

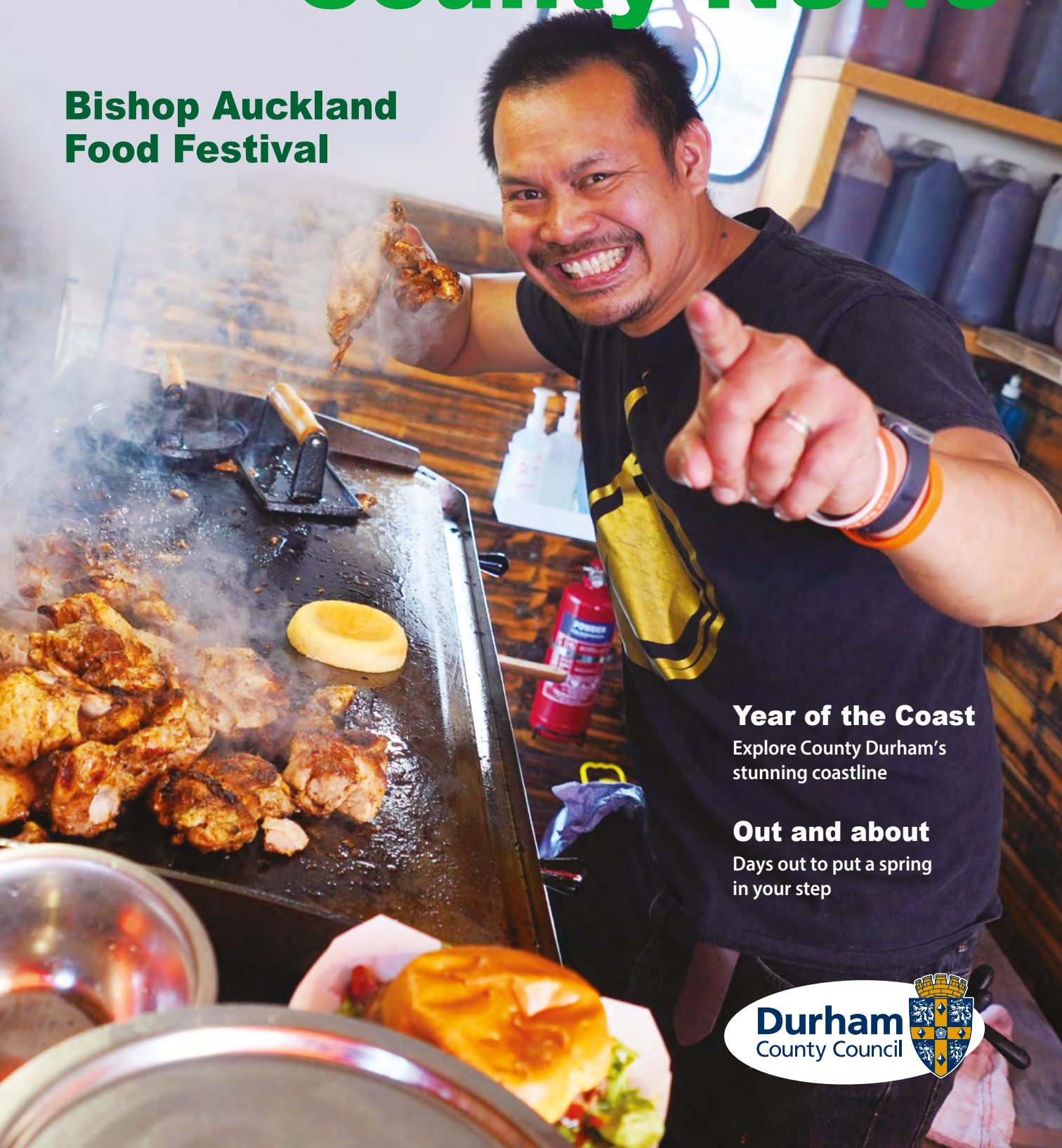
DURHAM

Spring 2023

County News

www.durham.gov.uk

Bishop Auckland Food Festival



Year of the Coast

Explore County Durham's
stunning coastline

Out and about

Days out to put a spring
in your step



Welcome

to the spring edition of Durham County News



Councillor Amanda Hopgood,
Leader of the Council

There's lots to look forward to in County Durham this year, with a fantastic programme of family-friendly events, including the return of the ever popular Bishop Auckland Food Festival. With a star-studded line-up and delicious food, it's not to be missed (page 16).

As we enter 2023, we're delighted that it has been designated as the Year of the Coast. With warmer weather and longer days on the horizon, now is the perfect time to explore the beauty of our Heritage Coast (page 22).

If you are looking for fun ways to enjoy the Easter break, this edition is packed full of ideas. Why not take a visit to one of our parks, located around the county? They offer the perfect place for kids to run around and let off some steam. Or perhaps you should consider a trip to Killhope, which reopens in April (page 24).

We can't wait to see you out and about, enjoying all that County Durham has to offer.

Amanda Hopgood

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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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Get ready for a year of culture

County Durham's exciting annual events programme returns this year. Enjoy delicious food, toe-tapping music, and inspirational art – or get your running shoes on for charity.



Durham City Run

Friday 14 to Saturday 15 July

Held over two days, the Durham Run Festival is centred around four events, supported by a host of exciting activities aimed at all ages and abilities.

www.durhamcityrunfestival.com

Bishop Auckland Food Festival

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 April

A weekend of food, fun, and entertainment with hundreds of independent stalls and cookery demonstrations from a star-studded line up of celebrity chefs. www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk



Seaham Food Festival

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 August

Celebrate the sights, sounds and tastes of the seaside with the return of this popular food festival. With the Year of the Coast taking place in 2023, there will be an even bigger spotlight shone on Seaham Food Festival this year. www.seahamfoodfestival.co.uk

YEAR OF THE
Coast
2023

Durham Pride

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May

Durham Pride marks its 10th anniversary with a rainbow weekend to celebrate and promote inclusivity and diversity across County Durham and Darlington. www.durhamprideuk.org

Kynren

Saturday 29 July to
Saturday 9 September

Travel through two thousand years of England's history, myth and legend in a spectacular outdoor theatre show as rebellions, wars, magic, majesty, celebration and heartache are vividly brought to life. www.11arches.com/kynren



Durham BRASS

Sunday 9 to Sunday 16 July

This annual week-long festival celebrates brass music in all its forms, with free community concerts, school performances and a full programme of lively street bands and world-famous musicians. www.brassfestival.co.uk



Lumiere

Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 November

The light art biennial festival returns to County Durham with a thought-provoking new programme. Artists from around the UK and beyond promise to reimagine Durham's buildings and public spaces. www.lumiere-festival.com

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councillorinfo](http://www.durham.gov.uk/councillorinfo)



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

Celebrating the King's coronation

The country is set for a right royal party this spring in honour of the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III – and we're encouraging residents in County Durham to join in the fun.



Organising a street party is a great way for people to join their neighbours in celebrating the historic event, which is due to take place on **Saturday 6 May**.

In order to make it easier for residents to organise their own events, we have recently updated our Street Parties policy.

The revised policy aims to make the process of applying for a temporary road closure licence as simple as possible. It also includes advice and guidance to help organisers ensure their events are as safe as possible for everyone attending.

We've also made it free to apply for a road closure. We recommend applying for your licence by no later than Friday, 7 April to ensure it is processed in time.

To apply for a temporary road closure, or to find out about insurance, licensing, noise control and clean up after for your street party, visit www.durham.gov.uk/streetparties

For information about national events and celebrations taking place over the Coronation Weekend between **Saturday 6 and Monday 8 May** visit: www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced

Have your say

Last year we commissioned an independent review of our community engagement arrangements, which have been in place since 2009.

While recognising the many strengths in our current approach, the review has also recommended a number of changes, including changes to how the arrangements are structured and how budgets are managed.

We will soon be consulting on the recommendations to seek people's views on the proposed changes.

Details of the recommendations and the consultation will be live on our website from **Monday 13 March to Sunday 23 April**, at durham.gov.uk/consultation

Bringing The Story to life

A new cultural venue for County Durham is continuing to take shape.

