

one  
Darlington

Autumn 2024



Sleeping

Beauty



Meet the panto cast

Page 9



# The truth about begging

**Myth:** All people who beg are homeless.

**Fact:** Very few people begging in Darlington are homeless.  
Some have declined help for a variety of reasons.

**Myth:** The best way to help someone begging is to give them money.

**Fact:** Giving money to people begging may fuel their drug or alcohol addiction.

**Myth:** Nothing is being done to help people begging.

**Fact:** We work closely with charities and other partner organisations to offer support to people at risk of rough sleeping.

## How can I help?

The best way to help someone who is begging is to report it online at [www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit) or scan the QR code.



# Welcome to One Darlington

**Welcome to your autumn edition of One Darlington. As the crisp air settles and the leaves turn golden, this time of year reminds us of the beauty in change. At this time of year, our town comes alive with the spirit of community and tradition. Whether it's taking a stroll through the stunning autumn colours of South Park or making plans for Christmas, there's something special about autumn.**

In this edition, we look back at the successful launch of Hopetown Darlington, the stunning visitor attraction that opened over the summer. Have you paid a visit yet? Turn to pages 6 and 7 to find out what the tens of thousands of visitors welcomed at Hopetown Darlington have made of it so far.

Elsewhere in this issue, we meet some of the unique independent traders who make Darlington Market such a special place – see pages 20 and 21.

Other things to look out for include a preview of this year's pantomime at Darlington Hippodrome – a production of Sleeping Beauty featuring Su Pollard and Lee Mead. Turn to page 9 for full details, where you'll also find a round-up of festive fun taking place across Darlington.

On page 27, we look ahead to a special night of entertainment being planned for next year. Dementia's Got Talent promises to be a wonderful event.

With winter approaching, we've included details of our road gritting programme on page 37.

Cold and icy weather is still, hopefully, a few weeks away. In the meantime, let's enjoy autumn as a time for reflection and renewal.

There was reason for celebration when Darlington was announced as a gold winner at the 2024 Northumbria in Bloom awards, with recognition in several categories. Well done to all involved!

Autumn offers the perfect opportunity to reconnect - with nature, with our town, and with each other. As we gather for seasonal events and enjoy the warmth of our community, let's celebrate all that makes Darlington special at this time of year.



South Park in autumn

## Inside this issue

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One Darlington, Room 106, Town Hall, Darlington.

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Cover image: Scott Akoz Photography

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

# Celebrating a new chapter at your library



Liz Million illustration workshop

**Hundreds of visitors, young and old, joined in the fun at a special celebration to mark the first anniversary of a new chapter for the library.**

Staff were keen to mark a year since the reopening of the Grade II listed building in Crown Street following a multi-million pound restoration, and hosted a family fun day to thank all those who have visited and supported the library.

Suzy Hill, library manager, explained: “The past year has been one of excitement and growth as we’ve successfully expanded our services and reached new audiences.

“We wanted to not only celebrate what has been an amazing year, but also to thank our dedicated staff, volunteers and all those who support us in so many ways.

“Looking ahead we will continue to work hard to ensure we can deliver a broad range of enjoyable opportunities to engage with reading, learning, digital and cultural experiences and strengthen our role as a cornerstone of the community.”



Magician Graeme Shaw

Between reopening last September and April this year there has been...

- 160,260 visits to the library
- 989 events
- 242,843 items borrowed
- An increase of 3,323 in members to 30,051 - equivalent to around 28% of population of Darlington
- 2,663 online visitors to the library's virtual tour.

## Did you know you?

You can access free eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines and newspapers on the go.

If you're not already a member, download the Darlington Library app to your smart phone or tablet, click on 'Join the library' and follow the instructions.

Once you're a member, you can use Borrowbox to access hundreds of top titles completely free.

## The Hive

Darlington Libraries' newest area designed to inspire and ignite your passion for all things digital and artistic. Equipped with state-of-the-art tools like laser cutters, embroidery machines, and 3D printers, this space is perfect for makers, creators, and innovators of all skill levels.

Join us for bookable events, workshops, and drop-in sessions covering a variety of exciting activities such as 3D Design and Print, fabric and sewing, animation and movie making, hobby crafts, coding, and robotics.

To join the library or find out more visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/library](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/library) or download the Darlington Library app. You can also find them on Facebook @DarlingtonLibraries

# Rave reviews for re-opened toddler pool

**The Dolphin Centre's toddler pool has reopened - the final stage of the pool complex refurbishment. Its first week of opening saw the highest weekly footfall to the pool complex in history.**

The refurbished pool has been positively received and welcomed visitors from as far afield as Cumbria.

The Dolphin Centre has a term time programme with bookable toddler pool sessions Monday-Friday 10am-11am and 1.15pm-2.15pm, with the area also open 10am-3.45pm on a weekend and Monday-Friday in the school holidays.



## Remembrance services

**The town's Remembrance Sunday service this year will be held on Sunday 10 November.**

There will be a service in Holy Trinity Church, Woodland Road, starting at 10am.

The service will be followed by a procession from the church to the Cenotaph in the grounds of Darlington Memorial Hospital.

An act of remembrance will be held, including the Last Post, two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths.

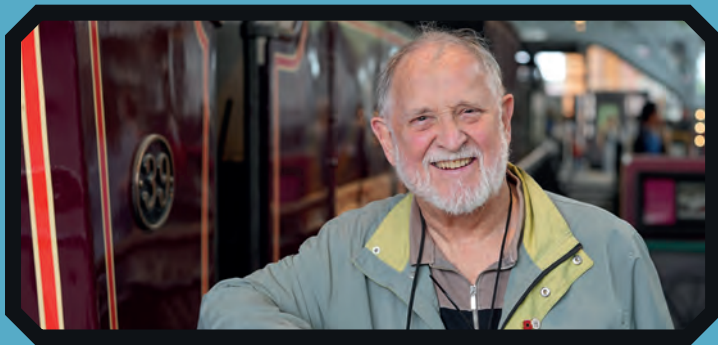
The Mayor, Cllr Bob Donoghue, will also lead a one minute silence on High Row at 11am on Remembrance Day, Monday 11 November.

# WHAT A SUMMER IT HAS BEEN AT DARLINGTON'S BRAND-NEW VISITOR ATTRACTION



**Hopetown Darlington has welcomed over 55,000 visitors since opening its doors back in July.**

It's been a bumper summer with family events, the Brick Journeys exhibition (which is still ongoing!), a ton of excitement and even a visit by the Flying Scotsman!



## *FACTS*

**75**

events held

**10,400**

ice creams sold

**10,700**

hot drinks sold

# HOPETOWN

- DARLINGTON -

WEAR  
YOUR BEST  
FANCY DRESS

19 OCTOBER -  
3 NOVEMBER  
DAILY 10AM-5PM  
FREE ADMISSION

# HALLOWEEN AT HOPETOWN - DARLINGTON -

There'll be ghostly goings on this Halloween! A haunted passenger carriage has appeared in the Carriage Works, and there's spectres and ghouls aboard. Take part in a frightfully fun Halloween trail around the site that culminates in a free visit to the mysterious ghost carriage.

**Look out for the haunted characters roaming the site on 31 October!**



Hopetown Darlington



hopetowndarlington

HOPETOWN DARLINGTON.CO.UK

# SANTA AT HOPETOWN - DARLINGTON -

The historic Carriage Works has been transformed into a snow-covered, fantastical forest of magical trees and woodland creatures – and Santa's missing reindeer.

Take a wondrous wintery walk, hunt for clues and find all of Santa's missing reindeer so Santa can get on his way for his most important journey from Christmas Eve into Christmas Day. Afterwards, meet Santa and tell him what you would like for Christmas this year.

