

DURHAM

Winter 2022

County News

www.durham.gov.uk

Get winter ready

Helping you to prepare for all weathers

Forever families

Grow your family through adoption

Your guide to Christmas

Festive fairs, festivals and events near you

Durham
County Council



Welcome

to the winter edition of Durham County News

As this year comes to an end, it is a great time to reflect on what an exciting year it's been for County Durham. As well as making the shortlist for UK City of Culture 2025, we have enjoyed a host of wonderful events such as the Bishop Auckland and Seaham food festivals and the welcome return of Durham BRASS.

With the winter months approaching, many residents may feel concerned about staying warm amid the rising cost-of-living. In this edition, you can find advice on keeping your warm home this winter on page 19. You can also find hints and tips on how to look after yourself and your loved ones on pages 12 and 13.

As we all start to think about the festive season, our special Christmas pull-out guide on pages 15 to 18 includes some suggestions on how to cut back on costs at this time of year. There's also an exciting line-up of Christmas fairs and events for you to enjoy across the county as well as the most up to date information on council services and closures.

Finally, don't miss our What's On guide from pages 26 to 31, featuring some fantastic pantomime fun for all the family at our venues.

I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and best wishes for 2023.

Amanda Hopgood



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What's on

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



Look out for extra content... You can now view extra content wherever you see this icon by going to www.durham.gov.uk/dcn



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Beamish Museum.

Budget days out

With demands on household budgets growing, we're all on the lookout for affordable ways to entertain the family this winter.

In County Durham, there is no shortage of budget-friendly days out to suit all ages.



High Force waterfall.



Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens.

Many of the county's attractions are free – from getting up close to historic railway vehicles at Locomotion in Shildon, to learning

about the fascinating history of North Africa and Asia at Durham University Oriental Museum. Some venues, such as Durham Cathedral, ask those who can afford it, to consider making a donation.

Other venues offer annual passes, meaning you pay once and can then visit as many times as you like throughout the year. Beamish, the Living Museum of the North; Durham University Botanic Garden; Raby Castle, Deer Park and The Plotters' Forest; The Auckland Project's attractions in Bishop Auckland; Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens; Adventure Valley; Hall Hill Farm; and The Bowes Museum are just some of the attractions providing this great value for money option. Some also offer discounted rates for County Durham residents.

With free entry and parking priced from just £6 for the day, Hamsterley Forest offers a great budget day out. From wildlife watching and woodland walks, to mountain biking and Gruffalo sculptures – the 2,000-hectare forest has plenty to offer.

The Gruffalo and his friends can also be found hiding amongst the tranquil grounds of Hardwick Park in Sedgfield. Together with Wharton Park in Durham City, Riverside Park in Chester-le-Street and Durham's many other parks and open spaces, Hardwick Park is a fantastic option for the whole family, offering accessible walking trails, play equipment and more.

For further free and low-cost activity ideas, visit www.thisisdurham.com/budgetdaysout



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8.30am – 4.30pm (Friday)

Out of hours emergency service available.

For social care and independent living enquiries or adult and children's welfare issues:

**Social Care Direct/Children's
First Contact Service**

03000 26 79 79



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Braille, Audio, AAA Large print.

durhamcountynews@durham.gov.uk

03000 268 059

News

Creating Warm Spaces across County Durham

We understand that many residents are facing a tough winter this year following an increase in energy prices and the cost-of-living.

To support everyone across the county, we are working alongside the **County Durham Community Foundation** (the Foundation) to offer funding to the voluntary and community sector to create a network of safe, trusted places where people can go to keep warm. Alongside community groups and organisations, our 39 library buildings will also join the scheme.

Both the council and the Foundation are contributing to the funding, with a combined pot of £200,000 available. Organisations can apply for a grant of up to £1,000 for their community Warm Space offer.

Community groups can apply for a grant at www.cdcf.org.uk/grants-for-groups/warm-spaces-fund/

Once community Warm Spaces are confirmed, they will be added to Locate, our online directory allowing residents to connect with local services in their community. Residents can access this at www.durhamlocate.org.uk

Action against domestic abuse

We're continuing our work with partners to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

Nationally, research indicates an increase in domestic abuse over Christmas and during football tournaments such as the World Cup. This year's **White Ribbon Day**, which calls for an end to all violence against women and girls, takes place on **Friday 25 November**, the same week as the World Cup kicks off.

To raise awareness of the international day of action, we'll be hosting an event in Durham Market Place on White Ribbon Day, answering questions, offering advice and signposting people to the help available.

Information on support available for anyone experiencing domestic abuse or anyone worried about their own behaviour can be found at www.myharbour.org.uk

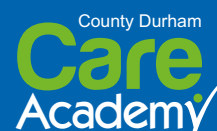


Care Academy gets £72,000 boost

A training scheme for adult social care staff has secured more than £70,000 in funding to enable workers to develop their skills.

