

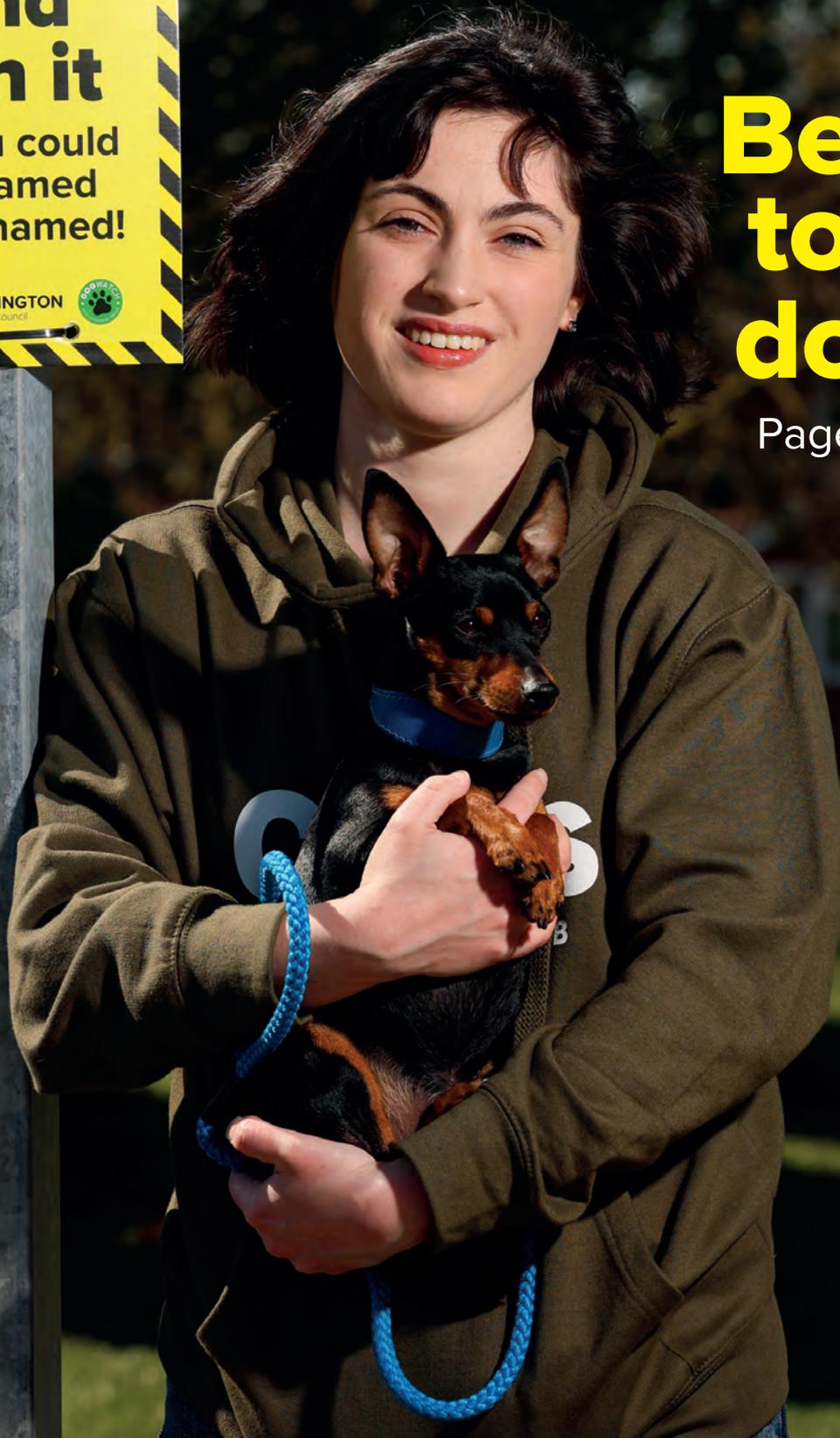
# one Darlington

June 2023



**Be a  
top  
dog**

Page 19





**Thursday 29 June**  
**10am - 2pm**  
**Dolphin Centre**

Hundreds of jobs on offer as well as extra support, training and advice.

**FREE  
TO  
ATTEND**



**Support for  
work hub**

**Veterans  
Hub**

– support and advice for veterans and their families

**Back to  
Work Hub**

– advice and guidance to over 50s, people on a health journey, disability support

**Translation  
and Support  
Hub**

– translation support services

**Volunteer  
Hub**

– opportunities to volunteer as a route to employment

# DARLINGTON JOBS FAIR



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

Scan QR  
code



# Welcome to One Darlington

**Welcome to the summer edition of One Darlington! With the King's historic Coronation celebrations still fresh in our minds, we're looking forward in this issue to a packed summer events schedule in our town centre and beyond.**

There are a whole host of memories just waiting to be made this summer – at the community carnival, Proms in the Park and Pride Weekender to name just three. See pages 8 and 9 for more details.

You'll also find more details about what's on in the weeks and months ahead on pages 20 and 21, and there's a handy guide to our summer of fun on the back page.

Last month saw voters go to the polls in the local elections, with 50 councillors elected to represent all areas of the borough over the next four years. Among those are more than 20 new faces – find out who your local representatives are on pages 10-11.

Elsewhere in this edition, we've got good news for the council's family group conference team, which scooped a national award recently – congratulations to everyone involved! Read all about it on page 23.

We've also got updates on two exciting projects taking shape to bring you improved services and facilities. Find out how the library upgrade is coming along on page 4, then turn to page 22 for an exclusive look behind the scenes at Eastbourne Sports Complex, where a new athletics track is being installed.

This summer also sees 75th anniversary celebrations for the NHS. Turn to pages 12 and 13 to read about how this important event is being marked at the Memorial Hospital, and find out how you can get involved.

Thanks for reading One Darlington. We hope you enjoy this edition.

We'd love to hear your feedback – just email [editor@onedarlington.org.uk](mailto:editor@onedarlington.org.uk) to let us know what you think!



Coronation celebrations in the town centre

## Inside this issue

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**24** Summer roadworks

**28** Be water safe

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The next issue will be out in early September. If you haven't received your copy by mid-September, please call 0800 160 1552.

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

# Brand new chapter at Crown Street



## An exciting new chapter is set to begin at Darlington Libraries' main branch in Crown Street.

September will see the doors open to the public following work to not only restore the building and make it fit for purpose, but also modernise the service for the 21st century.

The ambitious project has been shortlisted in the 'conservation regeneration' category of the prestigious Construction Excellence North East Awards 2023. The winner is due to be revealed later this month, so fingers crossed!

The council has worked alongside contractors Hodgson & Sayers, Lytstream Electrical Engineers & Contractors Ltd, Twin Services, Crocker Plasterers, Contract Flooring and Mitie. We also received £225,000 from Arts Council England to support what digital services we offer.

The first phase of the work is now nearing completion with the lending library transformed into a majestic space with light flooding in from the roof lights and windows, while the original shelving has been restored.



The refurbished children's library will open up a world of imagination for families in a safe and nurturing environment. Themed around an enchanted woodland, it's a mix of contemporary and traditional décor.

Another stand-out feature is The Study. Set among our non-fiction collection, it has large tables allowing customers to meet others, or work independently at desks or on computers.

Phase two focused on the Art Gallery and Centre for Local Studies and aimed to improve the customer experience and ensure our collection is accessible to visitors. New areas are being created to entice new, diverse audiences, including The Reminiscence Room for older people and those with dementia; The Hoskins Room for group meetings; and The Hive, an entire section dedicated to creativity, robotics, and digital technology. This will ensure the library continues as a centre of education, learning, and enjoyment, just as its visionary, Edward Pease intended.

The pictures here offer a sneak peek through the keyhole of the new-look library. We can't wait to welcome you inside.



Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# Darlington Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Take part in our free Summer Reading Challenge to be in with a chance of winning some awesome prizes.

Every time you borrow books from us this summer, you receive an entry for the prize draw of your choice.

