

DURHAM

Autumn 2022

www.durham.gov.uk

County News

Financial help and support

Supporting you with the rising cost-of-living

Adventure awaits

Make the most of the outdoors this autumn

Durham Book Festival is back

The festival returns with a page-turning line-up

Durham
County Council



Welcome

to the autumn edition of Durham County News

As the evenings draw in and the temperatures start to get colder, the rising cost-of-living is starting to squeeze all our household budgets.

In this edition, we have a special pull-out feature on pages 15 to 18. The guide includes details of organisations offering help and support as well as more about how we can help anyone experiencing financial hardship.

Please get help as soon as possible if you are struggling.

Also in this edition, we look ahead to the return of Durham Book Festival next month (pages 8 and 9). You'll find some tips on how you can make the most of the outdoors this autumn (pages 24 and 25) and our what's on guide can help you plan some fun activities for the half-term (pages 26 to 31).

You can also read about how we're supporting residents into employment, find out more about our registration services and discover how fostering has made a real difference to the lives of young people in the county.



Councillor Amanda Hopgood,
Leader of the Council

Amanda Hopgood

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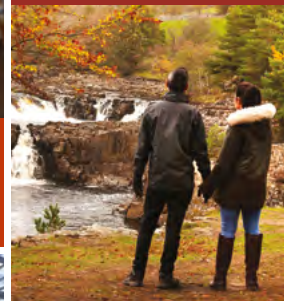


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If you live in the Durham County Council area and haven't received a copy of Durham County News at your home address, please contact us.

To contact the editorial team, call 03000 268 059 or email durhamcountynews@durham.gov.uk



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Look up to the skies

The North Pennines Stargazing Festival returns from Friday 21 to Sunday 30 October.

A star-filled sky is one of nature's most stunning sights - but light pollution is making it increasingly difficult to enjoy the wonders of the cosmos.

In an urban area, you may be lucky to see 20 stars on a clear night. But, if you visit an area of low light pollution, such as the North Pennines, you could see as many as 2,000 shining down on you.

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and UNESCO Global Geopark has some of the darkest night skies in the country, with the North Pennines being recognised as the darkest mainland AONB. Eighty-six per cent of the area's night skies are classified as 'pristine', offering the opportunity to see thousands of stars on clear nights, including the 'river of stars' that characterise the Milky Way.

Now in its sixth year, the North Pennines Stargazing Festival offers a packed programme showcasing the area's jaw-dropping stargazing opportunities. With events and activities for all ages, it's the perfect opportunity to explore our glorious night skies.

Find out more at
www.NorthPenninesStarFest.org.uk

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For social care and independent
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durhamcountynews@durham.gov.uk

03000 268 059

News



Raising the Green Flag

County Durham's green spaces have once again been recognised for their high standards after receiving Green Flag Awards.

Twelve of our parks and green spaces have been honoured in recognition of their excellent levels of maintenance. They are:

- ★ Annfield Plain Park
- ★ Blackhill and Consett Park
- ★ Castleside Cemetery, Consett
- ★ Durham Crematorium and Cemetery, Durham City
- ★ Hardwick Park, Sedgefield
- ★ Moorside Cemetery, Consett
- ★ Mountsett Crematorium, Consett
- ★ Riverside Park, Chester-le-Street
- ★ Ropery Lane Cemetery, Chester-le-Street
- ★ Sacriston Cemetery
- ★ Town Recreation Ground, Bishop Auckland
- ★ Wharton Park, Durham City

The scheme, recognising parks, cemeteries, countryside sites and crematoria, continues to provide the benchmark against which parks and green spaces are measured.

Blackhill and Consett Park has also been given the Green Heritage Site Award, supported by Historic England, for the management of its historic features.

Have your say

We want to hear what you think about plans and proposals for our services as they develop and change. Getting involved means you can help shape services so they are right for you.

Recently we've asked residents what they would like to see included in our new economic strategy. We've also asked for views on our children, young people and families' strategy and proposed improvements to leisure facilities across the county.

Find out what we're asking for your views on at the moment at
www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

Making progress on The Story

Work continues on construction of Durham's modern new history centre and register office.

The Story at Mount Oswald will provide a secure future for more than five miles of county archives, charting almost 900 years of history. The project will bring together the archive, historic registration records, the Historic Environment Record, local studies collection and the DLI Collection.

Good progress is being made on the new element of the building, as well as the refurbishment of the historic Mount Oswald.

To stay up to date with the latest developments, you can now follow The Story at Mount Oswald on [Twitter @TheStoryDurham](#)



Meet Durham's Tourism Superstar

Durham has crowned its first Tourism Superstar in three years following a break due to the Covid pandemic.

Connor Turnbull, a security officer at Dalton Park Outlet Shopping Destination, has been crowned Durham

Tourism Superstar 2022. The honour recognises Connor's excellent customer service, volunteering experience and tenacious attitude to tourism.

The annual competition, which is organised by our tourism service Visit County Durham, celebrates shining stars working across the county's tourism industry. Connor was nominated for the prize alongside staff and volunteers from a range of visitor attractions and hospitality venues including Ushaw Historic House, Killhope Lead Mining Museum and Locomotion.

Members of the public were then invited to vote for the winner.

"Irrespective of the result, I was genuinely over the moon to be nominated alongside such a great group of people," Connor said. *"I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who voted for me."*

East Durham residents get active

A campaign which aims to help people with long-term health conditions lead a more active lifestyle is being extended.

Following a successful launch in Ferryhill and Chilton last year, our **We Are Undefeatable** campaign is now helping communities in East Durham to move more and improve their health and wellbeing.

To support residents, activity packs containing exercise bands, a booklet of exercises, a Make Your Move DVD, and water bottles to use as hand weights, are being distributed through community centres.

The DVD is also available to borrow from libraries. It has been created by the health and social care charities behind We Are Undefeatable and supported by National Lottery Funding from Sport England.

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/weareundefeatable



Sprucing up Wheatley Hill

Following on from a successful 11 weeks in Spennymoor, our Community Action Team is preparing to move to Wheatley Hill.

The team will work to tackle concerns raised by residents, including housing and environmental issues, and will play a key role in promoting healthier lifestyles.

The project sees officers from a range of council teams, including planning and community protection, working alongside a range of partner organisations such as Durham Constabulary and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/CAT



Selective licensing update

Properties which fall under our selective licensing scheme are now subject to an inspection programme.

The scheme was launched in April to ensure rented properties are maintained to a high standard.

Under the scheme, all private landlords are required to obtain a licence to legally rent properties in designated areas of the county, which are then inspected to ensure this standard is maintained.

Around 29,000 homes, or 42 per cent of the private rented sector in the county, is covered by the selective licensing scheme.

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/selectivelicensing

The Circuit – defibrillator network

The moment someone has a cardiac arrest, the clock starts ticking.

Every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces a person's chances of survival. But as the emergency services don't know where all defibrillators are or how to access them, many are never used when really needed.

We are asking all organisations who have purchased or received defibrillators to ensure they are registered with a scheme that aims to ensure they can be found quickly when needed.

The Circuit connects defibrillators to NHS ambulance services so that in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, they can be accessed quickly to help save lives.

To register simply visit www.thecircuit.uk



Apply for a school place

Applications for primary and secondary school places for September 2023 open on **Monday 5 September**.

You can apply online at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions, where you can also access a guide containing essential information to help with your application, as well as details on how places are offered and our home to school transport policy.