Bringing together our archive, historic registration records, local studies collection and the DLI Collection, The Story at Mount Oswald is on track to open later this year.

Currently, more than five miles of county archives, charting almost 900 years of history, are being packed up ready for the move to their new home.

The archives include a rare medieval deed signed by Richard III and a watercolour elevation of a proposed conservatory at Gibside, illustrated by John Dobson.

To stay up to date with the latest developments for The Story, visit www.durham.gov.uk/thestory or follow The Story on Twitter [@TheStoryDurham](https://twitter.com/TheStoryDurham).



Are you ready to vote?



Remember,
bring photo ID
to vote

County Durham residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in future elections, ahead of a new requirement to show photo ID at polling stations.

Although there are currently no scheduled elections taking place in County Durham this year, we are reminding residents to check they have an accepted form of ID in advance.

Accepted forms of photo ID include passports, driving licences and concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Expired IDs can be used if the voter is still recognisable in the photo.

A full list of acceptable forms of ID can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Residents who do not have an accepted form of ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online at www.voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk

A paper copy can be obtained from our electoral services team by calling 03000 261 212 or emailing electoralservices@durham.gov.uk

Do you have an allotment in County Durham?

If so, you may already be aware that we have recently introduced a revised tenancy agreement to ensure arrangements are the same across all of the allotment sites we run.



New tenants will receive the revised agreement from the start of their tenancy. Existing tenants will gradually move onto the revised agreement over the coming months.

While the majority of tenants will be unaffected by the updated arrangements, a transition period will ensure tenants have reasonable time to make any changes required to ensure their plot complies with the new agreement.

Improvements to how we monitor our sites have already been introduced as well as changes to how we communicate with tenants.

We have also employed additional staff and set up an allotments maintenance team, who have already carried out a number of repairs at the sites. Additional funding has also been made available for maintenance activities, such as getting plots ready for cultivation, pathways, fencing, and rubbish clearance.

To find out more about allotments in County Durham, visit www.durham.gov.uk/allotments

Join our Local Access Forum

Would you like to influence how access to land and public rights of way are managed?

We are currently looking for residents to join our County Durham Local Access Forum (LAF), which guides decision-making on access issues.

Whether you're a landowner or someone who enjoys making the most of our county for walking, cycling and horse riding, you could be eligible to become a member of the forum.

We want to make sure our routes are accessible to everyone, so we are particularly keen to include representation from people who use wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Pat Holding has been the chair of Local Access Forum for the last four years. She said: *"Being a member of this group gives me an opportunity to get together with likeminded people who walk, cycle or ride horses on the access network within County Durham. It also provides an opportunity to give views and suggestions about protecting, enhancing, and developing our current rights of way and access network."*

The forum meets four times a year to discuss various access issues.

To become a member, email LAF@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 269 703.



Trailblazer Family Hubs

County Durham has been selected to trailblaze a new government scheme which will provide integrated support to children and families.



The Secretary of State for Education Gillian Keegan visiting Woodhouse Close.

We are one of 75 local authorities to have had our application accepted to be part of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.

We are also one of 14 areas to have been chosen as a trailblazer for the scheme, which will see the authority receive additional funding to fast-track the delivery of the new service.

The programme will transform the county's current One Point family centres into Family Hubs, a one-stop shop providing services to families from pregnancy through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19.

This includes mental health support, help with breastfeeding, health appointments, life skills such as budgeting, relationship or parenting support, and children's learning and development, among other services.

It will also integrate social and early help services to provide additional support to children, young people and families as soon as problems start to emerge or to prevent the risk that problems will emerge in the future.



Do you have a pre-paid energy meter?

Householders are being encouraged to use energy discount vouchers before they run out.

Every household with a domestic electricity account should have received a monthly discount of £66 or £67 through the Energy Bills Support Scheme. The discount should have been applied by the household's energy supplier between October 2022 and March this year.

If you have a smart prepayment meter, the discount should have been credited directly to your smart prepayment meter in the first week of each month. However, if you do not have a smart prepayment meter, or your smart prepayment meter is not working, then you should receive a voucher each month by text, email, or post.

These vouchers **must** be used within three months, but recent statistics show that people are losing out by forgetting to use the vouchers in time. We are therefore encouraging everyone with pre-paid meters to check if they have any unused vouchers and to ensure they are spent within the three-month validity period.

Devolution - what does it mean?

The leaders of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland councils have agreed in principle to a devolution deal which the Government says it is 'minded to' approve. But what does the deal mean for the council and County Durham?

What is devolution?

At the moment, many decisions about what happens in the North East are taken by the Government and its departments. Devolution is about taking decisions as near as possible to where they will have an impact.

What does this mean for County Durham?

As well as meaning more decisions will be taken by people here in the North East rather than in London, the deal guarantees more than £4.2bn of additional investment over 30 years. This will allow us to invest in public transport, support businesses and improve skills and living standards, while also tackling the climate emergency. And it means being at the front of the queue for future powers and funding.

How will it work?

The seven councils already work closely, with two combined authorities currently existing in the area – the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA). The NECA and NTCA, will be replaced by a single combined authority that will cover the whole area. There will also be a directly-elected mayor, who will take decisions for the entire region alongside the seven council leaders.

Why do we need a mayor?

The Government believes the public should be able to directly elect a mayor to ensure accountability for the additional powers and funding made available through devolution. The mayor will be a metro mayor, which simply means they are a directly-elected leader of a region spanning a number of local authority areas. Metro mayors are different from the directly-elected leaders of individual councils.

Who will choose the Mayor?

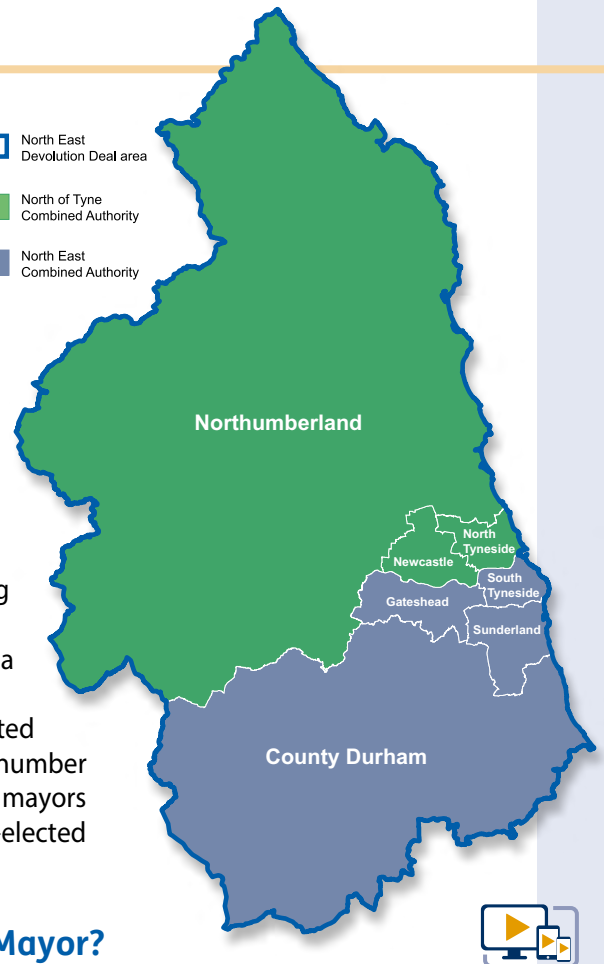
The Mayor will be chosen by the electorate of the seven constituent local authorities, with the first mayoral election expected to take place in May 2024. The Mayor would be re-elected every four years.

Will this cost more?

As part of the devolution deal, funding has been secured to meet the additional costs of the new arrangements.

What does this mean for the councils involved?

All seven of the councils involved in the deal will continue to have the responsibilities they do now. The deal will not impact on the day-to-day delivery of council services or how the council is run. This is about moving powers and money from Whitehall to the North East for the benefit of all our communities.



What happens now?