For children aged 0 - 16

To enter: Borrow books from Cockerton Library or our Select and Collect point at the Dolphin Centre. Simply scan the QR code and complete the online form to be in with a chance to win the prize of your choice.

One visit = One entry

The competition starts on Saturday 22 July and ends on Saturday 9 September.

Prizes Include:

- Xbox Series S
- Scooter
- AirPods
- Squishmallow shark
- Groot Lego set
- Super Mario toys
- FireHD 8 Kids Tablet
- Little Mermaid Barbie
- Pantomime tickets
- Little Tykes ride-along car

We have a huge events programme for children of all ages. Book your tickets via Eventbrite to try coding, animation, illustration and much more!





**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Towns Fund update



**In 2021 we were one of the first councils in the country to secure a Town Deal with the government and received £23.3m to invest in projects to improve other important areas.**

Two years on, all of our projects are well underway, with a lot of work going on behind the scenes and some early success stories.

To keep up to date with the Towns Fund, and to read more detail about the projects, visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/townsfund](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/townsfund)



## Skinnergate and the Yards

Shop front and property upgrades, new planting and improvements to the public areas of the Yards and Skinnergate have brought a new sense of identity to the area, helping to make them a fantastic social space for people visiting the independent retailers.

More shop fronts will be improved this summer and plans are underway to transform Skinnergate into a pedestrian and cycle-friendly street with a vibrant atmosphere to encourage people to visit and stay in the area, boosting footfall for the many businesses.



## Northgate

A project which aims to rebuild and regenerate a historic area of town connected to our railway history, while at the same time improving social and economic outcomes for local residents.

The creation of the Rail Heritage Quarter, which is also being supported by the Towns Fund, is well underway (see page 36).

We are working with the community and progressing a number of significant projects in the area, including buying the listed building at 156 Northgate, formerly used as a restaurant, which will be transformed into office space to support small businesses.



## Victoria Road

Work will begin this summer on a programme of updated shop fronts and street improvements, like those in Skinnergate and the Yards.

This will smarten up the street and make it a welcoming route between the train station and the town centre.

A project to improve the pavements and the layout of the road, including new safety features and green space, is already complete.



## The adult skills project, Priestgate

Work is underway to create a dedicated adult skills centre, supported by the council's Learning and Skills team and Darlington College.

The centre will offer adults of all ages the opportunity to pick up new skills and qualifications, whether to upskill, enter a new industry or re-enter the workforce after a break.

Additional high-quality office space is also planned for the upper floors of the historic building.



## T-levels at Darlington College

A big success story for the Towns Fund was the opening of the new £3m Ingenium Centre, based at Darlington College. The centre will teach students skills in new green industries such as electric vehicle repair, robotics and wind energy and allow them to experience the technology of the jobs of tomorrow while gaining a qualification.

This is an exciting time for the college and for the young people in Darlington, who now have a wealth of education and training options open to them in industries of the future on their doorstep.



# Make summer mem

**After all the fun we had at the King's Coronation celebrations, and our Eurovision party, we're looking forward to a whole summer of making memories. The 2023 calendar is chock full of family-friendly events to help you keep little ones (and big kids!) entertained throughout the school holidays. From a giant sandpit in the town centre to a Pride-themed picnic in South Park, there's something for everyone.**

Find the full list of summer events on the back page of this magazine and take a look at some of the highlights below!

**Darlington Community Carnival** – Are you ready to fill the town with sound and colour? The community carnival will be parading from the town centre to Stanhope Park with local groups in full costume. There'll also be plenty of stalls to browse, and lots of fun and games for the whole family. From 10am-5pm on Saturday 24 June.

**Emergency Services Day** – Honour our emergency services by paying them a visit in the Market Square. First responders will be there to demonstrate their skills, equipment and vehicles, as well as stalls and entertainment for everyone. From 10am-4pm on Saturday 1 July.

**Proms in the Park** – South Park will be filled with music for Proms In The Park and you're invited! Join the crowds at the bandstand for music for all ages and tastes. Why not bring a picnic and settle in for a relaxed afternoon of fantastic live music? From 3pm-7pm on Sunday 2 July.

**Darlington by the Sea** – We're bringing the beach to the Market Square again, so join us for five days of sun, sea and sand at this ever-popular annual event. Enjoy free sandcastle building in the giant sandpit, crafts, activities and entertainment. From 11am-4pm on Monday 24 to Friday 28 July.

**Darlington 10k** – Join runners from across the country as they pound the town centre streets. There are several runs to get involved in: family fun run at 9am, junior 3k run at 9.45am, and the Darlington 10k at 10.30am. All held on Sunday 6 August. Find out more about entering the runs at [www.enjoydarlington.co.uk/10k](http://www.enjoydarlington.co.uk/10k).

**Darlington Pride** – Get ready for a three-day Pride extravaganza! There'll be a Pride march, live music and street theatre on Saturday 12 August, our relaxed Pride in the Park picnic event on Sunday 13 August, and MonGay in the town centre bars on Monday 14 August. The bolder the outfit, the better!

**Darlington R&B Festival** – Now in its 27th year, this popular free music event will hit the town centre with busy schedule of live bands over three days. Visit the Market Square for this year's headliner and check out the new stage beside St. Cuthbert's church. Friday 8 to Sunday 10 September.



# Memories in Darlington



**Get the dates in your diary and make sure you have a fun-filled summer!**

Fancy a sneak peek at the events coming up in winter? Scan the QR code for a look.



**Following the Local Government (Borough) elections in May, we've put together a who's who of councillors.**

Your councillor is there to listen to you and find out about the issues that are affecting life in your ward. They can be contacted through ward surgeries, via email or you can call them.

Full contact details and information about forthcoming ward surgeries will be published in the next edition of One Darlington or you can find out more at [www.darlington.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/councillors)

# Members of

## Cockerton



**Jan Cossins**  
(L)



**Jim Garner**  
(L)



**Neil Johnson**  
(L)

## Hummersknott



**Kate Mammolotti**  
(G)



**Thomas Robinson**  
(G)

## Park West



**Bob Donoghue**  
(C)



**Heather Scott**  
(C)

## Stephenson



**Ian Haszeldine**  
(L)



**Mohammad Mahmud**  
(L)

## Bank Top and Lascelles



**Andrew Anderson**  
(L)



**Helen Crumbie**  
(L)



**David Ray**  
(L)

## Brinkburn and Faverdale



**Rebecca Baker**  
(L)



**David Beckett**  
(L)



**Scott Durham**  
(C)

## Haughton and Springfield



**Chris McEwan**  
(L)



**Dawn Storr**  
(L)



**Nick Wallis**  
(L)

## Heighington and Coniscliffe



**Paul Crudass**  
(C)



**Gerald Lee**  
(C)

## Park East



**Libby McCollom**  
(L)



**Michael Nicholson**  
(L)



**Matthew Roche**  
(L)

## Northgate



**Sajna Ali**  
(L)



**Sonia Kane**  
(L)

## College



**Bryony Holroyd**  
(G)



**Matthew Snedker**  
(G)

## Hurworth



**Lorraine Tostevin**  
(C)



**Paul Walters**  
(C)

## Pierremont



**Stephen Harker**  
(L)



**Mary Layton**  
(L)



**James McGill**  
(L)

## Whinfield



**Jamie Bartch**  
(C)



**Andy Keir**  
(C)

## Eastbourne



**Joe Dillon**  
(L)



**Jonathan Dulston**  
(C)



**Kevin Nicholson**  
(I)

## Mowden



**Pauline Culley**  
(C)



**Alan Marshall**  
(C)

## Red Hall and Lingfield



**Mandy Porter**  
(L)



**Amanda Riley**  
(L)

## KEY

(L) Labour - 24

(C) Conservative - 15

(G) Green - 7

(LD) Liberal Democrat - 3

(I) Independent - 1

## Harrowgate Hill



**Roz Henderson**  
(G)



**Richard Lawley**  
(G)



**Anna-Maria Toms**  
(G)

## North Road



**Hilary Allen**  
(LD)



**James Coe**  
(LD)



**Anne-Marie Curry**  
(LD)

## Sadberge and Middleton St. George



**Deborah Laing**  
(C)



**Colin Pease**  
(C)



**Yvonne Renton**  
(C)



**As the NHS celebrates its 75th anniversary, it's difficult to imagine life without a national health service, particularly given the vital role it played in confronting the Covid-19 pandemic which was an unprecedented challenge. At the same time, NHS staff stepped up to plan and deliver our vaccination programme – making the UK one of the first in the world to do so.**

As we commemorate this landmark birthday, these achievements are only the most recent in a long list of impressive facts and figures from the last seven and a half decades. Let's remind ourselves of a few of them:

When health secretary, Aneurin Bevan, launched the NHS on 5 July 1948, it was the climax of a hugely ambitious plan to bring good healthcare to all. For the first time, hospitals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, opticians and dentists were brought together under one umbrella organisation to provide services that are free for all at the point of delivery. Financing it through taxation means people pay into it according to their means.