For more details and to see what else is on this Christmas at Hopetown Darlington visit [hopetowndarlington.co.uk](http://hopetowndarlington.co.uk)



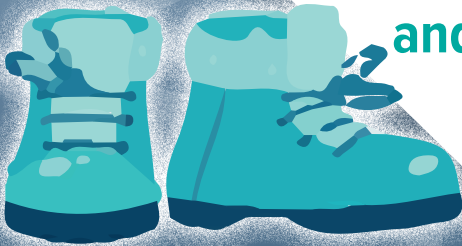


**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



# Winter Coat Drive

We're collecting donations of  
good quality coats, hats, scarves,  
gloves, wellies, walking boots  
and shoes – all suitable  
for school-aged  
children.



## WHERE YOU CAN DONATE

**Uniform Shop, Feethams Multi-Storey Car Park – 10am-1pm**

**In a Spin Laundry Services, North Road – Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 8.30am - 12.30pm**

**Cockerton Club – donation bin outside the club**

**Eastbourne Park Community Hub – during opening hours**

**Firthmoor Community Centre – Monday - Friday 9am - 1pm**

**Dolphin Centre – during opening hours**



# Festive panto fun



**It's panto season again (oh yes it is!) and this year the Hippodrome is bringing you a dream of a show – Sleeping Beauty.**

The show features singer, TV and musical theatre actor Lee Mead, Hi-de-Hi! star and pantomime legend Su Pollard, comedian Josh Benson, Stephanie Costi as Princess Aurora and dame Jamie Jones.

It tells the traditional, family favourite story of Princess Aurora who is given an enchanted spinning wheel by her evil Aunt Carabosse.

She pricks her finger and thanks to an evil curse she falls asleep for 100 years.

Can true love survive and the spell be broken? Who will outwit the evil Aunt Carabosse and foil her wicked plans?

Don't miss out on this fabulous show for all the family, which runs from Friday 6 to Tuesday 31 December.

Tickets are selling fast, so get yours at [www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk) or call 01325 405405.



Pictures: Scott Akoz Photography

**Join us for the Christmas lights switch on in the Market Square on Sunday 17 November, 4-5.30pm.**

There will be fun and music on the main stage, a visit from Santa and a short firework display. Accessible viewing area provided. The ice sculpture trail returns to the town centre on Saturday 7 December, 11am-4pm, with sculptures at various locations. Maps will be available and there will be the chance to enter lots of free competitions.

Find out more about our festive events at [www.enjoydarlington.co.uk](http://www.enjoydarlington.co.uk)

# Government development gets the thumbs up



## Plans have been approved for the new government office development on Brunswick Street.

Work to construct the five-storey, 10,000 square metres hub is set to begin later this year with completion planned for 2027.

The modern, energy efficient office complex is part of the wider Darlington Economic Campus (DEC), currently based at Feethams House and Bishopsgate

House in the town centre, which incorporates nine government departments including HM Treasury, the Department for Business and Trade and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

The new development is expected to bring nearly 500 more civil service jobs to the town, creating even more high-quality employment opportunities for residents and supporting the wider local economy.

## Key to more affordable homes

### Increasing the number of affordable homes is a key part of the Council Plan and we're delighted to welcome tenants into the first phase of our biggest council home new-build project in decades.

The first 21 properties at the Neasham Road scheme have been handed over to our housing services team, who were given a tour alongside councillors, ahead of the tenants moving in last month.

Once complete, the site will offer 129 much needed, quality, social housing homes for rent, with a mix of two-bed apartments and two, three and four-bedroom houses. In addition, 21 properties in later phases will be offered as rent-to-buy, providing a first step to affordable home ownership for residents.

Addresses will be named after sportsmen with local links, including Arthur Wharton, Ronald Brebner, Charles Craven and George Butterfield.

Local residents and the new tenants will soon be invited to take part in a consultation on a new play area to be included in the development, with work set to start in spring 2025 for completion by the summer holidays.

For more details visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/housing](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/housing) click on 'find a home or garage' then 'new council housing'. All applications for council housing should be made through the Darlington Homesearch system.



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

## Emailing councillors

To email your councillor, their email address is [firstname.lastname@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@darlington.gov.uk)

For example, if you want to email Stephen Harker, type [Stephen.harker@darlington.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Rebecca.E.Baker@darlington.gov.uk). West Park Academy, Tuesday 19 November and 17 December, 6-7pm. **David Beckett (L)** Tel: 07982 847837. The Brinkburn, Wednesday 6 November, 4 December and 8 January, 6-7pm. **Scott Durham (C)** Tel: 07805 505156. The White Heifer that Travelled, Tuesday 5 November and 7 January, 7-8pm; The Brinkburn, Tuesday 3 December, 7-8pm.

## COCKERTON

**Jan Cossins (L)** Tel: 241124; **Jim Garner (L)** Tel: 241384; **Neil Johnson (L)** Tel: 07504 227351. Cockerton Methodist Church, Friday 8 November, 13 December and 10 January, 10-11am.

## COLLEGE

**Bryony Holroyd (G)** Tel: 07570 776553; **Matthew Snedker (G)** Tel: 07780 807059. Abbey Junior School, Monday 21 October, 18 November and 16 December, 6-7pm.

## EASTBOURNE

**Joe Dillon (L)** Tel: 07939 221166. Pilmoor Green Community Centre, Tuesday 22 October, 26 November and 17 December, 6-7pm. **Jonathan Dulston (C)** Tel: 07775 555251. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 6 November and 8 January, 3-4pm; The Wheatsheaf, Yarm Road, Friday 6 December, 5-6pm. **Kevin Nicholson (I)** Tel: 07791 807629. Firthmoor Community Centre, Wednesday 20 November and 18 December, 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 November, 12 December and 9 January, 6-7pm; Elim Pentecostal Church, Monday 28 October, 25 November and 16 December (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 2 November, 7 December and 4 January, 10-11am.

## HEIGHINGTON AND CONISCLIFFE

**Paul Crudass (C)** Tel: 374537; **Gerald Lee (C)** Tel: 314622. Heighington Village Hall, Saturday 2 November, 10-11am; St Mary's Church, Piercebridge, Saturday 7 December, 10-11am.

## HUMMERSKNOTT

**Kate Mammolotti (G)** Tel: 07949 222733; **Thomas Robinson (G)** Tel: 07735 310357. Salutation Hall, Monday 28 October and 25 November, 6-7pm.

## HURWORTH

**Lorraine Tostevin (C)** Tel: 333382. **Paul Walters (C)** Tel: 722097. No venue, by appointment only. Tuesday 5 November, 3 December and 7 January, 5.30-6.30pm.

## MOWDEN

**Pauline Culley (C)** Tel: 250482; **Alan Marshall (C)** Tel: 359138 or 07807 523106. Mowden Junior School, Monday 4 November, 2 December and 6 January, 6.30-7.30pm.

## NORTHGATE

**Sajna Ali (L)** Tel: 405998; **Sonia Kane (L)** Tel: 486754. Corporation Road School Community Hub, Monday 4 November, 2 December and 6 January, 10-11am.

## NORTH ROAD

**Hilary Allen (LD)** Tel: 480277; **Anne-Marie Curry (LD)** Tel: 07531 304050, [annemarie.curry@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:annemarie.curry@darlington.gov.uk). **James Coe (I)** Tel: 07828 178276; Morrisons café, Wednesday 13 November, 11 December and 8 January, 6-7pm; The Well, Wednesday 23 October and 27 November, 1-2pm.

## PARK EAST

**Libby McCollom (L)** Tel: 07910 369887; **Michael Nicholson (L)** Tel: 07493 247327; **Matthew Roche (L)** Tel: 07403 208120. Clifton Centre Community Association, Tuesday 12 November and 10 December, 1-2pm; Dolphin Centre, Thursday 14 November, 12 December and 9 January, 5.30-6.30pm; Skerne Park Community Centre, Tuesday 5 November, 3 December and 7 January, 11am-noon.

## PARK WEST

**Bob Donoghue (C)** Tel: 07767 294194; **Heather Scott (C)** Tel: 468547. By Appointment only through Mayor Donoghue's number.