A public consultation giving residents across the region a chance to understand how the proposed devolution deal could be implemented has just closed. A summary of the responses will be shared with Government, who will then decide whether or not to go ahead with establishing a Mayoral Combined Authority.

Why isn't there a public referendum?

This was a Government decision and we now have to follow Government processes, which do not include a public referendum.

Supporting people back into work and training

It's never too late to get into education, employment or training – whatever stage you are at in your journey, there is a range of support available. Here we find out how David, Kelan and Iman have benefitted from the help on offer.



From 'sofa surfer' to carer

David, from East Durham, was referred to Employability Durham after spending some time being supported by an independent charity for people affected by drug and alcohol addiction.

The 26-year-old, who had overcome addiction four years prior, had been 'sofa surfing' between friends and family and was unemployed and lacking in

self-confidence when he was referred to the service, which provides career advice, information and support for people aged 25 and over.

While David applied for jobs and attended training, his mentoring officer supported him through the process of securing his own property and applying for furniture, food and personal care items.

David's hard work paid off and, in July last year, he started a new job as a support worker providing care for others.

David said: *"Employability Durham has been a great support for me during my time of need. I was able to find a job where I can now help others and get to a position where I'm living independently with a lot more confidence. I would highly recommend the service to others in the same situation."*

For more information about Employability Durham, visit www.durham.gov.uk/employability or follow the service's Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/EmployabilityDurham

You can also contact the team by emailing employability@durham.gov.uk or calling 03000 262 009.



Supporting young people

DurhamWorks is a dedicated programme for young people aged 16 to 24, supporting them on their journey into education, employment, training or an apprenticeship.

It helps young people get the skills and training they need to find a job, apprenticeship, become a volunteer or even just progress their learning – and all at no cost.

Kelan Roscamp signed up after struggling to find an apprenticeship or employment in engineering, despite having already achieved a level three qualification.

Lacking confidence after being unsuccessful in previous applications, his ADHD and dyslexia also made the process more stressful. However, with DurhamWorks' support, Kelan received support to update his CV and develop his interview skills.

This has helped him secure a Level 4 Apprenticeship with the council as a building services design engineer technician, enabling him to develop his skills and focus on his future career.

To find out more about DurhamWorks, please visit www.durhamworks.info or call 03000 262 930.

Syrian refugee becomes specialist support worker

Iman Malouhi was forced to flee her home in Syria in November 2011 following the start of a civil war.

After four years living as a refugee in Lebanon, Iman was offered the chance to move to the UK. She arrived in Newton Aycliffe in 2016 and with our support and that of Durham City of Sanctuary, she was encouraged to join English classes and conversation groups.

Iman was keen to move into employment and, with the support of our DurhamLearn service, she studied English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Community Interpreting (levels 1 and 2), English function skills (levels 1 and 2) and ICT.

By taking advantage of the flexible learning options that DurhamLearn offers, she was also able to volunteer with the NHS during the pandemic while continuing her education.

This commitment to self-development led to a job opportunity as a specialist support worker with the council.

"I had to leave behind everything in Syria – my house, dreams and memories, to find a safe place to live," explains Iman. "Being accepted as a support worker with Durham County Council makes me feel even more settled in my chosen country. I hope that I'm able to continue supporting fellow refugees and contributing towards my town, community and the values of my new country and home."

To find out more about DurhamLearn, visit www.durham.gov.uk/durhamlearn call 03000 266 115 or email durhamlearn@durham.gov.uk



Learn number skills with Multiply

If you are aged 19+ the Multiply programme will offer you the chance to boost your confidence in maths through a wide range of short and fun activities.

Do you:

- have a fear of maths?
- feel like you can't do maths?
- feel like maths gets in the way of being able to take part in activities, education or employment opportunities?
- feel like maths stops you from keeping up with the kids or being able to help with homework?
- struggle to manage your budget, especially as the cost of living rises?

Our Multiply programme is here to help you.

 www.durham.gov.uk/multiply

 Multiply@durham.gov.uk

 03000 266 115

**SKILLS
FOR LIFE**



Spring into action

The change of the season can put a spring in our step, encouraging us to think about getting active again. We offer a wide range of programmes to support people on their journey to fitness.



Wellbeing

Our community class programme offers a range of beginner level activities to help people improve their health and wellbeing. Sessions range from arts and crafts to gentle exercise and gardening, offering the opportunity to meet like-minded people. Classes are available across the county.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/waystowellbeing for the full programme.



Weekly health walks

Walking outdoors is proven to have many benefits not just in helping us stay active but also through supporting our wellbeing. Why not take your first steps to improving your health and fitness by joining our free, short health walks? Taking place every week in local communities, these short local walks are led by a qualified walk leader.

For more information and to book your place, visit www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham

Couch to 5K

Running is a great way to exercise, but for those struggling to make a move, our Couch to 5K programme is the perfect way to get started. Starting with a mixture of running and walking, the instructor-led programme aims to have participants able to run 5k within just six weeks.

Couch to 5K sessions are free to join and you can sign up at www.durham.gov.uk/rundurham



Free swimming for under 19s

Swimming is a great way to have fun and stay active whilst learning a life-saving skill. It's also a fantastic way to keep the kids entertained. Our leisure centres offer free swimming for children and young people on weekends during term time and during the school holidays.

Our school holiday swim sessions are part of our Fun and Food programme, with sessions also including a healthy snack.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/swimming to view the latest swimming pool timetables.



Leisure centres

Whether you've signed up to a new fitness challenge, want to lose a few pounds or just want to be a little more active, our leisure centres have a whole host of activities to help you reach your fitness goals.

Our friendly staff can help you get to grips with the equipment and support you with a personalised fitness plan. Plus, through our interactive technology, we can help you track your fitness journey and reach your goals.

You can also try our leisure centres for free with a special three-day pass.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/leisurehub to view our activity timetables, book your place and manage your leisure account.

Leisure transformation

Our Leisure Transformation programme is an ambitious plan to transform leisure centres across County Durham.

Refurbishment works are well underway at Abbey Leisure Centre, Spennymoor Leisure Centre and Peterlee Leisure Centre.

The refurbishment of **Abbey Leisure Centre** is progressing well with work ongoing to transform the site. The changes include the installation of a new fitness suite

with state-of-the-art equipment and technology as well as the creation of a designated fitness studio, which will host our group exercise programme. A new wellbeing hub will feature assisted equipment to give users a 'helping hand', providing a unique exercise and rehabilitation solution, perfect for people who are older, suffering from long-term health conditions, recovering from injury or returning to exercise. A new soft play, interactive tag zone and café is also being installed as an exciting new feature for families.



Work is also well underway at **Spennymoor Leisure Centre** to create a new reception area and library space within the building. Once phase one of the work is complete, work will begin in the pool area to add some fun and interactive features, alongside the existing slide and waves.

At **Peterlee Leisure Centre**, work is ongoing to create a new bowling alley and adventure play with a café facility. Users can also look forward to a new fitness suite with new equipment and technology.




What's the harm?

Every parent wants to do the right thing when it comes to talking to their children about smoking, drugs and other risks... but how many of us realise the importance of talking to them about the dangers of alcohol?

You may even think that introducing young people to alcohol when they are younger will cut down on the potential for alcohol misuse in later life.

However, it is now clear that consumption of alcohol during childhood – especially before the age of 15 – is more likely to give young people a taste for it than help them to handle it.

Evidence shows that alcohol during childhood can harm developing bodies and brains, it can worsen feelings of low mood and depression and can increase the risk of heavier drinking as an adult.



**Alcohol
before 18.
What's
the harm?**

Children who drink regularly are also more likely to smoke and take illegal drugs, have accidents and be involved in risky behaviours.

As a parent or carer, it is important that you talk to your child about the dangers of alcohol – parents have more influence than they might think in setting boundaries for their children.

Balance has produced a free guide about alcohol and young people for parents. It includes guidance from the Chief Medical Officer and myths and facts about alcohol as well as advice on how parents can talk to their child about alcohol.

To find out more, visit whatstheharm.co.uk

Healthy Start for kids

Are you missing out on help to buy healthy food for your family?

