

DURHAM

Autumn 2023

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County News



Durham Book Festival

A literary adventure awaits

Peterlee 75th anniversary

Take a look back

Lumiere returns



Welcome

to the autumn edition of Durham County News

As summer comes to a close, here in County Durham we are preparing for a spectacular autumn and winter season filled with family fun that is guaranteed to light up the darker nights.

Preparations are currently underway for the return of Lumiere, the UK's light art biennial, in November. On pages 15 to 18, you can find our special pull-out featuring all the highlights of this year's festival.

This autumn, we also welcome the return of Durham Book Festival. Across the weekend of 13 to 15 October, Gala Durham will welcome a number of talented authors who will be exploring important topics affecting society today and sharing their knowledge with audiences. Find out more on pages 8 to 9.

You can also check our What's On guide on pages 26 to 31 for details of other events and activities taking place across the county over the coming months.

Finally, on pages 12 to 13, we take a look back at the history of Peterlee as we celebrate the 75th anniversary the new town and how you can get involved in the celebrations.



Councillor Amanda Hopgood,
Leader of the Council

Amanda Hopgood

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Front cover image: Lumiere volunteers.

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7 Lollipop legends!

Our crossing patrol staff rock!

These hardy souls turn out, come rain or shine, to help children and their families get to and from school safely.

And, as it's the 70th anniversary of the service, we've been holding a series of "thank you" events for them.

Each event has had a presentation ceremony, with staff receiving a

certificate, commemorative badge and a platinum jubilee cupcake.

This fantastic photograph was taken at the last of the events, which was held at Durham County Hall.

More commonly known as "lollipop ladies" or "lollipop men", our crossing patrol staff hold a special place in the hearts of our local communities.

We currently employ more than 130 of them, and their ages range from 32 to 78!

Six of them have been on patrol for more than 30 years, and three of them have clocked up more than 25 years' service.

These long-serving stalwarts will have helped generations of the same family get to and from school safely.

We're regularly on the lookout for new crossing patrol staff at locations across the county and would love to hear from anybody who might be interested in joining us.

We list all vacancies on the North East Jobs website – www.northeastjobs.org.uk – or you can call our Road Safety Team for more information on 03000 268175.

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To find and/or contact your
local councillor:

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


 [@DurhamCouncil](https://twitter.com/DurhamCouncil)

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 [/DurhamCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/DurhamCouncil)

Changes to benefits

The Department of Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs are currently moving benefit claimants across from tax credits to Universal Credit.

If you receive Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit, you may receive a **Managed Migration Notice**. This is to inform you that your tax credits are set to end and that you need to claim Universal Credit.

It is important that you read the notice and submit your claim. You will not automatically be transferred to Universal Credit, your Managed Migration Notice will give you a deadline of at least three months.

If you need a deadline extension because of personal circumstances, you can call the telephone number on the letter to request more time.

If the amount of Universal Credit would be less than your tax credits you can get a top-up which means you are not worse off at the point of transfer.

For advice about a Universal Credit Managed Migration Notice, contact our Welfare Rights team on **03000 268968**.

For help to make a claim, contact Citizens Advice Help to Claim on **0800 144 8444**.

Broadband and phone social tariffs

If you are on a low-income you may be eligible for a social tariff to help pay for your broadband and phone. These tariffs are usually cheaper than typical broadband tariffs, starting at just £12 per month. They are also usually exempt from price rises or exit fees.

The UK telecoms regulator, Ofcom, estimates that 4.2 million households in the UK are eligible. You're likely to be eligible for a social tariff if you receive a means-tested state benefit, such as Universal Credit, Pension Credit or legacy equivalents.

You can find a list of the social tariffs available to County Durham residents (subject to availability) on the Digital Durham website digitaldurham.org/social-tariffs/



Durham Superstar 2023

A museum engager who has gone above and beyond to help visitors and his colleagues for almost 40 years has been crowned Durham Tourism Superstar 2023.

Ian Bean, of Beamish, The Living Museum of the North, secured the most public votes in the annual competition. Organised by the council's tourism service, Visit County Durham, the contest celebrates the shining stars of the county's tourism industry.

Ian first volunteered at Beamish Museum 37 years ago, when he was 20 years old. He has taken on many different roles at the popular attraction and is now employed as an engager in the 1900s Town.

From riding penny farthings, restoring vintage vehicles and taking part in Suffragette rallies to helping deliver sessions for people living with dementia and playing the street organ – Ian is a man of many talents. He even appeared in the Downton Abbey film and has clocked up more than 300,000 views on the social media platform TikTok as Penny Farthing Guy.



Visit County Durham's Duncan Peake with winner Ian Bean (right).

"I'm elated and stunned to have won Durham Tourism Superstar," Ian said. "Thank you very much to everyone who voted for me. It's absolutely fantastic. It's an honour to be nominated in the first place and to be shortlisted down to five and then to win is overwhelming."

Ian will now go forward as Visit County Durham's nomination for the Visit England and Mirror Travel national Tourism Superstar contest.

For more information about Visit County Durham, visit www.visitcountydurham.org



£1 billion visitor economy

Tourism contributed more than £1 billion to County Durham's economy for the first time ever in 2022, latest industry research has revealed.

Last year, 17.9 million people visited the county, spending a record-breaking £1.04 billion. This is an increase of 25.6 per cent on 2021 and 8.76 per cent on 2019 and demonstrates how the county's visitor economy is back on track following the coronavirus pandemic.

Visit County Durham, our tourism service, has welcomed the results, attributing the £1 billion milestone to the innovation and resilience of the sector along with strategic work to develop Durham's visitor offer and attract investment.

And while visitor numbers have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, ongoing activity to promote the area through national and international marketing campaigns is encouraging visitors to stay longer and see and do more in Durham. This has resulted in higher spending in the local economy, creating a positive outlook for future sustainable economic growth.



Living long and healthy lives

The County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board has launched its new strategy to inform and influence decisions which have an impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents.

The strategy aims to ensure that we are working together with our communities, to give everyone in County Durham an equal opportunity to live a long and healthy life. Our priorities include making smoking history, enabling healthy weight for all, improving mental health, and reducing harm caused by alcohol.

To read the strategy, and see how it affects you, visit www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk

Cotherstone Old Chapel

Cotherstone residents are celebrating after completing the purchase of a disused chapel which they plan to turn it into a community-run shop, café and heritage centre.

Residents raised more than £115,000 towards the project and we have contributed £120,000 through our Towns and Villages Community Resilience Fund.

A further £20,000 has been awarded by local councillors from their neighbourhood budgets and Teesdale Area Action Partnership has given an additional £40,000.

Now that the group have purchased the chapel, they will now embark on a programme of renovations and improvements to create the shop, café and heritage centre.



Reducing flooding in Stanley

Residents of South Stanley and Craghead are helping us to reduce flooding and create more sustainable communities.

Climate change is leading to more extreme weather, with flooding becoming more frequent. Our highways team carries out a regular programme of works to reduce the risk of flooding, and they are also on standby to deal with emergencies.