County Durham Care Academy, which we launched in 2019, has secured £72,000 from the Workforce Development Fund. The investment will be used to support the training of adult social care staff across County Durham, helping local care providers cover the cost of upskilling their staff.

The Care Academy was launched to improve skills and capacity within the care sector. This is done by offering support across a range of areas including training, digital initiatives and the recruitment and retention of staff. It now also supports children's social care providers.



Celebrate Lunar New Year in Durham City

A day of celebrations will welcome in the Lunar Year of the Rabbit.

A range of family-friendly events to mark the New Year will take place in Durham City on **Saturday 21 January** between 10.30am and 4pm, including a lion dance procession which visitors can follow through the city centre.

The lion, which will be greeted by the Mayor of Durham City in Millennium Place, will also visit the Market Place, Prince Bishops shopping centre, Milburngate and the Riverwalk.

County Durham school pupils, who have been coached by Durham University students, representatives of the Durham Chinese School and the Chinese Students' and Scholars' Association, will also be performing free dance and music demonstrations.

Children can enjoy trying their hands at traditional craft and calligraphy activities in the Town Hall.

There'll also be a chance to discover more about Chinese language, with short Mandarin taster lessons, and visitors will be able to watch a traditional tea ceremony.



All activities are free of charge.

The festival programme has been developed by Durham County Council, Durham Markets, Durham Chinese School and Durham University, as part of the Durham Global Alliance.

Visit www.thisisdurham.com/lunar for an up-to-date programme of activities for the day.



Blooming success for County Durham

We are once again celebrating success at the Royal Horticultural Society's Northumbria in Bloom awards.

Durham City was among the County Durham winners at this year's prestigious ceremony, scooping gold in the Small City category. Judges who visited Durham in the summer were particularly impressed by our floral displays on the city's roundabouts. The city was also successful in a number of other categories. **Durham BID** won

Best Town Centre Retail Area and **Belmont** received a silver in the Urban Community category, while the area's **allotments** were awarded gold. **Gilesgate Primary School** took home the Best School honour.

The city's **Wharton Park** received gold in the Best Park group, along with **Seaham Town Park**. **Seaham** was also awarded gold in the Coastal Resort group. Other County Durham winners included **Sedgefield**, which was awarded gold in the Small Towns category and **Stanley**, which claimed the silver gilt to win the Large Town group. **Chester-le-Street** took silver in the same category, while **Stanley Park Care Home** scooped the Best Care Home gong.





**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST**

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on Friday 27 January, encouraging people to come together to remember those murdered in the Holocaust and the genocides which followed.

Here in County Durham, we'll be hosting an event with Prof Marek Szablewski who will share the story of his family's life in occupied Poland during World War II.

Prof Szablewski's father was a Polish resistance fighter, so his Jewish step-grandmother and aunt were hidden from the Nazis during the war.

Since being awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship in 2011, the Durham University Physics lecturer has been researching his family history and the journey that brought his parents to Yorkshire.

For more details, including how to book a ticket, visit www.durham.gov.uk/hmd



Professor Szablewski.

Alfie's mental health mission

A Peterlee teenager has found an innovative way to support people who are struggling with their mental health.



Alfie Dixon-Clark is the founder of BenChairs, a series of four benches in East Durham. Designed in memory of a family friend, the benches encourage people to sit down and start a conversation.

Fifteen-year-old Alfie hopes they will help people forget their worries even if just for a few moments.

"I always think a problem shared is a friend made," explains Alfie. "We really are stronger together. I want people to realise they are not alone. Sometimes, just knowing that someone else is struggling and feels like you can help others realise they are not 'abnormal' or 'crazy' – just some of the horrible things we sometimes think about ourselves."

For a range of support around mental health, visit www.durham.gov.uk/mentalhealth



Expansion plans for county business park

Plans to expand a business park which will provide new investment and jobs have been approved.

Jade Business Park, in Murton, is owned and run by us after being created in 2020. Its seven units currently employ 160 people, with this number expected to rise to more than 250 in the next five years.

Phase 1 of the development is managed by our business support service, Business Durham, with our county planning committee having now approved plans to develop Phase 2 of the site. This final phase will provide a further 550,000 sq. ft. of floorspace with an additional seven units proposed. Once completed the development could support a further 1,000 jobs.

The expansion plan will build on the business park's existing high standard transport links and also emerging opportunities to use renewable energy sources.

Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was met with sadness by people across the world.

As Britain's longest serving monarch, The Queen demonstrated remarkable commitment to her country, and the response to her death clearly reflected the impact she had.

The national mood was reflected in County Durham, with people coming together in Durham Market Place to reflect on her life during the national Moment of Reflection. An image of Her Majesty when she first came to the throne was projected onto the side of the Town Hall, following the minute's silence.

Many also chose to leave floral tributes to Her Majesty at locations around the county or add to the books of condolence that were available at a number of council-run venues.