In one move, and on a single day, the NHS took control of 480,000 hospital beds in England and Wales, making 125,000 nurses, 5,000 consultants and a budget of £437m available to care for patients.

The figures remain impressive. The NHS now employs more than 1.2 million people - including almost 124,000 hospital doctors, 300,000 nurses and over 36,000 GPs - and has a budget of over £153bn.



# Leading the way

**The UK is a world leader in medical research and County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust has a very proactive research team that makes sure we're involved in cutting edge studies so our patients can benefit from the latest medications, investigations and other treatments. The NHS and scientific discovery go hand in hand.**

MRI scanners weren't developed until 1980 and only became widely available in the 1990s. We're delighted that at CDDFT we have three of the most modern MRI scanners available.

When patients require surgery, they're increasingly likely to have a laparoscopic procedure, requiring a much smaller incision, leading to quicker and better recovery. We have a dedicated laparoscopic theatre at University Hospital of North Durham, with the latest technology, and at Darlington Memorial Hospital, we've recently begun using a state-of-the-art surgical robot that enables surgeons to perform more precise, minimally invasive surgery using 3D vision.



# Living longer, living better



County Durham  
and Darlington  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Average life expectancy in the UK is currently 81.7 years – up from 69.2 years in the 1950s.**

One consequence of living longer is that more of us will benefit from a joint replacement. The first hip replacement was carried out in 1962 and at CDDFT we perform almost 1,000 hip and knee joint replacements annually.

We're also caring for more of our patients at home, avoiding the disruption of hospital admission wherever possible. During the last year, our district nurses have delivered over 600,000 appointments.

During the pandemic, digital technology continued to transform the care of many patients, who could be monitored remotely from home by a number of our services, including for those taking Warfarin who require regular monitoring. In the last year we have also introduced an electronic patient record system, giving clinicians up to the minute patient information.

At CDDFT, we're constantly looking for the next innovation and as the needs of the 650,000 people we serve change, we'll be spearheading the drive to ensure patients receive the right care, first time, every time.



## A snapshot of the past 75 years...

- 1948** The NHS is launched.
- 1952** A one shilling (five pence) charge for prescriptions is introduced.
- 1958** First mass vaccination programme launched – polio & diphtheria for children under 15.
- 1960** The first kidney transplant takes place in Edinburgh.
- 1961** Contraceptive pill introduced.
- 1962** The first full hip replacement is carried out in Wigan.
- 1968** The first heart transplant is carried out at the National Heart Hospital in London.
- 1969** Anti-cancer drug Tamoxifen is first used to fight breast cancer in Manchester.
- 1978** The world's first IVF baby, Louise Brown, is born in Oldham.
- 1980** MRI - magnetic resonance imaging – scans are introduced for the first time.
- 1980** The first successful instance of keyhole surgery comes with the removal of a gallbladder.
- 1987** The world's first heart, lung and liver transplant is carried out in Cambridge.
- 1994** Organ donor register created.
- 2012** The first UK hand transplant is performed.
- 2014** The 111 phone service is launched nationally.
- 20/21** The UK is one of the first countries to roll out a COVID-19 vaccination programme across its whole population.

**As part of our celebrations of NHS75, we are planning guided public tours of some of our services at Darlington Memorial Hospital, University Hospital of North Durham and Bishop Auckland Hospital.**

If you'd like to find out more, please email [Cdda-tr.communications@nhs.net](mailto:Cdda-tr.communications@nhs.net) indicating which site you wish to visit.

# Help housing services celebrate our tenants' gardens

During the summer months we are looking to find Darlington's best council tenants garden.



**Nominate your own garden or your neighbours...**

- The best individual garden
- The best young gardener
- The best community garden
- **New to 2023** largest sunflower
- The most sustainable garden
- Monthly prizes awarded

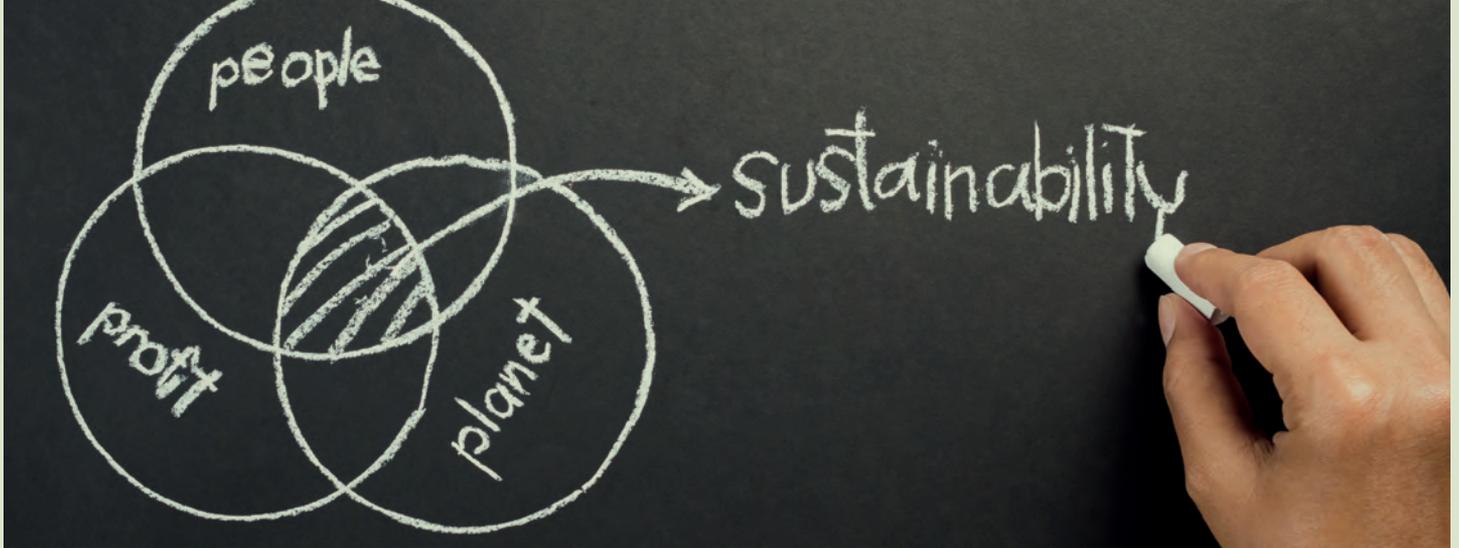
To enter for the competition, email [customerengagement@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:customerengagement@darlington.gov.uk) or call **405333** with details and a member of our team will visit your garden.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



**HOUSING SERVICES**



# Sustainability is our business

**Our Darlington Sustainability event took place earlier this month and gave local and regional businesses the chance to showcase what they are doing to be more sustainable through the products and services they sell and advice they can offer to businesses.**

The event gave businesses and the public the chance to browse a range of stalls and exhibits to find out more about how they could save money on energy costs, reduce their carbon footprint and how to live and do business in a more sustainable way.

A range of electric vehicles were on display giving visitors the chance to look at the latest models and ask advice from the experts. Free family fun with sustainable crafts, crazy bikes, library information and much more was on offer throughout the two-day event.