## 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 November, 4 December and 8 January, 6-7pm.

## RED HALL AND LINGFIELD

**Mandy Porter (L)** Tel: 07962 363855; **Amanda Riley (L)** Tel: 07764 759554. Heathfield Primary School, Thursday 21 November and 19 December, 3.30-4.30pm; Red Hall Community Centre, Thursday 14 November, 12 December and 9 January, 5-6pm.

## SADBERGE AND MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

**Deborah Laing (C)** Tel: 07747 863297; **Colin Pease (C)** Tel: 07738 422776. Middleton St George Cricket Club, Tuesday 29 October, 26 November and 28 January, 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. Asda Foyer, Saturday 16 November, 11am-1pm; Asda Foyer, Saturday 26 October, 30 November and 28 December, 11am-noon.

## MPs' SURGERIES:



### Lola McEvoy (Darlington MP)

can be contacted by email at [lola.mcevoy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lola.mcevoy.mp@parliament.uk)



### Matt Vickers (Stockton West MP)

can be contacted by email at [matt.vickers.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:matt.vickers.mp@parliament.uk) or call his constituency office on 01642 956526.



### Ben Houchen – TEES VALLEY MAYOR

Teesside Airport Business Suite,  
Teesside International Airport, Darlington, DL2 1NJ  
Call 792600 or email [mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk)



# Winter Wellness

**As colder days approach, review the latest advice on vaccines and preventing flu and other autumn and winter illnesses. Follow this advice to help stay healthy:**

- get vaccinated if you are eligible
- practise good hygiene - cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands with warm, soapy water
- keep warm- block cold air, close bedroom windows at night, wear layers
- treat minor illnesses quickly and seek help if needed
- stay active indoors to keep warm
- wear shoes with a good grip outside to avoid slipping
- stock up on prescriptions and essentials before severe weather hits

If you or someone you know is struggling financially turn to page 17 to find out how to check if you are eligible for support.

Elderly neighbours and family friends may need extra help in cold weather. Keep in touch, and check if they need help. If you are worried about someone's health, talk to your local pharmacist, GP, or call NHS 111 for advice and support.

## If you have children at school or nursery

It can be difficult to decide if your child should stay home when they are unwell.

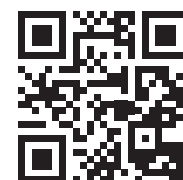
There are guidelines to help schools and nurseries decide when children should stay home - visit GOV.UK or scan the code below.

If you keep your child at home when they are ill, call the school or nursery on the first day to explain that your child is sick and unable to attend.

If you're worried about your child's health, talk to your local pharmacist, your doctor, or call NHS 111 for advice and support.

## Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools, scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>





# Full steam ahead for bicentenary celebrations

The countdown is on to **S&DR200** - a nine-month international festival taking place across County Durham and Tees Valley to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first journey on the Stockton and Darlington Railway.



This 26-mile journey between Shildon and Stockton via Darlington on 27 September 1825 transformed how the world traded, travelled, and communicated.

The S&DR200 Festival will include a series of large-scale outdoor spectacles, events, exhibitions and new art commissions across County Durham and Tees Valley from March to November 2025.

Whether you are a railway buff, someone who enjoys new cultural experiences, or love getting creative, there will be something for you!

## At Hopetown Darlington

- April-July 2025 - a display of early locomotives, including Locomotion No.1, which are part of the National Railway Museum collection and National Museum Wales. These locomotives were critical to the success of the railways in the UK and around the world.
- July-September 2025 - an immersive steam-inspired sensory and digital installation by Japanese/British designers Studio Swine.
- July-September 2025 - an exhibition on the future of transport and skills looking at the rail industry in the era of climate crisis. Visitors will also be invited to create a train for the next century using virtual reality software. In partnership with industry partners including Hitachi and LNER.

## Elsewhere in the town

- Saturday 20 September 2025 – the Ghost Train which includes a procession through the town centre of large-scale art installations representing some of history’s most important modern inventions, including the internet, telephone, and electricity as well as Locomotion No. 1.
- Saturday 27 September 2025 - a replica Locomotion No. 1 will travel from Shildon to Stockton, going through Darlington on 27 September. Spectators will be able to see the train at designated locations and enjoy special events along the route.

To see the full programme of events across County Durham and Tees Valley, including the launch event on Saturday 29 March 2025 in Bishop Auckland visit [www.sdr200.co.uk](http://www.sdr200.co.uk)

## Have your say on conservation area

The Northgate conservation area includes areas of importance to the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

Ahead of the bicentenary celebrations, a new appraisal of the area is taking place looking at the architectural and historic interest of the area; the condition of the area and the relevance of the boundary line.

You can have your say on the appraisal until 5pm on Monday 28 October by visiting [www.darlington.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/consultations). You can also read the appraisal and fill in a feedback form at the Town Hall (by appointment only, email [conservation@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:conservation@darlington.gov.uk)), and at Darlington and Cockerton libraries.

# CLUBS AND COM

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

## Lions lend a helping hand

Darlington Lions has given a cash boost to local groups and organisations to help them deliver what they do best in the community. A donation of £1,500 has secured dance lessons at Marchbank Free School which provides education and support to primary aged children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties, autism and other learning difficulties. The classes will be provided by charity We Can Dance offering pupils two hours of dancing each week.

Local charity, Breathe Easy Darlington has also received a £500 donation from the Lions towards the many activities it runs for residents with respiratory problems. Last year, Darlington Lions donated more than £30,000 to local good causes. For details of how to apply for support from Darlington Lions visit [www.darlingtonlionsclub.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonlionsclub.co.uk)



## Double boost for Breathe Easy Darlington

As well as £500 from Darlington Lions, the group has received a £10,000 grant from The Ballinger Charitable Trust to help fund its work for the next two years. The group wishes to thank Andrew Ballinger and the other trustees for the grant. This support will allow members to take part in exercise classes and social activities, helping them to maintain a high quality of life despite respiratory health obstacles. Membership of Breathe Easy Darlington is free and open to Darlington residents, and their carers and family, who suffer from a respiratory or lung condition. Visit their website [www.breatheeasydarlington.org](http://www.breatheeasydarlington.org)



## 100 years of stamp collecting

Now in its centenary year, Darlington Philatelic Society offers stamp collectors, of all ages and interest, a unique opportunity to meet and share this fascinating hobby.

With around 30 members, meetings are held in the Darlington Cricket & Athletic Club (free parking), South Terrace, DL1 5JD on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 8-10pm. Meetings are free and include regular displays, auctions, competitions, buying and selling, raffles, social evenings and a Christmas quiz. Prospective members are welcome to any meeting of this friendly and informal group. The cost of membership is nominal. For details, call Rod Coombe on 01609 779914 or email [rodcoombe@btinternet.com](mailto:rodcoombe@btinternet.com)

## Darlington Stitch and Create

This creative group meets on the first Saturday of the month, 1pm, at Elm Ridge Church Hall. The group hosts a range of speakers on creative textiles and embroidery. Sessions include a one-hour stitch followed by refreshments and an illustrated talk with workshops throughout the year. Membership is £50 per year; visitors pay £5 per meeting. Email [secretary@darlingtonstitchandcreate.co.uk](mailto:secretary@darlingtonstitchandcreate.co.uk)



### **New Sea Cadet unit opens**

Youngsters aged 12-18 who want adventure on the high seas or want to learn new skills and make new friends, can sign up for the new unit that parades on a Tuesday evening from 6.30-9pm at Century House, Cummins, Yarm Road, DL1 4PW. The Sea Cadets is the oldest national uniformed youth charity, based on the traditions of the Royal Navy. Activities include mountain biking, race sailing, powerboating, and Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Visit [www.sea-cadets.org/darlington](http://www.sea-cadets.org/darlington), call 07831823037 or email [Darlington@teessideseacadets.co.uk](mailto:Darlington@teessideseacadets.co.uk)