Once the period of mourning was over, the books of condolence were entered into the county archives where they will remain for reference in future years. Floral tributes were used to create fertiliser for use in our parks, with any cards that were in good enough condition also entered into the archives.

A ceremony at Durham Cathedral paid tribute to The Queen's 70-year-long reign and provided a poignant moment for those who attended.

The cathedral was also lit in purple throughout the mourning period, when flags at council buildings were flown at half-mast.

People from across the county also gathered in Durham Market Place to welcome the country's new King.

Hundreds turned out to hear the County Durham proclamation of King Charles III, at an event led by the Lord Lieutenant for County Durham, Sue Snowdon, and the High Sheriff of Durham, Shona Harper-Wilkes.

It was followed later in the day by the local proclamation, which took place in the council chamber at County Hall.

Grow your family through adoption

There are more than 2,000 children across England in need of a loving and permanent home. However, some children have to wait a lot longer than others to find a family.



Adopt Coast to Coast is encouraging would-be adopters to be more open to the possibility of adopting children that are harder to place, including: children over four-years-old; groups of brothers and sisters; children with learning difficulties, health complications or disabilities; and children of an ethnic minority.

Adopt Coast to Coast works to keep siblings together, but this means that brothers and sisters usually wait around 11 months longer than only children to meet their forever family. However, finding a single permanent home for brother and sister groups means that important sibling relationships are protected.

Children often settle into their new home more quickly when they have their brothers and sisters with them.



Adopt Coast to Coast is the Regional Adoption Agency for Durham County Council, Cumbria County Council and Together for Children, which works on behalf of Sunderland City Council.

Forever families

Louise's adopted son Toby has cerebral palsy and epilepsy: *"To see Toby as happy as he is on a daily basis, regardless of his disabilities is just amazing. He is more than just a child with epilepsy and cerebral palsy; he's loving, he's funny, he loves music and CBeebies. He loves to be at home snuggling on the sofa where he feels safe."*

Debbie and Allan's daughter was four years old when they adopted her: *"Our daughter has now been with us for more than six years. She is courageous, resilient, beautiful and has the biggest and kindest heart you could ever hope for. She has been through a lot in her life, but with consistent love, structure and support, she is thriving. Without doubt, it has been the hardest thing we have done, but the rewards outstrip that 10 times over. So much so, we did it all again a few years later."*

Andy is a dad to adopted siblings: *"Within just three months of being approved, our sons were living with us, and it completely changed our lives. The best thing about adopting siblings for me is that we have our family now. This is what we pictured our family to be."*





“ This is what we pictured our family to be. ”

Who can adopt?

There are many reasons people choose to adopt – some adopters can't have children of their own, while others want to start a family without a partner.

Some people want to add to their family, and some feel they have a lot of love, support and happiness to offer a child who perhaps hasn't had the best start in life.

Adopters must be over 21, but they can be:

- ✓ single, married or cohabiting
- ✓ from any ethnic or religious background
- ✓ heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender
- ✓ a homeowner or living in rented accommodation
- ✓ employed or on benefits

Adoption gives children the chance to be in a permanent stable family, filled with the trust, love and care that they need. It also allows adopters to start or add to their own family.

How does it work?

Being approved as a prospective adopter can take as little as six months. Although it can be daunting, the Adopt Coast to Coast team will be there every step of the way to make sure that you're fully prepared, supported, and completely understand the process.

The **Initial meeting** with the adoption team will be to talk through your circumstances, reasons for adoption and learn about the children in the care of the three local authorities

If you decide to go ahead, you will then complete a **Registration of Interest form**.

Stage 1 – timeframe two months

Background checks will be undertaken, and adoption training and family support given.

Stage 2 – timeframe four months

You will work with your social worker to complete a Prospective Adopter Report, which will be taken for consideration by an Adoption Panel. The final decision on your application will be made by the Agency Decision Maker.

You will then be **matched** with a child, or children, who could thrive in your family. This process may have already started during Stage 2, so you may find the match happens quickly after approval.

The Adopt Coast to Coast team provides **ongoing support** for a minimum of three years post-adoption. Support is unique to the needs of each family, but it can include training, advice, therapeutic support and healthcare assistance.

Find out more

Adopt Coast to Coast hosts two online information events every month. To book a space or to find out more about adoption, visit www.adoptcoasttocoast.org.uk or call 03000 268 268.

Preparing for emergencies

Severe weather, flooding, power cuts and other emergency situations can have a significant impact on our lives, as we saw last winter when the country was hit by severe storms.

While we can't prevent such incidents, there are steps we can take as individuals and households to make sure we are as prepared as possible.

Plan ahead

Write down key information about you and your family such as contact numbers, insurance numbers and medication lists. Share this with family and friends and store in an accessible place.

Download apps and bookmark websites you think may be useful in the case of an emergency so that they are easy to find.

Important items to store in your home

Make sure you always have certain items available in your home in case of a power cut or severe weather, which may result in restricted access to services for a period of time.