Andrew Perkin, the council's business support team manager, said: "Becoming more sustainable in business is more than just a nice thing to do or a buzz word – it can save your business money in terms of reducing the energy you use, attracting new customers, future proofing your business and more. This event gave businesses, and the public, the chance to find out more about what being sustainable in business, and in life, is all about.

"There is a wealth of expertise, support and advice across the Tees Valley that any business can tap into; our team can help your business make the first step; simply get in touch by emailing [business.support@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@darlington.gov.uk)"

Details on living more sustainably, as well as what we are doing as a council to become more sustainable, are at: [www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable)

## Five benefits to being a sustainable business

### 1. Reduced costs

Reduce your bills by becoming more energy efficient.

### 2. Increased profits

More efficiency means lower overhead costs.

### 3. Improved public image

Consumers are increasingly interested in sustainable products and services; a business with strong sustainability credentials can see increased sales and profits.

### 4. Greater employee satisfaction

Employees at sustainable businesses tend to be happier and more engaged in their work, leading to a more productive workforce and lower employee turnover rates.

### 5. Enhanced social responsibility

Sustainable businesses are more likely to be socially responsible, making them more attractive to consumers and a good way to build good relationships with the community.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



# Youth Friendly Darlington

Darlington Borough Council and its partners have teamed up with Youth Employment UK, a leading expert in youth unemployment, to help address some of the youth employment challenges in the area.

The project has 3 core strands:

- To [support employers and providers across Darlington](#) to become youth friendly and to help create more training and employment opportunities for young people
- To [help young people build their skills, knowledge and confidence for work](#) by promoting the free Young Professional courses available to them
- To [connect young people and the opportunities in Darlington](#) through an online Digital Hub

Through these key activities we hope that young people will feel more confident that Darlington is a great place to study and work and will find the opportunities that they need in the town.

Find out more and how you can get involved by exploring the [Digital Hub](#).





# Live local, think BIG

## Darlington Employers

If your organisation provides work experience, early careers support, or apprenticeship, graduate or entry level roles to young people aged 11-30 you could benefit from the youth friendly project.

Organisation of any size can sign up to the Good Youth Employment Charter for free.

Benefits of Membership of the Good Youth Employment Charter include:

- Access to free online advice and support to help develop good opportunities for young people
- Use of the Darlington Youth Friendly Employer Badge
- Ability to promote your opportunities for young people on the Darlington youth



## Aged 11-30?

Young people across Darlington can use the Digital Hub to find out about education, training and employment opportunities in the area.

The Youth Employment UK website is also filled with careers information and support and can help you on your journey to what's next.

Young people can also take part in the online training which includes short courses called the Young Professional and Virtual Work Experience courses to help you explore different career options.

Grow your skills and get involved in Darlington by exploring the Digital Hub.

# **Bag it and Bin it**

**or face a  
£100 fine!**

**If you don't clean up after  
your dog you could be  
named and shamed.**



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council





**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



Charlotte Westerman and miniature pinscher Otto

# Crufts winner backs anti-dog fouling initiative

**Charlotte Westerman knows better than most what it takes to be a responsible dog owner and is urging other pet owners to bag it and bin it when they are out with their dogs.**

The 22-year-old, from Sadberge, began showing dogs when she was 11 to help her overcome a stammer and build her confidence. Earlier this year Charlotte and her 15-month-old miniature pinscher Otto scooped best of breed in his category at Crufts.

“It’s a dream come true,” she said. “Otto’s a star, but above all, our dogs are our pets and part of the family. However, with them comes responsibilities, which is why I’m supporting the Bag It Bin It initiative – it’s something I feel strongly about.

“Not only is it common courtesy to pick up after your dog, but it helps keep our streets, parks and other public areas pleasant for all to enjoy.”

As well as the Bag It Bin It initiative, our DOGwatch group promotes responsible dog ownership and has launched a code of conduct – details can be found at [www.darlington.gov.uk/DOGwatch](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/DOGwatch).

Remember, you can now report a full or overflowing dog waste or rubbish bin when you’re out and about by using the report a bin feature on our MyDarlington app.

You can download the app via our website [www.darlington.gov.uk](http://www.darlington.gov.uk), click on install our app and follow the instructions.

## Consultation on dog PSPOs renewal

**Dog control orders in the borough were replaced with public space protection orders in September 2020. They are now due to be renewed and we are keen to hear your views on how well they work and whether we need to make any changes.**

The consultation will run from July to September, we will share more details on our website and social media.

# Enjoy what's on in

**Summer is finally here and there's a packed programme of events coming up with something for everyone.**

Please check with event organisers or venues before travelling. For more details of what's on visit [enjoydarlington.co.uk](http://enjoydarlington.co.uk) or follow the council on Facebook.

**Want to be in the next edition of One Darlington?**

Email your events to [communications@darlington.gov.uk](mailto: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 event, for those aged 4-14, is on Sundays at 9am.

**Head of Steam Station Scamps** – every Friday, 10am-noon, Red Hall Community Centre. Railway themed activities for children aged five and under, and their grown-ups. Included in membership, non-members can book via Eventbrite, £2 per adult, children under five free.

## June

**Creative play: Fairy tale forest** – runs until 31 August, Monday Saturday, 10am-2pm, The Hullabaloo. Dress up, play and re-enact popular fairy tales or create your own. Free.

**Darlington RnB Club w/ The Bad Day** – Friday 9, 7.30pm, The Forum Music. Tickets £13.

**Do You Believe In Ghosts?** – Friday 9, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. An experiential ghost story, suitable for ages 12+. Tickets £16.50 - £32.

**Transformers Day** – Saturday 10, 11am-3pm, town centre. Look out for Transformers roaming the town centre.

**Bootleg Blondie** – Saturday 10. 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £13.

**Adult crafting: Pebble Art** – Sunday 11, 1-3pm, Darlington Railway Athletic Club. Create a bespoke piece of pebble art in a box frame. Tickets £15, places must be booked in advance via Head of Steam.

**Gasto Promotions presents Blakk Sabbath** – Friday 16, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £12.

**Abigail's Party** – Tuesday 13 – Saturday 17, 7.30pm evenings, 2pm Thursday matinee, 2.30pm Saturday matinee, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £14.50 - £34.50, £15. Lucky Hipp tickets available.

**Eliot Smith Dance / Human** – Thursday 15, 8pm, The Hullabaloo. Electrifying dance created by award-winning choreographer Eliot Smith. Tickets £14.50.

**RLSS Pool Lifeguard Course** – Friday 16 – Sunday 25, various times with exam date Tuesday 27 June at 11am, Dolphin Centre. For 16 years+, £275 per person contact Dolphin Centre 406000 or [healthydarlington@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:healthydarlington@darlington.gov.uk)

**Armed Forces Day** – Friday 23, 10am-noon, Market Square. Show your support on Armed Forces Day, includes a raising the flag ceremony. Free.

**Zog** – Friday 23 – Sunday 25, various times, Darlington Hippodrome. Join Zog as he tries his hardest in Dragon School, suitable for ages 3+ but all ages welcome. Tickets £10.50 - £15.

**Community Carnival** – Saturday 24, 10am-5pm, Market Square for start of parade up to Stanhope Park. Free.

**Railway Coffee Morning** – Thursday 29, 11am-1pm, Morrison's North Road Café. As Head of Steam museum is closed this popular event has moved to Morrisons. Free.

**State Of Quo: Farewell Tour** – Friday 30, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £12.

## July

**Emergency Services Day** – Saturday 1, 10am-4pm, Market Square. Free.

**Hilarity Bites Comedy Club** – Saturday 1, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £10.

**Proms in the Park** – Sunday 2, 3-7pm, South Park bandstand. Free. A collection will take place in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

**Darlington Film Club** – Tuesday 4. 7pm, The Forum Music Studios. Entrance £3.

**An evening with Danny Carnegie and support** – Thursday 6, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Entrance £8.

**ELO Beatles Beyond, The Lynne & McCartney Story** – Friday 7, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Entrance £13.