If you have young children, you could be entitled to weekly support through the NHS Healthy Start scheme, to help you buy items including:

- ✓ **vegetables**
- ✓ **fruit**
- ✓ **milk**
- ✓ **infant formula milk**
- ✓ **pulses**
- ✓ **Healthy Start vitamins**

You can also use your card to collect:

- Healthy Start vitamins to support you during pregnancy and breastfeeding
- vitamin drops for babies and young children up to four years



**We can help
you buy fresh,
frozen or tinned
vegetables**

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

Who can get help?

You can get money from the Healthy Start scheme if you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or you have a child under four-years-old, and you or your family receive certain benefits.

What can you get?

£4.25 every week for mums who are 10 weeks pregnant or more

£8.50 every week for children up to one-year-old

£4.25 every week for children aged from one to four-years-old

To find out more, ask your midwife or health visitor, visit your local family hub or go to www.healthystart.nhs.uk

Looking out for one another

Looking after our mental health is just as important as looking after our physical health and no one should suffer alone – a message which is supported by mental health charity Spare 10 for Ben.

Set up in memory of Ben Healy, who took his own life at just 20 years old, Spare 10 for Ben was established by Ben's mum Claire Dale and brother Liam Healy. The charity aims to promote the importance of taking 10 minutes out of our day to check in on family and friends, as it could make all the difference to someone who may be suffering.

Continuing Ben's legacy of love, and to encourage reflection, a collection of benches, also known as BenChairs, have been placed in various Locations across East Durham and Teesside. The benches, made by fabricator and Artist Sam Lonsdale, are marked with the inscription *'someone you may never meet cares more than you will ever know'*. It is hoped that when people pass by and take time to rest, they will feel they are not alone.

Knowing where to seek help can often be difficult for people or they may find it a taboo subject. Family friend Alfie Dixon-Clark, from Peterlee, works to break down stigma and is setting up The Seven Wonders of Easington trail. The trail is made up of seven locations around the



Sam, Alfie and Claire.



village, including the Easington BenChair. At each, there are details of the history of the site, information on how to stay safe and be respectful and a letter to collect. Together the letters spell RESPECT. Those who collect all seven receive a certificate and become an ambassador of RESPECT for Easington.

It's hoped similar trails will launch in other locations, spreading a message of compassion, reducing stigma and creating RESPECT Ambassadors around the region.

Find out more at spare10forben.co.uk or by following **Alf the Kid** on Facebook.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Monday 15 to Sunday 21 May

The theme for this year is focused on anxiety.

Anxiety is an important human emotion but, in some circumstances, it can get out of hand and become a mental health problem.

A lot of different things can contribute to feelings of anxiety, including exams, relationships, a new job, a date or a big life change. It is also an emotion people frequently experience around money and not being able to meet life's basic needs.

Talking to someone you trust can often help. Our Now You're Talking campaign encourages us all to try and open up about our mental health, and to encourage us to talk to someone we may be worried about. Is there someone you trust, who you could talk to if you're feeling a bit low, anxious or uncertain?

For more information on support available, visit www.durham.gov.uk/adultmentalhealthsupport

**NOW YOU'RE
TALKING...**

Try before you buy

We're offering small and medium sized businesses in County Durham the chance to borrow an electric van for up to three weeks – and try before they buy.

There is no cost, but businesses must provide insurance and sufficiently charge the vehicle.

The scheme is a great opportunity for business owners interested in purchasing an electric vehicle to trial the economic and climate benefits. The scheme is part of our Climate Emergency Response Plan to help encourage businesses to reduce their carbon emissions.

Switching to an electric vehicle could reduce your emissions from 125gCO₂ per km to zero. Try an electric vehicle to become more climate friendly.

More information on the scheme is available at:

www.durham.gov.uk/trybeforeyoubuy



Still time to sign up for garden waste collections

The cost to subscribe for 2023 is £38 for fortnightly collections through to November and that includes the initial cost of the bin and delivery of it, if required.

In addition, thousands more residents in Teesdale can now sign up the service. We are offering our bin-based service to 7,000 more households across Teesdale, with letters sent to eligible properties.

Residents eligible are encouraged to sign up online where possible at www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste



New location for CAT

Our Community Action Team (CAT) is currently in Coundon and Leeholme. The team is working with partners such as the police, neighbourhood wardens and licensing departments to tackle local housing and environmental issues in these areas.

The team works across the county to target areas of concern highlighted by residents and partners, using enforcement powers to encourage owners, occupiers, and landlords to take responsibility for their neighbourhood and their properties.

CAT normally delivers an 11-week rolling programme, focusing on a specific community at a time. The programme consists of two weeks of identifying issues and planning community priorities, seven weeks of action, and two weeks of review.

Businesses and members of the local community are asked for their views on issues they would like the team to address.

The team, which will be in Coundon and Leeholme until Sunday 9 April, has just completed work in Wheatley Hill, where they dealt with issues such as empty properties, pest control, fly tipping and blocked drains and sewers.

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

Summer opening at HWRCs

Our household waste recycling centres will move to summer opening hours from 1 April, with most sites open between 9am and 6pm.

Visit our website for more information and to find an interactive live map showing how busy your local site is and whether there are likely to be queues. www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc

Bank Holiday bins

There will be no changes to bin collections this Easter, Spring or Coronation Bank Holiday.

Our crews will be working as normal on Good Friday, so please leave bins by the side of the kerb before 7am on your usual collection day.

New to the area? Find out your collection day by logging on to www.durham.gov.uk/doitonline

Care to make a difference

Our Care Academy has now supported more than 120 people into employment.

The academy provides free practical help and support to people wishing to embark on a career in care.

With many different types of roles available and flexible hours to suit people's lifestyles, social care can provide a wide range of opportunities.

All you need are the right values – the Care Academy can help you with the rest.

It doesn't matter if you have no previous experience. If you're passionate about helping others, a career in social care could be the perfect choice.

Just like Anne Windsor, who after being made redundant in her late forties found a new career in care and has never looked back. She loves her job so much that now, aged 70, she's still working and caring for others.

Anne supports people in their own homes to live as independently as possible. *"I absolutely love it."* she says. *"I get so much fulfilment out of helping people. I love hearing their stories and sharing their memories. When I close the door, and I know they're feeling safe and happy, that's my job done. It makes my day to see them smile."*



For more information on our Care Academy, visit www.durham.gov.uk/careacademy



Your route into a career in care

Our part time Routeway programmes help people gain the skills needed to start a career in social care.

After completing a part time six-week programme, participants are guaranteed an interview with an employer in their choice of area. Funding is also provided for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks to enable people to start work as soon as possible.

Programmes, which are also recognised by the Job Centre, start online next month:

- › **Tuesday 18 April**
Routeway into adult social care
- › **Wednesday 19 April**
Routeway into children's social care

There is also a fast track into employment scheme for people aged 18 or over who are looking for a career in care without going through the Routeway programmes.

To apply, simply complete a short application form outlining your existing skills and experience and the type of role you are looking for. Someone will then be in touch to discuss your application and talk to you about the different options available.

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

Save the date for Bishop Auckland Food Festival



Famous faces, food and family fun will be served up in abundance when the hugely popular Bishop Auckland Food Festival returns this spring.



The weekend of **Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 April** will see foodies flock to the town's Market Place and surrounding streets in search of fantastic fayre.

Last year's festival pulled in a record-breaking 30,000 visitors after being restored to its regular springtime slot for the first time since the pandemic.

And more is promised this year as the region's best food and drink producers return in even greater numbers to take around 150 stalls (with plenty of newcomers too!).

That means everything from burgers and brownies to churros and cheese, and vegan and gluten-free options of course!

There'll be live cookery demonstrations fronted by famous faces, plus pasta making workshops for the kids.

Also returning is **An Evening with Mike Bartley**, Bishop Auckland's very own MasterChef contender. Mike will offer a four-course evening menu during a pop-up dining experience at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. Tickets are limited and are priced at £40 per person.

As always, there'll be a jam-packed programme of entertainment across the two days including street art, live music and performances too.