However, innovative solutions like those being explored by The Community Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) project could make a huge difference.

The aim is to make urban drainage systems work more effectively with the natural water cycle. This can help reduce flooding but also provide green infrastructure benefits such as improved air quality, amenity and health benefits, and also encourage greater biodiversity.

A five-year community-led project in South Stanley is already seeing the concept in action.

Checking voter information

All households across the county should now have received a form asking them to check information held on the electoral register.

The forms, which have been sent via post and email, are issued as part of our annual canvass. We carry out the canvass in order to keep the electoral register up to date.

It also helps us identify any residents who are not registered to vote so we can then remind how they can register.

You do not need to take any action if the details for your household are correct. However, it is important that everyone follows the instructions on the form.



Follow us on Threads

Have you joined us on the new social media platform Threads?

Run by Meta, the company behind Facebook and Instagram, Threads is a new way for us to communicate good news stories and important updates to our residents.

We already have social media accounts for Facebook, X.com (formerly Twitter), Instagram and LinkedIn, so if you have an account on any of these channels or Threads, please give @durham_county_council a follow and help us reach as many people as possible.



Family Hubs launched

Families in County Durham can now get advice and support on all sorts of family matters in one place, thanks to our new Family Hubs.

The hubs bring together staff from NHS health visitor, midwifery and mental health support services along with our own family support teams. They also link up with community groups offering services such as support for young dads.

Family hubs are there for anyone in the family, from before baby arrives up until young people reach 19 years old – or 25 if they have a special educational need or disability.

The hubs offer a wide range of free courses and information on topics including:

- expecting a baby
- baby feeding and weaning
- helping children learn and develop well
- family relationships
- feeding your family, including vouchers to help buy healthy food
- childcare
- help with your money

And there are lots of fun activities for families, where children can play and grown-ups can meet other families, have a cuppa and have a chat with our friendly teams.



For more information and to see where our 15 Family Hubs are located, visit www.durham.gov.uk/helpforfamilies

You can also follow the team on Facebook to get all the latest information on our classes and drop-in sessions www.facebook.com/CountyDurhamFamilyHubs

Starting school

Will your child be turning five between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025?

If so, you will need to complete an online application telling us which school you would like your child to attend from September 2024.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. We encourage you to apply online wherever possible but, if you are unable to do so, paper application forms are available on request.

If your child attends the nursery unit attached to the school you wish them to attend or if they have a sibling at the school, you will still need to submit an application form.

You will also need to apply for a place in Year 3 if your child attends an infant school which operates separately to the junior school you wish them to attend.

Applications open 5 September 2023 and close midnight 15 January 2024.



A literary adventure awaits...

Join us for a weekend of spellbinding books and fascinating conversation, when Durham Book Festival returns to Gala Durham and Clayport Library this October.

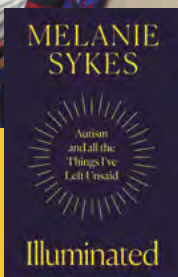
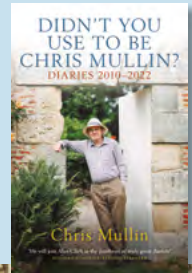


On Friday 13 October, we will welcome one of the nation's best-loved food writers, **Grace Dent**, as she celebrates the release of her new book *Comfort Eating*.

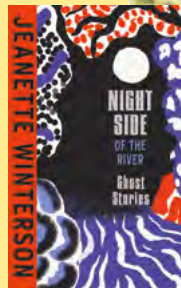
Grace invites readers to her kitchen table to discover what makes the things we eat so delicious as she explores her go-to comfort foods and catches up with famous friends to discover their secret snacks.



Acclaimed political thinkers **Sebastian Payne**, an award-winning journalist who grew up in Gateshead, and **Chris Mullin**, ex-Labour MP for Sunderland South, will be in conversation as they discuss their latest books and what might be next for the region as we approach devolution.



Melanie Sykes has been a well-known broadcaster for nearly 30 years. But between all the interviews and chat shows was a life unseen and a story unsaid. Melanie was diagnosed with autism at 51 and her book *Illuminated* is an honest account of a being a woman in the media, navigating relationships, and being a neurodivergent person speaking up in a neurotypical world.



We're thrilled to welcome internationally bestselling author **Jeanette Winterson** to introduce her new book, *Night Side of the River*. A masterful collection of modern ghost stories based on the author's real-life encounters with the occult, it explores how our lives have changed but our ghosts have not. How we know everything about our world... but nothing about theirs.

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October

Across the weekend, Gala Durham will welcome a number of talented authors who will be exploring important topics affecting society today and sharing their knowledge with audiences.

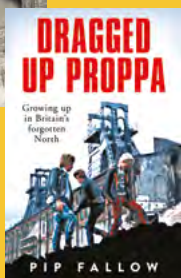
DURHAM BOOK FESTIVAL



Christopher 'Pip' Fallow was destined to join his father and

brothers down the pit, but the closure of his County Durham village's mine in the 1980s saw him at the back of the dole queue like many others.

Dragged Up Proppa is the story of a lost generation who were prepared for a life that had disappeared by the time they were ready for it. It explores some of the most important issues affecting Britain today: from levelling up and the north-south divide, to social mobility and class.



Can't make it to Durham?

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

Story of St Cuthbert – live reading

Viewers of Shane Meadows' recent BBC drama *The Gallows Pole* won't want to miss this year's special festival commission. Gala Theatre will host a world-exclusive live reading of *Cuddy*, the acclaimed novel by Durham-born author **Benjamin Myers**, who also wrote the book on which Meadows' production was based.



This audacious tour de force traces the story of St Cuthbert through the centuries, through the voices of ordinary people, to his final resting place in Durham. The show has been commissioned in partnership with Live Theatre, with music from *The Shining Levels*.

Get writing!

A series of workshops for emerging writers will take place at Clayport Library over the festival weekend. Learn how to write historical fiction with **Dr Laura Fish** and how to approach those crucial first ten pages with **Kit Fan**.

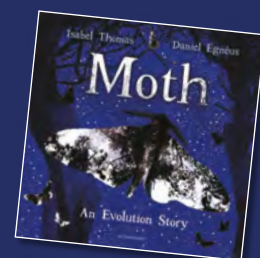
You can explore poetry and story with poet **David Spittle** or learn how to carve out the time to write and get those ideas down on the page with Northumberland writer **Caro Giles**.

On Friday 13 October, aspiring writers can also join us for **Read Them Your Writes**, an informal and supportive night for North East writers to meet each other and share new work. A festival first, it promises to be a spectacular evening.

Little Read

Young readers will be able to pick up a free copy of *Moth* at libraries across the county as part of this year's Little Read. Written by **Isabel Thomas** and illustrated by **Daniel Egnéus**, *Moth* is a picture book which captures the struggle of animal survival against the background of the human world. Visit your local library in October to pick up a free copy.

Join us for a story time with the author on Saturday 14 October, 12pm-12.30pm, Clayport Library. Ideal for families and children under 8. Free



For details of the full festival programme, visit www.durhambookfestival.com

Care to make a difference?