Such items might include:

- ✓ Wind up torches or torches with a stock of batteries
- ✓ Other battery powered lights such as lanterns
- ✓ Tinned food with long use by dates
- ✓ Ready to eat food which doesn't require heating up
- ✓ Antibacterial wipes
- ✓ An electric fan or small air conditioning unit
- ✓ A fully charged portable power bank
- ✓ Extra blankets or foil blankets
- ✓ Hot water bottles
- ✓ Bottled water
- ✓ First aid kit

Priority services registers

All utility companies should have a priority services register. This is a list of people who are considered vulnerable and who will, therefore, receive additional help in an emergency situation. There is no charge to be included on a priority services register. If you would struggle without your gas or electricity supply, even for a few hours, and you meet the criteria, you can sign up at:

- Northern Powergrid Priority Services Membership: www.northernpowergrid.com
- Northern Gas Networks Priority Customers: www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk
- Northumbrian Water Priority Services: www.nwl.co.uk


For more information on priority registers, visit: www.ofgem.gov.uk


Useful contact numbers and websites

 **Emergency Services** 999
Only in emergencies

 **Durham Constabulary** 101
Report anti-social behaviour or other incidents not classed as an emergency, advice about crime prevention and household security.
www.durham.police.uk

 **Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service**
Advice about household fire safety including the installation of smoke alarms.
0845 3058383
www.ddfire.gov.uk

 **NHS** 111
Health advice fast but not a 999 emergency. 111.nhs.uk

 **Gas - National Grid**
If you smell gas 0800 111 999

 **Gas - Northern Gas Networks**
Customer enquiries 0800 040 7766
www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk


 **Electricity** 105
Report a power cut

 **Electricity - Northern Powergrid**
General enquiries 0800 011 3332
www.northernpowergrid.com

 **Water - Emergency leakline**
0800 393 084

 **Water - Floodline**
0800 328 7648

 **Water - Northumbrian Water**
Water and sewerage services 0345 717 1100
www.nwl.co.uk

 **Durham County Council**
General enquiries 03000 260 000
www.durham.gov.uk
For emergency social care and child welfare concerns, including foster carer support. 03000 267 979

If you are homeless, or facing homelessness. 08081 968 406

Care Connect (community alarm service) 03000 262 195

Births, deaths and marriages 03000 266 000

Getting our roads winter ready

With winter on the way, it's time to start preparing for the bad weather and considering how it may affect your travel.

There are steps you can take to make sure you stay safe when driving in snow and ice. If staying at home isn't an option for you, it's important to make sure your vehicle is in the best shape to handle the wintery conditions; allow extra time for your journey; and make sure you are well equipped to deal with any unexpected incidents.

Find more tips for winter driving at www.durham.gov.uk/winterdriving

How we prepare for the winter

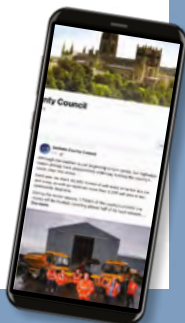
While you're making sure your vehicle is safe for the roads, our Highways team ensures our roads are ready for you. Our preparation for the winter months starts early, ensuring our vehicles are serviced and winter ready.

Find out more about our work to keep the county moving at www.durham.gov.uk/winterinfo

Stay in the know

The winter weather can be unpredictable, so follow our Facebook and Twitter accounts for regular updates on road conditions and gritting routes. Remember to check the weather before setting off, particularly if you are heading on a long journey.

Met Office weather warnings are available at www.durham.gov.uk/weatherwarnings



Gritting

Keeping our roads and pavements clear is essential in order to keep the county moving during any spells of bad weather. We start each winter with a stockpile of 42,000 tonnes of salt and pre-salt about 1,060 miles of road when the weather is bad. View our gritting routes at www.durham.gov.uk/gritting

We also have a fleet of 37 power gritters and 33 trailer gritters for spreading salt on roads, along with 11 footpath gritters and 6 snow blowers.

We keep salt bins in communities across the county stocked up for residents to use on local roads. If a salt bin needs refilling, let us know by completing the online form, quoting the number on the top of the bin. www.durham.gov.uk/saltbins



Sandbags

We can provide sandbags if your property is at immediate risk of flooding in the wet winter months. Visit

www.durham.gov.uk/sandbags or call 03000 26 0000.



Did you know?

We have **37 power gritters**,
33 trailer gritters,
11 footpath gritters
and
6 snow blowers



We **pre-salt 1,060 miles** of priority 1 routes regularly throughout the winter



We stock more than **2,500 salt bins**



2½ hours = the time it takes to salt all priority 1 routes



42,000 tonnes

= the amount of salt we have in stock for this winter



Potholes

The winter weather is often the root cause of potholes. To report a pothole, visit www.durham.gov.uk/potholes or call 03000 26 0000.

Moving your way to good health

As the winter months draw in, it can be harder to maintain an active lifestyle, but it's important to ensure you continue to include some movement into your daily routine.

