

one Darlington

March 2024



**The perfect backdrop for
your happily ever after**

pages 12-13

Stay safe.

Be water aware.



For useful water safety tips visit
www.ddfire.gov.uk/water-safety



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Welcome to One Darlington

As we welcome the imminent arrival of spring, there's an undeniable sense of renewal in the air. The days are gradually getting longer, and the promise of blooming flowers and warmer weather is lifting our spirits. March brings with it a burst of colours and a renewed sense of energy.

In the spirit of embracing change and growth, we are thrilled to share a significant milestone - our 50th edition! It's a testament to the incredible journey we've shared as a community.

One Darlington was launched back in September 2015, as a platform to connect neighbours, share stories, and celebrate our unique part of the world.

As we mark this edition, we want to thank everyone who has contributed, read, and supported us along the way. Here's to many more shared moments and stories to come. Turn to pages 8 and 9 for a look back at previous editions.

Spring often signals new opportunities, and in that light, we have an important update to share. Starting from the next edition, One Darlington will be changing to a quarterly publication. As we embark on this new chapter, rest assured that the essence of One Darlington remains unchanged. We're committed to delivering the same quality content we've always brought you, but now in line with the changing seasons, four times a year.

Here's to embracing the changing seasons, celebrating our 50th edition, and looking forward to a vibrant future for One Darlington.

Elsewhere in this edition, you can read about the upcoming elections in May and how to make sure you're registered to vote – see pages 6 and 7. We've had good news with the renewal of Purple Flag status for our town centre, meaning you can be sure of a great night out in Darlington. Read more on page 28.

We hope you enjoy the rest of this issue. Wishing you a splendid spring and looking forward to the next 50 editions together!



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One Darlington, Room 106, Town Hall, Darlington.

Email editor@onedarlington.org.uk

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

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



Have your say on our big plan for Darlington!

Councillor Stephen Harker, Leader of the Council, shares an update on the draft council plan.



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We will shortly be collecting people’s comments on the draft council plan for 2024-27.

The plan will set out our ambitions for Darlington over the next few years.

At its heart is our vision: Darlington is one of the best places in the UK to live, learn, work and invest – with a strong economy, healthy thriving communities and opportunities for all.

Three core values feed into the plan:

- Addressing inequalities
- Tackling the climate crisis
- Making efficient use of resources

The plan has three ambitions for Darlington:

- An inclusive and sustainable economy
- People living well and staying healthy
- Healthy places and connected communities.

Underpinning the vision and ambitions are six priorities. They are:

- **Economy** – A strong, diverse economy supported by a highly-skilled workforce, with opportunities for all
- **Homes** – Affordable and secure homes that meet people's current and future needs
- **Living Well** – A healthier and better quality of life for longer, supporting those who need it most
- **Children & Young People** – Best start in life, realising potential and raising aspirations
- **Communities** – Healthier, safer and more engaged communities
- **Environment** – A well-connected, clean and sustainable Darlington.

We all know what a wonderful place Darlington is, whether you’ve lived here all your life, or have moved to the area more recently.

We also recognise the challenges that we face, which is why we’re determined that this council will deliver the services Darlington people need.

Global challenges are having a big impact locally. Every day we see an increasing need for care and support, a cost-of-living crisis causing hardship for our residents and businesses, while public sector budgets continue to be under strain.

So it’s more important than ever that we work together with our staff and residents and with communities and local organisations to deliver action.

You can rest assured that we’re working hard to do exactly that.



To have your say on the council plan, simply scan this QR code with your smart device or visit



www.darlington.gov.uk/consultations

Printed copies of the plan will be available to view and comment on at the Dolphin Centre, Darlington Library and Cockerton Library.



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Dolphin Centre pool now open!

The main pool at the Dolphin Centre has reopened to swimmers following essential maintenance.

Work is continuing on the toddler pool and walkway, so please follow the signs when you arrive to get access to the pool.

The toddler pool, slides and poolside showers are still closed but will be available to enjoy later in the spring.

Councillor Matthew Roche, cabinet member for health and housing, said: "We have invested in maintenance work for the pool to ensure we have a pool that people can continue to enjoy for many years to come and I would like to thank everyone for their patience while the work has been taking place."

The pool programme is available at www.healthydarlington.gov.uk



Let's Move for a Better World 2024

The Dolphin Centre gym is once again hosting the Let's Move for a Better World campaign. Last year, this global challenge attracted over 50 countries from around the world, 1,300 facilities and over 100,000 participants in the quest to promote healthier living.

The idea is to use a piece of exercise equipment that is connected to the challenge, to generate MOVES to add to the gym's overall total.

The challenge has been running for over a decade and the Dolphin Centre gym has finished in the top five or higher in every event. You are welcome to come along and support our attempts to finish first in 2024! Every MOVE counts so please get involved.

Staff will be seeking the help of schools, clubs, colleges, teams and, of course, members and customers. Please look out for the events calendar which will offer free admission (single), live DJ sessions, bring a friend day and a whole host of other ways to get involved.

If you are part of a club, team, school or college, we would love to hear how you can support the challenge. Just pop into the gym for more information. For every million MOVES collected, Technogym will donate an exercise pack to a school or club nominated by gym staff. Last year, the Dolphin Centre gym racked up well over two million hits so it's all to play for!

Have your say in May!

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



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On Thursday 2 May, voters in Darlington will elect a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the Durham police area and a mayor for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA).

Voter ID

You are now required to show photographic identification (ID) when voting at a polling station. Accepted forms of ID include a UK passport, UK driving licence, older person's bus pass and disabled person's bus pass - it must be the original not a photocopy.

You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station

A full list of the acceptable forms of ID can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk and will also be listed on your poll card. Expired documents can be accepted as long as the photograph remains a true likeness of you.

If you don't have an accepted form of ID or you're not sure whether you still look like the photo on your ID, you can apply for a voter authority certificate either online, by post or in person. You must be registered to vote before you apply for a voter authority certificate. An application form is available from our elections office, or you can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

Registration, postal votes and proxy votes

You must be registered if you wish to vote in the elections. If you are not already registered you have until Tuesday 16 April to do so. You can do it online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, call the elections office on 406444 or email elections@darlington.gov.uk

You can also vote by post or appoint someone else to vote on your behalf (by proxy). The deadline for postal vote applications is 5pm on Wednesday 17 April, and for a proxy to vote it is 5pm on Wednesday 24 April. You can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote or you can use the application form on the next page or contact the elections office.

If you miss the post, you can hand in your postal vote and/or postal votes for up to five others at the Town Hall or at any polling station in the constituency before 10pm on Thursday 2 May. When handing in postal votes you will need to complete a form before they can be accepted.

More information can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/elections



The PCC oversees the running of local police services and holds the chief constable to account on behalf of residents.

The role involves ensuring an efficient and effective police service within the area; setting the force budget and determining the precept; setting police and crime objectives and publishing a police and crime plan that reflects those objectives.



The Mayor of the TVCA chairs a cabinet made up of the leaders (in the case of Middlesbrough Council the elected mayor) of the five Tees Valley councils - Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

The TVCA has responsibility for economic growth, transport, infrastructure, skills, business investment, housing, culture and tourism.

All residents who can vote at the TVCA mayoral election will receive a booklet about the role of the mayor before the election.

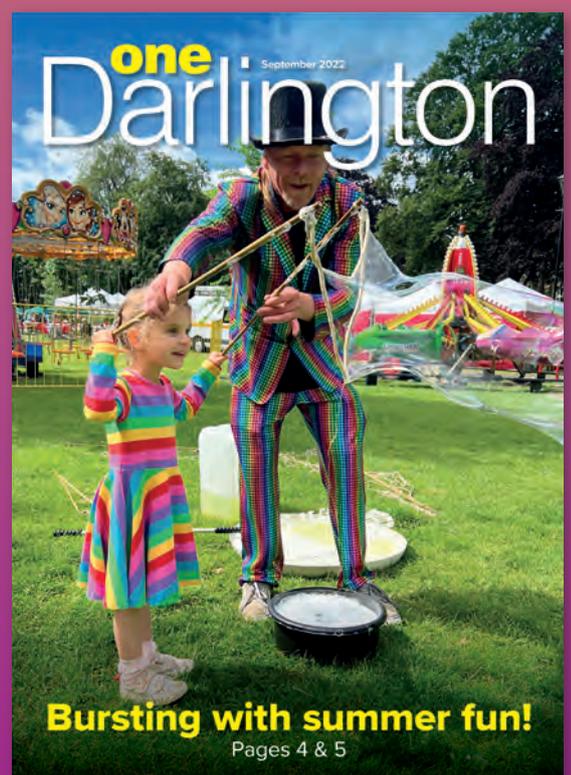
Fill out your postal vote application form today!

