

one Summer 2024
Darlington

HOPETOWN
- D A R L I N G T O N -

*The north's
newest visitor
attraction*

OPENS 16 JULY

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Borough Council

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DISCOVER DARLINGTON'S STORY OF ENGINEERING, IDEAS AND INVENTION

Here's what's at

HOPETOWN

- DARLINGTON -



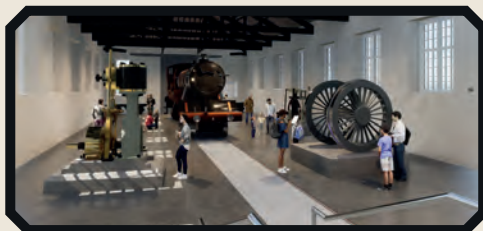
Wagon Woods

Based on the ingenious Brusselton Incline - a Georgian feat of engineering - Wagon Woods features walkways, bridges, slides, a multi-level play structure and lots of railway-themed features in an immersive outdoor adventure play experience.



North Road Station Museum (built 1842, Grade II* listed)

This 1840s Victorian station retains its original features and showcases a brand-new permanent exhibition exploring Darlington's internationally significant 200-year railway heritage.



Carriage Works

(built 1853, Grade II listed)

Visit the Brick Journeys exhibition in the Exhibition Hall (sponsored by Darlington Building Society) and explore our vast collection of over 30,000 railway objects in The Stores (sponsored by Bussey & Armstrong).



Experiment!

Located on the station platform and using the latest technology, Experiment! is a railway-themed, time-travel immersive experience ride. An unrivalled opportunity to discover Darlington's railway heritage and its influence across the world.



Darlington Locomotive Works

Live engineering in action!

Visit the viewing gallery to see the UK's newest steam locomotive 'Prince of Wales' under construction.



Goods Shed

(built 1833, Grade II* listed)

The gateway to Hopetown Darlington. The Goods Shed offers visitors a warm welcome, cafe and shop. You'll also find a number of railway themed interactive experiences.

Welcome to One Darlington

Welcome to your summer edition of One Darlington! This is the first edition we've put together since changing our distribution cycle from six to four editions a year. From now on, One Darlington will be aligned with the seasons, rather than the months of the year. So here's to summer 2024!

We're now just weeks away from the grand opening of Hopetown Darlington, our new multi-million pound rail attraction – don't miss our special four-page wraparound for full coverage.

As well as the opening of Hopetown, we're also anticipating another sizzling summer of wonderful events in the town centre. While we can't make any accurate predictions about the weather – and it would be foolish to even try – we can promise a packed events programme, with something to suit everyone's interests.

Later this month, we've got top-class cycling coming to the town centre, with a leg of the 2024 British Cycling National Circuit Race Championships taking place. Turn to page 5 for full details. A full round-up of the rest of the summer's events can be found on pages 8 and 9, with the usual What's On listings on pages 20 and 21.

If you love watching live music, chances are you've been to a gig at The Forum at some point. Turn to page 31 to find out about this fantastic venue's ambitious investment plans.

Elsewhere this summer, we're putting the spotlight on our scheme to build 150 new council homes in Neasham Road. See page 4 for full details. We've also got a full round-up of the council's improved financial offer to foster carers – find out more on page 28.

Whatever you get up to this summer, we hope you have a wonderful time. Thanks for reading One Darlington. Our autumn edition will be out in October – see you then!



Inside this issue

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- 37** Workforce development

One Darlington, Room 106, Town Hall, Darlington.

Email editor@onedarlington.org.uk

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

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

Rainbow over
the town centre



Rob Galt and Richard Dodgson at the Neasham Road site

Building better homes

Work is well underway on our scheme to build 150 new council homes at Neasham Road. Here we put the spotlight on two of the team involved in the project.

Construction manager Richard Dodgson, 45, has worked in the industry on and off for 27 years. “I joined the council in 2020, becoming a site manager in 2021 and moving to my current role last October. The council offered me the opportunity to advance my career, providing invaluable training and support. There’s a very supportive culture within the organisation at all levels of management and I’d certainly recommend it to others.

“Being a part of the team improving the town’s housing stock and providing affordable homes to those who need it feels very rewarding. I’m very proud of the standard and quality of the homes we’re creating, they’re spacious and have a standard of finish which can rival any of the private housing developments.

“The attention to detail, finish and quality is incredible and generally they’re up to 20% larger than market competitors.

“They’re not only great quality, but also provide great communities for our tenants to feel safe living in.”

Apprentice joiner Rob Galt, 22, joined the team in 2020 and is now in the third and final year of his apprenticeship. “It’s been great, and one of the best things has been the variety of work – I’ve been involved in the new bowling alley at the Dolphin Centre and the

pool revamp, the library refurbishment and now these new homes.

“I’d definitely recommend it. It’s a good team and the camaraderie is great.

“Working on the new homes has been really good. It’s great to see the whole process, seeing them come together from start to finish. I’ve been involved at every stage from the roof supports; doors, skirting and architraves to fitting the kitchens.

“I’m sure those who come to live here will love it – they’re lovely, warm homes built to a good standard in a great location.”

The Neasham Road site is part-funded with £7.35m from Homes England and follows the success of the council’s new build schemes at Lingfield. It includes a mixture of rent and rent-to-buy properties offering a first step to affordable home ownership, with 64 two-bed apartments, 24 two-bed houses, 43 three-bed houses and 19 four-bed houses.

The first properties will be available this summer and the project is due to be completed by the end of 2025.

Matthew Roche, cabinet member for health and housing, said: “Providing more affordable homes is a key priority for the council. I’d like to thank Richard, Rob and all of our amazing in-house team for building such quality houses, which will offer decent homes for local people for generations to come.”

**For more information visit www.darlington.gov.uk/housing
and if you’re interested in joining our team visit www.darlington.gov.uk/jobs**



TEES VALLEY

Darlington will welcome the UK's best cyclists in June as the British National Road Championships will come to Tees Valley.

The town centre will be the location for this year's circuit races, with riders taking on a tricky technical route on Friday 21 June.

The race is part of a new partnership between British Cycling and Tees Valley Combined Authority which aims to grow cycling and tourism links in the region.

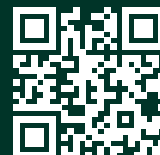
The circuit races will take place on the evening of Friday 21 June in Darlington town centre, which successfully hosted the start of two stages of the Tour of Britain in 2008 and 2009. Megan Barker and Ollie Wood will be hoping to retain their national circuit race titles after famous victories in last year's event in Redcar.

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen said: "This fantastic partnership will further bolster our area's growing reputation as a superb cycling destination, and we look forward to again welcoming the nation's best riders as they take on these attractive but also highly demanding routes."

"We are continuing to grow our visitor economy and this deal will deliver millions of pounds in spending which will provide a boost for our great restaurants, coffee shops, hotels and bike shops."

"Events such as this not only showcase the best of what our area has to offer, but also are a great way to encourage people of all ages to get on their bikes in Darlington."