If you are unable to apply online, paper applications are available from Monday 5 September, by calling the school admissions team on **03000 265 896**.

Applications close at midnight on **31 October 2022** for secondary school places and **15 January 2023** for primary school places.



ParkPlay for all the family

The power of play is helping to build stronger, healthier and connected communities across County Durham.

ParkPlay was launched last year to encourage everyone to be more active. With the support of some of our Area Action Partnerships, County Durham Sport and Sport England, the national initiative has launched five ParkPlays at: Chilton, Crook, Easington Colliery, Peterlee and Shildon.

Run by the community and for the community, these facilities are already helping to bring hundreds of people together for two hours of play every Saturday. It's a free, safe and welcoming way for people to connect and have fun, with all generations invited.

To find your nearest ParkPlay, visit www.parkplay.com



Celebrating Dragon Park improvements

County Durham schoolchildren are benefitting from improvements to a community park.

Our Find and Fix team has spruced up Dragon Park in Durham by carrying out landscaping work and installing picnic benches and new sculptures designed by a local artist.

The team worked alongside Gilesgate Residents' Association and Laurel Community Primary School to complete the project.

To mark the completion of the work, children from nearby Laurel Avenue Community Primary School enjoyed a celebration day at the park accompanied by Tidy Ted, from our Civic Pride team.

Pupils took part in craft activities before exploring the new sculptures. They also enjoyed a story written by local resident Carole Lattin about a dragon who loved and protected the park. The story was read by storyteller David Elliott Cooper.

The school plans to use the space for future Forest School lessons, allowing the pupils to explore their natural environment and learn more about the benefits of the outdoors.

Pupils' road safety message

Schoolchildren across County Durham have been using their creativity to learn and share messages about road safety.

We have been working with primary schools to teach pupils about the importance of staying safe near roads.

Local illustrator Holly Sterling visited St Bede's Catholic Primary School, in Sacriston, to deliver illustration workshops to the pupils. Holly worked with the children to create a mural for display outside the school, encouraging drivers to slow down and take care near school premises.

Four other schools received a visit from local author Adam Bushnell, who got pupils to get creative during story workshops.

Pupils at St Pius RCVA Primary School in Consett; St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Langley Moor; Langley Park Primary School; and St Margaret's CE Primary School in Durham learned all about road safety and used their knowledge to create tales of safety superheroes.



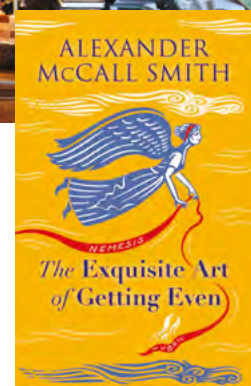
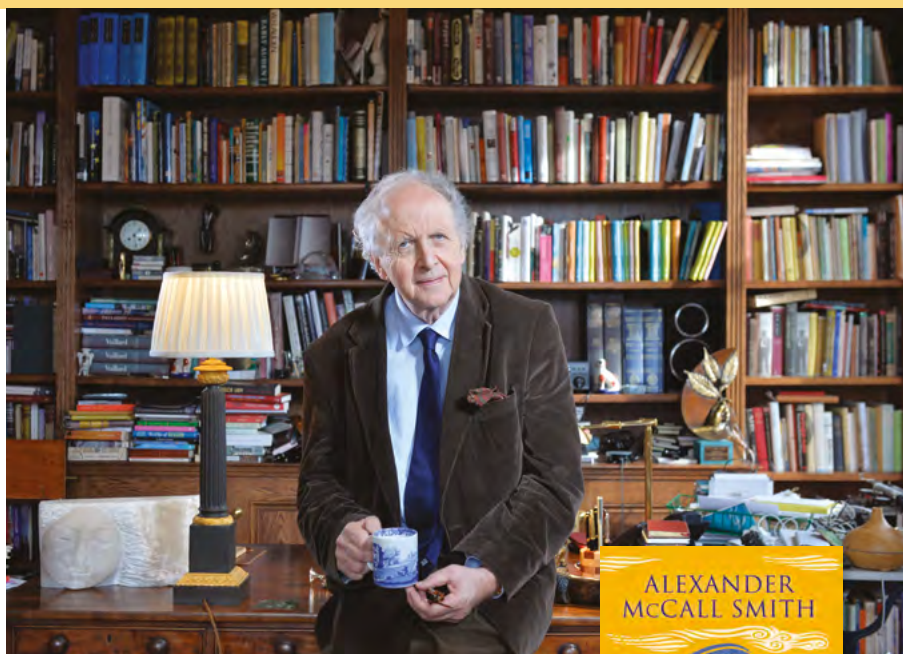
Durham Book Festival is back

Join us for a long weekend of books, new writing, ideas and conversation this autumn when Durham Book Festival returns.

Gala Durham and the city's Clayport Library are set to host some of the most exciting international speakers alongside home-grown talent from **Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 October**.

Across the weekend, Gala Durham will welcome a number of world-renowned writers and thinkers. On Friday 14 October, **Alexander McCall Smith** returns to the festival as he celebrates a particularly busy year in his illustrious career.

This year sees the publication of his next book in the Isabel Dalhousie series, *The Sweet Remnants of Summer*, and a new No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency novel, *A Song of Comfortable Chairs*, as well as *The Exquisite Art of Getting Even*, a new collection of short stories, and an upcoming instalment in the much-loved 44 Scotland Street series.

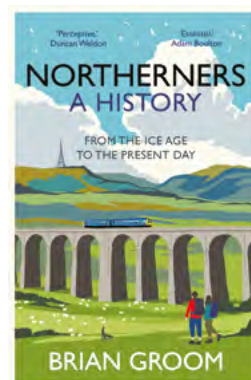


Guardian columnist **Marina Hyde** will be in conversation with journalist Sophie Heawood. Drawing from her spectacularly funny columns, Marina will explore a cast of characters from media barons and reality TV monsters to various princes and princesses.

You can also go on a trip from Durham to DC as **Fiona Hill** talks about her journey from County Durham to the White House. Fiona will be joining audiences live via video link from Durham's twin city of Tübingen, Germany to discuss her recent book *There is Nothing for You Here: Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century*.



Festival laureate **Hannah Lowe**, who was appointed in partnership with Durham University will read from her work, including her latest award-winning poetry collection, *The Kids*, inspired by her career as a teacher. She'll also present a newly commissioned poem at the festival.



The packed programme also includes journalist **Brian Groom**, the author of *Northerners*, the defining biography of northern England. The book takes readers from the earliest times to the present day.

Can't make it to Durham?

All Durham Book Festival events taking place at Gala Durham will also be available to live-stream. Grab a bargain and watch along at home for just £5 per household.

DURHAM BOOK FESTIVAL

Big Read and Little Read

Don't miss our Big and Little Read, offering free books and special events for adults and children.

This year's **Big Read** is a brand-new short story by best-selling crime writer **LJ Ross**. Having helped put the region on the map with novels set in locations from Cragside to High Force, LJ is writing a new story inspired by County Durham and



commissioned exclusively for the festival.



You can pick up your free copy at our libraries and see LJ Ross discussing her life and work at Gala Durham, on **Saturday 15 October**.



Children and families can visit Clayport Library on Saturday 15 for the return of our **Little Read**.