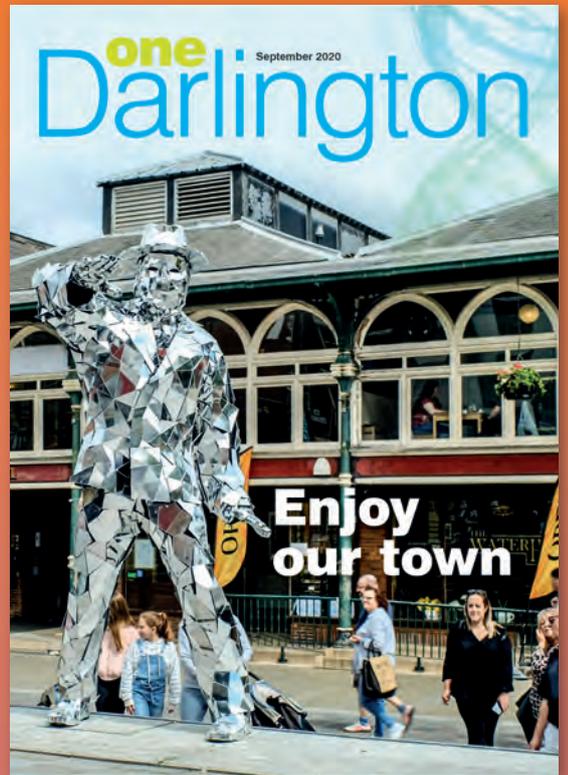
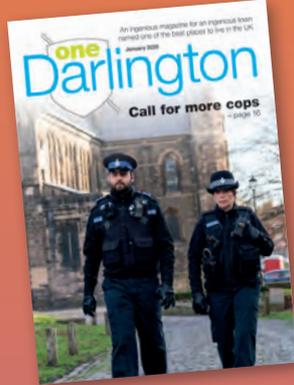
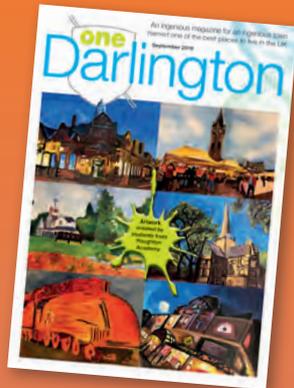


Half a century of

The first edition of One Darlington was published back in September 2015.

This month, we celebrate our 50th edition!

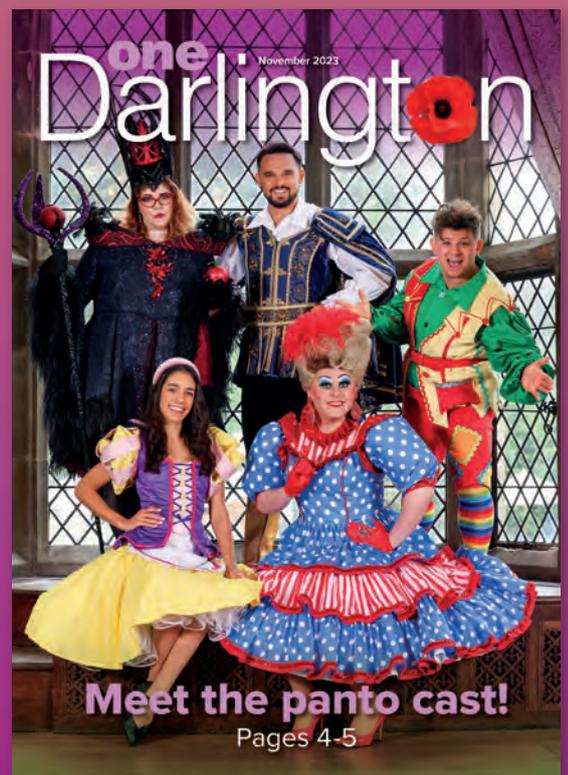
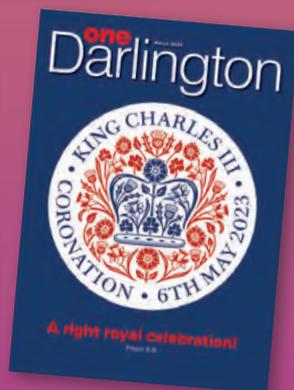
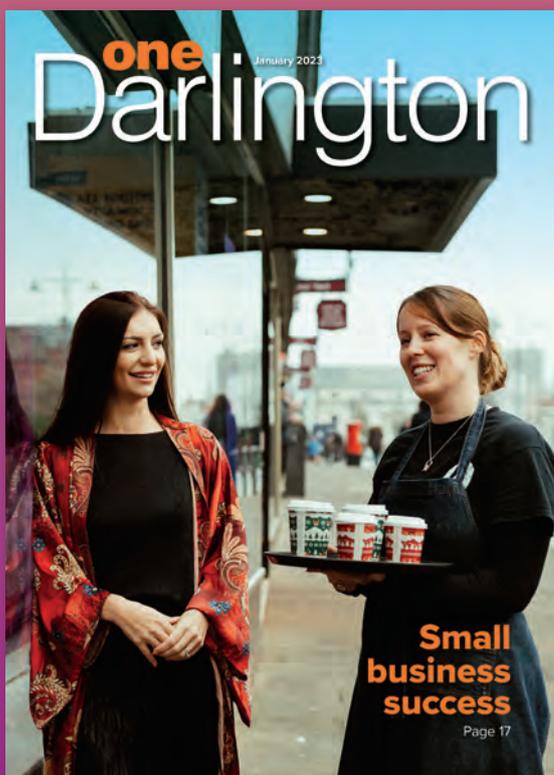
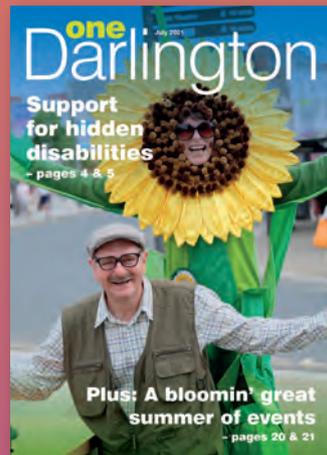




One Darlington!



To mark this milestone, we take a look back at some of the front covers from the past eight-and-a-half years. Thank you to everyone who has read and contributed to the magazine and here's to the next 50 editions!



Budget plans approved



The council's budget for the next financial year and our four-year medium-term financial plan were agreed last month.

Like many councils across the country, we are in a difficult financial position stemming from public spending cuts between 2010 and 2019, along with significant demand and inflation pressures.

The amount of Council Tax you will pay in 2024/25 was agreed by full council as part of the budget discussions.

Your Council Tax contributes towards a net investment of £128m in day to day services provided by the council.

We provide services for residents and businesses, which are summarised below.

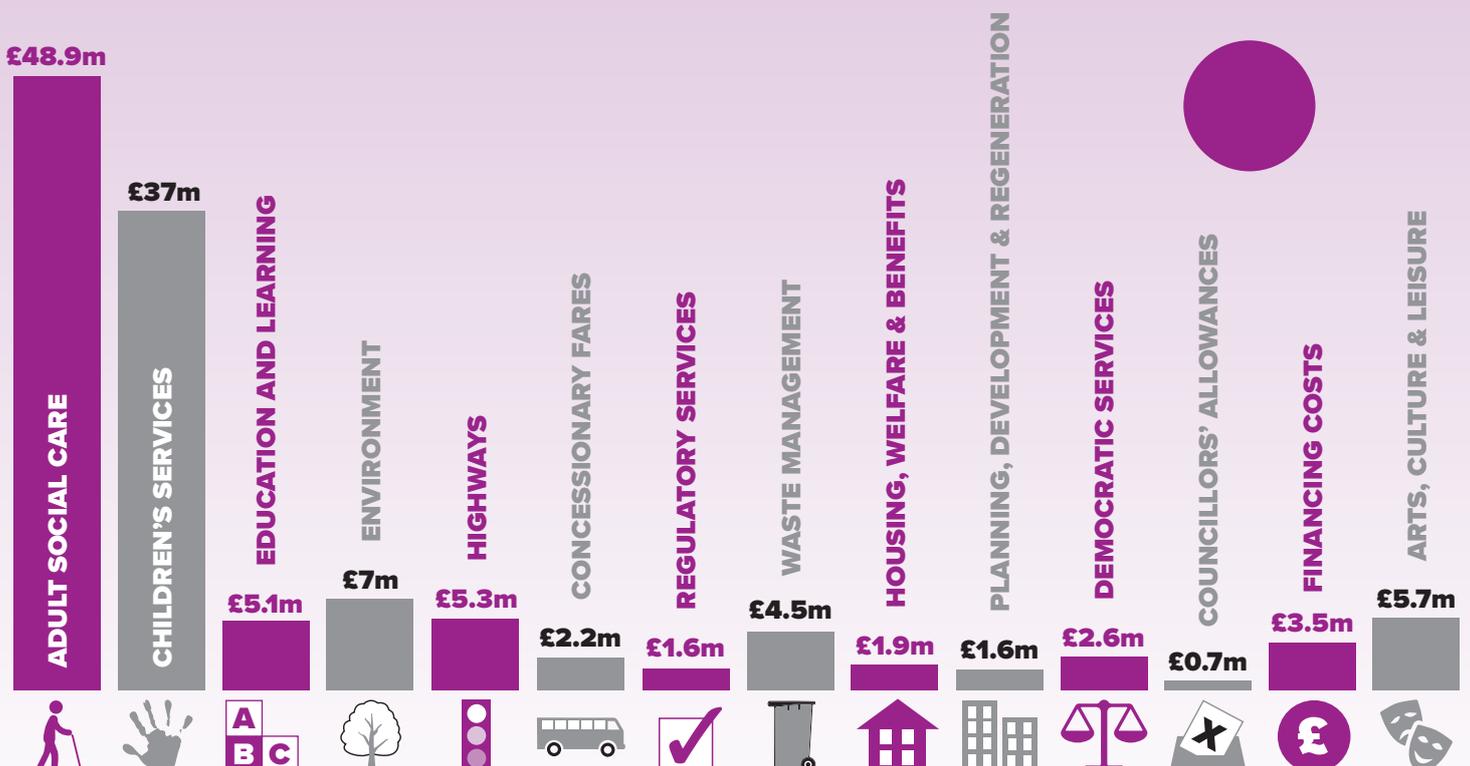
Our biggest area of spending is on adult social care and children's services, caring for the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Where will your money go in...

