

Giving their personal best

Darlington South Park parkrun celebrated its fifth anniversary in December. The weekly timed 5km run takes place every Saturday at 9am from the park's bowling green.

It is free, you just need to register, at www.parkrun.org.uk/register, and print off a barcode.

The event wouldn't happen without volunteers, from on the day roles such as marshalling, timing and scanning, to the behind-the-scenes jobs like sending emails and results processing, there really is a role for everyone.

Darlington parkrun has had 713 different volunteers helping out over the last five years; if you've been one of them – thank you!

Volunteering at parkrun is great fun and there are always experienced volunteers on hand to offer simple training on the more technical roles.

You can be any age to volunteer, although children must be accompanied by an adult.

There is also an established programme for Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.



Volunteers celebrate Darlington parkrun's fifth anniversary. Picture: Karen Harland

For a list of volunteer roles, visit www.parkrun.org.uk/darlingtonsouthpark/volunteer or email darlingtonsouthparkoffice@parkrun.com if you'd like to offer to help.

Disabled badge holder parking charges

From 8 January, disabled badge holders will no longer be able to park for free in council car parks. Charges for each car park are next to pay and display machines.

Charges for disabled badge holders have applied at Feethams Multi Storey car park since it opened.

The decision to charge blue badge holders was made in 2016 and is now being put into practise.

An equality impact assessment was carried out, and the following measures were agreed to reduce the potential negative effects:

- New pay and display machines introduced which accept coin, card and contactless payments
- Disabled badge holders will be able to transfer hourly tickets between short stay car parks. Daily and weekly tickets can be transferred between long stay car parks. To transfer tickets, the disabled badge and ticket must be displayed side by side in the vehicle



- There will be a month's grace for drivers who park without paying. Notices will be placed on vehicles to advise of the change.

This change will not apply to vehicles parked in on-street pay and display bays. Disabled badge holders will still be able to park there for free.