Even a small amount of activity can improve your health and reduce the risk of illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, or strokes. It can also be a great way of managing your mental wellbeing.

Our leisure centres have a range of facilities, classes and activities to try, making it easier to find the right type of exercise for you.



In our gyms you'll find a range of high-quality equipment to suit your workout needs, from cardiovascular equipment to strength training, including both free and fixed weights.

If the gym isn't for you, then swimming is also a fantastic way to help reduce stress and anxiety, build muscle strength and maintain a healthy heart and lungs. A number of our leisure centres have swimming pools which offer a variety of sessions for all ages.

Our exercise classes cater for all needs and abilities, offering everything from low impact classes such as bodybalance, gentle aerobics, aqua and yoga, to high-energy sessions such as zumba, body combat and cyclenergy.

If you have a thrive leisure membership, you can also access the MyWellness app, which you can use for workout plans, online classes or as a movement tracker. It can also be used to book swimming and exercise classes.

Sign up for a thrive membership quickly and easily visiting www.durham.gov.uk/leisure, or trial our services with a free three-day pass which can be arranged by calling or visiting one of our leisure centres.



The colder weather may make the thought of going for a bike ride feel daunting, but with the right equipment cycling can be a fun and rewarding winter activity.

Love to Ride's Winter Wheelers is an educational campaign to encourage and support riders to brave the elements and keep pushing the pedals.

For winter riding tips such as what to wear, how to look after your bike, and how to stay safe, visit

www.lovetoride.net/global/pages/winter



Do you struggle to keep the kids entertained during the holidays?

Our leisure centres are offering free swimming sessions for children and young people during the school holidays and on weekends. As part of our Fun and Food programme, some school holiday sessions will include a free healthy snack.

For more information and to view the latest pool timetables, visit www.durham.gov.uk/swimming

Winter wellness

Cold weather can be harmful to your health, so it's important to take good care of yourself and look out for others during the winter. We hope these seasonal health tips will help you stay well this winter.



Vaccinations

It's especially important to have all your winter vaccinations to help you avoid catching, and spreading, respiratory illnesses. As well as putting yourself and others at risk, you're more likely to be seriously ill if you get flu and Covid at the same time. If you are eligible for both the flu vaccine and Covid booster, it's safe to have them at the same time. Please take up the offer if you're invited.

You can get the vaccines if you are:

Flu vaccination

- ✓ Aged 50 or over
- ✓ In a clinical risk group
- ✓ Pregnant
- ✓ In long-stay residential care
- ✓ A frontline health worker
- ✓ A social care worker who can't get the vaccine through your employer
- ✓ Receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- ✓ Live with someone who is more likely to get a severe infection due to a weakened immune system

Covid booster

- ✓ Aged 50 or over
- ✓ In a clinical risk group
- ✓ Pregnant
- ✓ Living or working in a care home for older people
- ✓ A frontline health or social care worker
- ✓ Aged 5 to 49 and are a carer
- ✓ Aged 5 to 49 and have a weakened immune system or live with someone who has a weakened immune system

If you are over 65, you may also benefit from the pneumonia vaccine.

It's also a good time to check if you need the shingles vaccination too. It is usually offered to people aged between 70 and 79. Find out more about vaccinations at www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations

In addition to having your vaccinations, you should also:

- stay at home if you have symptoms to avoid spreading infection
- catch any coughs and sneezes in a tissue, throw the tissue away and wash your hands

Prescriptions

Make sure you have a supply of medicines for over Christmas and in case of poor weather. You can order repeat prescriptions online. Speak to your GP practice for more information or visit www.nhs.uk/nhs-services

If you feel unwell, don't wait. Seek advice from your nearest pharmacist about any minor health concerns or call 111 if you have a more urgent medical problem. In an emergency, call 999.

Look in on vulnerable neighbours and relatives

Looking out for elderly and vulnerable friends, family and neighbours is important, especially during the winter. If you are concerned about someone, call Social Care Direct on 03000 26 79 79.

Watch out for signs of hypothermia, such as shivering, cold and pale skin, slurred speech, fast breathing, tiredness and confusion. If you think someone is suffering from hypothermia, call 999 immediately.



Have a green Christmas

Recycle your old electricals

If you've bought new Christmas lights this year, you're probably wondering what to do with your old ones. We now have 132 collection points across the county where you can drop off unwanted items such as these as part of our small electrical recycling scheme.

For every item that is recycled, raw materials are being saved which helps preserve energy and precious resources.

Many people will receive items such as hair straighteners, mobile phones, and handheld games consoles this Christmas, so it is important to make sure any old items are recycled rather than thrown away.



Batteries can also be recycled at every collection point as well as at most supermarkets and our household waste recycling centres.

Easy to use service

Simply take any unwanted, old or broken electrical items small enough to fit in a carrier bag to one of the collection points. Items can include hairdryers, kettles, toasters, and electric toothbrushes.