Care workers in County Durham support some of our most vulnerable residents. For many, like Sheena and Jamie, the inspiration to become a care worker came caring for their own families.

Jamie's story

Jamie Richardson was raised by his grandparents and at 16 wanted to become a police officer, but when his grandad got cancer, he became a carer instead. It inspired him so much that two years later, after his grandad passed away, he decided to pursue a career in care.

With support from the County Durham Care Academy, Jamie from Esh Winning was able to complete training and get a rewarding job caring for people in their own homes.

"It's a big responsibility but I really love my job because those I look after are all lovely people," he said. "You really get used to being with them, and they become like your family after a while."



Sheena's story

Sheena Bryson has been a care worker for more than 30 years and is currently a homecare and support worker at the Orchards in Brandon.

One of our Extra Care facilities, the Orchards offers older people, and people with needs associated with old age, a supportive way of living independently.

"I've got a caring personality," says Sheena. "I looked after my parents and wanted to go into nursing initially but changed my mind when I went into a care home to get a bit of background experience. I liked it so much that I stayed. I like to be helpful to people and I think that is very important in this line of work."

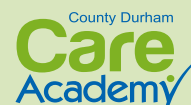
“ The best part of the day for me is knowing that I'm making a difference to someone's life... ”

"Sometimes my day starts quite early, going round and seeing that everyone is ok, helping tenants with their breakfast medication and personal care. But we also have time to come down and do fun things like the weekly exercise class. The best part of the day for me is knowing that I'm making a difference to someone's life and that I've provided the best service that I possibly can."

Extra Care tenants have their own flat in a specially designed housing complex with 24-hour care and support available on site. This offers the independence of having your own home with the benefit of on-site personal care and support to meet your assessed need.

There are Extra Care schemes based around the county in Barnard Castle, Consett, Crook, Ouston, Seaham and Spennymoor.

If you're looking for a fulfilling job that makes a real difference to people's lives County Durham Care Academy can give you the support you need to make it happen, including free, personalised and flexible training to kick-start your career in social care. Find out about the support available at www.durham.gov.uk/careacademy



For more information on our Extra Care schemes visit www.durham.gov.uk/ExtraCare

Have your say

Involving residents in helping to shape our services is one of the most important things we can do. By consulting with people and listening to what they have to say, we gain valuable information which can help us to find solutions, make better decisions and ensure we meet the needs of communities.



This year we've asked you about a range of important issues, including: our approach to community engagement across the county; proposed changes to our home to school transport service; opening hours for some of our Customer Access Points; and the expansion of a Public Space Protection Orders to deal with issues arising from irresponsible dog ownership.

Your feedback has had an impact. Views shared on our approach to community engagement highlighted the need to build on the current strengths and practices of our Area Action Partnerships. Meanwhile, proposals to introduce a seasonal dog ban on Seaham's small slope beach was not taken forward after consultation showed there was little support for it.

Council budget proposals

We are now asking for your views on our budget proposals for 2024/25 as well as gathering your thoughts on how we meet the financial challenges we face over the next four years.

Like all councils, we are facing unavoidable financial pressures driven by rising costs and increasing levels of demand, particularly for adult and children's social care. In total 47 per cent of our budget is spent on social care, providing support to 2.5 per cent of the population. It is becoming more challenging to balance budgets with the funding received from the Government and the income we are allowed to raise locally.

Despite some additional government funding and assuming that there will be continued annual increases in Council Tax, we forecast that we will still need to make £56 million in savings over the next four years, with savings of £12.1 million required next year.

Although we will continue to maximise savings and efficiencies in management and administration

services, it is becoming increasingly difficult to do this. We have always sought to minimise the impact on front line services, however, without further funding from Government, some of these services will be more affected in the coming years.

We have already agreed £2.2 million of savings for next year, and we are now consulting on proposals to save a further £3.7 million. That would still leave us with a £6.2 million shortfall for 2024/25, so we are also seeking your views on where we could make these savings, as well as the savings we'll need to make in future years.

To help our most vulnerable households, we are also proposing to extend our Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme in its existing form for another year. This scheme offers a Council Tax discount to eligible residents on low incomes whether in work, unemployed or retired.

Please have your say on our spending plans, the current savings proposals and on which areas you feel we should prioritise for further, future savings.

2024/25 budget position



£12.1 million
of savings needed



£2.2 million
of savings already agreed



£3.7 million
of savings proposals



£6.2 million
further savings

For more information and to have your say, visit www.durham.gov.uk/consultation
The consultation closes on Friday 20 October.

Celebrating 75 years of Peterlee

In 1948, the Peterlee Development Corporation was set up to coordinate the building of a New Town in east Durham. Named after a prominent miners' leader, Peterlee was unique in being the only new town to have come about following a request to the government by local people.

Seventy-five years later, we're celebrating their success in ensuring Peterlee was one of 10 English new towns in the first wave of the programme.



Yoden Road and Eden Lane, 17th May 1951.

© The Story NTU/Pe/7/5/4(L)

The Living Memory Project

We want to tell the story of Peterlee through the eyes of its residents.

Through our Living Memory Project, we're asking people to share their personal photos, memorabilia and related stories about living in the town, so that we can bring them all together.

Pensioner John Nelson is among those who have already contributed to the project. Now 84-years-old, John was involved in the construction of the first phases of Peterlee. He now lives in the last remaining cantilever house in the town, unaltered from its original design.

John's father Wilfred was one of the first builders to work in Peterlee and, upon leaving school at 15, John followed in his footsteps and joined the construction industry.

In 1960, John was involved in the building of shops along Burnhope Way and Yoden Way, when the town received a visit from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh. John managed to catch a glimpse of the royal car from the upper windows of the shops as it drove past.



John Nelson in his garden at 40 Helford Rd c.1968



John Nelson today.



Wilfred Nelson (left) and workmates at Thorntree Gill c.1952

The Queen's visit, 1960.



© The Story (NTV/Pe 7/15/15/37(38))



© The Story (NTV/Pe 7/15/15/44(2))

John and his wife Anne have lived in Peterlee since 1966 and in their current home for the last 46 years. While the houses around them have since been modified, demolished or rebuilt, their home still has the original flat roof and white panelling from when the estate was first built.

"When the estate was built in the early 1960s, there were ten of these cantilever style houses," John said. "Ours is the only one remaining, which is something Anne and I are very proud of. We feel very lucky because there is so much green open space around us, front and back. It's one of the reasons that we've never wanted to leave."

"Despite the fact that I've worked and lived in Peterlee for the best part of my life, there's still a lot in the Peterlee 75 exhibitions that I wasn't previously aware of. There's also a lot that I do remember, however, which is great to see. It brings back memories and Anne and I have started looking through our old photographs."

John has contributed photographs of himself and his father from the 1950s and 1960s for the Living Memory Project, which will go on display later in the year.

To find out more about Living Memory and how to get involved, email memories@alisonlister.com



Fisher Price Toys, c.1983.