So, loads to look forward to. See you there!



For all the latest news, visit www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk and follow Bishop Auckland Food Festival on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

What a line-up!

There'll be live cookery demonstrations from these famous faces:

SATURDAY 22 APRIL

- ★ Chef, presenter and cookery book author, **Phil Vickery**. Having been part of the ITV *This Morning* family for over 22 years, Phil is firmly regarded as one of Britain's favourite chefs. He's also a leading authority on gluten-free products and the National Food Ambassador for Coeliac UK.
- ★ Bestselling cookery writer, TV chef and celebrated teacher at the world-famous Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, **Rachel Allen**. Rachel writes a weekly food column for the Sunday Independent and has sold more than one million books worldwide. She currently hosts RTE's 'The Restaurant' with Marco Pierre White.
- ★ The stand-out star of 2022's *Great British Bake Off*, **Janusz Domagala**. Having moved to the UK from Poland 11 years ago, the 34-year-old baker not only achieved his dream of appearing on the show but also reached the semi-finals. A keen LGBT+ activist, Janusz was named one of Heat magazine's 2022 Stars of the Year.

SUNDAY 23 APRIL

- ★ *MasterChef* 2018 Champion, **Kenny Tutt**. Since winning the prestigious title, Kenny has headlined food festivals and events across the UK. A self-confessed burger nerd, Kenny continues to bring new ideas to the kitchen, and most recently launched a brand-new concept, 'Patty Guy'.
- ★ *Great British Bake Off* 2022 runner-up, **Sandro Farmhouse**. A passionate baker who creates show-stopping cakes and desserts, Sandro's delectable creations have won the hearts of foodies everywhere. He says he's "buzzing with excitement" to meet festivalgoers who love the art of cooking just as much as him.

And once again, the host throughout will be TV presenter, cook book author and all-round crowd favourite, **Chris Bavin**.



Investing in communities

We continue to work with our partners to help regenerate towns and villages across the county.

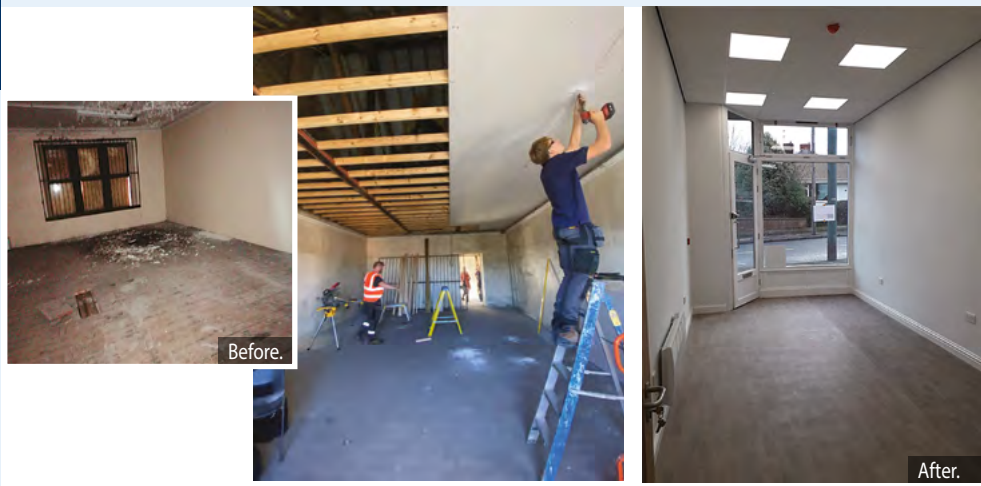
Through our Towns and Villages Programme, we're helping to improve communities, supporting retail businesses and enhancing the county as whole.

Temporary uses for empty retail properties

We are keen to help owners bring vacant units back into temporary use.

There are a number of support measures available to people who own empty properties in our towns.

If this applies to you, please contact us to discuss potential support by emailing CED@durham.gov.uk or calling 03000 267967.



Improving community resilience

Work to transform an empty unit in Sacriston into four self-contained community enterprise spaces is now complete.

Sacriston Enterprise Workshops is an exciting refurbishment project, which now hosts a number of organisations, including Live Well North East, Woodshed, Sacriston Youth Project and training provider, RecyclD.

The project, which reconfigured an empty large unit into four independent spaces was supported by the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) fund. This uses funds from Europe to support local development projects. It aims to increase employment, skills and social enterprise, ensuring that local people are involved in developing projects to address local challenges.

Work to bring the space back into use has helped to support the creation of 12 full-time equivalent jobs, eight part-time workers and 20 volunteers, with more than 500 people having been involved.



To find out more about the project, email sacristonenterpriseworkshops@gmail.com



Projects in the pipeline

Redhills Revealed has just received its grant offer letter from Improving Community Resilience Grant. This will see a further £7 million of external funding awarded to support the delivery of the project.

We're also supporting a further seven projects through the application process, while another 14 groups are in discussions with us about their proposed projects.

To find out more about the project and how to apply, email CED@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 267967 and talk to the team.



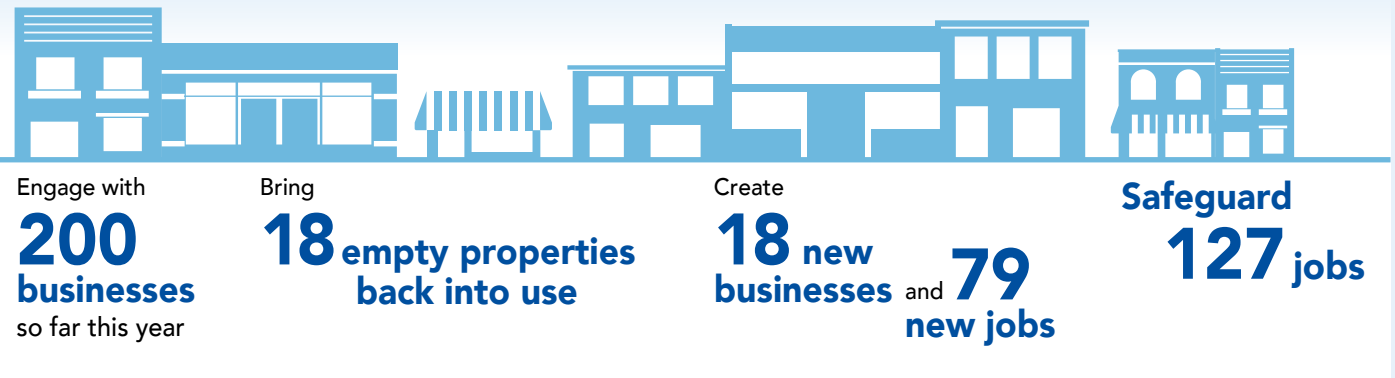
Neighbourhood retail parades

Work is now underway to improve Front Street in Framwellgate Moor.

As part of the project, a new paved footway, drainage and street furniture are all being installed, with access improvements also being carried out. Improved crossing points and enhanced landscaping will also be included in the work, as will the installation of speed cushions to reinforce the existing 20mph speed limit in place.

We are continuing to engage with businesses across the county, providing support to improve their premises and to encourage more people to shop local. Free retail training is on offer to support growth and development, and we're also support owners in bringing empty properties back into active uses. This will help provide a wider choice of goods and services to communities and better access to local providers.

Across all funded programmes, we have been able to:



If you are interested in support for your existing or new retail, hospitality or leisure business, get in touch at CED@durham.gov.uk or 03000 267967.

Selective Licensing of privately rented properties

Since April 2022, private landlords have been required to obtain a licence to legally rent their properties in selected areas of the county.

About 42% of the private rented sector is covered and you can check if a property is included at www.durham.gov.uk/selectivelicensing



The licence fee is a maximum of £500, per property, for the length of the five-year scheme.

For more information, please contact:
Telephone: **03000 268 000** (press option 2)
Email: selectivelicensing@durham.gov.uk



Selective
Licensing



Need help **locating** care and support?