2024/2025



The largest area of our expenditure is on adults and children's social care - caring for our most vulnerable residents and children.



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- Click submit.

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Couple say at weddi

An invitation to model as bride and groom for a photoshoot ended in the happy couple tying the knot for real!

Annabelle Rose and Mark O'Shaughnessy from Durham have been together for four years. Annabelle responded to a plea on social media from our marketing department for two models to pose as bride and groom for a campaign to promote the work of the registrar office team and the town's licensed wedding venues.

Annabelle said: "We had originally booked our wedding for November 2025 so we could save up but then we started questioning whether it was worth spending so much on having a big do. It's the second chance of a happy marriage for both of us, we have two children, two dogs and a settled life. It seemed a lot of pressure and money to put on one day when we would just be returning to our normal lives.

"Whenever I broached the subject of us just running off to get married Mark had reservations, so we carried on with the 2025 plan.

"I saw the advert looking for models and just answered it on a whim as it sounded fun. When I was talking to the council's marketing team



y “I do” for real ng photo shoot

about the photoshoot I just said, ‘I wish you could marry us for real’ and they said ‘We can!’

“It was then a whirlwind to get everything ready in just over a month!”

Mark said: “I didn’t want Annabelle to regret not having a big day. We had a lockdown baby so missed out on a baby shower and other celebrations and I didn’t want this to be another missed chance but this suited us perfectly.”

The wedding took place in the newly refurbished Pease Suite in the Dolphin Centre: one of three council-owned properties which is licensed for marriages.

The registrar team also perform civil ceremonies in hotels and other licensed properties in the borough.

Straight after the wedding, Annabelle and Mark headed to the DC Bowl at the Dolphin Centre for afternoon tea and bowling before heading to the covered market for their reception, where they were joined by children Taylor, 14, and two-year-old Ellis.

Contact the registrar team to discuss your big day on 406400 or email registeroffice@darlington.gov.uk or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/weddings



Where to hold your civil marriage ceremony:

- The register office, Town Hall
- The Hippodrome Theatre
- The Dolphin Centre
- Darlington Arena
- Hall Garth Hotel
- Hotel Bannatyne
- Mercure Darlington Kings Hotel
- Redworth Hall Hotel
- Rockcliffe Hall
- Blackwell Grange Hotel
- Walworth Castle Hotel



Great result for jobs fair



We were delighted to welcome 1,500 people to the recent Darlington Jobs Fair in the Dolphin Centre.

The free event, which coincided with National Apprenticeship Week, boasted nearly 100 exhibitors including employers from both public sector organisations and private businesses.

Representatives from several support organisations were on hand offering help, advice and guidance to people seeking employment and experiencing barriers to finding work, with specific support available for veterans, people whose first language is not English and those

with qualifications from other countries. Local education and training providers were also on site, signposting people to appropriate learning opportunities.

If you're seeking employment, considering a new job or close to completing your education and were not able to attend on the day, you can find a copy of the Darlington Jobs newspaper at www.investindarlington.co.uk under 'How we can help' and 'Recruitment and skills support'.

The newspaper contains details and contact information for employers who exhibited at the event as well as articles giving tips and advice to help you in your job search.

Inspiring young minds

Around 70 students from colleges in Darlington attended the jobs fair and took part in a seminar about the civil service and local employment opportunities. The session, delivered by staff from Darlington Economic Campus (DEC), gave attendees an insight into working at the heart of government and covered topics including routes into employment and career structures. Young people also had the opportunity to hear from apprentices working at DEC, about their experience and the recruitment process.



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Employers who are keen to take part in future jobs fairs can register their interest via email to business.support@darlington.gov.uk



Children taking part in an activity at a previous event.

Renowned science exhibition STEMFest comes to town

Scientific industries are a significant and growing part of our local economy, offering high quality, well paid and exciting career opportunities for people living in and around Darlington.

This month, children from across the Tees Valley, and over 20 local schools, are being welcomed to Mowden Park Rugby Club to visit the renowned STEMFest exhibition, which seeks to inspire and encourage young people to pursue careers in industries including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Hosted by the North East STEM Hub and delivered by RTC North, in partnership with the council, the annual festival gives attendees the chance to take part in a series of fun-filled, hands on activities relating to different STEM careers, while helping them to make real world connections between what

they are learning in the classroom and the work environment.

Over 40 local STEM businesses will be supporting the two-day event, which is sponsored by Cummins, giving children the opportunity to meet real people doing real jobs, while highlighting the wide range of opportunities which are open to them and are a realistic prospect for their future.

Claire Willis, team leader for the North East STEM HUB, said: "I am delighted that STEMFest is coming to Darlington. There are so many north east companies working in STEM sectors which our future workforce isn't aware of. Through this event, we aim to enthuse and engage young people in STEM, highlighting not only the companies, but also the various career paths open to these young people, right on their doorstep."

Ground-breaking weight loss surgery

Patients in County Durham and Darlington are amongst the first in the country to benefit from a pioneering new procedure aimed at reducing weight and helping people with obesity.

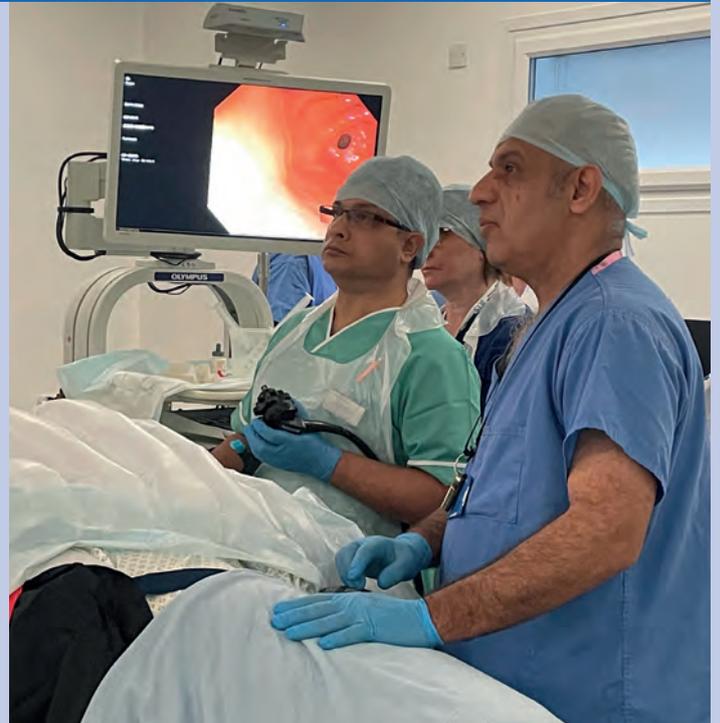
The procedure especially helps those who would benefit significantly from weight loss surgery but for whom the traditional surgical approach is too high risk due to pre-existing health conditions.

Professor Anjan Dhar, Consultant Gastroenterologist & Endoscopist explains: “Endoscopic sutured gastroplasty (ESG) is performed under general anaesthetic, using an endoscope (a small camera inserted into the patient’s stomach via their mouth). Attached to the camera is a tiny stitching device - a fine needle and permanent sutures. Using the camera to see what they are doing, the endoscopist stitches the stomach from the inside to shrink it to less than half of its normal capacity and reducing its food capacity. Whilst the normal stomach is usually able to expand following food, the procedure restricts expansion, meaning the patient will feel incredibly full after a small meal.

“Our specialists in bariatric, or weight loss, surgery, and endoscopy work as a team to perform this procedure – giving fresh hope to patients, which is enormously satisfying.”

Consultant Bariatric Surgeon, Mr Akeil Samier, adds: “Some people who have become very overweight are keen to undergo surgery as their obesity is causing or adding to other serious health conditions like diabetes, heart disease or stroke. Unfortunately, those health conditions can also make surgery by traditional techniques which involve an incision, too risky. This new endoscopic procedure can be life changing.

“Over 25% of the adult population in England has a body mass index (BMI) which classifies them as obese. A further 37% are classed as being overweight – that’s an incredible 62% of the population who are not a healthy weight. Being



overweight carries huge health risks including being more likely to develop type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure or cancer, heart problems or stroke and generally poorer health quality.

“Initially, we support people to develop a better diet but this doesn’t work for everyone.