© The Story (NTV/Pe 7/15/15/39(28))

Peterlee: The Place to Be

Earlier in the year we launched a unique photography exhibition, called Peterlee: The Place to Be, at Castle Dene shopping centre.

The public exhibition features more than 100 photographs and working drawings telling the story of how the town came to be.

The exhibition will on display until Saturday 28 October.



Peterlee Emeralds, 1979.

© The Story PPP/0064



© The Story (D/Cl. 5/1789)

Recycle Week 2023

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Recycle Week. We'll be doing our bit to mark this year's event, which runs from **Monday 16 to Sunday 22 October**, but will also be encouraging residents to get involved by recycling as much as they can.

We've worked with the charity Recoup to produce a handy reminder on how to recycle plastics in County Durham. You should have received your copy over the summer. For more information visit www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere

Pledge to tackle climate change

Everything we do, as individuals or big corporations, has an impact on our environment. Our actions can cause ecological changes and have an impact on biodiversity, likely burdening future generations with greater impacts and the costs of climate change.

Find out how you can play your part and do your bit to reduce the impact of climate change by signing our pledge at www.climatecountydurham.org.uk



Flying the Green Flag for County Durham

Our green spaces have once again been recognised for their high standards in the prestigious Green Flag Awards.

Eight of our parks and green spaces have received the honour after being so well looked after for yet another year.

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

The County Durham sites to have been given Green Flag status this year are:

- **Annfield Plain Park**
- **Blackhill and Consett Park**
- **Durham Crematorium and Cemetery, Durham City**
- **Hardwick Park, Sedgfield**
- **Mountsett Crematorium, Consett**
- **Riverside Park, Chester-le-Street**
- **Town Recreation Ground at Bishop Auckland**
- **Wharton Park, Durham City**

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



Recycling medical equipment

Did you know you can now recycle medical equipment at our Household Waste Recycling Centres?

We are working with Medequip and HW Martin, which manages our household waste recycling centres, on a new scheme which aims to save the NHS money and get unused medical equipment back into service. We have installed new drop off skips at our Coxhoe, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Horden, Potterhouse Lane at Pity Me, Seaham and Romanway at Bishop Auckland sites where people can donate unused medical equipment which they have been loaned by the NHS. Examples of items you can donate include, walking frames, crutches and aids to help people sit in the bath.

Once the equipment is dropped off, it is collected by Medequip who sterilise and mend it and get it back into circulation to people who need it.

Find opening times for our Household Waste Recycling Centres at www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc

LUMIERE

Lumiere

Illuminate your nights at Lumiere this winter

Thursday 16 - Sunday 19 November 2023

Lumiere, the UK's light art biennial, returns to Durham with a stunning new programme.

Prepare yourself for a transformative experience as more than 30 spectacular light installations reimagine Durham's historic buildings, streets and waterways for four nights only. Produced by leading arts producers Artichoke, Lumiere is commissioned by the county council, with funding from Arts Council England and additional support from a raft of other funders and supporters.

Open to all and completely free to attend, Lumiere has attracted more than a million visitors since 2009. Now a landmark occasion in the North East calendar, this year's event promises to further raise the stakes with big name artists and exclusive UK premieres.

Beyond the lights, Lumiere continues to support the city and county's economy as well as local

residents. This year, Lumiere will provide new opportunities for the community to get involved and showcase County Durham's creativity on a national platform, including through the return of the BRILLIANT scheme. Focused on showcasing North East and UK talent, the competition offers the opportunity for anyone with a bright idea to make and exhibit an artwork.

Lumiere Durham is open from 4.30pm to 11pm each night.

You do not need a ticket to attend Lumiere 2023. Free Peak-time tickets are only required between 4.30pm to 7.30pm. Enjoy Lumiere without a ticket after this time.

County Durham residents can book peak-time tickets from **10am on Tuesday 3 October**. Tickets go on general release to the wider public at 10am on Wednesday 4 October.

Lumiere is made possible through the support of commissioning body Durham County Council, Arts Council England and host of additional funders and supporters.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

AN
ARTICHOKE PROJECT



www.lumiere-festival.com





Step into a world of light – Lumiere highlights

Illuminated Bottle Rack

Ai Weiwei, CHINA

An extraordinary work by one of the world's best-known artists. The piece, which features 61 antique chandeliers, will be housed inside Durham Cathedral's Chapter House. This will be the first time this intricate piece, created in 2018, has been shown in the UK. The immense structure was inspired by Marcel Duchamp's readymade Bottle Rack, and uses the object of an everyday, but enormous, upside-down bottle rack as its chandelier branches.

Pulse Topology

Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, MEXICO/CANADA

Created by the Quebec-based Mexican artist, this immersive artwork of light and sound will transform the nave of Durham Cathedral into the pulsating heart of Lumiere. Composed of thousands of light bulbs, each bulb is activated by the recorded heartbeat of visitors, contributing to a glimmering, connective arrangement through which audiences are able to walk.

Universal Loom

Daniel Canogar, SPAIN

The Spanish artist will illuminate the façade of Durham University's Liebeskind-designed Ogden Centre for Fundamental Physics. Inspired by String Theory and its interpretation of the woven nature of space and time, the work takes the form of a textile-like animated projection.

*Universal Loom
is supported by
Durham University*





BRILLIANT – cultivating local talent

Ghost Nest

Angela Sandwith

Seaham-based artist Angela Sandwith has attended every Lumiere and has always aspired to be part of the BRILLIANT scheme. A former design educator and now full-time artist, Sandwith returns in 2023 as a contributor, presenting a light installation using discarded fishing gear and other materials collected from the beaches of east Durham. Ghost Nest will repurpose these objects, giving them a second life while also sending a strong message about our need to protect nature and the environment.



Angela Sandwith is one of five selected artists for BRILLIANT 2023. The long-standing scheme's mission is to broaden the diversity of those working in the medium of light both locally and across the UK. It gives for those not involved in the arts and early career artists the opportunity to be part of the biennial.

BRILLIANT is sponsored by EMG Solicitors



Lumiere

Lumiere is for the whole community

Lumiere's Learning and Participation programme continues to work with local communities. Since 2009, more than 12,800 local people have taken part. This year, that number is set to increase with a programme that will inspire ongoing artistic endeavours, provide learning resources, improve wellbeing and build social connections.

Sustainability is a watchword for Lumiere and the programme will again feature a community-created installation made of recycled materials, designed by Durham Sixth Form and New College and a solar powered installation created with the help from local schoolchildren. The community recycling project is supported by Evan Cornish Foundation and Durham Area Action Partnership.

Visit the Lumiere website to see how you can be involved in our 'Colour the Castle' project and see your illustrations projected on to Durham Castle during Lumiere.

Learning and Participation is supported by County Durham Community Foundation.



Be a Lumiere Volunteer

Could you help light up Lumiere?

We're on the lookout for volunteers to help make County Durham's showpiece cultural event a success.

We're seeking people aged 18 or over, from students to retirees, to welcome visitors to the city, direct people to the installations and be the face of Lumiere. Everyone is welcome to be a **Lumiere Volunteer**, whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-timer. It's a wonderful way to meet new people and make friends.