**The Lady Boys of Bangkok** – Sunday 9, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £14.50 - £30.

**Anton Du Beke & Giovanni Pernice – Him & Me!** – Tuesday 11, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £20 - £122.

**Jazz @ The Forum** – Tuesday 11, 7pm, The Forum Music Studios. Entrance £10.

**Northern Live – Do I Love You** – Wednesday 12, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. The world's greatest and most authentic touring Live Band Northern Soul Show. Tickets £14.50 - £25.

**The Rocket Man** – Thursday 13, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Elton John tribute. Tickets £16.50 - £32.

**RnB Club** – Friday 14, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £15.

**In The Night Garden** – Saturday 15 – Sunday 16, both days 1pm, Saturday 4pm, Sunday 10am. Tickets £12.50 - £19.

**Calling Planet Earth** – Tuesday 18, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. A celebration of the electrifying 80s. Tickets £16.50 - £31.

**Lipstick on Your Collar** – Wednesday 19, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Step back in time for the golden era of music. Tickets £16.50 - £30.

**GOLD Tea Dance** – Thursday 20, 11am-3pm, Market Square. Free annual event with live music, dancing and lots of stalls with information on services for older people and those of all ages.

**Legends of Variety** – Thursday 20, 2pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Starring Anita Harris, Bernie Clifton, The Grumbleweeds, Billy Pearce, and Tommy Cannon. Tickets £16.50 - £32.

**Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra** – Friday 21, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £38 - £54.

**Gasto Promotions presents Desperados (A tribute To The Eagles)** – Friday 21, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £15.

**Vintage Vehicle Rally** – Saturday 22, 10am-4pm, Market Square. Free.

**Totally Tina** – Saturday 22, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tina Turner tribute. Tickets £16.50 - £31.

**Hullabaloo in the Park** – Wednesday 26 - Sunday 30. Family festival in South Park. See page 39 for details.

**Darlington by the Sea** – Monday 24 – Friday 28, 11am-4pm, Market Square. Free.

**Tony! [The Tony Blair Rock Opera]** – Monday 24 – Wednesday 26, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £16.50 - £33.50, £15 Lucky Hipp tickets available.

**Railway Coffee Morning** – Thursday 27, 11am-1pm, Morrison's North Road Café. As Head of Steam museum is closed this popular event has moved to Morrisons. Free.

**Forbidden Nights** – Thursday 27, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Age guidance 18+. Tickets £16.50 - £31.

**Thank ABBA For The Music** – Friday 28, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome. Tickets £16.50 - £30.

**We Are Champion (A Tribute To Queen)** – Friday 28, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Tickets £13.

**Tracks in Town** – Saturday 29, 9am-8pm, Market Square. Enjoy a taster of the Last Train Home Festival with a showcase of original regional bands featuring rock, pop, and soul. Free.

**Monster Truck Show** – Saturday-Sunday 29-30, 11am start, Darlington Rugby Club, Grange Road. Free fun family event, including Monster Truck rides, fairground, world food court and all-day continental bar.

**Scott Bennett** – Work In Progress – Monday 31, 8pm, The Hullabaloo. Scott Bennett comes to test out his new material. Tickets £12.

## August

**Tracks Tuesday** – Tuesday 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 11am-4pm, Market Square. Live music brought to you by Tracks. Free.

**Darlington Film Club** – Tuesday 1, 7pm, The Forum Music Studios. Entrance £3.

**Wednesday arts & crafts** – Wednesday 2, all day, Market Square. Get creative with free arts & crafts.

**Open Mic Night** – Wednesday 2, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Free.

**Gasto Thursday Rock Night w/ Sound Divide** – Thursday 3, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Entrance £10.

**Who's Next (A tribute To The Who)** – Friday 4, 7.30pm, The Forum Music Studios. Entrance £13.

**James at Darlington Arena** – Saturday 5, Mowden Park RFC. Special guests Maximo Park, with support from The Pigeon Detectives, Pale Blue Eyes and the Kairos. Tickets from £37.50 + booking fee – for more visit [www.mowdenpark.com/news](http://www.mowdenpark.com/news)

**Darlington 10k** – Sunday 6. Family fun run 9am start, Junior 3km 9.45am start, 10k 10.30am start, town centre. For more visit [www.enjoydarlington.co.uk/10k](http://www.enjoydarlington.co.uk/10k)

**Darlington Pride Weekender** – Saturday 12, noon-6pm, Market Square. Pride celebrations start with a march followed by live music, stalls from local organisations, merchandise, street theatre, food and drink. Free.

**Pride in the Park** – Sunday 13, noon-3pm, South Park. A relaxed picnic event with acoustic music, kids crafts and family activities. Free.

**MonGay** – Monday 14, 5-11pm, various town centre venues. The annual MonGay Pride celebrations will feature live performances and special guests throughout the night at town centre bars and on Blackwellgate. Free.

**Fairy tales and legends day** – Thursday 24, 11am-3pm, Market Square. Meet and greet some of your favourite characters, enjoy a dazzling live theatre production and join in with crafts and games. Free.

**Dinosaur Day** – Thursday 31, 11am-3pm, Market Square. Jurassic creatures roaming around the town, themed activities and live entertainment. Free.

## September

**Last Train Home** – Saturday 2, all day, Darlington Hippodrome, The Hullabaloo and the Forum Music Studios. Annual music festival with five stages over three venues, includes comedy from Hilarity Bites. For more visit [www.tracksdarlington.co.uk](http://www.tracksdarlington.co.uk)

**Darlington R&B Festival** – Friday 8 – Sunday 10, all day, Market Square and Riverside, near St Cuthbert's Church. For more visit [Facebook.com/darlornbclub](https://Facebook.com/darlornbclub)

## Contacts

**Head of Steam** visit [www.head-of-steam.co.uk](http://www.head-of-steam.co.uk) call 405543 or email [headofsteam@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:headofsteam@darlington.gov.uk)

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

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

**Darlington Libraries** – call 349610 or visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/library](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/library)

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

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

# Sports complex revamp taking shape

**Ambitious plans to turn Eastbourne Sports Complex into one of the Tees Valley's premier outdoor grassroots sports venues are starting to take shape.**

Work is well underway to create a new reception area and resurface the main running track, so it will once again be able to host premier athletic events.

The work also includes a new artificial grass pitch with changing rooms, turnstiles and access for up to 200 spectators.

Local football clubs will be able to play up to Step 5 on the National League Pyramid, with over 500 participants a week able to play on the pitch once work is completed.

Work on the track is expected to be completed shortly, with the all-weather pitch set to be ready later in the summer.

Eastbourne Sports Complex, which is managed by the council, worked with the Football Foundation and the County Durham FA to secure a £941,842 grant towards the project.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council





# National award for social work team

**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

**A team of children's social workers has scooped a top prize at a national awards ceremony.**

The council's family group conference team won team of the year at the recent Frontline Awards, run by England's biggest social work charity, Frontline.

Judges were pleased with the team's commitment to putting children at the centre of plans for their care and making sure their thoughts and wishes are captured and heard.

Families are also closely involved in the conferences, with some even taking the lead on designing their own care plans with support from social workers.

Everyone on the team brings their own area of expertise from drug and alcohol services to housing and education. The outcomes for families have been outstanding, with 94% of the conferences supporting a child to return to their family from care and 97% of families supported to help themselves and so they avoid, or reduce, intervention.

Team manager Brooke Fenwick said: "We are committed to supporting children, young people and families to be at the heart of decision making and it is amazing to see the outcomes that a family group conference can help them achieve.

"This is a credit to the families that we support and how they embrace the opportunity to work in this way, and our team of passionate individuals who support them to do so."

It's the latest piece of good news for the council's children's services teams, which were last year rated good by inspection body Ofsted.



Frontline aims to make life better for the 700,000 children across the UK every year whose family need the support of a social worker - to help keep them safe from harm and to give them every possible chance to fulfil their potential. It does this through developing excellent social work practice, leadership and innovation.

The charity held the awards to mark its 10-year anniversary, to celebrate the amazing work being done by social workers and the achievements of the young people they support.