“There are various weight loss surgical options which are performed using either keyhole or the more traditional incision techniques. However, being overweight makes surgery more risky and potentially more complicated. For overweight patients with some other medical conditions, the risk can become too high.”

Professor Dhar adds: “This new procedure doesn’t involve an incision so is much less risky. It brings the patient’s weight down gradually, from a BMI of around 40-45 to around 30, with a weight loss of around 12% in the first year. It’s so transformational around 30% of people using diabetes medication are able to come off it. There’s also evidence of a reduced risk of heart problems or stroke and of overall health improvement.”

Birthing pool reopens



We're delighted that the birthing pool at Darlington Memorial Hospital reopened on Monday 1 January this year.

The birthing pool offers a range of benefits, including pain relief, relaxation and a gentle environment for both mum and baby. Our dedicated team of healthcare professionals are there every step of the way to ensure a safe and positive birthing experience.

Whether you choose a water birth or not, our teams are committed to supporting you throughout your journey. Baby Emily, pictured here with mum, Clare, was the first baby to be born in the pool since it reopened. Clare said: "Using the pool was really beneficial and helped me cope throughout labour and delivery. It was a wonderful experience."

Our charity - together we care



County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Charity raises funds to support projects which enhance patient care and experience across our hospital and community services.

Its work would not be possible without the willingness of our local communities to support with fundraising, donations or legacy giving. Thank you - it really helps make a difference and we are very grateful. At Darlington Memorial Hospital, recent projects include a low-risk maternity suite providing a space where parents to be can relax in a home from home environment. We also added murals to the walls in the children's area of the emergency department, helping put younger patients at ease during their visit.

A big part of our fundraising work focuses on our annual events schedule and in 2024 we have some

exciting plans, open to all. We've recently organised an afternoon tea and shopping experience while the more active can take one of our coveted Great North Run places in September, join us to climb the Yorkshire three peaks in April, on a skydive in May or scaling the national three peaks in June – plus more besides.

Take a look on our website or follow the charity on social media for more information on these professionally organised activities, making memories to last a lifetime whilst supporting the care and experience of our patients.

To find out more contact the charity on:

01325 743781, email: cddft.charity@nhs.net

Facebook: @CDDFTCharity

Instagram: CDDFTCharity

CLUBS AND COM

To feature your community group or club, email editor@onedarlington.org.uk

Get involved and make a difference to your community

If you want to make changes and improve where you live, joining a local residents' association can be a great start.

There are several in Darlington that are there for all who live in the local area - you don't have to be a council tenant.

Pop into your local community centre to find out how you can get involved. If you can't get out and about easily there are still ways that you can join in.

Lascelles Park Residents' Association is run by a small group of volunteers and at over 50 years old, is one of the oldest of its kind in Darlington. Many fantastic projects have been completed by the group.

After a pause during the pandemic, when several of their devoted volunteers retired after decades of service, residents of Lascelles were asked "do you still want a residents' group?" and the answer was a definite yes!

Kerami Roberts, a new volunteer, described what they do: "Our number one job is to make people's lives better. This may be through spreading good news or dealing with local issues. We often have guests at our meetings who work in our community.

For example, our police community support officer, housing officers and local councillors who will hear our concerns, deal with them, then report back.

"We also fundraise for local projects such as our playground, developing the gardens of care homes, providing things for our young people to do and making living here better. Funds are raised either through bids to the council, the National Lottery or local businesses, for example.

"Everything is done by volunteers who work on behalf of our residents. Anyone over 18 who lives in the area and attends a meeting can have a say on where and on what the funds are spent. You don't have to attend every meeting, just pop in and see what's going on or to voice your concerns, we will listen to you!

"We use Facebook and also leaflets delivered through doors to keep everyone updated on what we're doing. We meet at 6pm at Rosemary Court care home, Blackton Grove, on the second Wednesday of each month except December and August. Our next meetings are on 10 April and 8 May. There is a warm welcome to all. Tell us your concerns and ideas and be part of it!"





The new Explorer Scout Unit in Hurworth was set up to meet the demand in the number of younger Scouts in the village wanting to move up to the next age group (14 to 17 years).



Since forming last October, the Explorer unit has already had some adventures, and more are planned including expeditions, hiking and learning survival skills. The Explorers meet on a Thursday, 7.30-9pm at the Scout HQ on Neasham Road, Hurworth. At times, the group meets away from the HQ so it's best to check before turning up.

Email angie.graham@darlingtonscouts.org.uk for more details and for younger age groups visit www.scouts.org.uk/join

Darlington Beekeepers Association has an open session at its site on The Denes on Tuesdays from 10am-noon. You can buy honey (while stocks last) and talk to members.

The association has two apiaries where members teach beekeeping and look after honeybees. The main apiary is in the Denes on the site of the old bowling green. Future plans include solar panels, a grey water system to flush the toilet and the building of an education suite. This will allow more schools to visit and will be used to deliver training courses and host visits from community organisations.

Search for them on Facebook or come along and meet them at the Eco Fair on Saturday 8 June – see page 31 for details.

Darlington Hockey Club coaches on Monday evenings, 6.15-7.15pm and 7.15-8.15pm at Carmel College. The club has three ladies and two men's teams as well as a boys and girls under 16 teams. They are keen to encourage more juniors to join this expanding part of the club.

For details search for them on Facebook or visit: www.darlingtonhockeyclub.co.uk

Darlington Ramblers Group hosts walks every Sunday taking in the Cleveland Hills, North Yorkshire Dales and village areas within Durham and North Yorkshire. Sunday walks are 5-10 miles. From May-August they host Wednesday evening walks 4-6 miles. Contact Bob King 07707 030164 or David Reed 350997 for details.



Pop along to the new Chatty Café which starts on Tuesday 16 April, 2-4pm and runs every week at Sainsbury's cafe Victoria Road.

The Chatty Café is the UK's leading non-profit organisation tackling loneliness.

It is open to anyone who wants to pop along. Volunteer Sue Harland said: "I am a retired nurse with 42 years working for the NHS. I enjoy the company of others and very much hope that this venture will help others to come together in a safe place to have a natter with folk they may not have had the chance to meet with otherwise. No refreshments will be provided but people can purchase refreshments at the cafe if they wish."

Why not call in on 16 April to find out more or visit: www.thechattycafescheme.co.uk

Enjoy what's on in

Spring and summer promises a whole new programme of events and activities to enjoy in Darlington.

For more details of what's on visit enjoydarlington.co.uk or follow the council on Facebook.

Want to be in the next edition of One Darlington? Email your events to editor@onedarlington.org.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.

Market quiz – every Thursday, 7pm, Darlington Market.

Live jazz/music – every Saturday, 7pm, The Vault (under Darlington Market). Free entry.

Lego Club Home Ed – second Tuesday of every month, 1.30-2.30pm, Darlington Library. Lego club for the home educated families of Darlington, free drop-in session, no booking required.

Dr Bike Sessions – every other Monday, from 18 March, 10am-2pm, Market Hall. Pop into town to get your bike checked out for free! Email darlingtonactivetravel@sustrans.org.uk or search Tees Valley Walking and Cycling Hubs on Facebook.



Active Travel Drop-in sessions – Tuesdays, 1-3pm, Darlington Libraries, Crown Street. Meet the travel team from Sustrans and find out more about walking and cycling in and around Darlington.

March

Live and Local – Patrick Green, The Undecided, That Clare – Thursday 14, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets/Entry £4.

John Hackett Band – Friday 15, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £15.

Definitely Oasis – Saturday 16, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £15.

Ben Fogle – Wild – Wednesday, 20, 7.30pm, Hippodrome. Tickets from £18.

Joel Stoker and Turncoat Billy – Thursday 21, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £20.

Fat Chance – Tuesday 26, 8pm, Hipp @ The Hullabaloo. Tickets £14.

The National Anthems (acoustic tour) – Friday 29, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £10.

April

Rhymetime adventure play – Tuesday 2, 9.30am (0-1 year) and 11am (1-4 years), Cockerton Library. Bookable via Eventbrite.

Meet the author – RJ Frazer – Tuesday 2, 1.30-2.30pm, Darlington Library. Bookable via Eventbrite.

Open Mic Night – Wednesday 3, 7.30pm, The Forum. Free admission.

Love Science Easter Workshops – Wednesday 3, 1-2pm and 2.30-3.30pm, Darlington Library. Bookable via Eventbrite.

Zoo Lab Easter Session – Thursday 4, 11am-noon, Cockerton Library and 1.30-2.30pm, Darlington Library. Bookable via Eventbrite.

The Upbeat Beatles – Thursday 4, 11am-noon, Cockerton Library and 1.30-2.30pm, Darlington Library. Bookable via Eventbrite.



Bon Jovi Forever – Friday 5, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £15.

Drop-in Easter crafts – Friday 5, 9am-5pm, Darlington Library. Free drop-in sessions.

Hilarity Bites – Saturday 6, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Lego Club Easter Special – Tuesday 9, 1.30-3.30pm, Darlington Library and Cockerton Library. Free, drop-in.