### **New look website for Darlington Music Society**

Check out the new look website of this long established group and find out what's on offer for the new season which starts on 12 October at: [www.darlingtonmusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.darlingtonmusicsociety.org.uk)

### **Chatty Café**

The group meets every Tuesday afternoon, 2-4pm in Sainsburys café, Victoria Road. If you fancy a chat and a bit of company, why not pop along? Find out more about this national scheme at [www.thechattycafescheme.co.uk](http://www.thechattycafescheme.co.uk)

### **Matinee Matters at Hippodrome**

A chance for solo theatre goers to meet like-minded people to chat, laugh, make new friends and share thoughts on a show at Darlington Hippodrome. Participants meet one hour before selected matinee shows. Call the box office for details on 405405. Next dates are: Cluedo 2 on Thursday 10 October, 1pm and Blood Brothers on Thursday 14 November, 1pm. Supported by Care Matters [www.carematters.co.uk](http://www.carematters.co.uk)

### **Darlington u3a**

The group meets on the first Friday of the month at 10.15am, Central Hall, Dolphin Centre. The fun meetings offer the chance to learn something new including handbell ringing, card games, painting, drawing and patchwork. New members welcome, just turn up for a meeting or visit [www.u3asites.org.uk/darlington](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/darlington)

### **Blackwell Community Choir**

Meets Tuesdays 7-8.30pm, All Saints' Church, Ravensdale Road, Blackwell. No auditions, a fun and friendly session to suit all music tastes from pop, musicals to classical. The group will be working on their Christmas show soon, a great time to join, £2 a week.

### **Blackwell Community Band**

Meets Tuesdays 5.30-7pm. All Saints' Church, Blackwell. No auditions, fun and friendly. Entry level band with instruments available. £2 a week.

### **Darlington Ramblers Group**

The group hosts walks every Sunday of 5-10 miles taking in the Cleveland Hills, North Yorkshire, Dales and Durham areas. Contact David Reed 01325 350997 or Paul Jackson 07704930015.

# Facelift for award-winning pub



Award winning pub receives a facelift

## **The Quakerhouse in Mechanics Yard has received a facelift as part of plans to regenerate the town centre.**

The upgrade includes new and refurbished windows, fresh paintwork and the installation of a traditional hand painted sign. It marks the start of the next phase of work to breathe new life into the historic yards as part of Project Darling - an initiative inspired by contemporary artist, Nicky Peacock with the support of ELG planning.

Recently named the best in region at the North East Awards for Planning Excellence, the project is helping to reestablish the area to attract visitors; creating colourful and playful hidden gems for people to discover and explore thanks to government funding.

Brian Dourish and Shelly Allan, co-owners of the Quakerhouse, said: "We are delighted with the updates to our property and the improvements in Mechanics Yard which are helping to bring this forgotten yard back to life."

# Pavement cafés to become permanent fixture

## **Work is set to start to improve outdoor hospitality facilities and attract more people to Coniscliffe Road.**

The government-funded improvements, which include the widening of existing pavements, a new pocket park with seating and the installation of trees and planters, will support local businesses and the developing pavement café culture between Larchfield Street and Grange Road.

The project forms part of wider plans to regenerate the town centre and will clean and make green the area; creating a safe and attractive environment for people to enjoy while attracting more visitors to the area.

Businesses in the immediate area will remain open for the duration of the project which will be completed in spring 2025.





# Claim for pension credit to receive winter fuel payment!

**The council is supporting Citizens Advice's Benefit Entitlement Action Team (BEAT) to help residents claim benefits to which they are entitled.**

Jade-Lauren North, CAB adviser told us: "Pensioners have paid tax all their lives but do not always claim entitlement. A claim for pension credit can seem daunting, but we can reassure you whether you are entitled to any money, and help you claim if you are.

"Even if you only receive a small pension credit, you will receive the winter fuel payment, which could open the door to other money and support available."

She added: "You can qualify even if you have savings."



The following people are most likely to qualify for pension credit and receive the winter fuel payment:

- pensioners who were born before 16 April 1951
- pensioners with disability or long-term health problems
- pensioners with dependent children

**The BEAT** pension credit helpline is available between 2pm and 4pm Monday – Friday on 01325 734999. If you cannot call then, call anytime to leave a message and receive a call back.

**Age UK** also offers pension credit advice between 9am and 5pm Monday – Friday on 01325 357345.

**Growing Older Living in Darlington (GOLD)** can help with changes to winter fuel payments. Email [gold@citizensadvisedrc.org.uk](mailto:gold@citizensadvisedrc.org.uk)

## BEAT your finance blues

Are you struggling financially?

Feel like you are stuck in a maze?

You are not alone, support is available, even if you work.

Contact the Benefit Entitlement Action Team (BEAT) who will help and support you to claim any money you are entitled to.

Visit [www.citizensadvisedrc.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvisedrc.org.uk)  
email [BEAT@citizensadvisedrc.org.uk](mailto:BEAT@citizensadvisedrc.org.uk)  
or call 01325 26888



Pop in to talk to someone in person,  
between 10am and noon,  
Monday - Friday, in the CAB Office,  
The Core Building, Church Row, DL1 5QD.

citizens  
advice

# Facing homelessness?

# You are not alone...

**Finding a permanent home can be tough in the current housing crisis, but our housing options team is there to help and is working with people who find themselves homeless or may be at risk of becoming homeless.**

Solving homelessness is about more than putting a roof over someone's head – it's about the person and their situation, understanding their needs and supporting them to manage a tenancy and live independently.

Prevention is key to our services, and we work with each person to draw up an action plan to meet their needs. This may involve support from our partners, including:

- **700 Club** – hostel, substance misuse support, drop-in hub, early intervention outreach project
- **Humankind** – mental health support, temporary accommodation, drop-in hub
- **Foundation** – young vulnerable parents and offender support
- **Family Help and Harbour** – accommodation and support for victims of domestic abuse
- **YMCA** – hostel and support for young people (19-24).

Between April and July this year, the team has:

- spoken to 878 people
- placed 204 people into interim accommodation
- rehoused 145 into secure accommodation.

The pressure on housing is a national issue, with the number of people in temporary accommodation at an all-time high across the country. We're working hard to increase the number of affordable homes, which is a key part of the Council Plan. We have an ongoing new-build programme and are working with charities and others to tackle the issue.

If you have any housing issues, please call 01325 405333 and ask for the housing options team. The sooner you get in touch the easier it is to support you. For more information visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness)

## **If you are concerned about a homeless person or rough sleeper, contact:**

- **Housing options team** – call 01325 405333 or email [housingoptions@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:housingoptions@darlington.gov.uk) (during office hours)
- **Report it online** – go to [www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit) and click on 'Report a possible rough sleeper'
- **Outside office hours** – call 01642 524552 – the team will provide advice for rough sleepers who want accommodation
- **If someone is unwell, unresponsive or distressed** – please call 999.

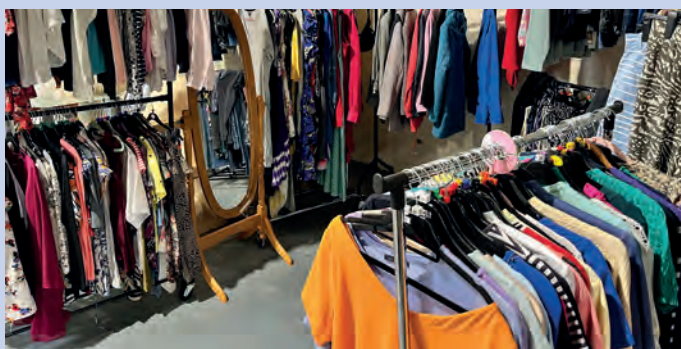
# Are you in need of low cost, good quality furniture, or looking to dispose of used items?

King's Furniture recycling scheme stocks beds, bedroom furniture, cabinets, tables and chairs, sofas, armchairs, white goods and electricals, homeware, bric-a-brac and clothing.