This year's event follows a successful first national championships in Tees Valley in 2023. This year's road races will be held in Redcar and Cleveland on Sunday 23 June, with riders starting and finishing in Saltburn.



Scan QR to find out more or visit

www.visitteesvalley.com/cycling-championships



PLAGUED BY ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR FROM BIKERS?

**Don't suffer in silence –
make your voice heard**

Report anti-social behaviour anonymously:

Call 101

Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

www.darlington.gov.uk/asb



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



number forty is here for you

If you are on a night out and you're lost, alone or feeling vulnerable, Number Forty can offer you a safe space.

Whether you need water, a phone charger, first aid or to report a crime, our volunteers are on hand to help.

Open 9pm-3am on Fridays and Saturdays, and 9pm-12am on the second Monday of the month for MonGay.

40 Skinnergate, DL3 7NR



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



For more information or to volunteer,
email safeststreets@darlington.gov.uk or visit
www.darlington.gov.uk/numberforty

Make summer in Darl



We're looking forward to a summer of making memories. The 2024 events calendar is full of free, family-friendly events to keep everyone entertained during the school holidays.

Visit enjoydarlington.co.uk and keep an eye on Facebook for the latest details and more events. All information is correct at time of publication but is subject to change.

Darlington Community Carnival – the theme of this year's carnival is British wildlife. Community groups will be parading from the town centre to Stanhope Park where there will be a host of stalls, games and free entertainment for the whole family. From 10am-5pm on Saturday 29 June.

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 and enjoy music for all ages and tastes. Bring a picnic and settle in for a relaxed afternoon of fantastic live music. The event is free and you will need to bring something to sit on. From 3-7pm on Sunday 7 July.

GOLD tea dance – the annual tea dance will take place on Wednesday 17 July in the Market Square. There will be music, dancing and lots of stalls with information for our older residents. This free event will run from 11am-3pm.

Vintage vehicle rally – head down to the town centre from 10am-4pm on Saturday 20 July to see an array of beautiful vintage vehicles and chat to their owners.

Darlington by the Sea – we're bringing the beach back to the Market Square for five days of sun, sea and sand. Free sandcastle building, seaside activities, entertainment and arts and crafts. From 11am-4pm on Wednesday 24 to Sunday 28 July.



er memories ington

Darlington 10k – join runners from across the country on Sunday 4 August as they pound the town centre streets. Take part in the fun run at 9am, junior 3k run at 9.45am, and the 10k at 10.30am. To enter the runs visit www.enjoydarlington.co.uk/10k

Library takeover – the libraries team is taking over the Market Square for a day of entertainment, storytelling and authors to celebrate everything great about reading on Wednesday 7 August, 11am-4pm.

Darlington Pride – get ready for a three-day Pride extravaganza! There'll be a Pride march, live music and street theatre on Saturday 10 August, the family-friendly Pride in the Park picnic event on Sunday 11 August in South Park, and MonGay in the town centre bars on Monday 12 August.

Making sense together – a day raising awareness and support for people with a learning disability. Various activities and information throughout the town centre on Thursday 15 August, 11am-3pm. For more information check out the accessible visual welcome information at www.enjoydarlington.co.uk

Fairytales and legends day – we are sprinkling a little bit of magic throughout the town on Thursday 22 August. Dress to impress, meet and greet some of your favourite characters and join in the free entertainment from 11am-3pm in the town centre.

Dinosaur day – step back in time as Jurassic creatures roam around the town centre on Thursday 29 August. There will be a host of dinosaur activities and live entertainment in the Market Square from 11am-4pm.



Turn
to pages
20 and 21
for more
events
listings

Full steam ahead for Hopetown!

The grand opening of Hopetown Darlington - the region's newest visitor attraction - is now just a few weeks away.

Residents have watched the project take place over the past year or so, with staff looking forward to welcoming visitors.

Darlington's story of engineering, ideas and invention will be laid out across the 7.5-acre site, with lots to see and do. Check out our four-page wrap at the front and back of this issue for full details.

The Stockton and Darlington Railway opened on 27 September 1825, transforming the world



by connecting many places, people and communities for the first time. Ahead of a year of celebrations marking 200 years since the first passenger railway, we are delighted to be opening Hopetown Darlington – a unique visitor attraction.

The historic 1833 Goods Shed, with its artisan café and shop, will be visitors' first impression when they enter Hopetown Darlington. Younger visitors will enjoy exploring Wagon Woods, the railway-themed immersive

outdoor adventure play park. And there's so much more to explore, with something for everyone.

The fun starts on Tuesday 16 July.

Plan your visit at www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk

Council Plan latest

Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation on the draft Council Plan – more than 300 of you shared your views.

We're taking time to analyse the responses and feed them into a final draft of the plan, before it is considered by Full Council in July.

Visit www.darlington.gov.uk/councilplan for more information.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

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, Tuesday 18 June, 16 July, 20 August and 17 September, 5-6pm. **David Beckett (L)** Tel: 07982 847837. The Brinkburn, Wednesday 3 July, 7 August, 4 September and 2 October, 6-7pm. **Scott Durham (C)** Tel: 07805 505156. The White Heifer that Travelled, Tuesday 2 July and 3 September, 7-8pm; The Brinkburn, Tuesday 6 August and 1 October, 7-8pm.

COCKERTON

Jan Cossins (L) Tel: 241124; **Jim Garner (L)** Tel: 241384; **Neil Johnson (L)** Tel: 07504 227351. Cockerton Methodist Church, Friday 14 June, 12 July, 13 September and 11 October, 10-11am.

COLLEGE

Bryony Holroyd (G) Tel: 07570 776553; **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School, Monday 17 June, 15 July and 16 September, 6-7pm.

EASTBOURNE

Joe Dillon (L) Tel: 07939 221166. Pilmoor Green Community Centre, Tuesday 25 June, 23 July, 27 August and 24 September, 6-7pm. **Jonathan Dulston (C)** Tel: 07775 555251. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 3 July and 4 September, 3-4pm; The Wheatsheaf, Yarm Road, Friday 7 June, 2 August and 4 October, 5-6pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday, 19 June, 17 July, 21 August, and 18 September, 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 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September and 10 October, 6-7pm; Elim Pentecostal Church, Monday 24 June, 29 July, 26 August and 30 September 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 July, 3 August, 7 September and 5 October, 10-11am.

HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

Paul Crudass (C) Tel: 374537; **Gerald Lee (C)** Tel: 314622. Heighington Village Hall, Saturday 6 July, 10-11am; Brafferton Village Hall, Saturday 7 September, 10-11am; St Edwins Church Hall, Saturday 5 October, 10-11am.

HUMMERSKNOTT

Kate Mammolotti (G) Tel: 07949 222733; **Thomas Robinson (G)** Tel: 07735 310357. Salutation Hall, Monday, 24 June, 29 July, 26 August and 30 September, 6-7pm.

HURWORTH

Lorraine Tostevin (C) Tel: 333382. **Paul Walters (C)** Tel: 722097. By appointment only on Tuesday 2 July, 6 August, 3 September and 1 October, 5.30-6.30pm.