Frontline chief executive Mary Jackson said: "It's social workers like these that make a real difference to the social work system, and crucially to the children and families it supports.

"This award to the Darlington family group conference team is well-deserved for the team's commitment to involving children and families in designing their own care and support. It has some excellent outcomes to show for its focus on the needs of each family, and the broad range of experience it brings to every conference.

"We're delighted to be able to celebrate the fantastic work being done by so many children's social workers."

Children who need a social worker frequently live in the toughest circumstances, often because their family is struggling with multiple challenges like mental ill-health, domestic abuse, poverty or other external pressures. Social workers can change this. The support, commitment and protection they give to these children, and their families, can help them turn things around and give them hope for a brighter future.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



# Improving your roads this summer

**Residential roads and rural routes around the town will be improved this summer, with a £2.5m programme of resurfacing, repairs and micro-asphalting works planned.**

The 2023 summer programme will include seven resurfacing schemes totalling 1.86km of road length, including Feethams roundabout, Barnes Road in Mowden, Burnside Road in Firthmoor and Neasham Road.

There will also be a widespread programme of structural patching across the town, amounting to 2.738km of road surface.

We carry out surveys of the road and footpath network annually and this condition data is used to prioritise which schemes will be added to the summer programme of works. The funding for this year's highways maintenance schemes includes £388,000 awarded by the Government from its 2023-24 pothole fund.

The programme also includes schemes, covering 1.5km of road surface, that will be carried out using a more eco-friendly in situ recycling process, which recycles the existing carriageway material and saves on the cost of new materials and landfill, as well as reducing the number of vehicle movements.

Towards the end of summer, the micro-asphalt programme will be carried out on 31 streets across the town, which seals the road surface to prevent water damage and extend its life by up to 10 years, covering 5.595km.

All roadworks schemes are planned to minimise disruption on our road network and larger schemes are planned during the school holidays, when there can be up to 15% less traffic at rush hour. There are also a number of improvement schemes planned by gas and electricity companies – these works are programmed, where possible, to run alongside our own to minimise disruption.



# Thank you for saying no



Becky's usual spot was the Commercial Street car park close to the pay point. She sat there for a few hours most days, whatever the weather, wrapped in an old blanket, helpfully advising about parking costs.

"Push the green button," she'd say, starting a conversation as she explained she'd been thrown out by her family, lost her children, and had been sleeping rough for months because no one cares. All she wanted was some money to buy a hot drink, some food, or a bus ticket to see her kids.

But Becky wasn't homeless. She was alcohol dependent and needed the money for drink.

Today Becky is sober, has reunited with her family and is rebuilding bridges with her kids. Talk to her now and she will tell you how grateful she is to those who supported her into recovery. She is grateful to her family for giving her another chance, and thanks those who did not give her money when she asked for it, choosing instead to give to a charity to help her.

## Because you said no

- the money that sustained and deepened Becky's dependency stopped flowing.

## Because you said no

- Becky has a chance of living beyond her 50s, a chronic drinker's life expectancy.

## Because you said no

- Becky faced the grim reality of her alcohol dependency and took back control of her life.

## Because you said no

- Becky abandoned her pitch in Commercial Street, and no longer targeted people for money which made things worse for her rather than better.

## Because you said no

- she is no longer out in all weathers begging. She is healthier, happier and has regained her self-esteem.

## Because you said no

- Becky has a future.

In Darlington we have a multi-agency partnership working to help people like Becky. Support is offered on a daily basis, with the guiding principle that everything done is in the person's best interests, including any enforcement action by the police. By addressing the needs of those who beg, and because of your help, the number of people begging here is very low. Help us to keep it that way.

**Thank you for helping Becky and saying no.**

# Have A Heart

GIVE SMART

If you are homeless, at risk of being homeless, or worried about someone who is, call the council on 405333 (from Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm) or go to the StreetLink website at [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) For more information visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness)



The 700 Club is a Darlington based charity working in partnership with the council, police and other agencies, to help people who are begging.

You can text **BEGGING** to **70085** to donate **£5**, or give online at [www.700club.org.uk](http://www.700club.org.uk)

All money given will go towards outreach work to help those who are begging.



# You're blooming great

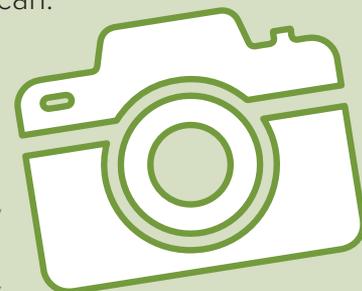


Sagnik with his Reid Street Primary School classmates

**Following our success in securing two gold medals at last year's Northumbria in Bloom awards, we have been invited to take part in this year's national Britain in Bloom awards, where judges recognise, encourage and reward community groups who work together to transform their village, town or city through gardening.**

However big or small your outside space, we really appreciate your efforts to support our floral award entries by loving and enjoying your space and showing it off as best you can.

Join us in our quest to bring home gold!



## Flowerbed winner!

In our May edition, we invited primary school children to design a flowerbed to be planted in South Park to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Judges had a difficult time choosing the winning design!

The winning entry was designed by five-year-old Sagnik Sarkar, who goes to Reid Street Primary School. A big thank you to all who entered - we received so many fabulous entries!

Sagnik and classmates will join our horticultural team in South Park to plant up the special flower bed in readiness for summer judging in July.

## Photography competitions

As part of the floral awards, we would love to see your photos of wildlife and flora and fauna from around the town. There are two competition categories: 'wildlife' and 'flora and fauna'.

For your chance to win shopping vouchers, email your photos to [communications@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:communications@darlington.gov.uk) – state NIB/BIB photo competition and either wildlife or flora and fauna category in the subject box. Entries need to reach us by Sunday 2 July. All photos will be on display for the judges to view and may be used by the council for promotional purposes.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



# Learning & Skills Darlington

## FREE COURSES FOR 16-18 YEAR OLDS - SIGN UP TODAY!

Learning & Skills Darlington provide Pre-Employability Study Programmes all year round to 16-18 years olds across Darlington and the Tees Valley, enabling them to develop their personal, social and employability skills and progress route into higher level diplomas and apprenticeships. There's also many opportunities for work experience, educational visits and days out too!

**COURSES INCLUDE:** MATHS AND ENGLISH / PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT / EMPLOYABILITY / CUSTOMER SERVICE / DIPLOMAS **PLUS LOTS MORE!**

**NEW LEARNERS** may be entitled to **FREE lunches and FREE travel with Arriva North East**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

**CALL 405601 TEXT 07932 869325**

**EMAIL [I&s@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:I&s@darlington.gov.uk)**

**WEB [www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills)**

 [@DarlingtonL\\_S](https://twitter.com/DarlingtonL_S)  [DarlingtonL\\_S](https://www.instagram.com/DarlingtonL_S)  Learning & Skills  [07932 869325](https://api.whatsapp.com/send?phone=07932869325)

Learning & Skills



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](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/childcarechecker)

email [pfis@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:pfis@darlington.gov.uk)

or call Darlington Families Information Team on

**406222** (option 7)



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



# Enjoy water safely

**As the weather warms up it's tempting to take a dip in our rivers and lakes, but sadly more than 300 people accidentally drown in the UK every year.**

We're working to raise awareness of the dangers around open water and are backing Drowning Prevention Week (17-24 June), an annual campaign run by the Royal Life Saving Society UK to help you enjoy water safely this summer.

Please think twice before taking the plunge and talk to your children about water safety.

Remember:

- don't let your children go near water without an adult who can point out dangers and get help if someone gets into trouble
- never jump in or suddenly immerse yourself in cold water as the shock could kill you, enter slowly into shallow water
- look out for warning signs and follow their instructions

- supervision saves lives so stay together - never swim alone, always go with friends or family and, if you can, swim where there are lifeguards
- don't drink alcohol if you are going into water and avoid walking near water if you've been drinking
- if you fall in the water, don't panic – extend your arms and legs and extend your arms and legs so you float and shout for help
- learn how to help if you see someone in difficulty - don't enter the water, shout for help, call 999 and throw them something that floats
- learn basic water safety, rescue and CPR skills
- download the what3words app on your phone to help give emergency services your exact location so they can reach you quickly. Find out more [www.what3words.com](http://www.what3words.com)

Our civic enforcement officers and the local police and fire and rescue service will be carrying out extra patrols in popular spots to offer advice and guidance.