Locomotion Day – Wednesday 10, 10am-noon, Darlington Library. Railway-themed experiments and crafts. Free, drop-in.

Chris Mallon: An evening of psychological magic – Wednesday 10, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Meet Peter Rabbit – Thursday 11, 11am-noon Cockerton Library and 1.30-2.30pm, Darlington Library. Bookable via Eventbrite.

Rhymetime Adventure Play Easter Special – Friday 12, 9.30-10.30am (0-1 year), 11am-noon (1-4 years), Darlington Library. Bookable via Eventbrite.

Darlington

ENJOY DARLINGTON



R'n'B Club with Malone Sibun Band – Friday 12, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £15.

John P Taylor Band – Saturday 13, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12 advance, £15 at the door.



Milly Manders & The Shut UP – Thursday 18, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £15.

INXS UK – Friday 19, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

10CCLO – Saturday 20, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £13.



The Dunwells – Tuesday 23, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £15.

Sinatra: RAW – Wednesday 24, 7.30pm, Hippodrome. Tickets from £18.

Meet the Author, CJ Grayson – Tuesday 23, 7-8pm, Darlington Library. Bookable via Eventbrite.

Straighten Out (Stranglers tribute) – Saturday 27, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £11.

May

Open Mic Night – Wednesday 1, 7.30pm, The Forum. Free admission.

Green Days – Friday 3, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £10.

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club – Saturday 4, The Forum. Tickets £12.

R'n'B Club with Redfish – Friday 10, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £10.

Bookstart in the Park – Thursday 16, 10am-2pm, South Park. Free, drop-in.



Sex Pistols Expose – Friday 24, 7.30pm, The Forum. Tickets £12.

Contacts

Hopetown Darlington visit www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk call 405060, or email hopetown@darlington.gov.uk

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

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

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



darlington
credit union

Freshen up your finances with Darlington Credit Union

Saving feels good with our Save to Win account

- ➔ Open to **new and existing members** aged 18 and over.
- ➔ To qualify for entry into the prize draw you must have saved a minimum of £10 per month for the three months previous to the draw and **hold a minimum balance of £30 in your Save to Win savings account.**
- ➔ The quarterly prize draw will be made in the first three days of April, July, October and January. **Quarterly prizes = 1 x £100, 2 x £50.**
- ➔ Prize winners will be notified by email or text message within five days of the draw and the prize funds will be **credited to the winner's Save to Win account.**
- ➔ *For more information and how to apply, please visit our website. www.darlingtoncreditunion.co.uk*



**T&C's apply*

Payroll Deduction Scheme

- ➔ Our Payroll Deduction Scheme is a **free savings and loans scheme** that can help your employees to improve their financial well-being.
- ➔ It supports employees to achieve their financial goals as they **build up their savings and access affordable loans** if they need to borrow.
- ➔ It is a **great employee benefit, simple to set up** and since our first partnership in 2010 we have helped over five thousand employees across the Northeast navigate life's financial ups and downs.

If your employer is not already one of our payroll partners get in touch. We are offering a £50 incentive for anyone recommending a payroll partner who subsequently signs up to the scheme. Simply email info@darlingtoncreditunion.co.uk to find out more.



RABY



Join the movement



and more...



01325 529829



41 Tubwell Row, Darlington, DL1 1PD



Darlington Credit Union Ltd. is a limited company registered in England and Wales. Registered number: 213507. Registered office: 41 Tubwell Row, Darlington, County Durham, DL1 1PD.

Darlington Credit Union is regulated by the FCA and is authorised by the PRA.





Meet your customer services team

Our friendly customer services team is your first point of contact – whether in person at the Town Hall, by phone or online – for many of our services.

Our advisors strive to deliver excellent customer service when dealing with the wide variety of enquiries they receive from giving advice and guidance on StreetScene to logging enforcement issues, and everything in between.

You - our customers - are at the heart of everything we do and whether you need to report adult safeguarding concerns or tell us about a fly tip in your area, our advisors are here to help. Our vision is to be polite, professional, and to always try to help.

We are aware that not everyone can use our digital services, and we always consider your needs and how we can best help you access services.

You can contact us:

- Online
- Via email
- In person at the Town Hall with an appointment
- By phone.

When visiting the Town Hall we will provide you with access to telephones and equipment to help you get online. We will provide assisted self-service support if needed and always make sure that our waiting areas are accessible, clean, comfortable, tidy, and safe.

Did you know?

We have dedicated scan stations to allow you to upload documents, which you can also access from home via our website? We may need scans of your documents if we are talking to you about:

- housing
- blue badge
- council tax
- benefits
- business rates.

You can use a scan station at the Town Hall without an appointment. You will need your reference number to provide us with your documents.

For more information about the team, to access services and book an appointment, go to www.darlington.gov.uk/customer-services



We received 5,699 calls in January



We dealt with 1,217 face to face appointments

Contact numbers

Adult Social Care

406111

Benefits

405444

Births, Deaths and Marriages

406400

Business Rates

405666

Cemetery and Crematorium

406744

Children and Families

406222

Compliments, Comments and Complaints

406777

Council Tax

405555

Democratic and Elections

406444

Dolphin Centre

406000

Education and Learning

406333

Housing

405333

Licensing

405888

Lifeline

406888

Planning and Property

405777

School Admissions

405907 or 405909

School Transport

405904 or 405905

StreetScene and Environment

405111

Travel and Parking

405222

Youth Offending and Enforcement

406999

Can they fix it?

Yes, they can!



Whether it's a toaster that's not toasting, a kettle that's not boiling or a cherished family heirloom ornament that's broken in two, there's very little the repair team at Darlington Fixit Café won't try to mend.

The handy volunteers meet on the last Saturday of the month from 11am until 1pm at the hub, next to the Friends Meeting House on Skinnergate. The next dates for your diary are Saturday 30 March, 27 April and 25 May.

You can pop along with your broken item and one of the team will have a go at fixing it for you. Please don't take items that could easily be fixed elsewhere such as white goods or clothes. The cafe runs on a pay as you feel basis and there's tea, coffee, and cake on offer too!

Volunteer, Cat McConnachie, said: "The Fixit Cafe is run by people who like fixing things and want to share their knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm. Since we began, we've had all sorts through the door - a

clockwork toy, inflatable dinosaur, laptop hinge, fairy lights, vacuum cleaner, electric flosser, wheelchair blanket and lots more.

"People throw away vast amounts of stuff that could be repaired and given a new lease of life. Our team can make sure things are used for longer and not just thrown away. It saves money and reduces the amount of raw materials used to make new products. It cuts CO2 emissions, for example, because manufacturing new products and recycling old ones causes CO2 to be released."

Look out for the cafe on Facebook or call into the next session to find out more.

Although not organised by the council, the cafe contributes to the council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2040. This pledge covers all service areas, and we want to encourage residents and businesses to join us on our journey towards a greener and more sustainable future. More details are available at: www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable

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

Emailing councillors

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

For example, if you want to email Stephen Harker, type Stephen.harker@darlington.gov.uk

The only exceptions are Anne-Marie Curry (North Road), Andrew Anderson (Bank Top and Lascelles) and Rebecca Baker (Brinkburn and Faverdale) whose email addresses are shown with their contact details.

BANK TOP AND LASCELLES

Andrew Anderson (L) Tel: 07837 225041, Andrew.G.Anderson@darlington.gov.uk; **Helen Crumbie (L)** Tel: 07743 191014; **David Ray (L)** Tel: 07966 048647.

BRINKBURN AND FAVERDALE

Rebecca Baker (L) Tel: 07805 806420, Rebecca.E.Baker@darlington.gov.uk. West Park Academy, Monday 18 March, 15 April and Tuesday 21 May, 5-6pm. **David Beckett (L)** Tel: 07982 847837. West Park Academy, Wednesday 6 March and 3 April; The Brinkburn, Wednesday 1 May, 6-7pm. **Scott Durham (C)** Tel: 07805 505156. The White Heifer that Travelled, Tuesday 5 March and 7 May, 7-8pm; The Brinkburn, Tuesday 2 April, 7-8pm.

COCKERTON

Jan Cossins (L) Tel: 241124; **Jim Garner (L)** Tel: 241384; **Neil Johnson (L)** Tel: 07504 227351. Cockerton Methodist Church, Friday 8 March, 12 April and 10 May, 10-11am.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553; **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School, Monday 18 March, 15 April and 20 May, 6-7pm.

EASTBOURNE

Joe Dillon (L) Tel: 07939 221166. Pilmoor Green Community Centre, Monday 25 March, 29 April and Tuesday 28 May, 6-7pm. **Jonathan Dulston (C)** Tel: 07775 555251. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 6 March and 1 May, 3-4pm; The Wheatsheaf, Yarm Road, Friday 5 April, 5-6pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 20 March, 17 April and 15 May, 6-7pm.

HARROWGATE HILL

Roz Henderson (G) Tel: 07967 213584; **Richard Lawley (G)** Tel: 07779 993336; **Anna-Maria Toms (G)** Tel: 07954 719211. St Mark's Church Hall, Thursday 14 March, 11 April and 9 May, 6-7pm; Elim Pentecostal Church, Monday 25 March, 29 April and 27 May, 1.30-2.30pm.