MOWDEN

Pauline Culey (C) Tel: 250482; **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106. Mowden Junior School, Monday 1 July, 2 September and 7 October, 6.30-7.30pm.

NORTHGATE

Sajna Ali (L) Tel: 405998; **Sonia Kane (L)** Tel: 486754. Corporation Road School Community Hub, Monday 1 July, 2 September and 7 October, 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 12 June, 10 July, 14 August, 11 September, and 9 October, 6-7pm; The Well, Wednesday 26 June, 24 July, 21 August and 25 September, 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 11 June, 9 July, 13 August, 10 September and 8 October, 1-2pm; Dolphin Centre, Thursday 13 June, 11 July, 8 August and 10 October, 5.30-6.30pm; Skerne Park Community Centre, Tuesday 2 July, 6 August, 3 September and 1 October, 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 3 July, 4 September and 2 October, 6-7pm.

RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

Mandy Porter (L) Tel: 07962 363855; **Amanda Riley (L)** Tel: 07764 759554. Heathfield Primary School, Thursday 20 June, 18 July, 15 August and 19 September, 3.30-4.30pm; Red Hall Community Centre, Thursday 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September and 10 October, 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 25 June, 30 July, 27 August and 24 September, 7-8pm. **Yvonne Renton (I)** Tel: 07486 617516.

STEPHENSON

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

WHINFIELD

Jamie Bartch (C) Tel: 07716 680109; **Andy Keir (C)** Tel: 07597 297654. The Shuttle & Loom, Saturday 29 June, 27 July, 31 August and 28 September, 11am- noon; Asda foyer, Saturday 17 August, 11am -1pm.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

CLUBS AND COM

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



Floral gold for Geoff

A 50 year love of dahlias and chrysanthemums has scooped Geoff Gardener national and international awards.

Geoff's love of the flowers was sparked by watching his dad grow them in the garden and blossomed when he saw an advert for the Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Show in 1972 and went along to take a look.

"I have been a member of The National Dahlia Society (NDS) and the Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society (DCDS) for 50 years.

"Based in the UK, The NDS is the biggest dahlia society in the world, and I have been chairman of the northern committee that looks after members from the midlands to the Scottish borders, for 17 years. At our annual general meeting last March, I was awarded the NDS gold medal for services to the dahlia, one of only five ever to be awarded to

northern members since the society was founded in 1881.

"Earlier this year the DCDS, of which I am chairman, awarded me the National Chrysanthemum Society silver medal for long service to the society.

Following this I was proud to be awarded the American Dahlia Society (ADS) silver medal, the first to be awarded to a member of the northern committee since the ADS was founded in 1915."

DCDS meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Darlington and Simpson Rolling Mills Club, Longfield Road. For more details, email darlingtoncandd@talktalk.net

You can pop along and admire their work for free at their Bank Holiday show on Monday 26 August, 11am-3.30pm at St Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, North Road.

Darlington Amateur Gardening Club

Meets monthly on Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm, at the Willow Road Community Centre.

Founded over 30 years ago, the club hosts a range of speakers on topics such as beekeeping, fungus growing and flowers. Members host plant sales, a summer show, and social events including day trips and meals.

Membership is £12 per year, meeting fees £2.50 for members and £5 for visitors which includes refreshments. Contact Julie Ross: julie@familyross.co.uk or pop along to the next meeting on 19 June.



On course for Junior Golf Academy

The ACED Junior Golf Academy is based at Blackwell Grange Golf Club and, with over 100 members, is one of the biggest in the area.

Open to juniors aged between five and 17, it offers coaching throughout the week with the emphasis on fun as well as technique, course etiquette, discipline and making new friends.

Juniors play on their dedicated course before moving up to the main course. They have teams in local and regional competitions and also run girls golf rocks to encourage everyone to take up the sport.

New members are always welcome. Contact Aaron Cox on 464458 or email aaron@acedgolfacademy.com, visit www.acedgolfacademy.com



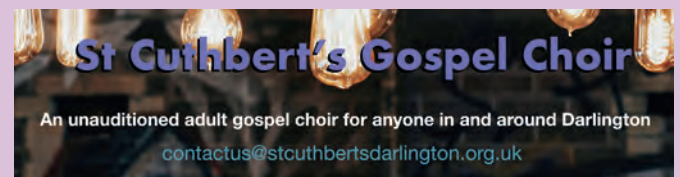
St Cuthbert's Choir is launching three new gospel choir groups all based at St Cuthbert's Church Centre, term time only.



Soul children - for ages 8-12 with songs, movement and fun, Wednesdays, 4-5pm.



Youth choir - for ages 12-18, Mondays, 4.30-6pm.



Gospel choir - for anyone 18 and over, Thursday evenings, 7.30-9pm.

Darlington Squash Club is located close to Darlington Retail Park off Yarm Road, DL1 4PU, and hosts a club night every Sunday from 5.45pm.

Established more than 50 years ago, the club caters for all ages and abilities for socialising and playing the game at all levels. They have an in-house gym and run junior coaching sessions every weekend. A great way to keep fit – a game of squash can burn up to 1,000 calories!

For details, visit darlingtonsquashclub.co.uk or search on Facebook.

Stay safe.

Be water aware.



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



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service



Altogether Better Policing



ROYAL
LIFE SAVING
SOCIETY UK



Free children's summer outdoor activities

This summer we are coming to a field near you! Check out these fantastic, free sports and games for children aged 7-12 years.

Fancy a game of rounders, a kick about or a team challenge?

Check out the timetable below to find your nearest location.

They will run at the same time each week over the summer holidays, from Monday 29 July to Friday 30 August.

No need to book, just turn up and join in!

Don't forget suitable clothing, sun cream and a bottle of water.

	9.30 - 11.30am	12.30 - 2.30pm	3.30 - 5.30pm
MONDAY	Hurworth Grange - football pitch	Skerne Park - football pitches	Red Hall - grassed area near community centre
	Hummersknott - field opposite school	Fryers Field Whinfield	
TUESDAY	Springfield Park - football pitch	North Park - near bike track/football pitch	
WEDNESDAY	Heighington - sports pitches	North Lodge Park	Eastbourne Park
THURSDAY	Middleton St George - play park and field	Lingfield Green	
FRIDAY	West Park - near Comets Garth entrance	Firth Moor Green - opposite community centre	
	The Denes - near the tennis courts	Albert Hill - near park	

For more information on ways to get active visit darlington.gov.uk/movemorejourney



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Take steps to cleaner air



Get involved in Clean Air Day on Thursday 20 June.

Did you know air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK every year? Poor air quality can aggravate existing lung conditions such as asthma and heart disease, especially in younger and older people.

Air pollution is all around us; in the environment from traffic, industry and farming, and our homes from the fuel we use to cleaning products we buy.

There are lots of ways to get involved in Clean Air Day. One very simple way is to leave the car at home for the day and get walking or cycling more.

Becoming more active can also improve your health and reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and mental ill health.

If you need help to get started, check out the Active Travel sessions – every Tuesday, 1-3pm, in Darlington Library

or contact our travel advisors who can also advise on local bus and train travel. Email traveladvisors@darlington.gov.uk or call 07966 883805.