We rely on donations and are very grateful to the generous people in our local area who donate their preloved items. We can arrange free collections in Darlington, Monday to Friday, 9.30am-3pm.

Our showroom is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am-3.30pm (except bank holidays). Come and have a browse. Our friendly and dedicated team will be happy to assist you.

If you have any donations, would like to volunteer, or would like to know more, give us a ring on 469884 (option 1) or visit our website [kingsdarlington.org/furniture](http://kingsdarlington.org/furniture)



## Donate £2.00 today to sponsor a Happy Hamper for an elderly person in Darlington

### Donate Today & Make a Life Happier This Christmas

Support your local elderly community by raising funds to fill our Happy Christmas Hampers with festive foods all bought from local suppliers.

It's easy to donate, go to [localgiving.org/appeal/happyhampers/](http://localgiving.org/appeal/happyhampers/) or scan the QR code.



*"We became friends through the Mission"*

### Win Your Own Festive Hamper

Everyone who donates is entered into our Supporter's draw. Please send an email to [marketing@darlingtontownmission.org.uk](mailto:marketing@darlingtontownmission.org.uk) with "Happy Hampers" in the subject line with your name and contact details. The draw will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024.



This article is kindly sponsored by  
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Registered Address 2 Davison Road, Darlington, DL1 3DR - Reg.charity no. 235572



**Darlington  
Town  
Mission**  
Enriching Elderly Lives

A local charity trusted since 1838

# Meet the traders transforming Darlington Market



## Beaded Treasure

Owner, Ambica Ramachandran, has hundreds of lovingly hand-crafted items available for sale including necklaces, earrings, bracelets and bags; as well as customised accessories and various types of crystals.

Ambica says: "I started out trading on pop-up stalls across the North East and am really excited to now be a permanent trader at Darlington Market. The Collective supports people like me to take the next step in growing their business and is building a hive of creative entrepreneurs offering something different for visitors to explore."



## Haus of Moss

Catering to all of your floristry needs, Haus of Moss offers an exquisite selection of hand tied bouquets and can supply arrangements for weddings, funerals and corporate events. A range of options are also available for local businesses including cafes and restaurants.

Vicky Hudspith-Bailey, who owns the business, said: "We started out as a quality online florist and this is our first physical presence. The Collective at Darlington brings retail, hospitality and leisure together under one roof and we're delighted to be part of a growing community of traders who are committed to returning the market to its vibrant, bustling past while catering to the needs of a modern audience."

**OPENING TIMES** ● **RETAIL** Mon – Sat, 8am to 3pm ● **FOOD AND BAR** Thurs



A host of new traders have been welcomed to The Collective at Darlington Market as work to redevelop the historic venue draws to a close.

Why not pop in next time you're in town.

## COMING SOON

### Marketplace Fish and Chips

Marketplace Fish and Chips will operate from the repurposed fishmongers stall, offering a range of freshly-cooked treats and a selection of wet fish for customers to take away.

Owner, Adam Gilmore, said: "The market's atmospheric halls offer a great blend of nostalgia and modernity. While only small, we'd argue that it's perfectly formed and you can get everything you need for your weekly shop right here as well as being able to grab yourself a quick bite to eat and a drink. If you've not been in – you really should pop down and explore the changes that are being made."

### The Continental Deli

This will be Chef Matei Baran's second business in the market and will offer Italian style deli produce by day as well as small plates and wine by the glass on an evening.

Mattei said: "The Market Asset Management team share the same passion as I do for good food and its ability to bring people together. I am excited to be part of the talented team of traders, helping to restore this iconic venue as the heart of the local community."



### Gina's Gems and Collectables

**Run by Gina Cengher, Gina's Gems & Collectable sells second-hand and pre-loved treasures that have been rescued and are ready to be rehomed; helping to reduce landfill and promoting sustainability. Wares on sale include crystal goods, ceramics, figurines, unique homeware and other decorative and speciality pieces.**

Gina says: "I am delighted to be one of several entrepreneurs choosing to set up stall in Darlington Market. The Collective is at the start of its journey but its growing mix of independent micro businesses, is attracting new and diverse customers looking for a more cosmopolitan experience. The friendly and welcoming environment makes it a great place to visit."

**Our newest retail stall, Out The Box, offers a platform to local makers, creators, and artisans who don't yet have the capacity or means to produce enough stock for their own stall - helping to remove barriers for small businesses and bringing something fresh and exciting for visitors to the market.**

day – Monday, 11am – 10pm (3pm on Monday, 4pm on Sunday and 9pm on Thursday)

Need **FREE**, independent, impartial advice & support?  
Are **YOU** missing out on unclaimed **MONEY**?

£22.7 billion unclaimed income related  
benefits & social tariffs in the UK per year

£26.6 billion pounds of unclaimed  
pension money in the UK

Pop in to make an appointment:  
32 Houndgate, Darlington, DL1 5RH  
Or call our **FREEPHONE** number on  
**0808 1963144**



### Searching for a **FREE IT** course?

#### We will teach you:

- How to use **computers**;
- The **benefits** of using technology;
- Support with **writing A CV**, job searching, applying for **jobs** & **interview** preparation;
- **Google** Workspace including word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, Youtube, maps;
- Online **video conferencing** (Google Meet, Zoom, Teams)

These can be:

- Small Group Courses;
- Weekly drop-in (Wednesdays 2PM-4pm for support using your smartphone;
- 1:1 support to help develop your confidence

For more information contact Paula on  
07412 995477 or 0808196314

### Are you feeling lost

### and stuck at a crossroads?

### Do you feel life is just passing you by?

If the answer is yes, Our **FREE** 7 week  
**Mastering your Mindset** course will:

- Get you to overcome Self Confidence/Self Esteem/Self Worth barriers;
- Help to overcome limiting beliefs/ Habits;
- Enable to you to start living a fulfilling life.

All groups are **free** to attend including **Tai Chi**,  
**Positive Mindsets**, **Walk & Natter** & the  
**Allotment Group**.

For more information contact  
Jess on 07470 473263

Registered Charity Number 1073822  
[firststopdarlington.org.uk](http://firststopdarlington.org.uk)



Dear Occupier  
**Is the electoral register information correct for this address?**

**You must respond if:**  
any information is wrong, or if there are people eligible to register to vote at this address that are not included.

**You do not need to respond if:**  
all information is correct and includes everyone eligible to register to vote at this address.

Information on who is eligible to register to vote can be found on page 2.

People we have registered to vote at this address:

# Don't lose your vote – check your voter registration details

**In August, the council started the annual canvass and sent a form to every household in the borough. Please check your electoral registration details on the form and let us know if anything has changed.**

The annual canvass allows us to keep the electoral register up to date, identify those who are not registered to vote, and encourage everyone to register so they don't miss out on having their say in future elections.

If you have not completed and returned the form, staff from the electoral registration team will be knocking on doors throughout October and November to encourage you to fill it in.

Luke Swinhoe, our electoral registration officer, said: "The annual canvass is our way of making sure that the information on the electoral register for every address is accurate and up to date. To make sure you don't lose your say at upcoming elections, simply follow the instructions on the form that is sent to you.

"If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in the messages we send. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)."

If you have recently moved house it is particularly important to check your details are correct. Electoral Commission research has found that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. In Great Britain, 92% of those who have lived in their home for 16 years will be registered, compared with only 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than a year.

Information on registering to vote is available on the Electoral Commission website at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter).

If you have any questions about your electoral registration status, contact the electoral registration team on 01325 406444.

# Sign up for L&S success

**A series of short films is shining a spotlight on the council's further education provider, Learning & Skills.**

Featuring the personal experiences of current and former learners, the films encourage residents to sign up for the wide range of free courses available to help you upskill, increase in confidence and get the job you want.

The films offer a unique insight into the service, highlighting the positive impact further education can have on people seeking employment or wishing to progress in their career; including Tracy who has landed her dream job working with children with special educational needs.