HAUGHTON AND SPRINGFIELD

Chris McEwan (L) Tel: 07947 016598; **Dawn Storr (L)** Tel: 07543 159224; **Nick Wallis (L)** Tel: 07960 247554. Asda foyer, Saturday 6 April and 4 May, 10-11am.

HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Paul Crudass (C) Tel: 374537; **Gerald Lee (C)** Tel: 314622. Heighington Village Hall, Saturday 6 April, 10-11am; St Mary's Church, Piercebridge, Saturday 4 May, 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Kate Mammolotti (G) Tel: 07949 222733; **Thomas Robinson (G)** Tel: 07735 310357. Salutation Hall, Monday 25 March, 29 April and 27 May, 6-7pm.

HURWORTH

Lorraine Tostevin (C) Tel: 333382. **Paul Walters (C)** Tel: 722097. By appointment only on Tuesday 5 March, 2 April and 7 May, 5.30-6.30pm.

MOWDEN

Pauline Culley (C) Tel: 250482; **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106. Mowden Junior School, Monday 4 March and 15 April, 6.30-7.30pm.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998; **Sonia Kane (L)** Tel: 486754. Corporation Road School Community Hub, Monday 4 March and 22 April, 10-11am.

NORTH ROAD

Hilary Allen (LD) Tel: 480277; **James Coe (LD)** Tel: 07828 178276; **Anne-Marie Curry (LD)** Tel: 07531 304050, annemarie.curry@darlington.gov.uk. Morrisons café, Wednesday 13 March, 10 April and 8 May, 6-7pm; The Well, Wednesday 27 March, 24 April and 22 May, 1-2pm.

PARK EAST

Libby McCollom (L) Tel: 07910 369887; **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 07493 247327; **Matthew Roche (L)** Tel: 07403 208120. St Columba's Church, Tuesday 12 March, 9 April and 14 May, 1-2pm; Dolphin Centre, Thursday 14 March, 11 April and 9 May, 5.30-6.30pm; Skerne Park Community Centre, Friday 5 April, 6-7pm and Tuesday 7 May, 11am-noon.

PARK WEST

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

PIERREMONT

Stephen Harker (L) Tel: 380039; **Mary Layton (L)** Tel: 491802 or 07460 980776; **James McGill (L)** Tel: 07964 670793. Reid Street Primary School, Wednesday 6 March, 3 April and 1 May, 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Mandy Porter (L) Tel: 07962 363855; **Amanda Riley (L)** Tel: 07764 759554. Heathfield Primary School, Thursday 21 March, 18 April and 16 May, 3.30-4.30pm; Red Hall Community Centre, Thursday 14 March, 11 April and 9 May, 5-6 pm.

SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Deborah Laing (C) Tel: 07747 863297; **Colin Pease (C)** Tel: 07738 422776. Middleton St George Cricket Club, Tuesday 26 March, 30 April and 28 May, 7-8pm. **Yvonne Renton (I)** Tel: 07486 617516.

STEPHENSON

Ian Haszeldine (L) Tel: 07807 381613; **Mohammad Mahmud (L)** Tel: 07828 898799.

WHINFIELD

Jamie Barch (C) Tel: 07554 645651; **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. The Shuttle & Loom, Saturday 30 March, 27 April and 25 May, 11am-noon; Asda foyer, Saturday 18 May, 11am-1pm.

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

Office of the Tees Valley Mayor, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Teesside International Airport, Darlington, DL2 1NJ
Call 792600 or email mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

You can report anti-social or illegal motorbikes and off-road bikers anonymously.

Call **101** or
email opendurance@durham.police.uk



Work begins inside station



Work has started inside the railway station as part of the £140m plans to redevelop the site.

The work includes the creation of two new platforms, a car park and footbridge as well as changes to the layout of the existing station.

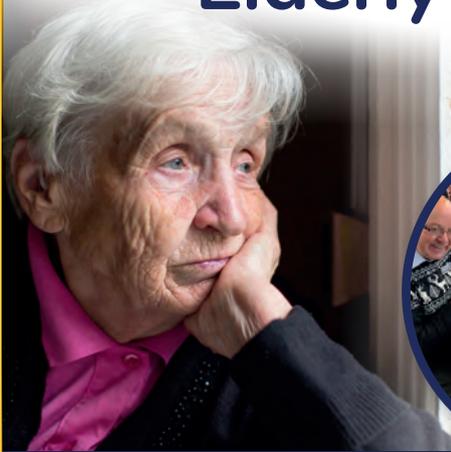
As work progresses, hoardings have been erected along platform 1 and seating moved to accessible parts of the platform. From Wednesday 6 March, the thoroughfare between platforms 1 and 4 will be closed off while work continues. Access to platform

1 will be clearly signposted around the south end of the station buildings by platforms 2 and 3. If you are catching a train please allow extra time to get to the right platform.

At the end of March, a new temporary ticket retail facility will also open opposite the existing travel centre and will stay open until the work is completed.

For the latest information, visit www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/news

Our Volunteers Help to Change Elderly Lives in Darlington



Apply Now and Make a Real Difference in 2024

Kindly Sponsored by Seaton Leng



e. marketing@darlingtontownmission.org.uk t. 07825 586113
f. [/Darlingtontownmission](https://www.facebook.com/Darlingtontownmission) www.darlingtontownmission.org.uk

A local charity trusted since 1838

Registered Address 3 Idaho Gardens, Darlington DL1 2RG - Reg.charity no. 235572



**Darlington
Town
Mission**
Enriching Elderly Lives



Lots of fun!



Theatre Hullabaloo presents

Hullabaloo

in the

Park

FAMILY FESTIVAL

July 26-28 2024

South Park, Darlington



Fantastic creative activities!



There's so much to see, make, do, and play with at this years Hullabaloo in the Park!

Save the date and sign up to the newsletter to be the first to know the line-up and ticket news.

We can't wait to see you there!

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



THEATRE
Hullabaloo



TUCA | Tees Valley Mayor

Darlington
Building Society



theatrehullabaloo.org.uk

Easter bins

All bin collections will remain the same over the Easter bank holiday weekend. Please put your bins out before 7am on your normal collection day. Garden waste collections will start again in April, www.darlington.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Seed Swap

If you're a keen gardener, allotment holder, or want to get started on growing your own fruit, veg and flowers, call into the Darlington Library and check out the new seed swap section. It's self service and you can leave spare seeds and swap them for ones that you want. Drop-in sessions will take place in The Study at Darlington Library from 10am-noon on 22 March, 19 April, 10 May and 8 June.

Prostate testing

Free blood tests to check men's prostate health will be available at the Freemasons Hall, Archer Street, on Saturday 16 March, 11am-4pm. Organised by Prostate Cancer Support and Darlington Lions, the tests are free, although a donation would be appreciated. To book visit www.mypsatests.org.uk/events or call 01942 419959.

Darlington flagged as a great night out



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

For the fifth year in a row, Darlington has been flagged as a great place for a night out.

Nationally, the evening economy is worth over £66bn annually and is a major part of our local economy. Following a thorough reassessment process, conducted by the Association of Town and City Management, we have once again been awarded Purple Flag status.

Similar to the Blue Flag scheme for beaches and the Green Flag for parks, the accreditation identifies towns and cities which offer a safe, welcoming, and diverse night time economy. The accreditation has only been awarded to 100 destinations globally and represents the gold standard of evening and night time leisure and entertainment.

The rigorous reaccreditation process involved written submissions, public feedback and an inspection by a team of experts who were impressed by the town's blend of entertainment, dining and culture, as well as the council's commitment to the safety of local residents and visitors. Services including Number 40, which offers a safe space for people who feel vulnerable or who are unwell on a night out, and the town's upgraded CCTV system and control room, received special mention from assessors.

Other factors considered as part of the reaccreditation process included evidence of strong partnership working, the range of leisure and entertainment options, the quality of customer care and the wellbeing of visitors including how easily people can move around the town and get home safely.

Learning & Skills Darlington

FREE courses for 16-18 year olds - Sign up today!

Learning & Skills Darlington provide pre-employment and pre-apprenticeship courses 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 into further education or employment. There are also many opportunities for work experience, educational visits, and days out too! No entry requirements are needed!

FREE Adult Maths, English, ICT and Distance Learning L1, L2 and L3 qualifications

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

Study with Learning & Skills for FREE!

2 to 3 hour classes per week / online and classroom based sessions / accredited qualifications / free from start to finish.

Do you need to upskill or learn something new?

We offer over 35 FREE qualifications via distance learning. Scan the QR code to see our full offer.



Apprenticeships

Becoming an apprentice is easy! With no upper age limit, apprenticeships are available for anyone aged 16+, who is looking to **start a new career or upskill in your current role**. Develop your knowledge, skills and behaviours, through high quality on and off the job training with Learning & Skills Darlington. Employers across the Tees Valley and surrounding areas are looking to employ new apprentices across a variety of industries and sectors. What are you waiting for? View local apprenticeship vacancies today! Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/apprenticeships **Employers:** Are you an organisation wishing to upskill current members of staff or create an apprenticeship position for a new entrant? Contact us to arrange a discussion about funding and various grants available.