Walking and cycling more or taking the bus, also helps to tackle climate change by reducing the amount of fossil fuels burned and released into the air.

We've made a 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

Visit www.actionforcleanair.org.uk for more information on air pollution including an online calculator to work out how much air pollution you could be causing.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council





Looking into potholes

We're responsible for the maintenance of more than 574km (366 miles) of roads – this includes identifying and repairing potholes. We are not responsible for potholes on the A66 and A1, private roads or shop car parks.

In a typical year we repair between 6,000 and 8,000 potholes.

We inspect urban roads for potholes every three months and rural and town centre roads every 30 days, determining how urgently each pothole needs repairing.

If a pothole on a road is less than 40mm (1.6in) or less than 20mm (0.8in) on a footpath we won't repair it but we will keep inspecting it to make sure it doesn't get worse.



We do not repair potholes on a street-by-street basis; we repair them according to the level of urgency. This means we may come and repair the biggest and most urgent potholes on a street and come back at a later date to repair less urgent ones.

Although we do all we can to keep the roads and pathways safe, we need you to help by reporting potholes via our online report system www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit or call 405222. When you report a pothole, we will send someone out within 24 hours to determine how urgently it needs repairing.

Once inspected, if it meets the criteria, the pothole will be either repaired within 20 days or five weeks. The most dangerous potholes will be repaired within 24 hours. Our pothole filling team is out all day throughout the year.

You can find out more and see how many potholes we repair a month at www.darlington.gov.uk/potholes

Maternity services progress



We are pleased to share that our maternity services have made significant progress in the latest Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection, moving from an inadequate rating to requires improvement.

This positive move marks a step forward for our services, affirming our commitment to providing high-quality care to expectant mothers and their families.

While we acknowledge this accomplishment, we recognise that we have more to do and our

commitment to excellence drives us to continually strive for the highest standards of care.

We will continue to listen to feedback from patients, families, and staff to identify areas where we can make further improvements. Our aim is to ensure that every family feels supported, empowered, and safe throughout their maternity journey.

We value the voices of expectant mothers, pregnant people and their families, NHS, and we are dedicated to actively involving them in decision-making processes.

The Trust remains rated as good overall.

Investing in our facilities

We are constantly improving our facilities to ensure patients receive not only the very best care, but also the best experience.

It's also important to us that our talented and hardworking staff have the very best working environment. A number of major improvement projects are underway or have recently been completed.

These include an expanded and updated endoscopy suite at Bishop Auckland Hospital, the demolition of much older, unused buildings at University Hospital of North Durham, to make way for new buildings in the future, and a significant expansion of our outpatient facilities at Darlington Memorial Hospital.

We will continue to invest in our facilities to ensure they are of the highest quality.

APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE DURING THIS PERIOD OF IMPROVEMENT

NHS
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

Proud to be providing
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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 help and support with fundraising, donations or legacy giving. Thank you – it really helps make a difference and we are very grateful.

At Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) alone, recent projects include five low-risk maternity suites providing a space where parents-to-be can relax in a home from home environment, provision of mood tube lighting and neonatal admission bags. We also provided a range of sensory toys to our paediatric ophthalmology area and in our children's emergency department, helping to 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, and competed in the Yorkshire Three Peaks, with our Hadrian's Wall Trek and Scafell at Sunrise challenges still to take place. We'd love it if you can join us! To find out more about upcoming professionally organised events, take a look on our website or follow the charity on social media, making memories to last a lifetime whilst supporting the care and experience of our patients.

Website: www.cddftcharity.co.uk

Contact the charity team on: 01325 743781

Email: cddft.charity@nhs.net

Follow us on social media:

 @CDDFTCharity

 CDDFTCharity

Annual General meeting 2024

This year, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place at Durham Cricket Ground, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3QR, on Thursday 24 October. Immediately prior to the AGM, you're invited to come and meet some of our teams and services in our information marketplace event. At the AGM itself you'll join the Trust Board as we look back on our performance in 2023/24 with an open question and answer session at the end for members of the public. You can find out more, including how to reserve your place, via our website – cddft.nhs.uk

Award winners!

- A collaborative between our gastroenterology, endoscopy and bariatric surgery teams - the first of its kind in the North of England, offering innovative weight loss procedures, and hope, to many patients – has received national recognition. Following a highly competitive process, the new service has been 'highly commended' by the British Society of Gastroenterology in its annual awards.
- A joint project between County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and Philips won bronze in the Environmental Sustainability Project of the Year Category at the HSJ Partnership Awards. The project aims to reduce the carbon footprint and material waste in the Intensive Care Unit at DMH.
- Durham Hospital Radio, which is run entirely by volunteers and recently won two national awards in the innovation and multi-presenter categories.

Enjoy what's on in

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

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 for October-early January to communications@darlington.gov.uk

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

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.

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.

Darlington Locomotive Works open day – first and third Saturday of every month, 10am-3pm, Bonomi Way. Free entry and car parking.

June

Space to Play – Monday 3 – Saturday 8, 10am-2pm, Theatre Hullabaloo. Free, drop-in activity.

Imagination Playground creative play installation – Monday 10 – Saturday 7 September, 10am-2pm, Theatre hullabaloo. Free, drop-in activity for 0-10 years and their grown ups. Come along and discover a whole world of building possibilities with super-light foam building blocks.

Darlington RnB Club , The John Amour Trio – Friday 14, 7.30 pm, The Forum. £15.

Family open day – Saturday 15, all day, Darlington Fire Station. Celebration of 50 years of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service. Enjoy a behind the scenes glimpse at firefighter life, firefighter rescue displays, a chance to sit in a fire engine and tour vintage engines as well as music, games, funfair rides and food stalls.

Who's Next? A tribute to The Who – Saturday 15, 7.30pm, The Forum. £13.

What The Bulter Saw – Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22, 7.30pm evenings, 2pm Thursday matinee and 2.30pm Saturday matinee, Darlington Hippodrome. Age recommendation 14+.

Paul Rogers Story – Friday 21, 7.30pm, The Forum. £12.

KVN Dance Company presents Coppelia – Sunday 23, 7.30pm, Darlington Hippodrome.

The Haunting of Blaine Manor – Thursday 27 – Sunday 29, 7.30pm evenings and 2.30pm Saturday matinee, Darlington Hippodrome. Age recommendation 10+.

Darlington Community Carnival – Saturday 29, 10am-5pm, parade from Market Square to Stanhope Park. For updates follow Darlington Community Carnival on Facebook.

July

Alanis: Jagged Little Pill Live – Friday 5, 7.30pm, The Forum. £12.

Darlington Orchestra Summer Concert – Saturday 6, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm), Central Hall, Dolphin Centre. Tickets £7/£5 available from venue. For updates, follow the orchestra on Facebook and Instagram

Proms in the Park – Sunday 7, 3pm start, South Park bandstand. Free. Bring along your picnic and settle down for an afternoon of music. There will be a collection in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

Awful Auntie – Thursday 11 – Sunday 14, evenings and matinees available, Darlington Hippodrome.