Don't miss this opportunity to join the Lumiere team, go behind the scenes, build valuable skills and learn how a major event is run.

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



Lumiere Volunteers Programme is sponsored by MGL Group





Plan your visit

Download the free Lumiere app from October for details of all the installations and where to find them on the interactive map. Or pick up a souvenir print programme (suggested donation £2).

Fancy staying a little longer? Find out what else there is to see and do in Durham at www.thisisdurham.com/Lumiere

Lumiere 2023 will be the greenest yet

We are working to make Lumiere as sustainable as possible, asking our artists and suppliers to pledge to do the same and undertaking a carbon impact assessment of Lumiere Durham 2023. Visitors will be encouraged to turn off their appliances while they are out enjoying the show, to use our park and ride facilities to visit the event, and to take their rubbish home with them.





FREE Peak time tickets

Lumiere is open from **Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 November between 4.30pm and 11pm each night. The event is completely free for anyone to attend** and most of the artworks can be accessed without a ticket at any time during opening hours. Free peak-time tickets are required in the city centre only from 4.30pm and 7.30pm each evening.

Free peak time tickets for County Durham residents will be available from **10am on Tuesday 3 October**. Pre-register your details in advance to get early access at www.lumiere-festival.com

Visit www.lumiere-festival.com to find out more.

Follow Lumiere on social media

- Follow @artichoketrust on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube    
- Follow @LumiereDurham on Twitter 
- For the latest traffic and travel information follow @DurhamCouncil on Twitter 
- Join in the conversation with #LumiereDurham

Lumiere is the best light art event in the country. It's free to all to attend and we couldn't do it without the support of local businesses in Durham and the North East.

Did you know?

- The Lumiere team fundraise year-round to make the event happen
- Around 70 North East businesses support Lumiere and, without their generous support, this free event would be impossible
- Working with community groups in County Durham, Lumiere's Learning and Participation programme has engaged with more than 12,800 people since the first event in 2009
- A special Fundraising Gala Dinner takes place on Thursday 12 October and is attended by over 200 supporters

What do you receive if you're a sponsor?

- Guaranteed Lumiere tickets, credits on our website, app and programme and invites to special events such as the Programme Launch Party and our VIP Hub
- Refreshments at our VIP Hub for supporters are provided by Greggs and Durham Distillery, who are both sponsors of Lumiere
- Some sponsors receive exciting bespoke benefits such as artist talks and private tours
- Businesses and individuals who support Lumiere can have their gift matched by County Durham Community Foundation, and a proportion of that gift will be committed to fighting poverty and enriching lives in County Durham all year round through the Poverty Hurts Appeal.
- If you'd like to join other businesses and individuals from across the region in supporting Lumiere, contact Development@Artichoke.uk.com

Getting from A to B sustainably

Here in County Durham, we are aiming to make it easier for you to leave your car at home when making everyday journeys.

We want to make it simpler, safer and more fun to travel actively, whether it be by walking, wheeling or cycling. There is lots of work going on all over the county to improve our network of paths and cycling routes. So why not hop on your bike to visit the local shop, or walk to see your friends instead of driving?

National Cycle Network

A £1.5 million upgrade of our main cycling, wheeling and walking route has been completed, with a new glow in the dark section among the improvements made. We have worked with Sustrans to deliver the improvements on the National Cycle Network route (NCN1). The Department for Transport-funded work has taken place on sections of the NCN1 between Seaham and Pesspool Wood near Haswell. The NCN 1 is managed by the charity Sustrans and runs from Dover to the Shetland Islands, with a 23-mile stretch running through County Durham.

Borrow a Bike

People living or working in Bishop Auckland, Chester-le-Street, Meadowfield and Seaham can now borrow a bike for free thanks to the extension of our Borrow a Bike scheme, which offers people the opportunity to borrow a bike for up to three months, free of charge. It aims to encourage people to cycle to and from work, though the bikes can also be used for leisure purposes. It is already available to people who live or work in Shildon, Newton Hall, Framwellgate Moor, Brasside, Pity Me, Stanley, Murton and Newton Aycliffe.

Find out if you're eligible at: www.durham.gov.uk/borrowabike

Get involved in Cycle September

It's time to get on your bike, get fit and win some amazing prizes.

We have again teamed up with our cycling partner Love to Ride, to encourage people to discover, or rediscover, the joys and benefits of bikes during September.

Everyone is invited to take part, from biking beginners to pedalling pros, with epic prizes up for grabs including a £4,000 holiday!



To sign up, go to lovetoride.net/durham



Looking after our Public Rights of Way

With 2,200 miles of Public Rights of Way (PROW) there are plenty of places to walk, ride and cycle across County Durham. Discover the natural beauty of the dales, moors, and coastlines, as well as nature reserves, parks and reclaimed land surround our towns and villages. We carry out regular maintenance to ensure paths can be used by the public and have just published our fourth Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) setting out how we will invest in and enhance our PROW network.

For more information visit: www.durham.gov.uk/prow

Find out more about how we are improving our cycle routes at www.durham.gov.uk/activetravel

For more cycling tips and information, visit www.durham.gov.uk/cycling

Transforming travel in Durham City

We're working hard to improve travel to and from Durham City. We want to make it easier for people to access the city, but we're also working to reduce congestion and emissions by encouraging more active travel.



Bus station progress

Durham City's new state of the art bus station is starting to take shape.

The steel frame of the new building on North Road is now complete and floors, staircases and lift shafts have been installed. The main roof of the building, which is on the site of the old bus station, has been put in place and external stone cladding work is currently underway.



The concourse to the rear of the building has been excavated and a new drainage system has been installed, while construction of the access road is well advanced.

Over the coming months, work will take place to complete the construction of internal walls and install a green roof and green wall. The project has experienced some delays due to unforeseen and unavoidable issues, but it is hoped that the new bus station will be open by November, with work to reinstate the road and footpath following over the winter.

The new bus station will provide first class facilities for travellers, serving as a major transport hub for both the city and county. It is hoped that it will help attract both shoppers and tourists to the city, supporting its independent businesses and cultural attractions, as well as encouraging people to use more sustainable methods of travel.

New coach drop-off point

A new coach drop-off point has opened in Durham, welcoming visitors to the historic city centre and providing an improved experience for coach parties.

The site, which replaces the former drop-off point at Freeman's Place, is based on the opposite side of the River Wear at Framwelgate Waterside. The new location will help manage traffic in the city centre and also provide a vastly improved experience for visitors, who will be greeted by a spectacular view of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Durham Cathedral and Castle.

The new drop-off/pick-up bay has space for up to four coaches with a 20 min short-stay parking restriction. Footpaths next to the parking area have been enlarged to accommodate the additional footfall anticipated.

The Cathedral bus has been rerouted to serve Framwelgate Waterside.

Park and Ride extension

Plans to extend one of the city's three Park and Ride sites have been given the green light.



It is hoped that the £1.6 million expansion, funded through the government's Transforming Cities Fund, will help to reduce congestion in the city centre.