**For more information and to access the charity's free water safety education resources, visit [www.rlss.org.uk](http://www.rlss.org.uk)**



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



Shaun Trevor with some of the seized illegal vapes



# Preventing illegal sales of vapes to children

**Tobacco smoking remains our biggest preventable killer, with up to two thirds of people who smoke dying early as result of their addiction. Vapes offer a significantly less harmful alternative to smoking and are very effective in helping people to quit.**

However, vaping is not recommended for people who don't smoke or for young people under 18.

There are growing concerns about sales of illegal and over-strength vapes not permitted in the UK. It's an issue our trading standards and public health teams are working with police and other partners to tackle.

Shaun Trevor, trading standards and animal health manager, explained: "With the help of information from parents and other residents, we've led a series of days of action to clamp down on illegal sales, with more than £70,000 worth of products seized so far this year.

"This has resulted in at least two shops being the subject of temporary closure orders and investigations are ongoing with a view to prosecutions. Recently we also sent two disposable Elux Bar Legend 3500 vapes for laboratory testing. The results showed they were misdescribed as 0% nicotine, and withdrawal notices

have been given to two retailers under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005.

"We will continue to work with police and our partners to tackle this issue and would urge anyone with information to get in touch."

Nationally, the government has pledged £3 million to support efforts to tackle the issue and there are also calls that vapes should be out of sight and out of reach of children in shops.

Ken Ross, public health principal, said: "It's illegal to sell vapes to children and we're working hard to crack down on such sales in our area, but there are also concerns that brands are using child-friendly packaging with the names of popular sweet treats such as banana milkshake and jelly babies to attract them.

"We are working with schools and colleges so they have the resources available to help ensure young people know the facts about vaping."

If you have information about illegal sales of vapes email [tradingstandards@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@darlington.gov.uk) or use our online form (anonymously if you prefer) at [www.darlington.gov.uk/ts-report-it](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/ts-report-it)

# CLUBS AND COM

To get your community group or club featured, email [editor@onedarlington.org.uk](mailto:editor@onedarlington.org.uk)



**Breathe Easy Darlington (BED)** is a free membership group offering exercise classes, events and social support to people with respiratory disease – a wide range of conditions including asthma, COPD and long Covid. The group is affiliated to Asthma and Lung UK and has around 50 members.

BED meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Copper Beech on Neasham Road at 12.30-3pm in the function room. A chance to meet up, have a bar meal or just a drink and a chat and listen to a speaker at 2pm – speakers range from health professionals to local history experts. Family, friends and carers are all welcome.

On the second Tuesday of the month during May to September, the group hosts a free walk in South Park at 11am with coffee and chat at the café afterwards. The group also organises day trips to local places of interest.

Every Wednesday from 11.45am-1.45pm, they run BEActive (Breathe Easy Active) sessions at Eastbourne Sports Complex for members

and carers. A specialised instructor takes the group through various exercises including yoga, mindfulness, dance and relaxation. New activities on offer include walking football and a singing group is being formed following some trial sessions.

Participants can do as much or as little as they want to. Contact Gill on 07734993188 if you are keen to join in – there is a charge for classes and some events to help cover costs.

Ann Boyd from BED said: “This is a wonderful support group run by people with a lung condition for people with a lung condition and their family and carers. Many people become isolated after their diagnosis and feel unable or reluctant to get out and about.

“Our group encourages everyone to get involved, socialise, and get as active as they can be in a warm, relaxed and caring environment. It really helps to talk to others who are in a similar situation.”

Visit the website at [www.breatheseeasydarlington.org](http://www.breatheseeasydarlington.org) or search for the group on Facebook.



**Darlington Friends of the Earth** is a group dedicated to protecting the natural world and the wellbeing of everyone in it. Kendra Ulliyart from the group explains: "We lead campaigns, provide resources and information and find solutions to the environmental problems facing us all. Sometimes it's difficult to know what to do about climate change and the decline in wildlife.

"A recent venture is a Fix it Cafe every fourth Saturday 2.30-4.30pm at the Quaker Community Hub on Skinnergate. People bring items and learn how to repair them. This saves people buying new and stops the item going into landfill.

"In association with the Darlington Forest Project we are growing trees from seed collected locally. We are looking for volunteers to look after a pack of trees when they are slightly bigger and water them for two to three years until they are collected and ready to plant out."

The group meets on Zoom on the second Monday of every month at 7.30pm. Email [darlingtonfriendsoftheearth@gmail.com](mailto:darlingtonfriendsoftheearth@gmail.com) or find them on Facebook.

### **LGBTQ+ Film Club - The Rainbow Screen**

- meets on the last Tuesday of the month at The Forum Music Centre, Borough Road and provides a space for LGBTQ+ people and allies to come together to watch and discuss a queer film monthly. Call 363135 or email [rainbowscreendarlo@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowscreendarlo@gmail.com) search Facebook for rainbowscreendarlo or check out the Forum website at [www.theforumonline.co.uk](http://www.theforumonline.co.uk)

**Gainford Drama Club** meets at 7.30pm three times a week at Gainford Academy Theatre for rehearsals and set building. Established more than 70 years ago, they are an amateur theatre group that performs up to three shows a year in their 90-seat theatre, with seats provided from the Darlington Hippodrome refurbishment. If you would like to join them on stage or backstage, they are looking for actors, set builders, lighting and sound assistants and anyone else keen to get involved. Email [info@gainforddramaclub.co.uk](mailto:info@gainforddramaclub.co.uk) visit [www.gainforddramaclub.co.uk](http://www.gainforddramaclub.co.uk) or search for them on Facebook.

**Atisha Kadampa Meditation Centre**, 81 Victoria Road, hosts free lunchtime 15-minute sessions every Tuesday 1.30-1.45pm. For more details email [info@meditationindarlington.org](mailto:info@meditationindarlington.org) call 365265; visit the website [www.meditationindarlington.org](http://www.meditationindarlington.org) or search Meditation in Darlington on Facebook.



**Locos-in-Motion Border Morris** meet every Tuesday 7.30-9.30pm at Sadberge Village Hall. They are a fun and friendly mixed Morris dancing group and have been performing traditional and new Border Morris dances for the past 20 years. Border Morris is a traditional dance form originating from the Border counties between England and Wales and danced with sticks and varied stepping. All levels of fitness and total beginners are welcome (dancers and musicians). It's a fun way to get fit, make friends, dance at many fetes and pubs in the summer and support a long British tradition. Pop along and meet them at Sadberge, call 01642 475057, or check them out on Facebook.



# TEES VALLEY

## Darlington's £140m station upgrade being driven forward at car parks

The £140million redevelopment of Darlington railway station is continuing at speed, with work now under way to create its new multistorey car park.

Late last year, the first buildings were demolished to the east of the station to make way for the new development – including the Exhaust A Fix garage, flattened by local firm Thompsons.

Since then, this demolition programme has ramped up, with the east side of the station now ready to enter the next phase of works.

As part of this, in April, the station's eastern car park – accessed from Neasham Road – was closed to allow construction of this new multistorey and gateway entrance to begin. A temporary car park at the former Cattle Market site off Clifton Road to the west is now open.

To the west of the Station, the demolition of the former Hogan's Pub is now complete, paving the way for a safer and improved modern landscape, to enable better bus connections.

Within the station, three new platforms will accommodate current services and improve rail connections both within the Tees Valley and beyond via the East Coast Main Line. The station project has already been primed with £33million from the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen. A further £93million investment was rubber stamped late last year to take total Government funding to £105million.

For more information, visit [teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/darlington](https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/darlington)





# number forty is here for you

If you're  
feeling lost or  
vulnerable on  
a night out in  
Darlington,  
head to  
Number  
Forty at 40  
Skinnergate.