From gaining essential qualifications in English, maths and IT to developing life skills and leisure interests, Learning & Skills has over 100 courses available for people of all skill levels and experience. These include employer-led courses offering guaranteed interviews, apprenticeships and continued professional development modules.

Enrolments for 2024-25 courses are still being accepted.

You can watch the films on our YouTube channel @DarlingtonBC.



## Learning & Skills Darlington

Learning & Skills Darlington is a leading provider of adult and community learning courses. There is a huge variety of courses to help you find employment, upskill in your current workplace, or to learn something new and exciting. Some of the courses include:

- **FREE English for Speakers of Other Languages**
- **FREE Adult Maths, English and ICT courses**
- **FREE Courses for 16-18 year olds**
- **FREE Distance learning**



If you'd like to see more of what's available, please visit [darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills](https://darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills) or scan the QR code.

### Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are available for anyone aged 16+ who is looking to start a new career or upskill in their current job. There are apprenticeships available in a range of industries and sectors where you will develop your knowledge, skills and behaviours, ready for employment. Take a look at all of the current apprenticeships at [darlington.gov.uk/apprenticeships](https://darlington.gov.uk/apprenticeships).

Learning & Skills



**CALL 01325 405601**

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

**WEB [www.darlington.gov.uk/learningandskills](https://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&Skills)



# Outpatients A project complete

**County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is excited to share the news of the successful completion of a major project at Darlington Memorial Hospital.**

The Trust has invested £1.2 million to transform part of the hospital into a state-of-the-art outpatient facility, Outpatients A, designed to improve both patient and staff experiences.

The 25-week project involved construction, mechanical, electrical, and engineering expertise, resulting in a modern, welcoming space.

Features include:

- a new reception and waiting area for patients
- comfortable offices and rest areas for staff
- specialised testing and consultation rooms with advanced medical technology
- an IT hub to support the hospital's digital infrastructure
- a resurfaced, safe ambulance and patient drop-off zone at the front of the building.

This transformation reflects our commitment to providing high-quality, safe and compassionate care in a modern and efficient environment. Thank you to everyone involved for their hard work and dedication in bringing this project to life.

As always, we would also welcome your feedback through our Patient Experience Team, email [cddft.patientexperience@nhs.net](mailto:cddft.patientexperience@nhs.net)



# Stay safe near open water

**Taking a walk on a cold day with your family, friends or dogs can be refreshing but beware of the dangers and be prepared if you're near open water.**

Sadly, drownings are not just a summer hazard. In the winter it's easy to slip and fall into the water or get into difficulty if you go to the aid of someone else or a pet.

Follow a few simple tips to keep yourself and others safe. Please share these tips with friends and family.

- Stay away from the edges of rivers and ponds, they may be slippery!
- Take extra care if you're walking home after a night out – don't drink and drown! Look out for your friends and help them get home safely.
- Never walk onto ice covered ponds or rivers, you don't know if it will support you.
- Keep children within reach and teach them not to go onto ice.

- If someone falls in water don't go in after them. Half of all ice-related drownings involve the attempted rescue of someone else.
- If someone falls in, ring 999 immediately. Try to reach them from the safety of the bank using a piece of clothing, a pole, a long branch or throw them a life ring or throw line.
- Keep dogs on leads when you're near water and don't throw sticks or toys into water for them to chase.
- If you fall in, stay calm, float on your back and call for help.

Remember to download the What3words app so if you need to call 999 in an emergency, you can pinpoint your location so they can attend more quickly. Simply read the three words to the 999 service when making the call.

For more information about water safety visit [www.ddfire.gov.uk/water-safety](http://www.ddfire.gov.uk/water-safety) or the Royal Life Saving Society UK website at [www.rlss.org.uk](http://www.rlss.org.uk)



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



**County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Service**

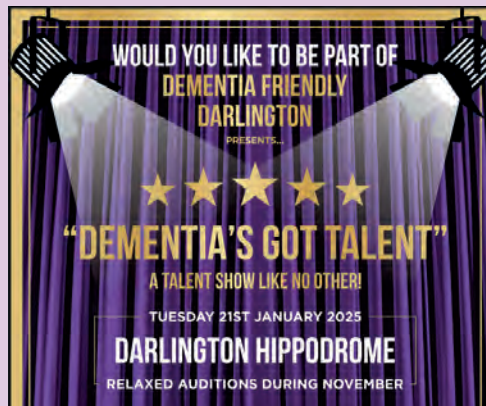
# A unique night of entertainment

**Producers of a ground-breaking show featuring the talents of people living with dementia are looking for contestants as part of a glamorous night of entertainment and fundraising.**

The show is being held at Darlington Hippodrome on Tuesday 21 January and is being organised by volunteers from Dementia Friendly Darlington (DFD). The group is on a mission to make Darlington dementia inclusive and raise funds for Alzheimer's Society and dementia groups across Darlington.

Lorraine Dunn, a volunteer advisor with DFD, is living a full life with dementia. She said: "This is a celebration that life does not end with a diagnosis of dementia. Research shows that staying active delays the progression of dementia.

"There are many groups across Darlington for people living with dementia – it really



is fantastic. Darlington Hippodrome supports our dementia friendly mission, it is the perfect venue for this show.

"DFD came up with the idea for Dementia's Got Talent to show people with a diagnosis hope for a fulfilling future. We are so excited – the first of its kind anywhere!"

Dementia's Got Talent is now looking for individuals and groups to take part in the show. You don't have to be a concert pianist, you just need to be willing to entertain an audience. Any talent will be considered and Dementia's Got Talent will help you with any support on stage you need.

Relaxed auditions will be taking place during November. Application forms are available from the Hippodrome box office, by emailing [joanne.hendry@darlington.homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:joanne.hendry@darlington.homeinstead.co.uk) or calling 07513 723302.

## One-stop shop for support

**The Adult Social Care section on the council's website has been updated.**

The pages are an ideal source for any information or advice you need on care, support and wellbeing.

You can find what support is available to help you or someone you know, or access information and training if you are a carer.

There's also a section with advice on what to do if you're worried about somebody.

The updated pages can be found at [www.darlington.gov.uk/adults](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/adults)

To give us your feedback on these pages, please email [strongertogether@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:strongertogether@darlington.gov.uk)



# Your bin collections may change over Christmas



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



Normal collection date	Revised collection date
Tuesday 24 December 2024	<b>No change</b>
Wednesday 25 December 2024	Friday 27 December 2024
Thursday 26 December 2024	Saturday 28 December 2024
Friday 27 December 2024	Monday 30 December 2024
<b>Christmas Day</b>	
Tuesday 31 December 2024	<b>No change</b>
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Thursday 2 January 2025
Thursday 2 January 2025	Friday 3 January 2025
Friday 3 January 2025	Saturday 4 January 2025

# Choose Darlington

**Recently engaged or planning to get married?**

Choose Darlington for your winter wedding, with ceremonies starting from just £81.

Find out more about booking your wedding:  
[www.darlington.gov.uk/weddings](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/weddings)



# Save time - do it online

## at [www.darlington.gov.uk](http://www.darlington.gov.uk)

**You can access more than 200 council services online, making it easier and quicker than ever to interact with us.**

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, doing things online means you can get in touch at a time and place that is convenient to you without having to wait in any queues! They're free, completely secure and can be accessed from any internet enabled device including tablets and phones - meaning you can do your admin while you're on the go.

If you don't have access to an internet enabled device, or are not very confident doing things online, you can call into our contact centre at the town hall and we will help you to use our scan stations and computers. You'll be surprised at how simple it is to report an issue, make a payment, or submit an application, information or request.

Public computers are also available at Darlington Libraries, or you can access free Wi-Fi in Darlington town centre. Free digital skills courses are also available from Learning & Skills.