Exploring new opportunities

If you're aged 25 and over, are unemployed and live in County Durham, our Employability Durham service can offer help and support to get you back into work or start your own business.

If you're newly unemployed and don't know where to start, if you're looking for a change of direction or simply want to secure a new job as soon as possible, we can help – just as we helped Debbie.

Debbie is a single mum to three young children, who recently returned to the North East to raise her family. Debbie had previously been a support worker, but had a keen interest in art and design, having completed qualifications in the subject.

Due to childcare needs and family circumstances, Debbie found it difficult to find employment that suited the hours she needed to work. She sought support from **Enterprise Made Simple (EMS)**, to explore the option of setting up her own business and they signposted her to Employability Durham.

During Debbie's first appointment, an initial assessment was carried out to identify her skills and experience and any barriers to employment. A plan was then written up which identified goals and the steps needed to achieve them.

Due to the nature of the business Debbie wanted to set up, she required equipment to create products to sell. She had raised the funds to purchase some herself and secured additional funding to purchase the rest of the equipment through our flexible fund.

Debbie has now successfully launched her business own business, MHixel Prints, an online store selling custom-made printed clothing.

"Working alongside Employability Durham has not just helped boost my confidence, it has also helped me move forward as a new business. The team supported me in getting the vital equipment I needed to get started," Debbie said.

"Going self-employed is such a daunting experience, but working with the team has been such a pleasant and easy experience and their support has helped me get to where I am today."

Self-employment will allow Debbie to work around her childcare needs. She's also written into her financial planning that the business will donate some profits to charities close to her heart.

The team offers a range of support, including one to one support by phone, video calls and face to face meetings. Being able to access the service remotely can also make attending appointments easier when juggling a busy life.




“ I would recommend Employability Durham to anyone who needs support with employment. I am very grateful to the team and for the opportunities they have given me and my business. ”



For more information, contact the team:

 03000 262009

 www.durham.gov.uk/employability

 Facebook/Insta:
[@EmployabilityDurham](https://www.facebook.com/EmployabilityDurham)

 employability@durham.gov.uk

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?



locate

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

www.durhamlocate.org.uk



Transforming our leisure centres

Our project to modernise and enhance our leisure provision is now well underway. We want to support residents to become more active by providing modern leisure facilities that are suitable for everyone.

Abbey Leisure Centre

Abbey Leisure Centre has now fully reopened after a major refurbishment programme. The **new-look gym and fitness studios** feature the latest **Technogym equipment**, while the new **Move Hub** is our first facility to feature power assisted equipment designed to help users get moving. Our younger members can bounce, slide and climb their way through the three **Abbey Adventure play zones**. The centre has a café serving refreshments, healthy snacks and tasty treats.

Peterlee Leisure Centre

The newly refurbished gym at Peterlee Leisure Centre is also now open and features all of the latest **Technogym equipment**. We are still working on **updating the swimming pool and new fitness studios**. A **new bowling alley** is also being installed and is due to open soon, along with a soft play area.

Spennymoor Library and Leisure Centre

Phase one of the works programme at Spennymoor Library and Leisure Centre is now complete. A **new reception area** has been created and the **library** has moved into the building. The second phase of the works is due to begin in the autumn and will include the installation of **interactive features in the pool** and the creation of a **soft play and café area**.

Woodhouse Close Leisure Complex

A planning application has been submitted to create a new centre in Bishop Auckland that will **bring together leisure, library and children's services** on a single site alongside a **wellbeing and community hub**. The new building will include **two new swimming pools** and a **modern gym** with the latest equipment and technology. It will also feature a **new library**, which will replace the existing Woodhouse Close Library, and a **Move Hub** providing wellbeing services to support the whole community. By bringing together these services in a single, new build site, it is hoped that the new centre will also help support the ongoing regeneration of Bishop Auckland.



Supporting small businesses

Town centres across County Durham are seeing the benefits of our ambitious Towns and Villages Investment Plan, which is helping to breathe new life into communities across the county and creating more and better jobs.

Targeted Business Improvement

We have a range of support available to businesses looking to improve their premises or even bring vacant properties back into use.

Through our Targeted Business Improvement scheme, funding is available to:

- 📍 support new businesses into premises
- 📍 bring derelict premises or underused retail space back into use
- 📍 encourage business growth

Many businesses around the county have already benefitted, including The Ginger Dog, Coxhoe; Faru, Durham City; Durham City Market Stalls.

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



Transforming Consett

Plans to enhance Consett and create a vibrant and thriving town centre have moved into their final stage.

Phases two and three of transformation works in Middle Street in Consett are now underway as part of our Town Centre Capital programme.

The works, which began in the summer, include the laying of additional new paving and the installation of new bins and bollards.

We will also be adding new seating and planters to create areas for people to sit and relax, as well as seating around new bespoke lighting columns which will project seasonal patterns onto the paving year-round.

By making Middle Street and other centres more attractive to both visitors and businesses, we are not only hoping to transform our towns and villages into exciting and vibrant places, but we're also encouraging increased footfall which supports new and existing retailers and helps to create and safeguard jobs.

In addition, three vacant units have been brought back into use through our Targeted Business Improvement Scheme, and we're hoping to support a further seven over the coming year, creating 24 new jobs and safeguarding a further 26.

Improving community resilience

Almost £1 million is being provided to County Durham communities to help them build resilience and protect important local facilities.

We've now issued six grant offers totaling £983,400 as part of our Improving Community Resilience Project – an amount which has been match-funded with a further £8.36 million.

The fund has been set up to help maintain and enhance the social fabric of our communities and improve resilience.

It has three key objectives:

- 📍 Provide investment to save assets that would otherwise be lost
- 📍 Strengthen capacity and capability in communities, so they can shape their local area and develop sustainable businesses, services and spaces
- 📍 Empower communities in left-behind areas

Applicants need to demonstrate the value of the asset to local people and show that it can run sustainably for the long-term benefit of the community.

Work is now complete at the Lowes Barn Community Centre and an extension is underway at Peterlee and Horden Rugby Club.

Other projects will see new life breathed into the Grade II listed Redhills Miners' Hall, Woodhouse Close, Cotherstone Chapel and Fishburn Youth and Community Building.



Family fun boosts business

Free family events provided through our Towns and Villages programme are helping to attract extra visitors to our town centres.

We recently held a family fun event in Spennymoor, which included circus performances and workshops, walkabout acts, an aerial show and face painting.

As well as enjoying the entertainment, visitors supported their local high streets and businesses throughout the day. We've had excellent feedback from retailers and visitors about the event and look forward to working with local traders to organise more fun days across the county.



I, Daniel Blake

Gala Durham

Tuesday 26 to Saturday 30 September, 7.30pm (+1pm
Wednesday & 2.30pm Saturday) | £25 (£20 concession)

A tiny dragon Productions and ETT co-production in
association with Northern Stage. Originally co-produced
with Birmingham Rep and Oldham Coliseum.

Adapted by David Johns

Dan is a carpenter, a Geordie through and through, and just on
the mend after a heart attack.