Everyone who hands in an item can nominate themselves for a monthly prize draw, with one lucky winner chosen at random each month to receive a special gift.

Make way for the new

If you're thinking of having a pre-Christmas clear out, don't forget unwanted items can be donated to our shop at Stainton Grove household waste recycling centre, near Barnard Castle.

We also operate a new touring repair café in conjunction with County Durham Furniture Repair Scheme. A team of experts are on hand at each drop-in location to look at your broken item and see if it can be repaired. In most cases, items requiring a quick fix can be mended there and then.

For more information about the repair café, small electrical collection points, and a full list of electrical items that can be recycled through the scheme, visit www.durham.gov.uk/weee



Tips to celebrate Christmas sustainably

- * **Christmas cards** – tear off any glue, glitter, bows or decorations before recycling.
- * **Wrapping paper** – remove sticky tape and try to avoid buying foiled and glittery paper. Try not to use too much wrapping and look for items with less packaging.
- * **Shopping bags** – remember your reusable shopping bags when shopping.
- * **Leftovers** – rustle up some tasty treats with your Christmas dinner leftovers to reduce food waste
- * **Christmas jumpers** – do you really need to buy a new one? Why not re-wear last year's or buy a pre-loved jumper from a charity shop?

Unsure what can and cannot be recycled? Check the sticker on your bin or visit www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere

Your Christmas Guide 2022

Pull out and
keep

Christmas festivals and fairs



Friday 2 December to Sunday 4 December

Durham Christmas Festival

Durham's traditional Christmas festival returns this year with more than 200 independent traders and a wide range of festive entertainment for the whole family.

Grab some unique Christmas gifts for friends and family at the craft and gift marquee, which will be situated on **Palace Green**.

And if you're feeling peckish after your Christmas shopping, head to the cloisters in **Durham Cathedral** for a Regional Producers' Market offering delicious local food and drink.

Durham Market Hall will be open each day, with additional stalls also in the Market Place.

Visitors to the city will once again be able to enjoy the **Children's Lantern Parade**, which takes place on Saturday 3 December. The parade will leave the Market Place at 2.30pm, led by Chester-le-Street Salvation Army Band, and head up to Palace Green, arriving at Durham Cathedral ready for a special St Nicholas Service at 3pm. Lanterns cost £5.50 each and must be reserved in advance as numbers are limited.

www.durhamchristmasfestival.com



Sunday 27 November, time to be confirmed

Durham City Christmas light switch-on

Durham Market Place

This annual tradition will see the Christmas lights officially turned on.

www.durhambid.co.uk



Christmas festivals and fairs

★ Friday 18 November
to Sunday 20
November

Christmas Fair at Beamish Hall Hotel

Beamish Hall Hotel,
Stanley, DH9 0YB

Enjoy the hall at its festive best during this Christmas shopping extravaganza, with stalls displaying everything from ornaments and gifts to scrumptious treats and drinks.
01207 233 733
www.beamish-hall.co.uk



★ Saturday 19 November, 10am-3.30pm
Pavilion's Christmas Fair

1 Helford Road, Peterlee SR8 1ER

Santa Claus has confirmed he will be making a special visit to the Pavilion from 12pm before Rudolph flies him home to the North Pole at 2pm. Festive hot drinks and tasty bites will be available to purchase. Free. 0191 5869957
www.peterlee.gov.uk/events

Sunday 20 November, 10am-4.30pm

Christmas Fair at Hardwick Hall Hotel

Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgfield, TS21 2EH

This festive fair will be hosted by Claire's Christmas and Celebration Crafts. Free entry.
hardwickhallhotel.co.uk

★ Friday 18 November
to Sunday 20
November

Christmas Town

Market Place, Bishop Auckland,
DL14 7NJ

Bishop Auckland Market Place will be transformed into Christmas Town for the weekend with festive fun for the whole family. This includes live entertainment and activities such as ice-skating. For more information and tickets, visit
www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk



★ Monday 28 November, 4pm

Christmas Extravaganza

The Fulforth Centre, Sacriston, DH7 6JT

The official Christmas lights switch-on for Sacriston. Fun for the whole family with fairground rides, Santa's Grotto, craft fair, refreshments, tombola and raffle. Free. 0191 371 0601, www.thefulforthcentre.co.uk

Saturday 19 November

Christmas Market at Woodlands Bistro & Venue

Edmondsley, Durham, DH7 6DY

The bistro will be hosting a wide variety of stall holders bringing you the best local crafts and gifts.
0191 380 4990, www.woodlandsbistrovenue.co.uk



★ Friday 2 December, 4.30pm

Shildon Christmas light switch-on

The Town Square, Shildon,

The annual Christmas light switch-on will be followed by free family entertainment at Shildon Civic Hall from 5pm. shildon.gov.uk

Visit our What's On section starting on page 26, for more events taking place across County Durham.