Learning & Skills



CALL 405601 TEXT 07932 869325 EMAIL l@s@darlington.gov.uk

WEB www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills

 [@DarlingtonL_S](https://twitter.com/DarlingtonL_S)

 [DarlingtonL_S](https://www.instagram.com/DarlingtonL_S)

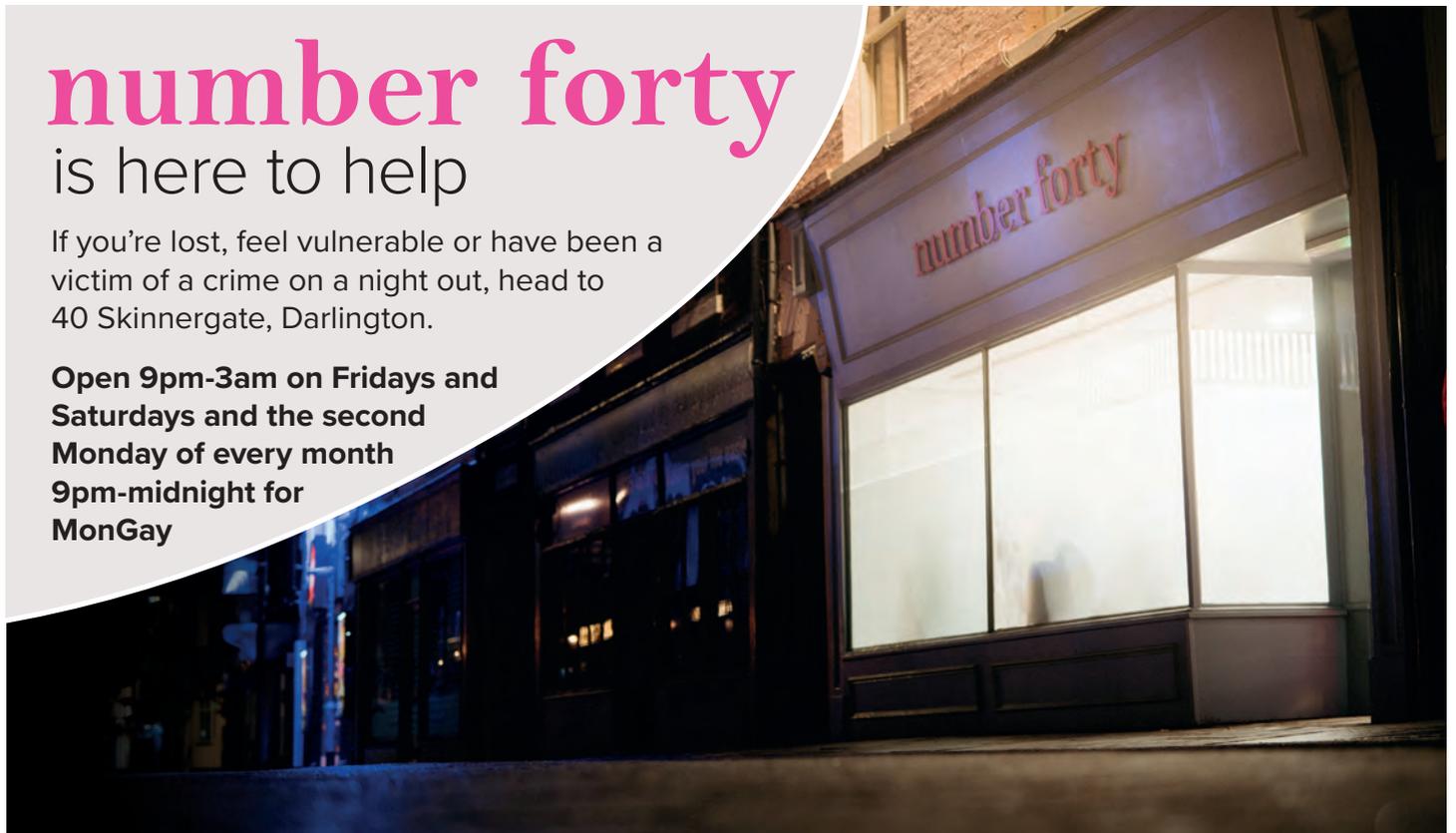
 [Learning & Skills](https://www.facebook.com/Learning%20%26%20Skills)

 [07932 869325](https://api.whatsapp.com/send?phone=07932869325)

number forty is here to help

If you're lost, feel vulnerable or have been a victim of a crime on a night out, head to 40 Skinnergate, Darlington.

**Open 9pm-3am on Fridays and Saturdays and the second Monday of every month
9pm-midnight for MonGay**



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



www.darlington.gov.uk/numberforty



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



Trauma informed Group Support

Emotional Support Line

Emotional Support Email

Outgoing Support Calls



Thorough Specialist Training

Development Opportunities

Ongoing Support and Supervision

No experience required

Do you want to be involved with the area's Specialist Sexual Violence Service?

We are looking for volunteers to help run our Emotional Support Services, and to co-facilitate our Group Work

Your skills and compassion can make a huge difference to survivors of sexual violence

Charity Number: 1164121

- ➔ To request an information pack or to discuss these opportunities further please contact our Support, Prevention and Volunteering Manager: Kate@rsacc-thecentre.org.uk
- ➔ Further information can be found on our website: www.rsacc-thecentre.org.uk/support/volunteer

Have you experienced sexual violence? Or are you supporting someone who has?

We provide specialist, confidential, non-judgemental telephone and email emotional support to anyone aged 13+



0300 222 5730



support@rsacc-thecentre.org.uk



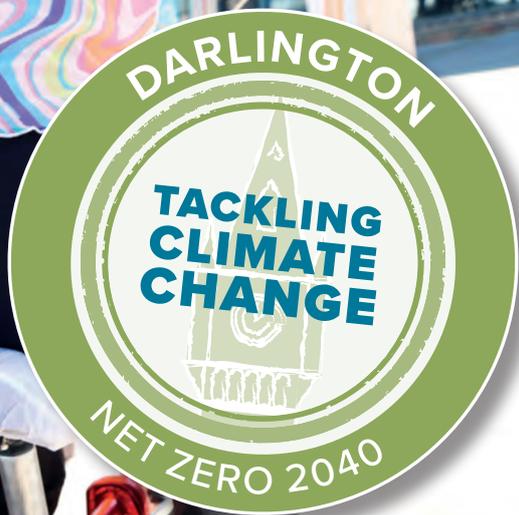
For more information and support line opening hours please scan the QR code



All calls and emails are anonymous - we will only know what you choose to share with us



www.rsacc-thecentre.org.uk
Charity Number: 1164121



Free family fun at Eco Fair



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Enjoy a planet friendly day of free family fun in the Market Square and around the town centre on Saturday 8 June, 10am-3pm.

There'll be free arts and crafts, face painting, seed planting and swapping, cycle-powered smoothie making, bird food making, water refills, storytelling, photo galleries and much more to explore. Browse the stalls for local food, beauty products, jewellery, crafts and information on how you can live in a more planet-friendly way. There will also be local volunteering opportunities on offer.

Meet the teams from Northumbria Water, Water Aid, Sustrans, Arriva, The Woodland Trust, Queensway Dentist and Darlington Beekeepers. You can explore different themes of water, transport, energy, food, wildlife and nature and find out how you can look after yourself and the planet.

Find out more about your carbon footprint on the eco activity trail with free stamping points and prize offers across the town or take a wildlife wander and learn more about the nature on your doorstep.

Check out the event section on www.enjoydarlington.co.uk for more details and keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates.

This event will contribute to the council's pledge to become carbon neutral by 2040. This pledge covers all service areas, and we want to encourage residents and businesses to join us on our journey towards a greener and more sustainable future. More details are available at www.darlington.gov.uk/sustainable



Foster carers needed

Could you help a child in their time of need? We urgently need foster carers.

You get paid for a child in your care and the benefits are so rewarding. To find out more visit www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Mental health matters

The theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week is moving more.

Take a walk, cycle ride, or join in one of the many classes available at the Dolphin Centre.

If you, or someone you know, isn't feeling themselves talk to your GP or visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Stress awareness

Is your to do list endless? Do you always seem to be rushing around with little time to relax?

Stress is a significant factor in problems with our mental and physical health. April is Stress Awareness Month.

For information, tips and support visit www.stress.org.uk



New rules for business recycling

New national recycling rules are being introduced for businesses across the country.

The simpler recycling reforms, announced last year, mean all businesses with more than ten employees, must have separate food waste and recycling collections in place by the end of March 2025. The same rules apply for organisations such as hospitals and schools

The reforms, which will establish standard recycling rules across the country for businesses and, eventually, for households, mean businesses must have a separate food bin, refuse bin and recycling bin.

Businesses with ten or more employees must implement these changes from 31 March 2025 whilst those with fewer than ten full-time employees have until 31 March 2027.

Under the new scheme, recyclable materials which must be separated from general waste, include:

- Glass such as drinks bottles and rinsed empty food jars
- Metal such as drinks cans and food tins
- Plastic such as rinsed empty food containers and bottles
- Paper such as old newspapers and envelopes
- Cardboard such as delivery boxes and packaging
- Food waste including tea bags, coffee grounds, leftovers or waste generated by food preparation (there is no minimum amount for food waste).