## ALL ABOUT SMART METERS

WITH DARLINGTON ASSOCIATION ON DISABILITY

Smart meters can help put you in control by tracking what you are spending on energy. More than half of homes in Great Britain already have a smart meter. When it comes to energy, smart meters send gas and electricity readings direct to your energy supplier. This means you'll get more accurate bills based on the energy you've used, not an estimate.

Some homes cannot get a smart meter yet, but will be able to get one before the end of the rollout. Your energy supplier will be able to tell you if you can have a smart meter. They may also be able to tell you when it can be installed. There are lots of different ways to get in touch with them. You will find all the contact details on your energy bill. If you would like more information or to ask any questions about smart meters, energy bills and saving energy, please get in touch with us on 01325 254840 or [hub@darlingtondisability.org](mailto:hub@darlingtondisability.org).



**Darlington Association on Disability**

Independent Living Hub

West Lodge

West Crescent

Darlington

DL3 7PS

Registered charity number: 1125848

[www.darlingtondisability.org](http://www.darlingtondisability.org)



# News in brief

## Have your say

Later in the autumn we'll be asking for your views on our draft Customer Services and Digital Darlington strategies. Look out for updates via our social media channels and on our website at [www.darlington.gov.uk/](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/) consultations where you can also sign up to be notified about these and other consultations.

## Dry January

Why not start the new year with a challenge? Join the Alcohol Change UK campaign. You can visit their website to take a quick quiz to check how healthy your drinking is. Taking a break from, or cutting down on alcohol, can lead to improved health, sleep, weight loss and more money in your pocket! If you, or someone close, have concerns about alcohol and would like support, call 01325 809810 to access free, local and confidential services.

## Needed - TVs and smartphones

Do you have any unwanted, working, TVs and smartphones hanging around that could be used by unaccompanied asylum-seeking children? Email [faye.marsh@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:faye.marsh@darlington.gov.uk) if you can help.

## Blooming great

Congratulations to everyone involved with Darlington's successful Northumbria in Bloom effort, with the town centre, South Park and Firthmoor Community Centre among those recognised.



# Stop smoking this Stoptober!

**Tobacco is the biggest cause of cancer and the single largest cause of preventable deaths. Up to two out of three long term smokers will die from a smoking related disease.**

Smoking is such an expensive addiction, both in health and financial terms. It causes harm and death to people who smoke and affects loved ones left behind. Too many people have experienced the pain, the worry and the loss from diseases caused by smoking.

It is not always easy to quit, but with support, Stoptober can be your time to make a fresh start.

Our Stop Smoking Hub staff work hard to support smokers wishing to quit. If you are a smoker living in Darlington and would like help, please get in touch.

**For support to quit smoking visit**  
[www.darlingtonstopsmokinghub.org.uk](http://www.darlingtonstopsmokinghub.org.uk) - a single point of  
access for advice, support and tips or call 0800 802 1850.



## Take action on domestic abuse

**Relationships can be challenging, particularly in the run up to Christmas. Emotions can run higher as the festive season approaches, and we may find ourselves getting frustrated or jealous in our relationships more often than usual.**

We are reminding everyone that it is never too late to seek help to alter their behaviours towards the people they love. The Make a Change programme is there to help people who are concerned that they are using harmful behaviours in their relationships.

For more information about the Make a Change programme, head to  
[www.makeachange.uk.net/durham](http://www.makeachange.uk.net/durham)

# Fight food waste

Food waste costs the average household £470 a year, so reducing what you throw away is good for your pocket and the environment.

Most food waste is avoidable and by following four easy steps you can stop literally throwing money away!

## 4 steps to save

- 1 Plan**  
Check what you have
- 2 Shop**  
Buy what you need
- 3 Store**  
in the best way
- 4 Eat**  
what you have

- Use your Shopping list
- Don't shop hungry
- Avoid impulse purchases

- Portions
- Eat what you cook
- Leftovers
- Batch cooking

- Check your cupboards
- Meal plan
- Shopping list

- Keep fresh for longer
- Freeze/air tight
- Fridge temp
- Know your dates!



# STAY SAFE



# THINK AHEAD

# GET HOME SAFELY



Visit [enjoydarlington.co.uk/stay-safe](https://enjoydarlington.co.uk/stay-safe) to find out more

**ENJOY  
DARLINGTON**



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council





# How we are tackling potholes

**Our road network is 558.3km long with 628.6km of footpaths – this doesn't include the A66 which is looked after by National Highways.**

To look after all of our roads, this year we have a budget of £2,598,168. This is not just for repairs but also planned maintenance works.

Last year we repaired over 6,100 potholes but we received many more reports which we inspected.

Potholes are formed by cracks in the road surface, water and traffic. Small cracks expand over time because of traffic, water then gets under the road surface causing more deterioration. This can be worse in cold weather when the water under the road surface freezes and thaws.

We have a five year programme of planned repair work based on our annual survey of road conditions but this can change year to year as roads deteriorate at different speeds. This is why we survey the whole road network every year so we can target repair work where it is most needed.

Due to our limited budget, we carry out a programme of preventative treatments on many of our roads to prolong the life of the road by sealing the surface to prevent water damage.

## REPORTING A POTHOLE

When you report a pothole, one of our highways inspectors will be on site within 24 hours to determine how urgently it needs repairing.

If the pothole isn't considered dangerous, it will be repaired within 20 working days. The most dangerous potholes will be repaired within 24 hours. Our pothole filling team is out all day throughout the year.

Like other North East councils, our investigation level for potholes is 40mm. Anything less than this may not be repaired but will be monitored as part of our regular safety inspections.

If you know about a pothole, please report it at [www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit)



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**TEES  
VALLEY**

# TREES ON TEES

Help us plant **one million** trees in Tees Valley.

Trees on Tees is an exciting new programme to increase woodland creation in Tees Valley and whether you're a business, landowner or resident, we need your help!

## Businesses

If you have land which you would like to plant trees on, contact Trees on Tees.

Alternatively, you can donate directly to our Trees on Tees Community Fund. These donations will be used to fund our Residents Tree Giveaway and support communities, schools and businesses where other forms of tree planting grants are not available.

It may also be possible to match you directly with a community group or school which is looking for additional support with their planting schemes.

## Landowners

The Trees on Tees team is available to offer free support to landowners and their agents to develop tree planting and woodland creation projects across Tees Valley.

## Residents

From Tree Week, the first week in December until the end of March every winter, residents in Tees Valley will be able to pick up a free tree from a collection point. Simply register on the Trees on Tees sign-up page.

In partnership with



This is led by



England's  
Community  
Forests

To find out more scan QR code or visit [TreesOnTees.com](https://TreesOnTees.com)

# Our journey to net zero by 2040



We're working hard to reach our target of net zero by 2040. Our target relates to the council and our activities and venues.

Here's a snapshot of our progress so far.

## Carbon footprint

We have reduced our carbon footprint by more than 50% since 2011, from 13,101 to 6,190 tonnes in 2023/4. Taking into account our zero-carbon energy tariff, by the end of 2023/4 our carbon footprint was 4,059 tonnes.

## Solar panels

We have increased the number of solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall – increasing our generation figures from less than 2,000 Kilowatt hours in 2018/19 to more than 12,000 in 2023/4.

## Electric vehicles

We have 28 electric vehicles in our fleet so far, with more on the way.

## Council housing

More than £5m has been spent on our houses to improve energy efficiency for tenants. A new climate change strategy for council housing has been agreed.

## Tree planting

Our target to plant 20,000 new trees was exceeded in 2024. Tree planting schemes will continue, with the target of planting 100,000 trees by 2031.

## Local suppliers

We are using local suppliers at our venues including the Hippodrome, Dolphin Centre and Hopetown wherever possible, to reduce the carbon used for transporting food.

## Reducing waste

We are reducing the amount of single use plastic in our food outlets and sending unused leftover food to food banks.

## Improving energy efficiency

We are reducing the amount of heat and water that is used in our buildings by improving insulation for example.

## Adaptation

We are working with the community and our own staff to ensure we adapt how we work and live to cope with changing climate conditions, such as flood risk and the effects of extreme heat.