Katie has just arrived from London. She's finally got a council
house for her and the kids and a fresh start.

I, Daniel Blake is one of the most important stories of a
generation. A glimpse behind the headlines and the stark
reality of what happens when the political system is stacked
against you. With 14.5 million people living in poverty in the UK,
this is not fiction. It is reality.

A touching and vital story of how people come together in the
face of adversity and how sometimes creating a family to
support you just isn't enough. The show is adapted for stage by
Dave Johns who played Daniel Blake in the award winning 2016
film directed by Ken Loach.



Recommended age: 14+ (contains strong language, death
and potentially triggering references to foodbanks, sex work
and the benefits system)

Gala Durham



Saturday 7 October, 2.30pm & 7.30pm |
£16 (£14 concession), £12 Gala Members

Beyond Caring

A Gala Durham and Queen's Hall Arts Centre co-production

By Christina Castling

Directed by Jonluke McKie

Beyond Caring is a powerful new play that takes a frank, humorous and heart-breaking look at life behind the doors of a care home. Based on interviews with residents, relatives and staff, the play uncovers the reality of caring for others, looking after ourselves and getting older.



Saturday 28 October, 2.30pm & Sunday 29 October,
11am & 2pm | £15.50 (£13.50 under 16s)

Tales from Acorn Wood

Presented by Norwell Lapley Productions

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's beloved *Tales from Acorn Wood* stories are brought to life on stage for the first time in an enchanting experience.

Packed full of toe-tapping songs, puppetry, and all the friends from Acorn Wood, this beautiful show from the team that brought you *Dear Zoo Live* and *Dear Santa* promises to be the perfect treat for children of all ages.

03000 266 600 www.galadurham.co.uk

Bishop Auckland Town Hall



Wednesday 13 September to Saturday 25 November

The Quest for the Perfect Shirt

By Richard Bliss

The Quest for the Perfect Shirt is a project exploring the production and presentation of masculinity by making shirts in public places. Each shirt has been made as a response to either a single conversation, or group conversations about masculinity.

The exhibition at Bishop Auckland Town Hall will be the first time that the whole collection of shirts will be presented to the public. Richard Bliss is an artist/tailor who works from his studio in Durham at Ushaw Historic House and Gardens.

Friday 22 September, 8pm | £10

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club

North East comedy circuit legend Gavin Webster will be joined by the brilliant Don Biswas, fresh from his BBC Radio special, newcomer Kat Price, and, one of the best hosts in the country, Kiwi comedian Sully O'Sullivan.



03000 269 524 www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

Killhope Lead Mining Museum



Sunday 24 September Blacksmith Experience

Be a blacksmith for the day. Join resident blacksmith Alex Sowden in Killhope's own blacksmith shop.

**Killhope Lead Mining Museum,
Cowshill, DL13 1AR**

01388 537 505 www.killhope.org.uk

Empire Consett



Friday 29 September, 7.30pm | £29.50

Emerald Storm

Co-written and co-choreographed by world renowned tap dancer and star of *Coyote Ugly* Adam Garcia, feel the immense power and thunderous rhythms as Irish Dance and Modern Tap combine to soar into the 21st century. A thrilling fusion of music and dance styles, this explosive show is not to be missed!



Saturday 30 September, 7.30pm |
£27 (£25 concession & £21 under 16s)

Crown Ballet: Swan Lake

After last year's successful première, Crown Ballet returns to Consett to enchant theatre-goers with their production of *Swan Lake*. One of Tchaikovsky's finest works and the most famous ballet of all time, *Swan Lake* features some of ballet's most memorable music and breath-taking dance.

03000 262 400 www.empireconsett.co.uk

Durham University

Tuesday 31 October to
Thursday 2 November |
Free

Celebrate Science 2023

To celebrate all things science, join Durham University for three days full of activities, including science and nature trails. Recommended for 7 to 11-year-olds and their families.

Palace Green, Durham, DH1 3RN



0191 334 2338 www.dur.ac.uk/celebrate.science

Beamish Museum



Sunday 24 September

Classic Car Day

The North of England Classic and Pre-War Automobiles Club returns to Beamish with a fantastic display of classic cars.

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October

Tractor Gathering

Enjoy a gathering of traditional tractors.

Beamish - The Living Museum of The North, Beamish,
DH9 0RG

0191 370 4000 www.beamish.org.uk

Locomotion



Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September

Kilburn's Warehouse open days



Find out all about this fascinating building's intriguing history and take part in free family learning activities in the Sunday School building. Storytelling sessions are also available in the Main Hall.

Saturday 28 October to Sunday 4 November

Steaming to Sustainability

Free family friendly activities during half term children aged 4 to 11 years-old.

Locomotion, Shildon, DL4 2RE

033 0058 0058 www.locomotion.org.uk

Durham Record Office

Thursday 21 September, 10.30am-11.30am
Third Thursday Talk: Country Banks and the Durham Advertiser circa 1815
 by John Banham, local historian

John Banham, Secretary of the Durham County Local History Society, researched early banking in North East England for his PhD thesis in the 1990s. With the advent of the online British Newspaper Archive, this talk extends that research to cover the reporting of the activities of local banks in the Durham County Advertiser in the early years of the nineteenth century.

At the time the Advertiser pronounced itself "the only newspaper between York and Newcastle" and covered the activities of country banks in County Durham and North Yorkshire, particularly during the banking crash of 1815/16.

This free event is hosted on Zoom.

www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk

Great British Beach Clean

Calling all beach lovers, SeaScapes is looking for volunteers to head to their local beach to help take part in the Marine Society's Great British Beach Clean and litter survey to help turn the tide on marine litter.



Join us on the following County Durham beaches to take part:

Saturday 16 September, 10am-12pm

Red Acre / Terrace beach Seaham - meet at the beach located on the left just before the road dips down to Seaham Marina

Sunday 17 September, 10am-12pm

Horden beach - meet at Lime Kiln Gill car park, Horden, SR8 4HN

Seaham Hall beach - meet next to North Beach Café, SR7 7AG

Monday 18 September, 1pm-2pm

Blast Beach, Dawdon - meet at Nose's Point car park, Dawdon, SR7 7TT

Wednesday 20 September, 10am-12pm

Crimdon Beach - meet next to the Dunes Cafe, Crimdon TS27 4BL

exploreseascapes.co.uk/events



SeaScapes
 Type to Toss, change and reuse



heritage open days

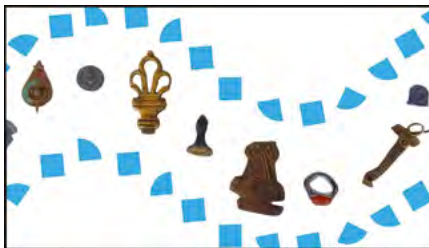
A whole host of exciting County Durham venues once again invite you to take a sneak peek behind the scenes for free between **9 and 18 September**.