We will be in touch with all businesses who we collect trade waste from with details of how the scheme will work and as the deadline approaches we will update our website at www.darlington.gov.uk/businesswaste with everything you need to know.

All waste carriers will be following these new rules so if you use another company to collect your rubbish please contact them for details of how they will be implementing the new scheme.



100 years of Darlington Operatic Society at the Hippodrome

Darlington Operatic Society (DarlingtonOS) is celebrating a remarkable 100-year association with Darlington Hippodrome showcasing the arts and entertainment industry.

This year marks the centenary of a special meeting between representatives of DarlingtonOS and Signor Rino Pepi, managing director of Darlington Hippodrome, to sign a formal agreement to present annual shows at the venue. Barring World Wars, theatre closure, restorations and global pandemics, the society has presented top class performances at the theatre every year since.

To commemorate this remarkable milestone, DarlingtonOS is hosting a year-long celebration of performances and events, honouring its rich history and looking to the future. The celebrations will showcase the magic, talent and creativity that have flourished at the Darlington Hippodrome.

The society is made up of a talented group of volunteers who sing, play music, dance, help with props, costumes and technicals. To find out more, check out their website.

Chairman of DarlingtonOS, Julian Cound, said: "To have persevered and thrived for a hundred years alongside Darlington Hippodrome is an extraordinary accomplishment. We are immensely grateful for the opportunity to have played a part in our community's cultural journey, and we are truly excited to continue enriching and inspiring performers and audiences for generations to come."

Details of all shows at Darlington Hippodrome can be found at www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

DarlingtonOS presents *Kinky Boots* the musical from Wednesday 1 to Saturday 11 May. For tickets call 244659 or visit www.darlingtonos.org.uk



Darlington Market:

Darlington indoor market is a well-loved and historic local landmark. In recent years, significant investment has been made to preserve its heritage whilst making sure it remains relevant and used by residents and visitors.

Together with Market Asset Management (MAM), which operates the market, we have completed work to update and repair the building, introducing a new food hall and The Vault - an American style speakeasy bar.

The latest phase of works is due to complete this spring and our vision for Darlington Market is now becoming a reality. Thirteen artisanal kiosks, hosting an exciting mix of food, drink and retail traders, are restoring the 'market buzz' to the venue; creating a traditional

market alongside newer concepts to cater for every taste.

With new businesses moving in all the time, the market continues to grow in size and popularity, bringing retail, hospitality and leisure together under one roof, and offering a vibrant and welcoming space for people of all ages.

The last few remaining units are being marketed, offering an exciting opportunity for small and ambitious young businesses who want to be part of the town's future success.

Throughout 2024, you can expect to see a number of exciting developments including a series of speciality markets and extended opening hours for our street food vendors.



Visitors enjoying Diwali celebrations at the indoor market

The place to be



An award winning start to 2024

The year got off to a great start, with Darlington Market being crowned as the best indoor market in the UK, at the prestigious Great British Market Awards.

The annual event, which is organised by the National Association of British Markets, showcases the best in market excellence and Darlington beat stiff competition in its category, being recognised by judges for its 'positive impact on the high street, support for local businesses, and commitment to fostering community engagement through diverse events.'

Raymond Linch, managing director of MAM, said: "We're very proud of what we've achieved at Darlington Market during a very short space of time. Markets provide a place for everybody, irrespective of background. They can act as the heart of a community and that's precisely what we're seeing at Darlington."

Tale of two delis

Alongside the market's range of street food outlets are two brand new delis, offering high quality produce to eat in or take away.

Urban Deli opened at Darlington Market in Autumn 2023 and is already proving to be a fantastic success. The specialist retailer is the third outlet at the market operated by Ory Vanes, and focusses on quality and local food, with the vast majority of items being sourced from within 50 miles of Darlington. Tasty treats on offer include local dairy produce, baked goods, artisan ingredients and a range of pickles and preserves.

Meanwhile acclaimed chef, Matei Baran, who appeared on BBC's MasterChef, is set to open a continental style deli selling produce including cheeses, meats and meze dishes. Matie explains: "Being a chef isn't just a job for me; it's a lifelong love affair with food. The MAM team shares the same passion as I do for good food and its ability to bring communities together. I can see the vision for what Darlington Market is becoming and it's very exciting to be a part of that."

If you are interested in finding out more about retail opportunities at Darlington Market, please email michelle.hobson@marketassetmanagement.com



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DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Support for survivors of domestic violence

Family Help has relaunched its monthly peer support group, designed to help female survivors of domestic abuse support and empower one another.

The group, led by experienced support workers, meets at Newcastle Building Society, 7/8 Horsemarket on the first Monday of every month from 1-2.30pm. It is a safe space for women to discuss their worries, concerns and experiences with others who understand what they're going through in an informal setting.

Some of the sessions include arts and craft activities as it has been proven that getting creative is beneficial in helping people open up, share their experiences and support one another.

Family Help has been providing specialist domestic abuse support for women and children in Darlington for almost 50 years. To find out more the peer support group email contactus@familyhelp.org.uk or call 364486.

We rise by lifting others.

ROBERT INGERSOLL



**WOMEN'S PEER
SUPPORT GROUP**

FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Every first Monday of the month
1pm - 2.30pm

Newcastle Building Society
7/8 Horsemarket, Darlington, DL1 5PW



To find out more, contact Family Help:

contactus@familyhelp.org.uk
01325 364486



We're here for you evenings and weekends

NHS



AFTER HOURS



What is Enhanced Access?

Did you know that since 1 October 2022, Darlington Primary Care Network (PCN) has offered access to appointments on weekdays and evenings, 7.30am-9pm (Mon-Thur), 6:30am-8:30pm (Fri), and weekends and bank holidays, 8am-8pm. This is part of NHS England's Enhanced Access offer whereby appointments are offered outside of practice hours at a registered Darlington Primary Care Practice; these appointments may not be your usual practice and could be with our subcontracted partner, Primary Healthcare Darlington, based on Woodlands Road.

Please note that Enhanced Access appointments are **NOT** emergency appointments; they must be booked in advance and are intended for those who cannot access their practice during usual practice hours. You can book an Enhanced Access appointment by speaking with a receptionist at your local practice. Depending on the nature of your issue, you will be referred to the most appropriate healthcare professional within Darlington PCN, which includes doctors, nurses, and healthcare assistants.

What is the Darlington Primary Care Network (PCN)?

Darlington PCN consists of 11 practices and a federation (Primary Healthcare Darlington) working together to offer local healthcare services across the town. Visit our website to learn more at www.darlingtonpcn.co.uk

New Enhanced Access Appointments Available in Darlington

Based on local data/evidence, Darlington PCN has introduced 3 new services to its Enhanced Access offer, which are delivered by Darlington Primary Healthcare (Woodlands Road) and include:

- **Women's Health Clinic:** Saturday 1-5pm (offers specialist advice from female GPs on areas such as menopause, HRT, post-menopausal bleeding, coil fits for HRT or bleeding issues (not contraception), and ring pessary fits for patients who require a change of their device).
- **Ear Micro-Suction:** Bi-weekly Sunday 9am-12.30pm (offered to patients where ear syringing is not appropriate. Appointments can be arranged via registered GP practice, please note, that a telephone consultation is required by a nurse prior to this procedure).

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER DARLINGTON



Eating healthy starts early!

Early years professionals, such as childminders and childcare providers, are being encouraged to apply for the Healthy Early Years (HEY) catering award. The aim is for anyone working with children and families to ensure the healthy choice is the ‘normal’ choice.

It is important that food offered in early years settings provides appropriate amounts of energy and nutrients and encourages the development of healthy eating habits in young children, to support growth and development.

Starting early with tasting, smelling and touching a range of fruits and vegetables in a relaxed way can have a huge impact on children’s willingness to try new foods as they grow. Encouraging children to eat well and learn about food in their early years not only protects their health when they are young, but also sets the foundation for their future health and wellbeing.

There are criteria to guide childcare providers to achieve the HEY award. The guidance is flexible, as every setting is different, and there is no set time scale from applying for the award to completing it.

Darlington College childcare centre achieved the HEY catering award in October 2022. A spokesperson said: “We wanted to have a focus on healthy lifestyles and working toward the achievement was exciting and is now something we are very proud of.”

Kayleigh Watson, manager of West Park Out of School Club, said: “We are so happy that we applied for the award as it gives the parents and carers who use us confidence in the food we are preparing for their children and the healthy messages we share. It’s easy to apply for and I recommend the award to other settings in Darlington.”

Find out more about the Healthy Early Years Catering Award

If you’re a childcare provider, find out more and how to apply at www.darlington.gov.uk/hey



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



ROCK CLIMBING

WATER SPORTS

HAF

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD

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Free holiday activities during the Easter holidays* for young people aged 5 - 16 years who receive benefit-related free school meals!

For more information, to check eligibility and to book visit www.darlington.gov.uk/HAF
email movemore@darlington.gov.uk
call 405400

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move more
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a Healthy Darlington service