This year's Little Read is *Polonius the Pit Pony*, a charming picture book by **Richard O'Neill**, which brings together the coal mining communities of the north east and nomadic Romani Gypsies.



Richard will be taking part in the Little Read Storytime at Clayport Library. Durham Book Festival will also be distributing copies of the book to primary schools in the county.

Find the full programme for Durham Book Festival at www.durhambookfestival.com



Join the Bright Ideas Gathering



After a highly successful 2021 pilot, we are once again partnering with the Bright Ideas Gathering to produce Bright Ideas for a further four years.

The gathering is a day full of discovery, fascination and inspiration. This year's topics include:

- › How do you create stadium-filling music on a computer that costs £5?
- › What's the hidden reason behind why we procrastinate and what can we do about it?
- › It's the 100th Anniversary of the discovery of King Tutankhamen's grave: how has this discovery changed us?
- › The BBC is opening up a major new North East tech hub: what are the plans for its future?
- › We all know about electric vehicles, but how will we power the aeroplanes of the future?

This year's Bright Ideas Gathering will take place on **Sunday 2 October** at its new base of Gala Durham. Don't forget to put the date in your diary and help spread the word.

Tickets start at £5 for concessions. Refreshments are included in the price.

For more information, visit www.brightideas.info

Spotlight on Spennymoor



Our ambitious Towns and Villages Investment Plan is helping to breathe new life into communities across County Durham and create more and better jobs.

In Spennymoor, a series of improvements has turned the town centre into a welcoming shopping destination. With a range of independent retailers ready to move into refurbished units, investment is helping to create and safeguard jobs and attract new visitors.



Market Place makeover

Improvement works have transformed Spennymoor's Market Place. Alongside new paving and handrails, new lighting has been installed to support events taking place in the town. New projectors are able to display images onto pavements and buildings.

We've installed new street furniture, including a solar-powered phone charging bench to allow people to take a moment to relax and enjoy the newly planted raised flower beds while their phone charges.

We are also supporting the **refurbishment of retail units** and the removal of the canopy on the former Festival Walk. This will see existing businesses such as Hindhaugh Opticians and the PDSA take up renovated units, while three new businesses will be coming to the centre before the end of the year.

The **new Aldi store** on Oxford Road has officially opened, with the former premises, in Cambridge Street, set to become the new home of Farmfoods, which was previously located on Festival Walk.

Shoppers and visitors can also take advantage of a new **free car park** near the Market Place. Following the demolition of the former Kwik Save supermarket on Festival Walk, our new 46-bay car park offers improved accessibility to the town centre. With spaces for bikes and motorcycles, as well as electric vehicle charging points, we hope it will encourage more active travel.

Meanwhile, following the recent **demolition of the former Full Tums building**, the site now hosts an open green space. This could also serve as a potential future development site capable of attracting more businesses to the town.





Supporting businesses

As we recover from the pandemic, we continue to offer a range of retail business support, from accessing funding and finding the right property to marketing your business. Our **Targeted Business Improvement (TBI)** funding scheme offers grants to enable eligible applicants to improve the appearance of their store fronts. This includes projects bringing empty units back into use as well as helping newly established businesses improve their premises. Those who have recently benefitted include Fresh Faced Aesthetics and The Little Tap on King Street; O'Hehir Studios and Accountants on Barnfield Road; and the Maria Carney School of Dance, on High Street. We're currently supporting a further six businesses through the application process.

In the last year, support through our TBI scheme has helped create the equivalent of 40 full-time jobs and attracted an additional £592,000 of private sector investment in Spennymoor. The scheme continues to run and is still open to independent businesses. Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/helpwithbusinessfunding

Environmental improvements

Designs are currently being drawn up to improve the land opposite the Post Office at Holborn, to the rear of Cheapside. This will include improving the appearance of the site, improving the wall at the edge of the site and the installation of new fencing to complement the Aldi works opposite. There are also plans in place to provide trade waste bin stores for businesses on Cheapside.

Minor works, such as planting and maintenance works, are also beginning to take place around the town as part of our clean and green team's regular maintenance schedule.



The right staff with the right skills

We run several programmes to help businesses train and recruit employees.

Our **High Street Retail Training** sessions are an ideal opportunity for businesses to boost their knowledge and skills. Recent sessions have focussed on maximising the use of social media and connecting digitally with customers, with further sessions soon to be announced.

We also work with Job Centre Plus and the National Careers Service to offer courses providing **pre-employability training** in customer service. This ensures candidates have all the skills and knowledge needed to work in retail and hospitality.

Employability Durham supports unemployed County Durham residents aged 25 and over to fulfil their employment potential, with personalised action plans developed to help individuals into work. Support is also offered to employers who are looking to fill specific vacancies or who need assistance with job descriptions, shortlisting and interviewing preparation.

Funding is available to remove barriers to employment, such as childcare, travel and purchase of equipment and clothing. It can also be provided to support employers with initial recruitment costs.

For more information, or to request advice and guidance from our Towns and Villages team, visit www.durham.gov.uk/retail



Supporting people into employment

The thought of changing career and learning something new doesn't have to be daunting. We have a range of services to support you every step of the way.

Careers in care

It was caring for a family member that gave Alex Hogan, from Crook, the motivation to start a career in care.

All she needed was the right support, which the 23-year-old found through the County Durham Care Academy. Now she's the 100th person to have secured employment in the adult care sector thanks to Care Academy's fast-track routeway programme.

Developed in partnership with social care providers, the programme covers key elements of the Care

Certificate, with candidates guaranteed an interview with a social care provider on completion of the course.

Alex completed the training after a referral from her local Job Centre. She was provided with support throughout the application and interview process, helping her to secure a role as a support worker.

"I wanted a career in care so badly," she said. "The Care Academy helped put my mind at rest by providing answers to all my questions about what working in

the sector entails. I was a carer for my grandad for a year and talking to the staff made me realise I already had a lot of skills suitable for the role, but now I've been able to develop them with their support."

Find out more about the range of remote training and development programmes on offer through the Care Academy at www.durham.gov.uk/routeways



Learning for all

Hundreds of learning courses are available from this September for anyone looking to retrain or gain additional skills.

DurhamLearn delivers a range of online and classroom-based courses across the county, ranging from English and maths to first aid and adult social care.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/durhamlearn for a full list of courses or call 03000 266 155.



Help for young people

DurhamWorks provides support to young people aged from 16 to 24 who want to get into education, employment or training.

Twenty-three-year-old Harry was keen to become an ICT technician but felt his diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome was holding him back.

With support from his DurhamWorks job coach John Chambers, Harry has been successful in landing a role as an ICT technician at a primary school.

John said: *"I am delighted that Harry finally managed to secure a job in an area he is so passionate about. I hope he continues to enjoy his new role."*

To find out more call 03000 262 930, text WORKS to 60777, or visit www.durhamworks.info



Could you help a child or young person

Volunteers are needed to help support children and young people through difficult times.

Sadly, some children who are in care have little or no contact with their families. Our independent visitors volunteer their free time to accompany them in a range of activities, from visiting the cinema to walking the dog.

Volunteers are from all walks of life and really can provide a lifeline to children and young people who need support.

Heather started volunteering as an independent visitor in January 2021.

"My own daughters are grown up and gone to other parts of the country," she said. "Organising outings and activities to enjoy with a young person gives me an extra sense of purpose and belonging. Independent visitors could be viewed in the way that my kids viewed fun, dependable members of our extended family, or trusted adult friends; someone they can talk to, be themselves with and even have a moan to."



