you feel, it's nothing to be ashamed of – the more we are open about it, the better the chances we have of getting support and feeling better sooner.

We can all feel lonely, bereft, worried, it's not just the elderly living alone – many children feel lonely and tell us it affects their mental wellbeing. Don't suffer in silence, don't let your loved ones suffer in silence, reach out and help yourself and others on the road to recovery as soon as you can.

Whatever your age, wherever you live, make time to chat to help improve the mental wellbeing of people around you. You may benefit from meeting new people, through sports clubs, drop-ins, lunch clubs, mums' groups, men's groups, arts groups to name but a few. Find out more at www.livingwell.darlington.gov.uk

IF YOU NEED SUPPORT, PLEASE REACH OUT

Organisations you can turn to for support, to talk to in confidence and without being judged:

The crisis team – 08000516171

Darlington MIND – 283169 • contactus@darlingtonmind.com • www.darlingtonmind.com

The Samaritans – For help any time, day, or night call 116123 • www.samaritans.org

Remembering a local legend

Peter Woodmansey, known to many as Pete the Sweep, passed away recently aged 86.

A former street sweeper, Peter worked for the council for 35 years before his retirement in 2001 but he continued cleaning the streets of the town he loved so much.

Here we celebrate the life of a man whose efforts made such a difference and who always had a smile for those he met while out and about.

Julie Whitehouse, a close friend of Peter's, said: "Peter was one of a kind, a true gentleman and a friend to many.

"Born in the Beverley area, Peter and his family moved to Darlington when he was a teenager. He worked for the Co-op delivering milk and as a kitchen porter at the Imperial Hotel before finding his true vocation as a street sweeper for the council.



"Peter was well respected and quite a celebrity, having made several newspaper and TV appearances. He won awards for his work in the local community and in 2018 received the Pride of the North East award at a star-studded event in Newcastle.

"He enjoyed a simple, happy, independent life, living amongst the people who cared for him in Dinsdale Crescent. He passed away peacefully at home, exactly as he wanted.

"Like so many, I will miss Peter dreadfully and the part he played in my life. I was blessed to call Peter my friend and grateful for the wonderful memories we have shared."

There are plans for a memorial bench in the town to remember this truly remarkable gentleman, who was quite simply a Darlo legend.

Skerningham – the next steps

There's still time to get involved and have your say on the design code for Skerningham Garden Village. Earlier this year, more than 200 people attended workshops and events to give their valuable input into developing a design code for the area - thank you if you were one of them.

A design code sets out expectations about the look and feel of a development to make sure a new estate reflects local character and preferences; it will ensure that Skerningham Garden Village will be developed to a high-quality standard. Ideas and discussions included looking at access, cycling provision, the ecology of the area and how green spaces will be included in any development.

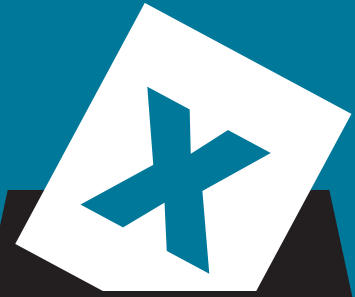
These ideas have helped to shape the design code and it is hoped that a full report will be put before cabinet this month (6 September). If agreed, the design code will go to a month-long public consultation ending early October. This will give you the chance to take a look at the code and have your say.



The code will be revised after the consultation and put before the council's cabinet again for agreement later in the year. Once agreed, it will become a legally enforceable document and part of the planning policy for Skerningham.

For more details on the village, what a design code is and how you can get involved and have your say, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/skerningham

Check your voter registration details



Every year we need to update residents' details so you can be registered and vote in elections. It's called the annual canvass and we sent out forms in July asking you to confirm your details.

Reminders were sent out last month, and if we still don't get a response we will visit you at home to encourage you to complete the form.

Luke Swinhoe, electoral registration officer, said: "It's important you respond as soon as possible, so we can make sure we have the correct details on the electoral register for every address in Darlington. To make sure that you are able to have your say at the parish and council elections next year, simply check the form when it arrives

and respond as soon as you can. If you are not currently registered, your name will not appear on the form.

"If you want to register, the easiest way is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or we can send you information explaining how to do it in the post. Either way, you will still need to complete the form and send it back to us."

If you have recently moved it is especially important you keep an eye out for the canvass form and check the details.

If you have any questions contact the electoral registration team on 406444 or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/annualcanvass

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

Bright lights beckon for young dancers

Lola



Annabel



Grace



Three girls who have been attending Darlington Hippodrome youth dance sessions for over two years have won places on a contemporary dance course.

Following successful auditions, Grace Hanson, Lola Smith and Annabel Wilde will start at the Dance City's centre for advanced training in Newcastle this month.

They will train for a minimum of seven hours a week, attending classes on weeknights and weekends during school term times. They will have the opportunity to take part in intensive dance sessions during school holidays, working with renowned choreographers and guest artists.

They will perform at Dance City's performance space as well as attending professional theatre performances throughout their time on the course.

Debbie Harbin who runs the Hippodrome youth dance sessions said: "It has been an absolute pleasure to teach and nurture the natural talent of these students. I have seen them progress and mature technically. They have shown drive, passion and creativity."

The Hippodrome's youth dance and youth theatre sessions are suitable for ages 7+.

For details, call the box office on 405405 or visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk



Parks win seal of approval

South Park and West Park have received coveted Green Flag awards, the international quality mark for green spaces.

The news is testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and volunteers that make these great spaces for everyone to enjoy.

South Park is popular with visitors of all ages thanks to the lake, aviaries, bowling green, cafe, play areas, skate park and bandstand. It was the

first park in Darlington and this year marks its 16th year as a Green Flag winner.

Opened in 2005, West Park was the first new park in Darlington in 100 years and this is its eighth Green Flag award. It is a modern park with a fusion of art and wild open space. There are stone sculptures and poetry, alongside the natural beauty of wildflower meadows, woods and wetlands.

Clubs and Societies

A feast of festival fun from Darlington Rhythm and Blues club

We're delighted to welcome the R'n'B Weekender to the town centre this month. Enjoy a huge selection of bands across the town from Friday 9 until Sunday 11 September with the festival headliner taking to the main stage in the Market Square on Sunday. There will also be a second stage on the riverside beside St. Cuthbert's Church.

Here we find out more about the local club who help program the line up for this ever-popular event.

Darlington R'n'B Club was formed in May 1995 by a small group of blues enthusiasts who decided to do something to tackle the lack of live rhythm & blues music in Darlington. A committee of six people run the club on a voluntary basis and give up a lot of their spare time to make things happen.

There are around 70 members who come along to most gigs held monthly on a Friday night. The club's atmosphere is very friendly, and any newcomers are always made to feel welcome.



They're based at The Forum Music Centre in Borough Road, and enjoy promoting live R'n'B events in the town. Find out more at www.darlington-r-n-b-club.co.uk or call 363135.

Holding the baton for local clubs

The hard work and commitment of a group of special residents was recognised in the summer as they were nominated to carry the baton in the Commonwealth Games baton relay.

Congratulations to all those who were chosen to take part, many of whom represented clubs and societies in the town.



You can add details of your club or society to our website using the online form at www.darlington.gov.uk/clubs

If you are already listed, please take the time to check your details are correct. If they need updating or if you would like it to be featured in One Darlington please email editor@onedarlington.org.uk



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