RnB Club w/Midnite Johnny Band – Friday 12, 7.30pm, The Forum. £13.

Karnataka – Saturday 13, 7.30pm, The Forum. £15.

Brick Journeys – Tuesday 16 – Thursday 3 October, daily during opening hours. £5 per person. Take a journey of land, sea, air and, of course, rail, through LEGO® bricks at Hopetown Darlington's opening exhibition.

GOLD Tea Dance – Wednesday 17, 11am-3pm, Market Square. Free. Kindly sponsored by HC-One, tea and biscuits supplied by Ringtons.

Alex Fawcett Band – Friday 19, 7.30pm, The Forum. £10.

Vintage Vehicle Rally – Saturday 20, 10am-4pm, Market Square and town centre. Free.

Heaven in the Afternoon – Sunday 21, all day, Market Square. Free. Music on the Market Square.

The Mousetrap – Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27, 7.30pm evenings, 2pm Thursday matinee and 2.30pm Saturday matinee, Darlington Hippodrome.

Darlington by the sea – Wednesday 24 – Sunday 28, 11am-5pm, Market Square. Free. Families can enjoy free sandcastle building in a giant sandpit, face painting and various activities, fun and games.

Live & Local w/3 original bands – Thursday 25, 7.30pm, The Forum. £4.

Hullabaloo in the Park – Friday 26 – Sunday 28, South Park. Free for 0-10 years and their grown ups. An outdoor extravaganza of performance, storytelling, musical sessions, making, dancing, playing and much more.

Original Band Night – w/Kiss Kiss Kill + guests - Friday 26, 7.30pm, The Forum. £6adv/£8otd.

Groovetrain – Saturday 27, 7.30pm, The Forum. £12.

The Big Brick Build Along – Saturday 27 and Sunday 28, during opening hours, Hopetown Darlington. £1 per pack. Be part of the Brick Journeys exhibition by helping to build a three-metre-tall Saturn V Rocket. Each participant will build a specially designed brick that will feature in the final model.

Brick Lab – Monday 29 – Monday 26 August, during opening hours, Hopetown Darlington. £2 per child. Join in the fun to build your own transport themed LEGO® masterpiece. Models may be displayed in the Brick Journeys exhibition running through the summer.

Summer reading challenge – throughout the summer holidays, Darlington Libraries. Take part in this free challenge to be in with a chance of winning some awesome prizes! Every time you borrow books this summer, you will receive an entry into the prize draw of your choice. Free for children aged 0-16 years.

Summer activity programme – a range of activities, workshops and events for children of all ages takes place in Darlington Libraries over the summer holidays. For details visit www.darlington.gov.uk/library

August

The Forum presents British Country Music – Friday 2, 5-8.15pm, Market Square. Free.

Weave – Saturday 3 – Saturday 10, 10am-2pm, Theatre Hullabaloo. Free, drop-in activity for 0-2 years. Weave in and out of colour, sound and space in our new sensory play installation.

Darlington 10k – Sunday 4, all day. The annual 10km race, junior 3km and family fun run, in partnership with Darlington Rotary Club. Advance online entry only – for more info and to register visit www.enjoydarlington.co.uk/10k

Library Takeover – Wednesday 7, 11am-4pm, Market Square. Free. A fun-filled family day as Darlington Libraries takeover the Market Square.

Darlington Pride Weekender – Saturday 10, noon-6pm, Market Square. Free. The celebrations start with a march, followed by live music throughout the day, stalls from local organisations, merchandise, street theatre, food and drink.

Pride in the Park – Sunday 11, noon-3pm, South Park. Free. A relaxed picnic event with music, kids' crafts and family activities.

MonGay – Monday 12, 5-11pm, town centre. Free. Pride celebrations continue with live performances and special guests at various town centre venues.

Create a Hullabaloo Summer Holiday Club – Monday 12 – Thursday 15. Creative workshops for 6-10 years, 10am-3pm, £20 per child per day, £18 additional sibling; Additional Hullabaloo Chill out Club, 9-10am and 3-4pm, £5 per child per day. Attend the full four days or choose just your preferred days.

Making Sense Together – Thursday 15, 11am-3pm, Market Square. Free. A community day to raise awareness and support those with learning disabilities or autism, promoting inclusivity for all.

Live & Local w/3 original bands – Thursday 15, 7.30pm, The Forum. £4.

Cirque The Greatest Show – Friday 16 – Sunday 18, various times, Darlington Hippodrome. Where musical theatre meets circus!

Ultimate Madnezz – Saturday 17, 7.30pm, The Forum. £12.

Artists in the Market Square – Sunday 18, 10am-6pm, Market Square. Free. Artists from Creative Space, in Post House Wynd, will be selling their creations – paintings, ceramics, photography, jewellery, astrophotography and more.

Jazz in the Afternoon – Sunday 18, noon-4pm, Market Square. Free. Live bands and music.

Build it Beautiful – Monday 19 -Tuesday 3 September, Theatre Hullabaloo. Free, drop-in activity, new construction-themed play space for 3-8 years.

Wedding Showcase – Wednesday 21, 5-8pm, Market Square. Free. Looking to get married? Find out what products and services are available here in Darlington.

In The Night Garden – Wednesday 21 – Thursday 22, 1pm both days, 4pm Wednesday afternoon and 10am Thursday morning, Darlington Hippodrome.

Fairytales & Legends day – Thursday 22, 11am-3pm, Market Square. Free. Dress to impress to join in the fun with colouring activities, face painting, hula hoops and games.

Dinosaur day – Thursday 29, 11am-3pm, Market Square. Free. Jurassic creatures will be roaming the town centre, with themed activities and live entertainment.

The Lion Inside – Friday 30 – Sunday 1 September, 11am Friday to Saturday, 4:30pm Friday, 2pm Saturday, and 11am Saturday and Sunday, Darlington Hippodrome.

Smells Like Nirvana UK – Friday 31, 7.30pm, The Forum, £12.

September

Cockerton Community Dog Show – Sunday 1, 12noon-4pm, Cockerton Green. For more info visit Cockerton community and business group Facebook page.

Sister Act – Monday 9 – Saturday 14, 7.30pm evenings, 2pm Thursday matinee and 2.30pm Saturday matinee, Darlington Hippodrome.

Darlington Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society flower show – Saturday 14, 2-5pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church Hall, North Road. Free. For more information visit www.dcds.org.uk

Guns 'n 'Roses Experience – Saturday 14, 7.30pm, The Forum. £15.

Darlington Rhythm and Tunes – Saturday 14 – Sunday 15, all day, Market Square and Riverside near St Cuthbert's Church. Free. Huge schedule of live bands.

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

Help us recycle right!

We have taken a look at what we, in Darlington, throw away in our general waste bins. It turns out we could all be recycling more!



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Please recycle right and put the right thing in the right bin.
The stickers on your recycling bin explain what goes where
or visit www.darlington.gov.uk/recycleright

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And make a real difference to elderly lives in Darlington

We need more volunteers of all ages to join our friendly team so get involved today.