Christmas budgeting

Christmas can put a strain on our finances at the best of times, but with the rising cost-of-living, it's now even easier to spend more than you can afford. Follow our top tips to cut back on costs in the run-up to the festive season and avoid the potential of starting the New Year in debt.

* Make a list of friends and family you want to buy for this year and allocate an amount for each person. This will give you a budget to focus on and stick to.

* If you have a lot of people to buy for, consider setting up a Secret Santa. This will help to cut down on your overall spend, ease the burden on others, and create a fun gift exchange.

* Why not get crafty this Christmas? Hand-made gifts, such as chocolates, jams and chutneys are a great personal present and can help you save significant amounts of money.

* Remember to think about the money you will likely spend on food and add this to your budget. Creating a shopping list for food as well as presents is not only kinder to your purse but helps reduce the amount of waste and food thrown away.

* Have a clear-out before Christmas arrives to avoid cluttering your home over the festive period. Consider donating unwanted items to charity or selling older items online for some extra pennies.

* If you want to be even more organised, look ahead to next Christmas by keeping an eye out for heavily discounted Christmas cards, wrapping paper and decorations in the post-Christmas sales.



Small Business Saturday

Don't forget to support local businesses when you're planning your Christmas shopping.



Small Business Saturday on **3 December** is an annual event encouraging people to shop local and support small, independent businesses in their communities.

Look out for special events and activities organised by small businesses in your area. There will also be free parking from 10am at our car parks across the county.

Help to manage your money

If you do find yourself in a position where you need to borrow money, credit unions offer a much more affordable option than private lenders or weekly payment stores.

NE First Credit Union
www.nefirstcu.co.uk
0330 055 3666



Free parking

Don't forget that we continue to offer free parking after 2pm in all our car parks.







Christmas services update



Bin collections – Bins will be emptied as normal up to and including Friday 23 December.

Over Christmas and New Year, the following changes will apply:

Normal collection day	Revised collection days
Tuesday 	Wednesday 28 December
Wednesday 	Thursday 29 December
Thursday 	Friday 30 December
Friday 	Saturday 31 December

Normal collections will resume from Tuesday 3 January 2023

You can also find collections dates online by entering your house number and postcode into the 'My Durham' section of our website: www.durham.gov.uk

Bulky waste collections – There will be no large waste (bulky) collections between **Christmas Eve and Monday 2 January**.

Recycling centres will be open as normal over the holidays, except for **Christmas Day and New Year's Day**. Find locations and opening hours at www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc

Leisure centres will be open throughout the festive period except for **Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day**. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/leisurecentres for opening hours at your local centre.

Library opening times may vary. Call into your local library or check for opening times at www.durham.gov.uk/libraries

One Point family centres will close or offer restricted opening times over the Christmas period. Call into your local centre before Christmas to see when it will be open or call **03000 261 111**.

Customer Access Points will close at 12.45pm on **Friday 23 December** and reopen on **Tuesday 3 January**.

Register offices will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and all bank holidays. Bishop Auckland and Durham register offices will open for appointments only on Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 December but opening times will vary. Call **03000 26 6000** to book an appointment. **Normal opening hours will resume on Tuesday 3 January**.

Day centres for adults will be closed on **Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day**.

Payments line – Make a debit or credit card payment **24/7 on 0300 456 2771**.

In an emergency – Call our out-of-hours number: **03000 26 0000**.

Real Christmas tree collections

Book a free collection online at www.durham.gov.uk/christmastreecollections or call **03000 26 0000** between Monday 12 December and Friday 6 January, for a collection in the New Year. You can also take your real Christmas tree to a household waste recycling centre. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc for locations and opening times.



Keeping your home warm this winter

As we move into the colder months, more of us will be turning up the thermostat – but with the rising cost of living, we're all looking for ways to save money and use less energy. Advice and support are available from a range of sources.



Managing Money Better

Our free and impartial service offers help to identify where savings can be made on energy bills as well as advice on energy efficiency and fuel debt.

The team can also check if you are eligible for a grant to pay for servicing and any repairs if you have wall-mounted gas central boiler. Grants are available to owner occupier households with health issues and those whose income is less than £36,000.

To find out more visit

www.durham.gov.uk/doitonline

and complete the Managing Money Better form,

call **03000 268 000**

or email warmhomes@durham.gov.uk

You can also find more online at

www.durham.gov.uk/saveonyourenergybills

Winter Fuel Payment

If you were born on or before 25 September 1956 you could get between £250 and £600 to help you pay heating bills.

The amount you'll get includes a Pensioner Cost of Living Payment of between £150 and £300. You'll only get this extra amount automatically in winter 2022 and it is in addition to any Cost of Living Payment you may receive with your benefit or tax credits.

Warm Homes Discount

You could get £150 off your winter electricity bill. This one-off discount is available on bills for the period October 2022 and March 2023. Contact your energy supplier as soon as possible to find out if they are still taking applications and if you qualify.