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

www.durhamlocate.org.uk



Sharon shares her fostering journey

Fostering can not only make a huge difference to a child's life when they need it most, it can also help enrich the lives of the foster carer and their family, as it has for Sharon Brewster.

Sharon and her husband Ross have been foster carers with us since 2017, when they welcomed a three-year-old boy who still lives with them. More recently, the couple, who have two children of their own, have also started caring for a 15-year-old girl. This is in addition to providing respite care for other children and young people in need.



Inspired by others

A former midwife and health visitor, Sharon has always wanted to foster and her career helped motivate her to go ahead. *"I became more aware of some of the challenges that children face and wanted to offer more chances to help those who needed a home,"* explains Sharon. *"One foster carer in particular who I visited really inspired me. After seeing all the good that she did, I was inspired to take that final step and start the process."*

Sharon credits the fostering team and its ongoing support for ensuring fostering has been a positive experience for her family. *"With two children of our own, our social worker always looks at the needs of*

the whole family. This helped to make fostering a positive experience which I would recommend to others."

Vital support network

Sharon acknowledges fostering can be difficult at first but says the family has formed such a special bond with the young boy they care for. *"I think I fell in love with him as soon as he got out of the car clutching his teddy bear,"* said Sharon. *"I felt an overwhelming sense of love and support."*

She also describes how fostering has helped enrich the whole family. *"When we started to care for him, we*

would go for days out to nearby farms and play parks. This allowed our own children to become children again as they played with him, which was so special to see."

Sharon would encourage anyone considering fostering to give it a go. *"Go in with an open mind and be open and honest about what is best for you,"* she explains. *"The training you receive gives you the tools to help you overcome challenges and helps you create bonds with other foster carers. This provides you with a vital support network."*

“ You don't need to give birth to a child to love them ”

Interested in fostering?

There are many children in County Durham who need a loving foster family. Our fostering service offers a great support package which includes financial assistance and full training and advice.

To find out more, call 03000 269 400 or visit www.durham.gov.uk/fostering

Year of the Coast

There is nothing quite like a trip to the seaside and, as the official Year of the Coast, 2023 is the perfect time to explore County Durham's stunning coastline.



The Year of the Coast is a nationwide campaign aimed at celebrating coastal landscapes and communities. It coincides with the completion of the **England Coast Path**, which runs through the county and will be the longest marked footpath in the world when it fully opens this year.

The campaign is a chance to rediscover the **Durham Heritage Coast** and its charms, learn more about the wildlife that lives there, and enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of being beside the sea. Residents and visitors who walk the Durham coastline will recognise it for its rugged beauty and unique sweeps of magnesian limestone grasslands, imposing headlands, brilliant beaches, and rare plants and wildlife.

Follow the 11-mile **Durham Coastal Path** from Seaham to Crimdon, walking through plains of colourful grasslands and wildflowers, and enjoy spectacular views along the way.

Best explored from May to September the **coastal meadows** are full of vibrant colours from a diverse range of plants.

Discover hidden coves, such as **Castle Eden Dene**, a national nature reserve packed full of plants and birds. You might even spot a roe deer while exploring the walking trails.

County Durham's coastline has a unique industrial past, remnants of which can also be seen along the route.

For those searching for that feeling of getting back to nature or just looking to blow away the cobwebs, the Durham coastline is home to nature reserves, coastal dunes, birds and wildflowers – it's an exhilarating route whatever distance you want to walk.

View the coastal footpath leaflet online at www.durhamheritagecoast.org or a limited number of booklets available by emailing heritagecoast@durham.gov.uk

For an especially mindful activity, visitors can search for sea glass on **Seaham Hall beach**, one of the best places in the world to uncover these colourful gems. Afterwards, why not take a walk into town centre for the chance to admire Seaham's award-winning Tommy sculpture.

And of course, no day at the coast is complete without delicious food. Along the Durham Heritage Coast there are many cafes, bars, and restaurants, not to mention an abundance of picturesque picnic spots. Look out for local, seasonal produce for a real taste of spring or indulge in fish and chips and ice cream for a traditional seaside experience.


And don't forget about **Seaham Food Festival on 5 and 6 August**, a must-attend event for all food fans and a great family day out.

Further along the coast, the new **Crimdon Dunes**, which opened last year, has a 40-seat accessible and dog-friendly cafe as well as a small meeting room for community, volunteer, and school groups. There is also a Changing Places room to assist disabled visitors. The coastal hub aims to help people learn more about wildlife in the area, increase volunteers and bring in visitors who could not use the site before. To find more information about Crimdon Dunes' facilities contact heritagecoast@durham.gov.uk or telephone 03000 268131.




For more ideas on how to make the most of County Durham's coastline, visit www.thisisdurham.com/yearofthecoast

YEAR OF THE Coast 2023




While the Durham Heritage Coast brings valuable benefits to people's health and wellbeing, as well as being the home to many rare and fascinating species, it is important that this unique piece of coastline is protected and preserved so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come.



The National Lottery Heritage funded **SeaScapes** programme has a dedicated beach care officer who has led 235 beach cleans since April 2020. With the help from volunteers, schools, businesses, and organisations, 2,740 bags of rubbish have been collected in the fight against marine litter on our beaches.

Almost 80 per cent of the litter found on our beaches comes from land through streams and rivers before entering the marine environment. After a heavy rainfall and strong winds, the litter is either washed up on the beach or sinks to the sea-bed. Some litter just floats around the sea for many years.

This litter is not only hazardous to people, but to marine mammals, seabirds, and vulnerable underwater and coastal habitats, and needs to be removed from the beach before the tide takes it away again.



SeaScapes runs a number of community activities to inspire and empower individuals, communities and businesses to understand, explore and protect our treasured coastline – from coastal bird walks to wildflower planting and beach cleans.

People can find out how to get involved by checking the SeaScapes website at www.exploreseascapes.co.uk or by following its Facebook page at 'Explore SeaScapes' www.facebook.com/tynetotees

For further information on upcoming beach litter cleans or surveys and how you can get involved, email info@exploreseascapes.co.uk

Days out that will put a spring in your step

Spring and the Easter Holidays are a fantastic time to get out and about in County Durham.

Whether it's a walk through the beautiful **Durham Dales** or along the **heritage coast**, cycling in **Hamsterley Forest** or a visit to one of the county's many attractions, the spring flowers and blossoming trees add an extra layer of enjoyment to any day out.

At **Crook Hall Gardens** and **Durham University Botanic Gardens** in Durham City, colourful floral displays are guaranteed to put a spring in your step.

Over at **The Auckland Project** in Bishop Auckland, visitors can enjoy a peaceful walk around the deer park and walled garden, before exploring the magnificent **Auckland Castle** itself.

Little ones are sure to love a trip to **Adventure Valley** or **Hall Hill Farm**, where they can meet lots of friendly animals.

Attractions including **Raby Castle** will reopen in March and April for the 2023 season, while others that are open all-year-round, such as **Beamish**, **The Living Museum of the North**, are preparing to open exciting new exhibits in the months ahead.

This year is also the 250th anniversary of the Silver Swan at **The Bowes Museum**. Martin Smith's mechanical sculptures inspired by the swan and nature will be on display in the museum's grounds and galleries ahead of a special exhibition this summer.

To find out about special Easter activities and events taking place, visit www.thisisdurham.com/spring



Explore our parks

Our parks offer the perfect place for the kids to let off some steam while you take the opportunity to relax. Throughout the spring, they will also be hosting a series of outdoor discovery sessions. Aimed at younger children, they include craft activities, storytelling and interactive park trails.

Hardwick Park

Decorative Easter Wreaths Monday 3 April

Down the Rabbit Hole Thursday 6 April

The Ugly Duckling Trail

Saturday 1 April to Sunday 16 April

www.durham.gov.uk/hardwickevents

Wharton Park

Wooden Bunnies and Chicks Tuesday 4 April

Spring Crafts Wednesday 5 April

Spring Bunny Trail

Saturday 1 April to Sunday 15 April

www.durham.gov.uk/whartonparkevents

All workshops need to be booked in advance. Visit our park websites for full event details and online booking links.