We currently have vacancies for volunteer visitors , volunteer drivers and volunteer fund raisers.

Become part of our dedicated team who offer support to so many elderly who live with loneliness and isolation.

Finding spare time can be difficult so we will make it easy for you.

Visit the " Get Involved " section on our website or simply call 07825 586113 for a friendly chat.

Otherwise if you would like to find out more about the valuable work we do or would like to make a donation then please visit our website.



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**Darlington
Town
Mission**

Enriching Elderly Lives

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Work starts on sustainable development in Darlington

Ground has been broken on a project to deliver three new industrial facilities in Darlington.

The Greenbox development, just off the A66, is a joint venture between Partners Group, a leading global private markets firm, and Citivale, a specialist logistics developer and operator. The development will provide over 400,000 square feet of warehouse and office space with market-leading environmental credentials.

Work on the 24-acre site is expected to take 36 weeks and will be delivered by Winvic, a national contractor specialising in delivering sustainable buildings. The development will use net zero construction practices and all units will be rooftop solar panel ready and will have access to parking for electric vehicles helping to reduce future impact on the environment and supporting the council's net zero ambitions.



The facilities are expected to be available for occupation at the start of next year, creating business and job opportunities for the town.

For more information on the scheme please visit www.greenbox-darlington.co.uk



Cathi Harrison, CEO of The Verve Group

Bossing it for female leaders

A new study has identified Darlington as the third-best place in England to be a female entrepreneur.

Research from iwoca, one of Europe's largest small business lenders, ranked areas using Office of National Statistics data including the level of female representation among the self-employed workforce, childcare costs, gender pay gaps, and small business growth.

Entrepreneur Cathi Harrison, founder, owner and CEO of The Verve Group, talks about her journey and why Darlington is a great place to do business:

"As one of six children, I grew up without money and became fascinated with how people made money work for them. Talking to someone who was planning to see a financial adviser piqued my interest and I started to learn more about financial advice careers; quickly deciding that this was the right path for me.

"Although I loved learning the technical knowledge and working in financial services, I found the male dominated culture oppressive. In 2009, I decided to strike out alone and set up my first business offering flexible administrative support to financial planners. By 2017 I was employing 17 people and had launched an in-house graduate training scheme.

I then set up two further businesses offering financial compliance services and training solutions and consolidated all three businesses in 2022 under the name The Verve Group.

"I am proud of all we have, and continue to achieve at The Verve Group, and of the great strides our female-driven company is making in the world of finance. We currently employ over 50 people, 74 per cent of whom are women, and I was delighted to recently be named Tees businesswoman of the year.

"Being based in Darlington gives us a competitive edge due to lower rents and running costs than businesses operating in larger cities. We also have access to a fantastic pool of talent thanks to the excellent education facilities available locally and the high number of people educated to degree level or above in the area.

"With one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, there has never been a better time to start or grow your business in Darlington and I would encourage any burgeoning entrepreneurs to speak to the council's business investment team about the opportunities available locally."

Toddler pool update complete



Young swimmers will be able to enjoy splashing around in the Dolphin Centre's toddler pool this summer, as it is due to reopen after refurbishment.

The toddler pool has been updated as part of a programme of maintenance and refurbishment of the centre's pool complex to ensure the town has a pool fit for the future.

Plea for working games consoles



Do you have a PlayStation, Xbox or Nintendo that's not in use but still in good working order? Please consider donating them so we can pass them on to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in our area who would really appreciate your kindness.

Contact faye.marsh@darlington.gov.uk to organise drop off or collection.

Fluoridation water survey



The government is consulting on a proposal to ask water companies to enter into new fluoridation arrangements, and to vary existing agreements, to expand community water fluoridation schemes across the North-East.

This is because of significant and long-standing inequalities in the region and is part of the government's plan to improve dental health. Scan the QR code to find out more, or visit www.gov.uk and search 'fluoridation'.



Stronger Communities Fund



The annual Stronger Communities Fund for 2024/25 is now open for applications from individuals or community groups.

Every Darlington councillor has been given £1,000 to support people or groups in their ward to improve the health and wellbeing of the community or to invest in environmental improvements.

For more information, and to make an application, contact your local ward councillor - see page 11 for details or visit www.darlington.gov.uk and look under 'democracy'.



Lisa Holdsworth, Sharon Bell, Jenni Wood, Philippa May and Rachel Smith at the Commitment to Carers launch



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Supporting our carers!

A new commitment has been made in Darlington to recognise and support those with caring responsibilities.

Around 10,000 people in Darlington identify as a carer, with potentially many more yet to come forward.

Some people take on caring responsibilities on a daily basis, but have not recognised themselves as a carer – seeing themselves primarily as a loved one.

Darlington's Commitment to Carers was developed by the carers' strategy steering group – which includes the council, Darlington Carers Support and other partners – and aims to make sure that people have the information they need to recognise themselves as carers so they can access the advice and support they need to carry out their role.



Darlington's
Commitment
to Carers

Carers Week, an annual national campaign to raise awareness of caring and highlight the challenges unpaid carers face, runs from 10-16 June.

For more information, visit www.carersweek.org and to find out more about Darlington's Commitment to Carers, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/carers

For more information about support for carers in Darlington, visit www.dccarers.org

SWAP TO STOP

The Darlington Stop Smoking Service is working with local vape suppliers to give people who want to stop smoking, access to free electronic cigarettes and e-liquids, containing nicotine, for up to 12 weeks.

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness in the UK, and kicking the habit for good can be extremely challenging. The Swap to Stop scheme aims to reduce the harms caused from smoking

cigarettes by supporting tobacco users to transition to vaping which is less harmful overall.

Participants in the scheme will also have tailored support through Darlington's Stop Smoking Hub based at the Dolphin Centre.

If you're ready to quit, you can contact the hub at darlingtonstopsmokinghub.org.uk or by phoning 0800 802 1850.

Foster caring is so rewarding

Being a foster carer is rewarding in so many ways. Seeing a baby take their first steps, watching a child play with other children for the first time, hearing them say I love you, seeing a teenager pass their exams, driving test or secure a college place – the magical moments are endless.

The council has recently improved its financial offer to foster carers.

Foster carers are self-employed and receive weekly payments, per child. These are made of an age-related allowance, which is set by the government to cover costs associated with looking after the child (we pay above the amount set by the government), and a professional carer's fee – a figure determined by carer experience, the number of children in care, their ages and the complexity of their support needs.

Foster carers also receive an annual contribution to council tax, 14 days paid respite, refer friend bonuses, and five-year appreciation payments, subject to criteria being met. A holiday payment, made up of two weeks age related allowance, is paid to carers with children in placement during the summer holidays and at Christmas, to contribute to the additional costs associated with those times of year.

Foster carers are supported with training and regular support groups including Mockingbird, a network bringing fostering families together to find support and encouragement in shared experiences.

We need to recruit people who can offer love and support. The recent increase in our carers allowances and payments, which are now in line with independent foster care agencies, will help us to attract the best possible candidates.