Prior experience of working with vulnerable young people isn't necessary, with qualities such as reliability, dependability and commitment being more important.

"Being fully present and listening to the views and feelings of the young person with unconditional positive regard and without necessarily giving advice - unless asked - are key," Heather added. "I've learned never to assume that, just because I've lived a much longer life, I know more. It just isn't true."

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/familysupportschemes

“ Organising outings and activities to enjoy with a young person gives me an extra sense of purpose and belonging. ”



Supporting guests from Ukraine

Employability Durham has been extending its support to those newly arrived from Ukraine who would like to seek employment.

The team's employment advisers are attending group sessions alongside Jobcentre Plus, offering English Language courses, support with translation, and helping applicants search and apply for work.

One-to-one information, advice and guidance from Employability Durham is available to anyone living in County Durham, with employment advisers also able to help people prepare for interviews and get ready for their first day at work.

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/employability or call 03000 262 009.

Employers are also encouraged to get in touch with suitable vacancies.



**Employability
Durham**



Consider a career with us

Have you ever considered a career working for the council? You'd be surprised at the range of opportunities available.

From finance and planning to social care and environmental health, we

have a variety of roles available from entry-level to senior positions.

Perhaps you're interested in a career in audit, housing or business administration, or you've always had an interest in surveying, ICT or construction.

As well as offering a choice of career paths, we work hard to

support our employees to thrive – we were recently recognised as one of the top 100 employers in England for apprenticeships for the second year in a row.

For more information and current vacancies, visit www.durham.gov.uk/jobsandcareers

Free flu and Covid vaccines



Flu and Covid vaccinations have helped us all to stay safe over the last couple of years.

Flu can be very serious on its own but if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, you're more likely to become seriously ill. Those most at risk from flu are also more vulnerable to Covid. If you're invited for a flu or Covid vaccine, make sure you take up the offer to protect yourself and others.

Now that we are living with Covid, there have been some changes to who is eligible for a flu vaccine. You can get your free vaccine if you are:

- ✓ 65 and over
- ✓ pregnant
- ✓ in a clinical risk group
- ✓ in long-stay residential care
- ✓ a carer or close contact of someone who is immunocompromised
- ✓ a frontline social care worker or someone who provides social care through direct payments or personal health budgets

Later in the winter flu vaccines will also be offered to:

- ✓ all adults aged 50 to 64 years
- ✓ secondary school children in years 7, 8 and 9 (starting with the youngest first)

To find out more, visit your GP surgery's website, your local pharmacy or www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu



World Mental Health Day



We're marking the return of World Mental Health Day on Monday 10 October.

This year people are being urged to make mental health and wellbeing a global priority.

Here in County Durham, our **Now You're Talking** campaign, encourages us all to talk to someone we trust about how we're feeling. It could be a conversation about anything affecting our feelings, such as our mental

health, concerns about finances, events in the news, or opening up about feeling lonely.

The person we trust will be different for each of us, but it could be a friend, family member, GP or someone you work with.

NOW YOU'RE TALKING...

Starting a conversation

It can sometimes be easier to talk about our feelings when we are doing something else, like walking the dog or having a coffee with a friend. And, while face to face conversations are great, even a text or email to someone we know can help to get us talking about our feelings.

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/adultmentalhealthsupport

Sign up for Stoptober

Thinking of quitting smoking? Research has shown that if you quit for 28 days, you're five times more likely to quit for good.

With Stoptober starting on 1 October, it's a great time to quit.

Stopping smoking is the best thing you can do for your own health – and the health of people around you. It's also a great way to save money.

For support to stop smoking visit www.smokefreecountydurham.co.uk/



Finding financial help and support

The rising cost-of-living is squeezing all of our household budgets, but help and support is available for those who need it.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, have rent arrears or are dealing with debt, you should get help as soon as possible. You can get free and impartial advice and support from a range of places.

For information, visit
www.durham.gov.uk/helpwithyourmoney

Our services

We can:

- Provide general information and advice on Council Tax discounts, disregards and exemptions, including single person discount.
- Discuss any difficulties you are having paying your Council Tax or Housing Benefit overpayment. We can discuss a payment plan to help with your overall household budgeting.
- Talk through your income to see if you may be entitled to help through our Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- Provide advice on claiming a Discretionary Housing Payment if you are having difficulties in paying a shortfall in your rent.

www.durham.gov.uk

Tel: 03000 265 000

Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm,
 Friday 8.30am-4.30pm.



Age UK County Durham

Age UK County Durham provides a free and impartial service to help people aged 50 and over across County Durham maximise their income. A holistic approach ensures clients receive wide-ranging expert support with their claim, as well as help with other issues including aids/adaptations, energy costs, care provision and client welfare.

Tel: 0191 374 6367

Email: your.rights@ageukcountydurham.org.uk

Citizens Advice County Durham

Citizens Advice County Durham is a local charity which provides debt and other advice to thousands of people every year. Its services are free, confidential and impartial. If you're struggling with your Council Tax bill, or any other debts, the service can provide guidance, money advice and debt solutions.

www.citizensadvicecd.org.uk

Tel: 0300 323 2000

Monday to Friday 9am-4pm.



Community Money Advice County Durham

Run by Durham Christian Partnership, this project offers a free, non-judgemental and confidential service for anyone struggling with financial issues, debt or managing their money.

Appointments are available at a number of foodbank centres across the county, with advice also available via telephone, email, post or video call. In special circumstances home visits can be arranged.

www.durhamcp.org.uk/community-money-advice-county-durham

Tel: **0191 303 7514** to request a callback.
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

East Durham Trust

East Durham Trust is a local charity which provides support services to people living in the east Durham area. This includes benefits advice, debt advice and emergency food parcels.

www.eastdurhamtrust.org.uk

Tel: **0191 569 3511**
Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-4.30pm.

MoneyHelper

The Government's MoneyHelper service provides clear money and pension guidance online and over the phone. Money help all in one place, that's free to use.

www.moneyhelper.org.uk

Tel: **0800 138 7777**
Monday to Friday 8am-6pm.

StepChange

StepChange is a national charity which provides free and independent advice on your financial situation.

www.stepchange.org

Tel: **0800 138 1111** Monday to Friday 8am-8pm,
Saturday 8am-4pm.

Other sources of debt advice

Information on other organisations that provide help and support on how to manage debt is available at

www.durham.gov.uk/debtadvice

and www.durhamlocate.org.uk

Host a cost-cutting workshop

Our Financial Ability Team, in partnership with NEFirst Credit Union, is helping people through this difficult time with cost saving ideas that can make all the difference.

If you are looking for more ways to reduce your outgoings, why not ask your school, employer, or local community centre to host one of our Financial Ability Workshops.

They're free of charge and could help you, your colleagues, your family, and your friends save money and learn skills that could make you better off and in control of your finances.

For more information, please visit us
www.durham.gov.uk/financialability

NEfirst Credit Union

A modern credit union with easy straight forward savings and low-cost competitive loans, starting from 0% APR, they are there to provide financial help and advice to communities across the North East.

www.nefirstcu.co.uk

Tel: 0330 055 3666 Monday to Friday 9.30am-3pm.

Stop Loan Sharks

If you are a victim of a loan shark, Stop Loan Sharks can help you get a loan shark off your back. It offers online chat and call back services.

www.stoploansharks.co.uk

Tel: 0300 555 2222 any time, 24/7.