## Greener travel

We are working to encourage people to walk, cycle and to use public transport whenever possible.

## Business

Our business support team continues to work with local businesses to help them reduce their carbon footprint.

## Communication

We are spreading the word on climate change and sustainability to our own staff and to local residents and businesses through social media, press and events. We promote our services and events digitally where possible to avoid printing leaflets and posters.

## New ways of doing things

We are exploring new ways to work to help reduce our carbon footprint. For example, our refuse trucks run on more eco-friendly fuel, which has reduced overall emissions by 10%.

**We are continually working towards our target of becoming carbon neutral by 2040 and encouraging others to reduce their carbon footprint wherever they can.**

# We are hitting the road again!

**Our gritting crews are on standby 24 hours a day between October and April.**

When the cold weather sets in, they'll be out on the roads, day and night working to keep traffic moving.

## **Who decides when to grit the roads and how does it work?**

The duty manager will look at the weather forecast and decide what time to send the gritters out and how much salt to spread. Dry salt is put on the road and when it hits moisture on the road it dissolves, creating brine. It's this brine that melts the ice. Salt works best when there is traffic about – when the salt is crushed by wheels it helps to quickly make the brine mixture. If gritting is done in the early hours, when there is very little traffic, it will still work but more slowly.

## **How do you decide which roads to grit?**

Priority routes cover 50% of our roads, including the main commuter and bus routes. The aim is to keep businesses open, hospitals and doctors' surgeries accessible and outlying villages connected. We don't have the resources to clear footpaths but we do provide salt bins for residents to use to improve grip. If you find an empty salt bin let us know by emailing [customerservices@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@darlington.gov.uk)

## **What about when it snows?**

Where possible we salt the roads ahead of snow falling. If it snows overnight, the snow will lay over the salt and it might look like we've not been out but once traffic gets going, the brine will be created and it will clear quickly. Laying salt on top of snow doesn't work in the same way.



## **Did you know?**

- Our gritter drivers come from our Street Scene, waste collection and highways teams - they do winter maintenance alongside their usual shifts
- It takes two hours to pre-salt our 190 miles of priority one roads
- We have 5,500 tonnes of salt in stock ready for this winter.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# WHAT'S ON ENJOY DARLINGTON

The days may be getting colder and shorter, but there are still plenty of events to enjoy in Darlington this autumn.

If you've got an event planned for January or February, that you'd like to include in the next edition, please email details to [communications@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:communications@darlington.gov.uk)

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

**Local & Live** – Every Saturday, Darlington Market, 7pm. Free.

## October

**Made in Dagenham – The Musical (DOS)** – Wednesday 23 October – Saturday 2 November, Darlington Hippodrome. From £16.

**Live & Local Original Band Night** – Thursday 24, 7.30pm, The Forum. £4.

**Rush Tribute** – Friday 25, 7.30pm, The Forum. £13.

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show** – Tuesday 29, 6.30pm, The Forum. £3.

**Diwali: Celebration of light sound bath** – Saturday 26, 10am, Theatre Hullabaloo. Free, drop-in.

**Diwali: Diya & Rangoli family workshop** – Saturday 26, 11am & 1pm, Theatre Hullabaloo. £3.

**Diwali** – Saturday 26, town centre, music and dance 11am-3pm. Parade starting 4pm at Northgate.

**Live Vinyl Funk & Soul DJ** – Saturday 26, 7pm, The Vault. Free.

**Jack & Sally Skeleton Party** – Monday 28, 11am, Darlington Library and 2.30pm, Cockerton Library. Recommended for 4-7 year olds. £5 per child.

**Rhymetime Adventure Play** – Tuesday 29, 9.30-10.30am and 11am-noon, Cockerton Library. First session for babies aged 0-1, second for children aged 1-4. £5 per child.

**A Day at Hogwarts** – Wednesday 30, 9.30-10.30am and 11am-noon, Darlington Library. 1.30-2.30pm and 3-4pm, Cockerton Library. Fun, interactive workshop. Aimed at children aged 7+. £3.50 per child.

**Zoolab: Zoo on the Broom** – Thursday 31, 11am-noon, Cockerton Library. 2-3pm, Darlington Library.

**Spooktastic Beads** – Monday 28, 10-11am, The Hive at Darlington Library. Ages 8-16. £3.50.

**Mystical Mugs** – Monday 28, 2-3pm, The Hive at Darlington Library. Ages 8-16. £7.50.

**Pumpkin Plushies** – Tuesday 29, 10-11am, The Hive at Darlington Library. Ages 8-16. £3.50.

**Wicked Wednesday: Hulla-ween spooky storytelling** – Wednesday 30, various times, Theatre Hullabaloo. £3.

**Fizz Bang Animators** – Wednesday 30, 10-11am and 2-3pm, The Hive at Darlington Library. Ages 8-16. £3.50.

**Mystical Mugs** – Thursday 31, 10-11am, The Hive at Darlington Library. £7.50.

**Spooktastic Beads** – Thursday 31, 2-3pm, The Hive at Darlington Library. Ages 8-16. £3.50.

**Halloween character meet and greet** – Thursday 31, town centre throughout the day. Free.

**Dracula's Burlesque Ball** – Thursday 31, 6pm, The Vault. From £15.

## November

**Neurodivergent Wellbeing Day** – Friday 1, all day, Darlington Library. Free activities.

**Comedy Club** – Saturday 2, 7.30pm, The Forum. £12.

**Animation Station** – Saturday 2, 2-3.30pm, The Hive at Darlington Library. Ages 10+. £2.50.

**Open Mic Night** – Wednesday 6, 7.30pm, The Forum. Free.

**Misfit Market** – Thursday 7, 5pm, Darlington Market. Free.

**Dinosaur World Live** – Friday 8 – Sunday 10, Darlington Hippodrome. From £10.

**RnB: The Tom Killner Band** – Friday 8, 7.30pm, The Forum. £15.

**Whitesnake UK** – Saturday 9, 7.30pm, The Forum. £13.

**Open Mic** – Sunday 10, noon, Darlington Market. Free.

**Blood Brothers** – Tuesday 12 – Saturday 16, Darlington Hippodrome. From £20.

**Open Jam Night** – Wednesday 13, 7.30pm, The Forum. £5.

**Young Blood Live** – Thursday 14, 7pm, The Forum. £4.

**Nightshift** – Friday 15, 7.30pm, The Forum. £12.

**Live Jazz: Abbie Finn Trio** – Saturday 16, 7pm, Darlington Market. Free.

**Riverside Rebellion Punk Fest** – Saturday 16, 2.30pm, The Forum. £20 in advance.

**Christmas lights switch on** – Sunday 17, town centre, from 4pm. Free.

**Hopetown Darlington** visit [www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk](http://www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk) call 01325 405060, or email [hopetown@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:hopetown@darlington.gov.uk)

**Darlington Hippodrome** visit [www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk](http://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk) or call 01325 405405

**Theatre Hullabaloo** – call 01325 405405 or visit [www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

**Darlington Libraries** – call 01325 349610 or visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/library](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/library)

**Dolphin Centre** – call 01325 406000 or email [healthydarlington@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:healthydarlington@darlington.gov.uk)

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

## Contacts

# I'm enjoying **FREE** childcare ...is your 2 year old?

Check your child's eligibility for up to 15 hours a week - just have your national insurance number to hand and request it online at [www.darlington.gov.uk/childcarechecker](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/childcarechecker) email [pfis@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:pfis@darlington.gov.uk) or call Darlington Families Information Team on **406222** (option 7)



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Apply for up to **30 hours of free childcare**

If you are an eligible working parent in Darlington, you can now apply for:

- 15 hours childcare for your child aged 9 months old until they turn 3 years old
- 30 hours childcare for your 3 or 4 year old

Visit [bit.ly/care-choices](http://bit.ly/care-choices) or search **Childcare Choices** for more information.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



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