If you have considered becoming a foster carer, please take the time to find out more. Babies, children, and young people near you need supportive caring homes. You don't need to own your home, or be unemployed; we support working carers and carers who have their own children. We just need you, with your drive to make a difference. Joining us ensures local children live and grow up where they know and want to be.

Example payments

An approved foster carer, caring for two siblings (aged three and four) who have been in placement for 25 weeks between November and March, with no respite care taken would be paid:

Age-related allowance - £9,000

Approved carer fee - £6,875

Council tax contribution - £1,500

Payment instead of respite - £507.98

Festival payment - £676.16

Total £18,559.14

There would be no tax to pay on this figure. Fostering households are exempt from paying tax on the first £18,140 per annum earned from fostering and carers qualify for tax relief after this threshold.

Newly approved carers who have looked after a baby for twelve weeks between April and June would be paid:

Age-related allowance - £2,100

Approved carer fee - £2,100

Payment instead of respite - £174.90

Total £4,374.90

No tax would need to be paid on these earnings.

For more information www.gov.uk

To find out more about becoming a foster carer with the council, visit www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Peer mentors are proud to support foster children

Our foster carers do an amazing job welcoming children and young people into their homes in their times of need.

Young people who have lived with a foster carer or family have a wealth of experience from their time in care and can provide support and guidance to other children and young people in care.

The council has appointed 13 peer mentors, who are training for their new role to support foster carers, children, and young people in care. A peer mentor will be matched with a young person in care who has requested support. They will provide a caring and responsive mentoring and befriending service, working with their young person to ensure their social and emotional needs are met. They will also support them to improve their wellbeing and give them access to positive activities and opportunities.

Faye Marsh, the council's participation officer who is managing the peer mentoring project, said:

“Peer mentors have lived in care and are in a great position to offer children in care support and understanding and ultimately be someone they can turn to and trust, without being judged.

“They offer guidance and hope to become positive role models and long-lasting key figures for young people who require their support.”

Kristan, 27 who has lived in care most of her life, is proud to become a peer mentor. She said: “I think this is a fantastic opportunity for children and young people in Darlington. When I was young, I often rebelled against staff as I thought they didn't understand what I was going through.

“Having a peer mentor has many benefits to the people being mentored and is so rewarding for me as a mentor. Being able to help someone is such a great feeling – I feel like I'm giving back something for all the help and support I received when I was in foster care.”

We need more foster carers

Local children and young people need caring, supportive homes, through no fault of their own. To find out more about becoming a foster carer with the council see page 28 and visit www.darlington.gov.uk/fostering

CARE ABOUT YOUR AIR!

Protect the environment and children's health, switch off your engine when parked.

- An idling car generates enough emissions to fill 150 balloons every minute. This can lead to poor local air quality, particularly around schools at drop off and pick up times.
- Children breathe more rapidly than adults absorbing more of these harmful emissions.
- Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, which can aggravate conditions such as asthma and can be linked to other lung conditions including respiratory infections.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Ambitious plans for community music venue

THE
FORUM
DARLINGTON

The Forum Music Studios has been awarded capital investment of £404,000 from Arts Council England to extend, renew and repair its music facility in Borough Road.

This award triggers an ambitious development plan that has been designed around community needs and will position Darlington firmly on the map for music.

Founder, director and chief executive Allison McKay said: "This is an exciting phase of growth for our much-loved music and arts venue. We are proud of what we have achieved to date.

"It's our mission to ensure music - whether through entertainment, education or improving people's lives through music-related activities – doesn't just exist in Darlington, but is widely recognised as a first-class experience that benefits everyone."

The investment awarded by Arts Council England and member shareholder offer will fund the development of:

- a new standalone, high-spec recording studio with sensory and high-quality digital production
- new green room facilities for touring artists
- an accessible audience viewing mezzanine
- high-tech installations including solar panels to help reduce the carbon footprint
- a new welcoming entrance and reception plus an eco-friendly roof garden
- a fully equipped and extended kitchen to give an opportunity to a local food social entrepreneur to operate a daily food service.

There are also plans to make significant improvements to the internal visitor facilities and external aspect of the building which will complement the proposed Treasury to Darlington Economic Campus building next door to the venue.

The Forum has been operated as a not-for-profit social enterprise since 2011 and it recently converted to a community benefit society to recruit members with shared ownership.

The share offer will be launched this autumn and will be time limited. To register your interest in attending an open event and view the business plan ahead of the launch, visit www.theforumonline.co.uk



Theatre Hullabaloo presents

Hullabaloo in the Park

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July 26-28 2024 South Park, Darlington

FREE!

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and their
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shows!

Fantastic
creative
activities!

Come along to our free family festival with
so many magical things to see, make and do!

We can't wait to see you there!

theatrehullabaloo.org.uk

Scan here to discover
more about the festival!





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DARLINGTON
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Business park set to expand

The developer responsible for delivering the Amazon site at Symmetry Park has announced plans for further developments on the 90-acre site.

Tritax Symmetry, the logistics development arm of FTSE 250 company Tritax Big Box, will begin work on a new state of the art facility later this year, providing prime manufacturing and distribution space for organisations looking to start, grow or expand their business in Darlington.

Simon Dixon, development director for Tritax Symmetry, said: "We have a long-term commitment to creating high quality, sustainable logistics facilities, and more employment opportunities for the area."



Book your Home Fire Safety Visit today!

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service would like to encourage all households to have a free home fire safety visit; your safety is our priority.

During the visit staff from your local fire station will call in for a chat and give advice to help keep you and your family safe from the dangers of fire.

The visit includes checking you have working smoke alarms, to using electrical items and planning a safe escape in an emergency.

TO BOOK YOUR FREE VISIT:

 0345 223 4221

 csenquiries@ddfir.gov.uk



This year marks 50 years since Darlington joined County Durham becoming the Fire and Rescue Service we know today.

Follow us on social media to see how we celebrate!



WWW.DDFIRE.GOV.UK

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters



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Find out more at enjoydarlington.co.uk



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**ENJOY
DARLINGTON**

Parking on pavements and verges

We often receive reports of people parking on grass verges and pavements. It is a persistent problem and can have a big impact on those with sight and mobility difficulties and for families with pushchairs. It can also cause a hazard for other motorists if cars are parked on a bend or corner.

Grass verges and pavements are not designed to take the weight of cars and they are often damaged by vehicles being parked on them. This damage can be costly to repair.



THE RULES

The public has the legal right to use the whole width of the road and pavement (including grass verges) and motorists have no legal right to park on them.

If there are yellow lines on the road you can't avoid them by parking on the pavement or a grass verge and you may be fined even if your vehicle is not on the lines.

If there are no yellow lines, it is not illegal to park on a grass verge or pavement but you may be prosecuted if your vehicle persistently damages the area. It is illegal for goods vehicles to park on grass verges, and they can be issued with a penalty notice.

Please park responsibly and consider everyone who needs to use the road and pavement.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We know how frustrating it can be if you see people continually parking on pavements or verges, but please do not take matters into your own hands. It is against the law to put obstructions like blocks, rocks or posts on grass verges and pavements without permission.