Protect yourself against scams

Unfortunately some people try to take advantage of others whilst they are vulnerable.

Find out what to look out for and how you can protect yourself at www.durham.gov.uk/scams

Welfare Rights

We have specialist staff who can help you understand what benefits you may be entitled to and support you in making a benefits claim or making an appeal against a benefit decision. They can also provide representation at an appeal.

www.durham.gov.uk/welfarerights

Tel: 03000 268 968 Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm, Friday 8.30am-4.30pm.

Moving house or going through a crisis?

You may be able to get help from our Welfare Assistance Scheme, which offers support to stay in your home or find a place to live. They can also help with daily living expenses.

www.durham.gov.uk/welfareassistance


Tel: 03000 267 900 Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm, Friday 8.30am-4.30pm.

Free School Meals

Free school meals are available to all children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as well as other school age children whose parents/carers receive certain benefits.

www.durham.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Tel: 03000 268 003 Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm.



We can help you buy fresh, frozen or tinned vegetables

Apply for your prepaid Healthy Start card now at: www.healthystart.nhs.uk

Get help to buy food and milk through the Healthy Start scheme

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food, infant formula and cow's milk. If you're eligible, you'll receive a Healthy Start card that you can use in many local shops and supermarkets. Money will be added onto your Healthy Start card every four weeks.

Find out if you are eligible at healthystart.nhs.uk or speak to your midwife, health visitor or family centre.





Energy efficiency

Due to recent rises in energy costs, many of us are trying to reduce our energy use. Our Warm Homes Campaign is a one-stop referral system for owner occupiers in County Durham. We offer advice and help to access energy efficiency grants for a warmer home and lower energy bills.

We can also arrange a Managing Money Better appointment, to help you obtain the best deal from your energy supplier.

www.durham.gov.uk/warmhomescampaign

Tel: **03000 268 000** Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm, Friday 8.30am-4.30pm.

Top energy saving tips

With winter on its way and energy prices rising, our helpful tips will help you save money on your energy bills.

Monitor your energy usage

Keeping a watchful eye on your energy consumption can help you decide when to change your energy use. Using a smart meter can help track your consumption in real time.

Heating thermostat

Almost half of your energy bill comes from heating and hot water usage. Turning your heating down by one degree could save up to £55* a year.

TV, computers, mobile phones etc

Avoid leaving these on standby and don't leave them to charge unnecessarily. This could save £35* a year.

Lights

Always turn off lights when not required.

Kettles

Only heat the amount of water you really need.

Hot water

Needs to be hot but never scalding. For most people the cylinder thermostat set at 60°C is fine for bathing and washing.

Keep your home warm

www.durham.gov.uk/warmhomes

*Based on
Figures from
Energy Savings
Trust (2020)

Helping people keep their home

We can offer support and help if someone is homeless or worried about being homeless. If someone is in danger of losing their home, we will always try to prevent this from happening in the first instance. There is support available to help with financial difficulties.

www.durham.gov.uk/housing

Tel: **0808 196 8406** Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm, Friday 8.30am-4.30pm.

The above number is available out of hours in an emergency including weekends, for anyone who is homeless and has nowhere else to stay.

Private Rented Sector

We have a team that works with landlords to ensure properties are fit for habitation. The team also offers a free mediation service for landlords and tenants to try to sustain a tenancy instead of eviction.

PRSLettings@durham.gov.uk

www.durham.gov.uk/preventeviction

Home Improvement Agency (HIA)

The HIA provides advice, guidance and practical assistance to people who are older, disabled or on low incomes to repair, improve or adapt their homes, to enable them to maintain their independence at home.

www.durham.gov.uk/homeimprovementagency



Celebrating your special event

From the exchanging of vows at a civil partnership to the coming together of friends and family for a naming ceremony, members of County Durham Registration Service are present for the most important moments in many people's lives.

As well as registering births, deaths and marriages, the team oversee a variety of celebrations in a range of venues across the county, from the small and quirky to the grand and luxurious.

Superintendent Registrar, Anne Robson, explains more.

Making memories

"No two days are the same in our service. It's a real privilege to help people with the most meaningful events in their life, whether that's helping them to celebrate or supporting them with compassion at a difficult time.

"Meeting people and helping them to make memories is very rewarding. We can personalise all our ceremonies too, so we offer anything from small, intimate events to big, themed services. Matching our offer to what a client wants can be really good fun and I don't think people realise how many different places they can be married in.



Celebrating 2,000 weddings this year

"Our service is always busy, but Covid added extra pressure – whilst lots of services stopped or teams worked from home, we kept going, introducing innovative services such as 'drive-thru' birth registrations. We're now catching up on celebrations that couldn't take place throughout the pandemic and, by the end of this year, we will have conducted more than 2,000 celebrations, small or elaborate, each personalised and tailored to the couple's needs.

“ We can personalise all our ceremonies...”

From castles to glamping

"Some people have an outdated perception of register offices as being old fashioned and expect our team to be a bit stuffy. However, they're usually surprised to find out

how vibrant our celebrations can be. We pride ourselves on getting on with people – we're friendly, professional, and have a great sense of humour.

"Not all our services take place at a register office. We conduct ceremonies at dozens of licensed venues throughout County Durham. This means travelling and officiating at everything from glamping sites to castles and from hotels to sports grounds. And we'll soon be moving to our new home within the county's new history centre – The Story. Whether you want a small gathering or the largest of celebrations, we can make your ceremony special, memorable and enjoyable.

"A lot of people organise celebrations at venues without realising they aren't going to be legally married until a registrar conducts their service, so arranging their wedding or civil partnership service with us attending really is the easiest way to do it."

Get in touch

To find out more about the service, how the team can help you plan your celebration, or to licence your venue, contact 03000 266 000 or visit www.durham.gov.uk/registerars

Need help **locating** care and support?



The place to find out about adult care
and support in County Durham

www.durhamlocate.org.uk



Could

you



be that caring person
we are looking for?

We have roles available in our **Extra Care** schemes
in County Durham. All you need to get started is a
caring personality, and we'll help you with the rest.

Make a difference to someone else's life.



Scan the QR code to see our
latest vacancies or email:
cdcsrecruitment@durham.gov.uk



Fostering - opening up opportunities for young people

Fostering can make a real difference to a young person's life at a time when they need it most.

For Lesley Caulkin and Caitlyn Grey, their time in foster care not only helped shape the people they are today, it also inspired them to help others.

“Fostering has given me so many opportunities”

Lesley first went into foster care at the age of five and had two families. Now 20, she believes she has benefitted from positive role models in both families. She also credits her foster carers with helping her to develop a good work ethic.

“Fostering has given me so many opportunities,” she said. And it is these opportunities that inspired Lesley to study social work. Having just completed her first year of a degree at Leeds Beckett University, she is determined to help as many people as possible.

For those considering a future in fostering, Lesley's words of advice are to “give it a go”.

“I would definitely encourage people to consider opening their home. It can give people new opportunities and help them to feel safe,” she added. *“Even if it's short term it can still make a big difference to a young person.”*



“I class them as my family”

Caitlyn became a care leaver in October last year and is also about to study social work at university. She has spent time in a number of foster families. *“I have close connections with my previous foster carers who I think very fondly of. They have all helped to shape me to be the person I am today. I am glad I can make them proud of the person I have become.”*

As well as hoping to become a children's social worker after completing her degree, Caitlyn also supports our foster care recruitment events. *“I love being a part of the foster care training because I know what it was like growing up with a foster family, so I can help people understand how to talk to us,”* explains Caitlyn. *“Foster care makes such a difference to many children's lives.”*



Could you foster with us?