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



ONGOING EVENTS



Until Sunday 12 November, 10am-5pm

Throwing it Out There: The Archaeology of Ritual, Rivers and Rubbish

Museum of Archaeology, Durham City, DH1 3RN

This exhibition has been curated by students at Durham University and contains items from Bronze Age hoards found in the Durham area. Also featured are Roman artefacts found by divers Bob Middlemass and the late Rolfe Mitchinson in the River Tees and objects recovered at Elvet Bridge by underwater archaeologist Gary Bankhead.

0191 334 2932

www.durham.ac.uk/things-to-do/venues/museum-of-archaeology

Every Tuesday from September to April, 7pm

Sacriston Everyman's Club

St John's Court, Sacriston, DH7 6JA

Join the group on a Tuesday night for an educational talk and refreshments. Last year, speakers gave talks on *The Bismarck*; *Ideas and Inventions*; and *The Land of Oak and Iron*. The group was founded in March 1946 by ex-servicemen returning home after the First World War as an informal and educational speaking club for men. 07950440265



Every Saturday, 10am-4pm

Saturday Outdoor Market

Durham Market Hall, DH1 3NJ

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



Friday 8 to Tuesday 12 September, 10am-3pm

The Fitzhugh Library



The Fitzhugh Library, Barnard Castle, DL12 0QH

Visit the hidden gem of the Fitzhugh Library and its collection of photographs, books and documents concerning the County Palatine of Durham and the ecclesiastical parish of Romalldkirk. www.thefitzhughlibrary.co.uk



Friday 15 September, 7.30pm

Hannah Condliffe (oboe) and Dominic Doutney play at Bishop Auckland Music Society

Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6EN

Classical concert featuring oboe and piano. 07415 092040



Saturday 16 September
Heritage Open Day



The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP

Enjoy free entry as part of the National Heritage Open Day scheme. Discover more than 50,000 items from furniture and fashion to paintings and sculpture as well as ceramics, silver and metals. 01833 690606, thebowesmuseum.org.uk



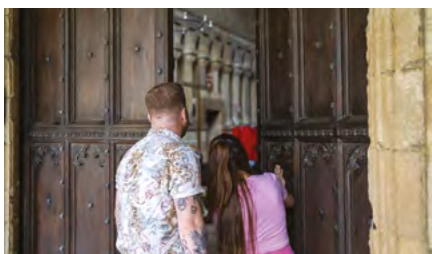
Wednesday 20 to Saturday 23 September, 7.15pm

The Wedding Singer

Park View Community Theatre, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3PZ

Nice guy, Robbie who is a wedding singer is left at the alter by his fiancée, only to regain his dream when he meets a young waitress, falls in love and finally achieves happiness. The Wedding Singer has a hilarious storyline and great songs. Adults £14 Concessions £12 Wednesday all tickets £10.

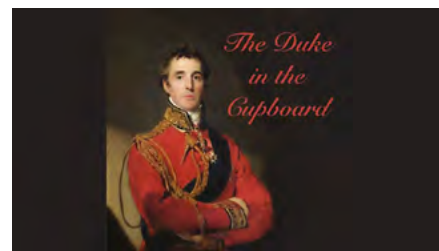
www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/chester-le-street/park-view-theatre



Tuesday 21 September, 1pm-3pm
Cathedral Secret Spaces Tour

Durham Cathedral, Durham City, DH1 3EH

This unique tour makes an ideal experience for those wanting to delve deeper into history and to visit parts of Durham Cathedral that are rarely open to the public. See medieval graffiti in the Dean's private residence, step into the cathedral's prison cell and get up close with rare books in the 350-year-old Refectory Library. 0191 338 7178 www.durhamcathedral.co.uk



Sunday 24 to Friday 29 September, various times

The Duke in the Cupboard by Susan Wear

City Theatre, Durham, DH1 3RA

In 1961 a valuable Goya painting was stolen, confounding Scotland Yard, but what had it to do with TV licenses? 07531858341



Wednesday 27 September, 1.30pm

Lanchester Flower Club

Lanchester Community Centre, Lanchester, DH7 0PB

Celebrate Lanchester Flower Club's 50th birthday with a Golden Anniversary themed flower demonstration by Wendy Smith. www.lanchestercc.co.uk



Friday 29 September, 7.30pm

Leeds Male Voice Choir - In Concert

St Cuthbert's Chapel, Ushaw Historic House, DH7 7DW

Join the choir and special guests Northern Spirit Singers at the beautiful St Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw Historic House for a magical and uplifting evening featuring an eclectic mix of pop, folk, sacred and show music. 0191 373 8500



Saturday 30 September to Sunday 1 October

Chester-le-EATS 2023

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

Get ready to turn up the volume and indulge in a blast from the past! Chester-le-EATS is back for its second year, igniting the spirit of the 80s with food, drinks and live entertainment. **Free entry.** 0191 387 2815, www.durhamcricket.co.uk/events/chester-le-eats

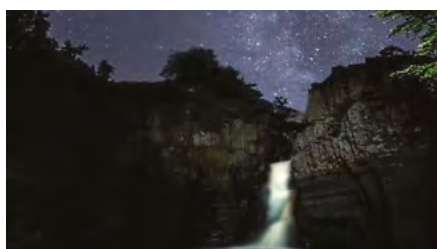
OCTOBER



Sunday 1 October, 2.30pm

Mighty Wurlitzer

New Victoria Centre, Crook, DL15 8EZ
Australian International organ star Chris McPhee will be in concert at the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ. 01388 762467, www.netoa.org.uk



Friday 6 October, 7.15pm

Stargazing Supper

High Force Hotel and Waterfall, Forest in Teesdale, DL12 0XH

Discover the magnificence of the night sky with an exciting stargazing experience at the breath-taking High Force Waterfall. www.raby.co.uk/whats-on

Saturday 14 October, 7pm
Felling Male Voice Choir

St Cuthberts Church, Peterlee, SR8 5QW



Appearing after a long absence in Peterlee, Felling Male Voice will perform old and modern musical pieces from their extensive repertoire. **Tickets available at the church door on the night. £8.** 07767273029



Friday 20 October to Sunday 5 November

North Pennines Stargazing Festival 2023

The seventh North Pennines Stargazing Festival will run during the Autumn half term, with spread across the North Pennines, Durham Dales and beyond. www.northpennines.org.uk 01833 622145

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4 November
Wool and Textile Craft Fair

Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, DH6 5BB



Open day hosted by Durham Rug Makers. Craft demonstrations, supply stalls, cafe and cakes. **Free entry.** durhamrugmakers@outlook.com

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.



Tuesday 7 November, 7.30pm

Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back

The Witham, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

Award-winning actor Jonathan Goodwin returns as super sleuth Sherlock Holmes. 01833 631107, thewitham.org.uk



Wednesday 8 November to Saturday 11 November, various times

MAME

Park View Theatre, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3PZ

CAOS Musical Theatre Company presents its production of *MAME*. 07989596198

Friday 17 and Saturday 18 November
Our Town

The Witham, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

The Castle Players present Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, celebrating what it means to be human and underlining the importance of living every day as if it's your last. 01833 631107

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(minimum two under 16s)

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cinema snacks to enjoy
with your film.