If you attempt to block a verge or pavement we will ask you to remove the obstruction or we may remove it ourselves, at your expense. If you block a pavement or grass verge you are also responsible for any accidents or incidents caused by the obstruction, including injury or damage to people, vehicles or property.

You can report dangerously parked cars that are causing an obstruction by calling 406999 or email customerservices@darlington.gov.uk

Meet our workforce development team (people group)



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Training and development are vital for people who work with children, young people, adults and families. Keeping up to date with policy and practice changes means our staff are well equipped to support people when they may need help.

Our workforce development team provides training and development opportunities across children's services, adults social care, education and inclusion, public health and commissioning, performance and transformation. Support is provided in three specific ways:

- 1. Training** – the team commissions regional and national training providers to deliver high quality, statutory packages of training.
- 2. Partnership** – the team works closely with multi-agency partners to support and provide training and development opportunities for each other, saving costs and providing opportunities to develop networks.



- 3. Delivery** – the team has some incredibly knowledgeable and skilled workers. They develop internal training and staff development programmes in a hugely cost effective and self-sufficient way.

To do all of this, the team needs to be innovative and creative in its approach. Our Darlington Xtra project informs the wider workforce and community about career opportunities in the sector, as well as providing links to training.

For more information visit www.darlingtonxtra.co.uk

When you're out watching the match...

STAY SAFE

THINK AHEAD

GET HOME SAFELY



Visit enjoydarlington.co.uk/stay-safe to find out more



ENJOY DARLINGTON

 **DARLINGTON**
Borough Council



ROCK CLIMBING

WATER SPORTS

COOKING

MUSIC CLUB

SURFBOARDING

ARCHERY

CIRCUS SKILLS

HAF

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD

Free holiday activities during the summer 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

* Monday 22 July - Friday 23 August, Monday to Friday.

Funded by



Department for Education

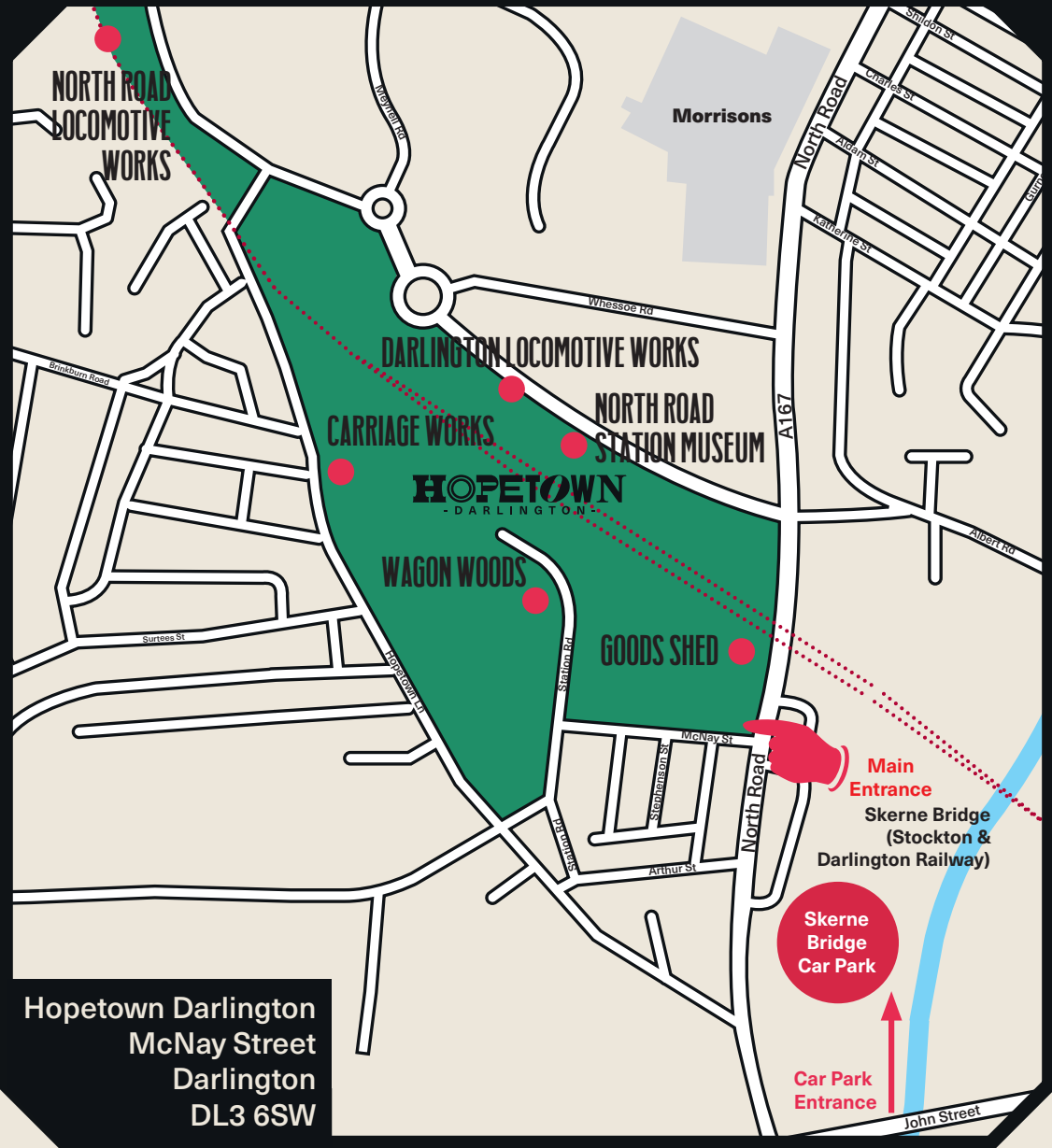
Organised by



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

move more
Darlington
a Healthy Darlington service

HOW TO GET TO HOPETOWN DARLINGTON



Bus and Train

Bus routes 5, 7, 8, 16 and X66 stop directly outside of the main entrance. Hopetown Darlington shares a site with North Road Station, served by Northern Rail.

Walking and Cycling

Hopetown Darlington is within close range of multiple walking and cycling routes. Secure bike storage is available.

Driving and Parking

Skerne Bridge Car Park is the brand new care park for Hopetown Darlington. The car park is operated and managed by Darlington Borough Council and has space for over 200 vehicles, including electric charging points and accessible parking. Entry to the car park is on John Street.

Parking fees are £1 per hour or £4 for a day ticket.

PLAN YOUR VISIT www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk

HOPETOWN

- DARLINGTON -

EVENTS

Opening Tuesday 16 July

There's loads to see and do with a full programme of events and activities running throughout the summer, including Brick Journeys containing Lego® creations guaranteed to amaze and inspire.

Visit our website to find out more about our exciting summer events!

Plan your visit at
www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

You can host children's birthday parties and all other kinds of events at Hopetown Darlington! Visit the website for more info.

www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk



Hopetown Darlington



hopetowndarlington



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DARLINGTON
Borough Council

**TEES
VALLEY**



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