We have many children in County Durham who need a loving foster family.

If you foster with us, you can help make a difference to the lives of young people and help them grow into amazing young adults like Lesley and Caitlyn.

We offer a great support package which includes financial assistance alongside full training and advice to help to guide you through your fostering journey.

To speak to a member of the fostering team, call **03000 269 400**.

You can also find more information and dates of future information events at www.durham.gov.uk/fostering

#FosteringDurham

Recycling – what goes where

It can sometimes be confusing to know what can and can't be recycled, but it's important that only the correct items are placed in your recycling bin.

Unfortunately, collections can sometimes be contaminated with items such as pet waste, nappies or food waste. This can lead to recycling being rejected and has a significant cost implication for us.

That's why we've been busy across the summer placing a helpful reminder sticker on all rubbish and recycling bins – making it even easier to remember what goes where. Following these guidelines reduces contamination and means we can reuse, recycle or compost more of your waste.

Some of the most common things found by our collection crews in recycling bins include:

- ✗ Used, greasy pizza boxes – the grease can contaminate the whole bin so please place these in your rubbish bin
- ✗ Polystyrene – when you get a new TV delivered, it's fine to recycle the box. All dry, flat cardboard can be placed in your blue lidded bin but please remove the polystyrene and place this in your rubbish bin
- ✗ Textiles – many people mistakenly place items such as bedding and pillows in their recycling bin. It's true that these should be passed on for reuse or recycling, but we can't accept them in your recycling bin. Please take them to an appropriate charity shop or your local Household Waste Recycling Centre.



If you're unsure what you can and can't recycle in your blue lidded bin, look out for our video at www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere



Recycle Week

We're supporting this year's national campaign to encourage people across the country to recycle.

Recycle Week returns from Monday 19 to Sunday 25 September

This year, the theme of the week is 'Step it Up', so please have a think about how you could go the extra mile and recycle that little bit more.

Look out for our recycling assistants who will be out and about in communities across the county throughout the week and will be happy to answer any questions.



Turning climate talk into climate action

We now have an even more ambitious plan to achieve net zero emissions in less than a decade, following a review of our climate change targets.

After formally adopting a **Climate Emergency Response Plan** (CERP1) in 2020, we set out more than 100 actions to reduce our emissions by 80 per cent by 2030 – and make County Durham carbon neutral by 2050.

Significant progress has been made so far. A review has found that we have reduced our carbon emissions by 58 per cent since 2008. As a result, we have now adopted a new Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP2), outlining an improved aim to be net zero in our operations by 2030 and a carbon neutral county by 2045.

CERP2 details more than 120 schemes to meet our new carbon commitments and also addresses important issues, such as fuel poverty and threats to ecology.

To view the updated plans and progress so far visit

www.climatecountydurham.org.uk



Morrison Busty update

Work is progressing on our state-of-the-art depot at Morrison Busty, including the preservation of historic buildings.

The depot will transform into a low carbon site with a large-scale solar farm built to provide power for the services that operate from the depot.



The project is part of our new **Climate Emergency Response Plan** (CERP2), outlining an improved aim to become net-zero by 2030.

Most of the external work on the office buildings is now complete, ahead of teams returning. The steel frame is in place on an adjoining garage and work on the operational building is progressing well. It's hoped that work on the garage, which will house our fleet workshop and provide repairs for everything from mowers to 26-tonne wagons, will open next spring.

The whole site will be thermally efficient, linking it to our low carbon ambitions. Electric vehicle charging points will also be available for staff vehicles and electric refuse wagons.

A design is in place to make the Bevin buildings, named after Ernest Bevin, water-tight. These historic buildings were used to train men, not able to go to war, for life down the pit, after Bevin diverted 48,000 conscripts to work in the coal industry. The historical value of the structures will be preserved, and they will serve a future purpose as stores.

Meanwhile, the old colliery buildings that were beyond repair have been demolished.

Moving forward, the next phase will see the decarbonisation of the nursery, installation of LED lighting and replacement of all gas boilers with ground source heat pumps. The entrance to the nursery, which provides all plants used by the council, will be thermally wrapped, with most of the work being carried out in the non-growing season.

We've also had the green light to progress with designs for an additional access road from the back of the site, to divert larger vehicles. Construction will begin next spring.

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/morrisonbusty

Enjoy the great outdoors this autumn

Whether it's wrapping up for a walk or getting out on your bike, a perfect combination of stunning scenery, diverse wildlife and tourist attractions on our doorstep make County Durham the perfect place to get out and about.



Sign up for Cycle September

This year, once again, we've signed up to Cycle September – a month-long competition from Love to Ride, which aims to get more people on their bike.

Hundreds of people from County Durham took part in the contest last year, and we're hoping even more of you will join in this year.

Helping you to save money, improve your health and fitness and cut down on carbon emissions, it's the perfect excuse to get out and about with your friends and family. And, by signing up for Cycle September, you could even win prizes for riding your bike.

Join in for free at lovetoride.net/durham



Cycle routes

There are hundreds of kilometres of bridleways, byways and railway paths across County Durham, alongside increased infrastructure and a growing number of cycle lanes.

Whether you want to cycle to and from work, enjoy a leisurely bike ride, or explore your local area, you can find a range of cycle routes at www.durham.gov.uk/cycling



Borrow a Bike

If you want to save money and stay healthy, why not take advantage of our free bike loan scheme.

Borrow a Bike allows you to hire a bike, helmet and equipment for three months if you agree to log your journeys on the Love to Ride Durham website. Free training and support are also available if you want to develop your skills and confidence.

Anyone living or working in Shildon, Newton Hall, Framwellgate Moor, Brasside, Pity Me, Stanley and Murton can take advantage of the scheme. Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/borrowabike



Improving Public Rights of Way



Did you know there are more than 3,500 kilometres – nearly 2,200 miles – of recorded public rights of way across the county?

Using these to explore your local area on foot, by bike, or even horseback is a great opportunity to enjoy our wonderful countryside, improve your health and fitness, or even improve your journey to and from work or school. They also offer something special for tourists enjoying the county's many attractions.

In recognition of the importance of these public rights of way and their value to physical and mental wellbeing, tourism and sustainable travel, we're planning extra investment in the public rights of way network over the next three years.

A new Rights of Way Improvement Plan will also provide a 10-year strategy for routes from 2023. We'll be asking for your views on a draft plan later in the year.

If you'd like to explore your area, but are unsure which paths have public rights and who is allowed to use them, you can check using the Definitive Map. Celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, the Definitive Map was first produced in 1952 and is the legal record of public rights of way. For nearly 60 years, it was a printed book of paper maps, but since 2010 the up-to-date map is available online.

To check exactly where you have the legal right to go, visit www.durham.gov.uk/definitivemap



Adventure awaits in Durham

Slightly cooler temperatures and stunning seasonal colours provide the ideal elements for an outdoor adventure this autumn.

There are a vast array of trails and routes to choose from here in County Durham, including the **Northern Saints Trails**. These six long-distance walking trails were inspired by ancient pilgrimage routes and cover more than 200 miles, taking in picturesque scenery and a host of attractions, shops and places to eat and drink along the way.