Get ready for a green adventure

Families with children, nature enthusiasts, and eco-warriors, get ready to explore the new Eco-Trail at Hardwick Park. This thrilling trail is designed to teach children about the importance of a balanced eco-system and measures they can take to protect the environment.

Featuring six brass rubbing posts, the trail showcases crucial elements for a healthy ecosystem, such as animals, oceans, and fresh water. Armed with a booklet and a crayon, children can make rubbings and answer fun questions to learn about nature, climate change, and ways to make a difference. The trail also boasts a storytelling chair made from oak, designed and hand-carved by artists Jill and Lee Brewster, which celebrates renewable energy solutions.

Collect your Eco-Trail booklet from the Hardwick Park shop and café.

Killhope

A visit to Killhope can be a unique and unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages.

Situated in the heart of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the multi-award winning 19th Century mining museum offers the opportunity to experience the life of the lead mining families of the North Pennines.

Famous for its iconic waterwheel, Killhope has much to offer, including its stunning surroundings, fascinating history, scenic walks and amazing wildlife. Maybe you'll even spot one of the famous red squirrels.

This year, Killhope will host a variety of events for families, with a varied programme that includes workshops, exhibitions and performances throughout the season. You can also accompany one of our guides on an underground mine tour. However, you will need to bring your own wellies if you want to go underground.

The museum will re-open on Saturday 1 April, seven days a week from 10am until 4.30pm. Last admission is 3.30pm. Admission is free.

Due to ongoing assessment of the heritage structure, certain aspects of the museum site will remain closed to the public. To find out more about what is on offer and what is happening on site, visit www.killhope.org.uk



Binchester Roman Fort

Have you ever wondered what life was like for Romans living in County Durham? Binchester Roman Fort offers an insight into one of the largest Roman military installations in the north of Britain.

Visitors to the site, on the outskirts of Bishop Auckland, can walk in the footsteps of Roman soldiers through the remains of the commanding officer's house and learn about the importance of Roman bathhouses – and maybe even spot the infamous Beast of Binchester among the ruins.

Binchester reopens on Saturday 1 April and will be open every day until Monday 31 October from 10am until 4.30pm, with last entry at 4pm.

www.durham.gov.uk/binchester

Visit your local libraries

Looking for free family-friendly activities in your area this Easter? We have 39 libraries across County Durham offering lots of things for little ones to do – pop in see what's on offer. You can also follow us on Facebook at CountyDurhamLibraries.

A full list of our libraries and their opening hours is available at www.durham.gov.uk/libraries



PLASTIC BAND

Plastic Band A Gala Durham Production

Gala Durham
Tuesday 4 to Thursday 6 and Saturday 8 April, 11am and 2pm

Bishop Auckland Town Hall
Friday 14 and Saturday 15 April, 11am and 2pm

The year is 2142. Single-use plastic has taken over Durham and the surrounding areas. So much so, we have lost everything. The River Wear has been taken over by bottles, the Cathedral is covered in straws, and trapped underneath our plastic rubbish is every guitar, drum kit and piano on Earth. How will we ever hear proper music again?

Join Tate and Madonna, as they make music using the plastic we have built up around us.

The *Plastic Band* would love to rock out with you.

Recommended age: 5+

Tickets: £8 (£30 family ticket min. one child).

Gala Durham: galadurham.co.uk Box Office: 03000 266 600

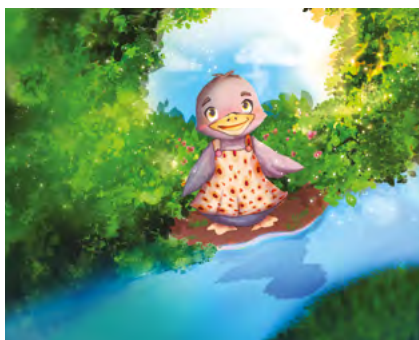
Bishop Auckland Town Hall: bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk Box Office: 03000 269 524

Gala Durham

Tuesday 4 and
Wednesday 5
April, 2pm and
4pm (+12pm on
Wednesday)

Ugly Duckling

Presented by
Northern Ballet



Ugly Duckling is lonely and fed-up. She's ignored by those around her, who think she is too ugly to fit in. She tries to make friends with fellow ducklings as well as with frogs, cats and even a fox but, realising she is not like any of these animals, she is left sad and alone. Follow the duckling on her journey as she overcomes her troubles and realises that she was beautiful all along.

Retelling the famous Hans Christian Andersen fairytale, *Ugly Duckling* is the perfect opportunity for your little ones to enjoy live ballet, music and theatre for the first time.

As seen on CBeebies, Northern Ballet's sell-out productions for children are not to be missed.

Tickets: £8 (£6 concession).



Friday 14 and
Saturday 15 April,
11am and 2pm

I Want My Hat Back Trilogy

Presented by Little
Angel Theatre

A bear has lost his hat. What if he never sees it again? WAIT! He has seen his hat. A fish has stolen a hat. And he'll probably get away with it. Probably.

Two turtles have found a hat. The hat looks good on both of them. But there are two turtles. And there is only one hat.

Following their hit digital series on Little Angel Theatre's YouTube channel, and a sold out run at their venue, lockdown sensations Ian Nicholson and Sam Wilde are back, on the first ever tour of *I Want My Hat Back Trilogy!* Jon Klassen's beloved books, *I Want My Hat Back*, *This is Not My Hat* and *We Found A Hat*, have found a new life of their own LIVE on stage.

All your favourites, including Bear, Little Fish and the Turtles, will be making an appearance in this one-of-a-kind trilogy.

Recommended age: 3 to 6. Tickets: £8 (£30 family ticket min. one child).

03000 266 600 www.galadurham.co.uk

Empire Consett

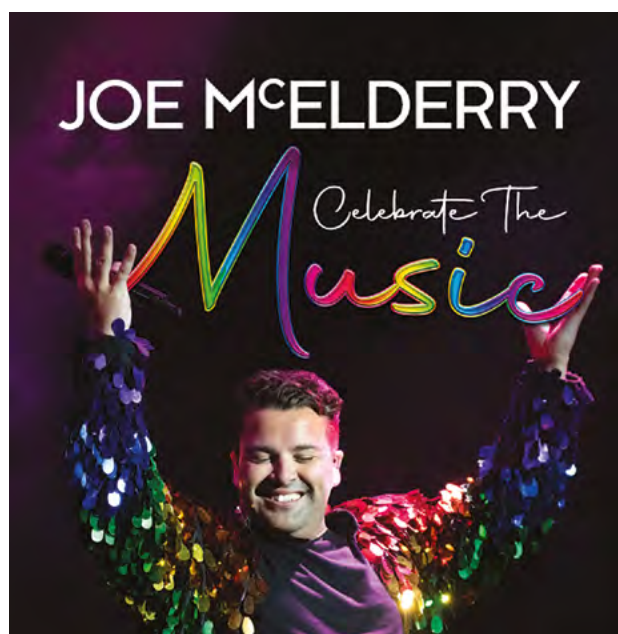


Friday 21 April, 7.30pm

90s Live

A talented cast will have you reaching for the stars they celebrate the 1990s.

Showcasing the music of a generation, *90s Live* features fantastic vocals, genius costumes and all the dance moves you know and love. Tickets £26.



Saturday 22 April, 7.30pm

Joe McElderry – Celebrate the Music

Always a favourite at the Empire, with his 24-carat voice and diamond personality, Joe returns to Consett once again with his brand new Celebrate the Music tour.

Expect an incredible fun-filled evening with one of the country's most beloved singers, celebrating music from a wide range of genres and eras. Tickets £28.

03000 262 400 www.empireconsett.co.uk

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Monday 6 March to
Saturday 13 May

Being Inbetween by Carolyn Mendelsohn

Made over a period of six years, *Being Inbetween* is a series of powerful photographic portraits of girls aged between ten and twelve, exploring the complex transition between childhood and young adulthood. With many portraits never-before exhibited, this is the most extensive exhibition of the series to date. Through her photography and accompanying interviews, Mendelsohn allows each individual an opportunity to reclaim their identity, encouraging a dialogue on ambitions and aspirations, hopes and fears.