**Number Forty is open from  
9pm-3am on Fridays and Saturdays**



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



# Keeping you safe at night



**A team of trained volunteers is taking to the streets to offer help and support to people on a night out.**

The Street Friends are working at least once a month on Fridays and Saturdays between 9pm and 3am in the town centre to help and reassure anyone who feels vulnerable.

They can offer first aid and direct people to Number Forty on Skinnergate where volunteers and trained security staff can help with everything from charging phones and handing out water to calling loved ones and helping report a crime.

The volunteers have radios connecting them to the CCTV control room and Number Forty as well as security staff at other town centre venues.

They wear high vis jackets with the Number Forty phone number on the back and hand out cards so people have the contact details if and when they need them.

The Street Friends hope to increase their patrols when they get more volunteers signed up.

Number Forty and the Street Friends are always on the look out for volunteers who can support their work – to find out more please email [Lucy.Hatch2@durham-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.Hatch2@durham-pcc.gov.uk)

The Street Friends are supported by the Darlington Safer Streets partnership, which includes Darlington Council, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and Durham Constabulary. The government-funded partnership aims to increase safety and the feeling of safety, particularly among women and girls in the town centre.



# Regeneration work on track at Rail Heritage Quarter

**Work to transform the Head of Steam Railway Museum into a multi-million pound visitor attraction in time for the 2025 bicentenary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway is steaming ahead.**

The main museum building and the nearby goods shed, the oldest surviving building of its type in the UK, have been cleared and stripped by contractors ready for renovations to begin.

Both buildings will be transformed, with the railway museum brought to life using digital and technological innovation to tell the story of our railway past, while the goods shed will become the visitor centre, welcoming guests from around the world to the heritage site.

Work will continue through the summer, with milestones including:

## **JULY**

Installation of structural steelwork to the main museum

Clock tower repairs, goods shed works

## **MAY – AUGUST**

Roof repairs to both buildings

## **MAY – SEPTEMBER**

Foundations, piles and steelwork for the Black Box Experience - a vivid immersion into passenger rail travel

## **AUGUST – OCTOBER**

Structural alterations to the goods shed

Keep up to date with the latest on the Rail Heritage Quarter at [head-of-steam.co.uk/future-plans](https://www.head-of-steam.co.uk/future-plans)

# One Day Only Art Exhibition & Sale

by local artists Rev. John H Bower & Heather Ritchie

To be held at St Cuthbert's Church Hall  
on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June from 10am until 3pm

Prints  
from £20  
Originals  
from £45

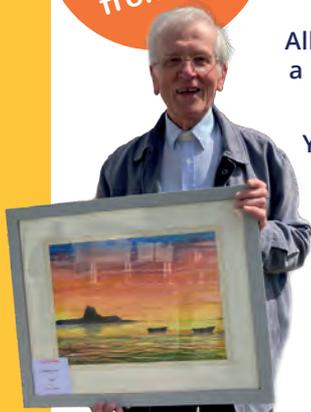
Free Entrance & Refreshments

All proceeds go to helping local elderly people enjoy a happier life by alleviating loneliness and isolation through socialising and having fun.

Your donations support our monthly outings such as trips to the seaside with fish 'n' chip lunch, visits to local garden centres with afternoon tea, or a visit to the Hippodrome Theatre.

Please make a donation via  
[www.localgiving.com/darlingtontownmission](http://www.localgiving.com/darlingtontownmission)

Thank you



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



**Darlington  
Town  
Mission**

Enriching Elderly Lives

A local charity trusted since 1838

## Helping you BEAT the benefits maze

**Are you a pensioner, a family living on a low income or just struggling to make ends meet? You may be missing out on extra financial support, even if you work.**

The benefit entitlement action team (BEAT) at Citizens Advice Darlington, Redcar and Cleveland (DRC) is on hand to help you to check if you are eligible and advise you on your situation and the support available.

Helen Howson, CEO of Citizens Advice DRC, said: "People are under financial pressure. Many families face extra costs due to disability or childcare.

"The good news is that, even if you work, support does exist and we can help you get it."

The BEAT team is supported with £30,000 of funding from the council to help continue their work in 2023-24.

For more information on BEAT in Darlington and to access eligibility calculators visit [www.citizensadvisedrc.org.uk/benefit-entitlement-action-team](http://www.citizensadvisedrc.org.uk/benefit-entitlement-action-team)

Drop in sessions are open to the public at the Citizens Advice office in The Core Building, Church Row, in the town centre, between 10am and noon, Monday to Friday.

Last year  
the BEAT team  
helped 471 people  
and identified  
**£1,876,000**  
of benefits that  
weren't being  
claimed.

citizens  
advice

Darlington



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



# Celebrating giving people with dementia a voice

**A group dedicated to ensuring people with dementia are understood, included and able to live well has come together to celebrate its achievements and plan for the future.**

Organisations, businesses and representatives from dementia friendly communities joined the celebration at Darlington Hippodrome, which is working with the Alzheimer's Society to become dementia friendly.

Speakers at the event included Lorraine Dunn, 69, who was diagnosed with dementia seven years ago and is the lead for Dementia Voice Darlington, a peer support group, which works to dispel myths and give those living with dementia a voice in their communities.

She said: "Dementia Voice Darlington is all about empowerment and engagement in the community to help us find ways for people with dementia to shape how businesses and organisations can

better meet our needs. We are all different and have different needs."

The celebration event included a performance by the Reid Street Primary School Choir and the Rotakids Rotary group, who have both completed Dementia Friends information sessions to learn about people's experiences of living with dementia and the part they can play in making the community more dementia friendly.



**To get involved in making Darlington more dementia friendly, contact Belinda Williams on 07483 137521 or email [belinda.williams@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:belinda.williams@alzheimers.org.uk)**

Theatre Hullabaloo presents

# Hullabaloo in the Park

FAMILY FESTIVAL

July 26-30 2023

South Park, Darlington

Lots of fun!

Free activities every day!

Over 60 fantastic events!

Enjoy live performances, storytelling, making, adventuring, dancing, playing and much more!

For families with children aged 10 or under.

Ticketed performances, free drop-in activities and lots of things to see and do!

[theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](http://theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

Sign up to be the first to know the line-up!



THEATRE  
Hullabaloo

LOTTERY FUNDED  
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# Events in Darlington 2023

## June

Sat 10 June	11am - 3pm	Transformers	Town Centre
Fri 23 June		Armed Forces Day	Market Square
Sat 24 June	Noon - 5pm	Community Carnival	Stanhope Park

## July

Sat 1 July	10am	Emergency Services Day	Market Square
Sun 2 July	3pm	Proms In The Park	South Park
Thurs 20 July	11am - 3pm	GOLD Tea Dance	Market Square
Sat 22 July	10am - 4pm	Vintage Vehicle Rally	Town Centre
Mon 24 to Fri 28 July	11am - 5pm	Darlington By The Sea	Market Square
Sat 29 July		Tracks in Town Fest	Market Square

## August

Sat 5 Aug		James plus special guests	Darlington Arena
Sun 6 Aug	9am	Darlington Fun Run	Town Centre
	9.45am	Darlington Junior 3k	
	10.30am	Darlington 10k	
Sat 12, Sun 13, Mon 14 Aug		Darlington Pride	
Thurs 17 Aug		Billingham International Folklore Dance	Market Square
Mon 21 August		Darlington Wedding Fayre	Market Square
Wed 23 Aug		Library Takeover	Market Square
Thurs 24 Aug	11am - 3pm	Fairytales & Legends Day	Town Centre
Thurs 30 Aug	11am - 3pm	Making Sense Together	Town Centre
Fri 31 Aug	11am - 3pm	Dinosaur Day	Town Centre

## September

Sat 2 Sept		Last Train Home	Town Centre
Fri 8 to Sun 10 Sept		R&B Festival	Town Centre

For more information visit  
[ENJOYDARLINGTON.CO.UK](http://ENJOYDARLINGTON.CO.UK)

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DARLINGTON**



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