Why not take a gentle riverside stroll in the shadow of Durham Cathedral before indulging in a mug of hot chocolate in one of the city's many tearooms or coffee shops?

Those who prefer a slightly faster pace, meanwhile, can get their next adrenaline fix on one of **Hamsterley Forest's** exhilarating cycle trails.

And for some spectacular scenery and autumn colour, take a trip to **High Force and Low Force waterfalls**, enjoy a revitalising walk along the **Durham Heritage Coast** or wander through **Weardale**, with its clear skies and breath-taking landscapes. All that exercise is bound to work up an appetite, but there are plenty of places to stop for a snack – with many being dog-friendly.

Over the summer, Visit County Durham has installed 26 new interpretation panels along County Durham stretches of the Northern Saints Trails, allowing walkers to discover more about the heritage and stories that shaped the area. To find out more about the project, visit www.northernsaints.com



What's on

Saturday 22 October, 2pm

Ministry of Science

Empire Consett

The UK's favourite science team is back – and promising to be more explosive than ever.

Join the presenters of the Ministry of Science as they take an anarchic look at the scientists, engineers and inventors who have shaped the modern world, proving that each one of us can change life for the better.

Expect 20ft liquid nitrogen clouds, exploding oxygen and hydrogen balloons, fire tornadoes, hydrogen bottle rockets, ignited methane and even a self-built hovercraft.

It's 100 per cent educational, 200 per cent entertaining, 300 per cent explosive, and 400 per cent fun.

Recommended age: 6+

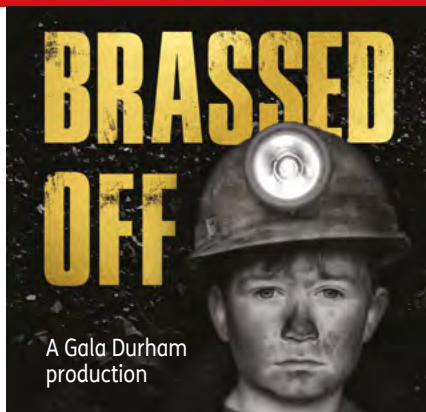
Tickets £15, £56 family ticket (min. two children)

www.empireconsett.co.uk

03000 262 400



Gala Durham



Tuesday 6 to Saturday 24 September
Brassed Off

Don't miss this funny and life-affirming tale of community spirit and triumph in the face of adversity. Adapted from the 1996 film starring Ewan McGregor and Tara Fitzgerald, *Brassed Off* features brass band players from County Durham performing pieces such as the *William Tell Overture*, *Land of Hope and Glory* and Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*.
Tickets from £20.

Saturday 22 October, 8pm

Jamali Maddix: King Crud

Familiar to viewers of *Taskmaster*, Frankie Boyle's *New World Order* and his own critically acclaimed series *Hate Thy Neighbour*, Jamali Maddix promises to tackle more home truths and universal issues in his latest show.
Tickets £16. Restricted age: 16+



Sunday 23 October, 7.30pm

The Pitmen Poets

A night of songs and stories laced with North East humour and humanity featuring Lindisfarne singer and songwriter Billy Mitchell, Warhorse Songman Bob Fox, Master of Tyneside song Benny Graham, and Award winning songwriter Jez Lowe.
Tickets £22.50.

03000 266 600
www.galadurham.co.uk

Empire Consett



Saturday 8 October, 7.30pm

The Chicago Blues Brothers: A Night At The Movies

Direct from London's West End, the *Chicago Blues Brothers* and their nine-piece band perform a two-hour all singing, all-dancing hit parade including the greatest movie anthems of all time.
Tickets £25, £23 concession.

03000 262 400
www.empireconsett.co.uk

Bishop Auckland Town Hall



Friday 14 October, 7.30pm

A Doll's House

Award-winning, Durham-based Elysium Theatre Company brings Ibsen's landmark drama about marriage, love and the need to be true to yourself to the North East in a sensational new production.
Tickets £14, £12 concession.



Monday 24 October, 2pm and 6pm

Terry Deary's True Ghost Stories

The man behind *Horrible Histories* is back. This brand-new adaptation of *Terry Deary's True Ghost Stories* is full of spooky characters and ghostly ghosts from the past. A spine-tingling show with the scary bits left in for ages eight and over.
Tickets £12, £10 concession, £40 family ticket (min. two children).

03000 269 524
www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

Durham County Record Office online talks



© DCRO Ref: D/DLI 7/1277/8

Thursday 15 September, 10.30am-11.30am

Third Thursday Talk: 'Marvellous Diggers – the 1st Battalion DLI in Korea, 1952 to 1953'

Military researcher Steve Shannon explores the experiences of the soldiers of the 1st Battalion The Durham Light Infantry (DLI) during the Korean War. This **free** event is hosted on Zoom (donations welcome, by optional payment link).



© DCRO Ref: D/DLI 2/35/1(78)

Thursday 13 October, 10am-11am and 6pm-7pm

Branching Out: Scottish Ancestors

Although similar to English records, Scottish historic documents differ in unexpected ways, making researching the lives of ancestors from across the border challenging. This talk offers a broad overview of family history in Scotland, exploring the differences in record-taking and offering explanations and advice on tracing ancestors. This session is hosted on Zoom. **£5 per person.**

Places for all talks must be booked in advance.
<https://recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk/pgEventResult>
 Enquiries only: 03000 267 619

Durham University



Saturday 29 October, 10am-3pm

Community Fun Day

Palace Green, Durham City, DH1 3RW

This free event showcases a wide variety of activities, clubs and organisations across the county that residents can get involved in.

There will be something for all ages and interests, including live music, theatre, sports, dancing, hands-on science, arts and crafts, stalls, exhibitions and much more.

Entry is free, though a small charge may apply for some activities.



Online exhibition

Norman Cornish: The Sketchbooks

For the renowned north-eastern artist Norman Cornish MBE (1919-2014), sketching was second nature and an inherent part of his everyday life.

Originally shown at Palace Green Library in 2019/20, this exhibition of little-seen sketchbooks presents a new dimension to the artist's practice, focusing on his observations of life, landscapes, and family, and revealing the inner artistic processes behind some of his most iconic works.

Visit www.dur.ac.uk/attractions/explorefromhome/exhibitions/normancornish/ for more information and to gain access to the 3D walkthrough of the exhibition.

Beamish Museum



Sunday 25 September, 10am-5pm
Classic Car Rally 2022

Marvel at an impressive array of vehicles during this ever-popular annual rally, which takes place on the events field. Organised by The North of England Classic and Pre-War Automobiles Motoring Club, it's perfect for enthusiasts and novices alike.



Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 October, 10am-5pm

Harvest Festival and Harvest Home

Enjoy autumnal displays inspired by the agricultural and rural heritage of the North East of England in celebration of Harvest Festival. Head to the chapel in The 1900s Pit Village for a traditional Harvest Festival display or visit Pockerley Old Hall and the 1940s farm for additional events and activities.

General admission applies.

Stanley, DH9 0RG
 0191 370 4000

www.beamish.org.uk/whats-on

The Bowes Museum



Nature Trail

Find out more about the trees, wildlife, flowers and fauna around the grounds of the museum in this informative and entertaining nature trail. You can even create your own artworks by downloading special viewfinders.