03000 269 524 www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

Durham University Botanic Garden



Sunday 16 April

Green Woodworking Event

Green woodworker, Chris Helliwell, will demonstrate his traditional wood-turning skills, offering visitors the chance to have a go themselves.



Sunday 9 and Monday 10 April Annual Easter Chick Hunt

Easter chicks are hiding all around the garden. Pick up your spotter sheet from the visitor centre and see how many you can find in this fun family event. Self-led activity.

0191 334 2887 www.dur.ac.uk/botanic.garden

Beamish Museum

Saturday 1 and
Sunday 2 April

Beamish Steam Gala 2023

This magnificent transport event has a focus on all things steam powered.



Monday 1 May

May Day Celebrations

Find out why May Day was one of the biggest annual celebrations in Edwardian times during this popular annual event.



Saturday 6 and Monday 8 May

Coronation Weekend

Head to Beamish Museum for 1950s-style celebrations during the weekend of King Charles III's coronation. Plus, hop aboard a whole host of historic vehicles and take a trip through time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Beamish Tramway.

As with all daytime events, you can use your Unlimited Pass or Friends of Beamish membership to enjoy these special events.

0191 370 4000 www.beamish.org.uk

The Bowes Museum



Until Sunday
18 June

Modern Makers

Modern Makers introduces the

next generation of artists, makers and designers. Like so many before them, artists from The Northern School of Art, Teesside, have been inspired by The Bowes Museum's unique collection. Through a series of ornamental objects and textiles, this show presents their 21st century responses to one of the most significant fine and decorative arts collections in the country.

Shown alongside rarely seen, and re-sited pieces, this series of work introduces visitors to the production process behind an exhibited object showcasing the stages from initial design to realised artwork through a collection of source drawings and film.



Saturday 22 April, 10.30am-3.30pm

Earth Day

Exploring the Bowes' grounds with scavenger trails, birdwatching and fact-finding points in the parkland to celebrate Earth Day. Discover bird sculptures created by local schoolchildren and have a go at creating a bird sculpture with Bright Woods Forest School, along with other feather inspired arts and crafts.

Suitable for all ages, this is a day for finding out how we can look after the world around us.

01833 690606
www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk

ONGOING



Every Saturday from 10am to 4pm
Saturday Outdoor Market
Durham Market Hall

Bustling open air market selling a variety of goods from independent small traders. durhammarkets.co.uk/saturday-outdoor-market/



Innovation Platform
Locomotion, Shildon, DL4 2RE

Innovation Platform aims to inspire visitors with the inventiveness and ingenuity of rail. The exhibition highlights emerging ideas and extraordinary achievements from across the rail industry. **Free.** 033 0058 0058
www.locomotion.org.uk

APRIL



Saturday 1 to Sunday 2 April
Roarsome Roadshow Weekend

Spectrum Leisure Centre,
Willington, DL15 0JA

An amazing weekend of dino adventures awaits. **Tickets £4.**
spectrumleisurecentre.com



Saturday 1 to Sunday 16 April
Easter Egg Hunt in The Plotters' Forest

Raby Castle, Staindrop, DL2 3AH

An exciting new trail arrives at The Plotters' Forest in time for the new spring season. 01833 660888
www.raby.co.uk



Thursday 6 April, 1.30pm-4.30pm

Free Easter Fun for Everyone

Henknowle Community Centre,
Bishop Auckland, DL14 6TJ

The Wear Valley Community Action Group invites you to celebrate Easter at Henknowle Community Centre. There will be face painting, a raffle, tombola and more. All children will receive a free Easter Egg. 07891082168

Friday 7 April, 11.30am-3pm

Easter Fun Day in aid of PWSA

Hallgarth the Manor House,
Durham, DH6 1AB

Easter Fun Day at Hallgarth Manor in aid of the PWSA. There will be a petting zoo, face-painting, inflatables and much more for the whole family to enjoy.
www.hallgarthdurham.co.uk



Friday 14 April, 8pm

An Audience with Sir Steve Redgrave

The Witham, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

Arguably history's greatest Olympian athlete, Sir Steve Redgrave talks about the highs and lows of his remarkable career. **Standard tickets £25.**

01833 631107, thewitham.org.uk

Saturday 15 April, 1pm

North East Gospel Choir

Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, Durham, DH7 7DW

Enjoy gospel music in the beautiful surroundings of St Cuthbert's Chapel. 0191 373 8500, ushaw.org

Monday 16 April

Tomatoes Tried To Kill Me But Banjos Saved My Life

St John's Hall, Meadowfield, DH7 8RP

Originating in North America, this inspirational true story of overcoming obstacles, pursuing passions, and the healing power of music has delighted international audiences. This is an exclusive North East tour following a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe and Soho Playhouse in New York. 07846542035

stjohnshallmeadowfield.wordpress.com



Thursday 20 and Friday 21 April

Elvis by Candlelight

Durham Cathedral, Durham City, DH1 3EH

Grab those 'blue suede shoes' and get ready for an incredible night of hits, including *Jail House Rock*, *Suspicious Minds*, *Devil in Disguise*, *The Wonder of You* and many more. **Tickets ranging from £28.50 to £45.** 0191 338 7178 www.durhamcathedral.co.uk

Sunday 23 to Saturday 29 April

Damages by Steve Thompson

City Theatre, Durham City, DH1 3RA

The clock is ticking before the presses have to roll. A controversial picture of a children's TV star has turned up. Who sent it and should it be used? A moral dilemma ensues exposing deceit, lies and a dark secret.

www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk

Wednesday 26 April, 1.30pm

Flower demonstration

Lanchester Community Centre, Lanchester, DH7 0PB

Jean McClure will host this flower demonstration with the theme 'frameworks'. **Members can attend for free, visitors £7.** 01207 521275 lanchestercc.co.uk

Friday 28 to Sunday 30 April

Northern Kin Festival 2023



Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, Durham, DH7 7DW

Created by a dedicated team of live music enthusiasts determined to bring more live music to the North East, Northern Kin is perfect for lovers of folk, blues and rock music, with a few musical surprises thrown in for good measure. A friendly atmosphere suitable for all ages. www.northernkinfestival.co.uk



Sunday 30 April

Crookfest '23

Crook Football Club, Crook, DL15 9PW

Cover and tribute bands perform a variety of soft and heavy rock, indie, pop, reggae, ska, rockabilly, blues and more. A great day out for all music lovers. Tickets can be purchased on the website. www.crookfest.co.uk

MAY

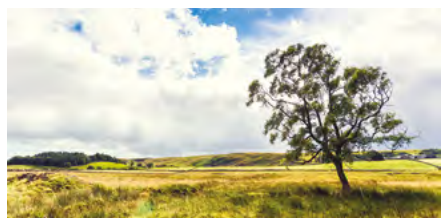


Saturday 6 May, 5am-8am

Dawn Chorus Walk

Bowlees, Barnard Castle, DL12 0XF

Enjoy a guided dawn walk around Bowlees, taking in woodland, meadow and riverside habitats, and allowing plenty of time to listen to 'nature's symphony' and practice birding by ear. Booking is essential. 01833 633374



Monday 15 May, 10am-1pm

Spring Birds in Upper Teesdale

Widdybank Farm, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP

Enjoy a guided tour of Widdybank Farm pastures and meadows. More than 30 species of birds have been seen on this route, including Ring Ouzel, Raven and the Black Grouse. Meet at Widdybank Farm Gate, Langdon Beck. Easy to moderate walking with some stiles. Booking is essential. 01833 633374

Please note: venue opening is subject to change, please check before you visit.

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Durham Castle



Discover the wonders of
the Oriental Museum



Explore Palace Green Library
and the World Heritage Site
Visitor Centre



Have an adventure in
the Botanic Garden

Discover loads of amazing things to do at our attractions in the heart of Durham.

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durham.ac.uk/attractions

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MW/02/23/341



... or simply relax and
enjoy the surroundings.

#FosteringDurham

Could
you care
for Ellie
and Erin?

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