Thursday mornings

Little Treasures

Introduce your little ones to the hidden treasures of The Bowes Museum. The Little Treasures toddler group meets every Thursday morning for exciting activities exploring the museum's collections through stories, craft and song.
£3 for children and £1 extra for siblings.

Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP
 01833 690606

thebowesmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/

Locomotion



Saturday 17 September, 6pm-8pm

Locomotion Lates: Makers' Skills

In this special evening co-ordinated by Locomotion's Youth Team, learn more about the astounding inventions and amazing vehicles on display in Locomotion's Main Hall, including Locomotion No. 1, the very first steam locomotive to pull a passenger train on a public railway. Find out about some of the makers' skills involved in creating these engineering innovations and have a go at some fun activities.

Admission is free, but please book online in advance.

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September, 11am-3pm



Kilburn's Warehouse Open Day

Take a look inside Kilburn's Warehouse – one of the oldest industrial buildings remaining in Shildon and learn about its fascinating history. Join in with free family learning activities and find out more about some astounding inventions. **Free**

Shildon, DL4 2RE
 01904 685780

www.locomotion.org.uk/whats-on

Heritage Open Days

A whole host of exciting County Durham venues once again invite you to take a sneak peek behind the scenes for free between **9 and 18 September**.

H Look out for the Heritage Open Day logo in the What's On section for ideas of places to visit.

To find out more, visit
www.heritageopendays.org.uk


 heritage open days

ONGOING EVENTS



Every Saturday from 10am-4pm

Saturday Outdoor Market

Durham Market Hall, DH1 3NJ

Bustling open air market selling a variety of goods from independent small traders.

www.durhammarkets.co.uk/saturday-outdoor-market/



Until Sunday 2 October

Nature and the Ideal: Pioneers of British Landscape

Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7JF

An exhibition celebrating the enduring tradition of British landscape, featuring masterpieces by Richard Wilson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough and George Stubbs.

General admission £14 for an adult. 01388 743750

www.aucklandproject.org/venues/auckland-castle

Until Saturday 8 October

Foraging Walk

Dalton Moor Farm, Murton, SR7 9JY

Learn how to forage wild plants safely and responsibly under the guidance of a professional. Come away with a whole new way of seeing the wild world around you – and an appetite to learn more.

Adults £16.50. 07887551643.

SEPTEMBER



Saturday 10 September, 7pm

Durham Cricket: England Women v India – Vitality IT20 Series

Seat Unique Riverside, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3QR

England Women return to the Seat Unique Riverside for the first time in nine years to take on India in the first of a three match Vitality IT20 Series.

Adult £15, junior £5.

www.durhamcricket.co.uk

Saturday 10 to Monday 19 September



Heritage Open Days at Durham Cathedral

Durham Cathedral, DH1 3EH

Explore spaces that are usually closed to the public during Heritage Open Days under the guidance of knowledgeable cathedral staff. Free.

www.heritageopendays.org.uk



Thursday 15 September, 9.30am



Northern Saints Trail: The Way of Love – free guided walk

St Helen's Church, Kellow,

Discover stories of the Northern Saints, including some of the female saints associated with County Durham and Northern England. Free.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/northern-saints-trail-the-way-of-love-free-guided-walk>



Saturday 17 September, 11am-4pm

IncludFEST 2022

Hardwick Park, Sedgefield, TS21 2DN

The annual outdoor arts festival for deaf and disabled children, young people and their families returns. IncludFEST is accessible to all with a range of exciting activities including live music and theatre. Free. www.includefest.co.uk

Saturday 24 September, 2pm-5pm



Mammals in Upper Teesdale

The High Force Hotel, Barnard Castle, DL12 0XH

Learn about the secretive animals that lurk in the High Force area. Your chance to get face to face with a selection of small mammals before returning them to their homes. Learn how to check camera traps and footprint tubes to see which species have visited. Adults £5, children £3, booking is essential. 01833 622374

OCTOBER

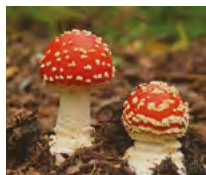


Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 October, 10am-3pm

Chester-le-EATS

Seat Unique Riverside, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3QR

More than 50 food vendors and stalls brought to the Riverside by the producers of ChesterFest, celebrating local food and drink produced in the North East. Free. www.durhamcricket.co.uk/events/chester-le-eats



Sunday 2 October, 10am-3pm
A Fungus Foray

Wynch Bridge End Cottage, Barnard Castle, DL12 0XF

Natural England invites you to join mycologist Gordon Beakes for a closer look at fascinating fungi. **Tickets start at £5.** 01833 622374



Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October, 11am

Shildon Carnival

Hackworth Park, Shildon, DL4 1DL

The action-packed carnival returns with monster truck rides and motorcycle displays as well as a gigantic fun fair and food court. **Free entry.**



Saturday 15 to Saturday 30 October

Raby Castle Halloween Trail

Raby Castle, Staindrop, DL2 3AH

See what creatures you can find on the spooktacular Halloween Trail and submit your best-dressed pumpkins for a chance to win a 2023 annual pass. **Included with general admission price.** 01833 660202 www.raby.co.uk/raby-castle/whats-on/

Saturday 22 to Saturday 29 October

Go Bats: October Half Term at Durham Cathedral

Durham Cathedral, DH1 3EH

Visit throughout October half term when the Common Pipistrelle bats will be going to sleep for the winter. Create your own bat to take home. **Free.** 0191 386 8669 www.durhamcathedral.co.uk



Monday 24 October, 5pm-7.30pm

Halloween Wreath Workshop

The South Causey Inn, Stanley, DH9 0LS

Floral experts demonstrate how to make an eerie Halloween wreath using creepy materials provided on the day. **£40 (please book in advance).** 01207 235 555 www.southcausey.co.uk

NOVEMBER

Saturday 5 November, 7pm

Seaham Fireworks

Seaham Seafront, SR7 7EU

The free annual fireworks display makes a return. For the best view head to George Elmy Lifeboat Way and Seaham Marina. **Free.**



Saturday 5 November, 7pm

Pyromusical at 11 Arches Park

Flatts Farm, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7SF

Take your seat for the UK's largest seated Pyromusical, with an evening of first-class family entertainment guaranteed. **Adults £12.** 0333 300 3028 www.11arches.com



Sunday 6 November, 5.30pm

Spennymoor Town Council Fireworks Spectacular

High Whitworth Playing Field, Spennymoor, DL16 6JJ

A night of fireworks, music and entertainment. **Free.**



Sunday 6 November, 1.30pm

The ZONE at Spectrum Leisure Centre

Spectrum Leisure Centre, Willington

This spooktacular panto is set to trick and treat all the family. **£6.** 01388 747 000 spectrumleisurecentre.com/events



Saturday 5 November, 7.30pm

Fool's Gold: Beat The Drum

The Witham, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

Fool's Gold perform First World War remembrance show *Beat the Drum*. **Tickets starting from £10.** 01833 631107 thewitham.org.uk

this is durham

Find more events and activities at www.thisisdurham.com/whats-on

Please note: venue opening is subject to change, please check before you visit.
» KNOW BEFORE YOU GO »



Putting the smile on Edna's face

The County Durham Care Partnership joins up the expertise across our health and social care systems to provide better, connected services, such as Extra Care, giving 101 year old Edna the supported independence that keeps her **happy and healthy**.

 durham.gov.uk/carepartnership

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