Energy Company Obligation

This government scheme provides grants to low-income households to install energy efficient home improvements such as non-condensing gas boilers, air source heat pumps and cavity wall, solid wall and loft insulation. To find out more contact your energy supply company.

Cost of Living Payment

Eligible households are paid automatically in the same way as benefit or tax credits payments. Three different types of payments are available depending on your circumstances:

- » Cost of Living Payment, if you get a qualifying low-income benefit or tax credits.
- » Disability Cost of Living Payment, if you get a qualifying disability benefit.
- » Pensioner Cost of Living Payment, if you're entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment for winter 2022/23.



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

You can't see it, taste it, or smell it, but Carbon Monoxide (CO) can kill. It's a poisonous gas produced when gas, oil, solid fuels and liquid petroleum gas don't burn fully when an appliance has been incorrectly fitted, badly repaired or poorly maintained. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, or loss of consciousness. If you suspect CO poisoning, call National Gas Emergency Service on **0800 111 999**, turn off gas appliances immediately, open doors and windows and leave the property. See your doctor immediately or go to the hospital.

Supporting stronger Towns and Villages



There are strong signs that our towns and villages are slowly recovering from the pandemic. Nevertheless, we continue to work hard to support our retail businesses across County Durham.

Since April, we have seen 50 more retailers apply for support through our **Targeted Business Improvement** scheme. The initiative supports businesses moving into new premises and helps to bring derelict and underused retail space back into use. So far, we have seen 12 empty units brought back into use and 12 new businesses created. Spread across Framwellgate Moor, Spennymoor, Consett, Willington, Chester-le-Street, Peterlee, Durham City and Bishop Auckland, these new ventures have helped create 48 new jobs.

Using additional money from **Teesdale Area Action Partnership's Towns and Villages fund**, the scheme is currently targeting businesses in smaller retail centres, such as Staindrop, Evenwood, Cockfield and Gainford. Businesses are being offered grants to carry out improvement works on vacant properties or to develop their existing premises. The scheme aims to support 13 businesses in these areas and create 10 new jobs over the next 18 months.

We have also issued five **Property Reuse and Conversion Loans** to support the reuse of commercial buildings whose condition may be contributing to an area's decline. Loans have been granted for retail and residential space with specialist support being provided for the development of food and beverage outlets.

Contact CED@durham.gov.uk for more information.



Seaham Townscape Heritage

A scheme to create more attractive and interesting places to live, work and visit in Seaham has been extended for a further 12 months.

The Seaham Townscape Heritage project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, aims to breathe fresh life into Seaham's historic town centre, regenerating historic commercial buildings in the Church Street area of the town.

Seaham Pet and Reptile was the first property to receive a grant, with the funding being used to install traditional timber shop fronts and window frames as well as hand-painted signage. The money has also enabled repairs to be carried out to the building's brickwork. Work is set to start soon at Gym 55 and Karen's Florist on Church Street. This will see the removal of existing shop fronts and the installation of traditional timberwork. The first-floor frontage of both premises will be repaired and rebuilt, with repairs also carried out to the roofing and guttering. The upper floor will be brought back into use as residential accommodation and a new retail ground-floor unit created.

Owners and tenants of targeted properties in Church Street are being encouraged to apply for grants, to help to improve, regenerate and transform the Seaham conservation area. Successful applicants will be awarded financial support to carry out works to repair and reinstate traditional features that might not normally be financially viable.

Business owners and tenants who are interested in applying for a grant can contact the project team on **03000 262007** or email seahamtownscapeheritage@durham.gov.uk



Improving community resilience

Cash from a new fund is supporting the creation of a brand-new community centre in Durham City.

The centre, being developed through the **Lowes Barn Community Project**, is the first project to benefit from our Towns and Villages Resilience Fund.

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.



Creating vibrant towns and villages

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

A family fun event in Shildon, held in partnership with Shildon Town Council, 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 about the event and look forward to organising more fun days across the county, along with local traders.



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





Peace of mind for you or a loved one this winter



- ❄️ 24/7 monitoring and response at the press of a button, across County Durham
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Quote code:
Winter22
and receive
FREE installation
worth £33.99 when
you sign up



Find out more:
03000 262 195
www.durham.gov.uk/careconnect
[facebook.com/CareConnectDCC](https://www.facebook.com/CareConnectDCC)



DOUBLE YOUR DEFENCES
against flu and COVID-19 this year
Get both vaccines

#GetVaccinatedGetProtected

Employment

Walkers to Drivers

Home care workers across County Durham are being offered support to pass their driving tests.

Our Walkers to Drivers programme was set up to increase the number of care workers who are able to drive. Eligible participants receive £15 towards the cost of every one-hour lesson plus 50 per cent off the first theory and practical test they take.

Twelve learners have signed up to the scheme so far, with two learners having already passed their driving test.

Donna Williams, who works for Comfort Call in Peterlee, was the first to pass her test through the programme.

Donna said: *"I absolutely love my job, but the amount of walking was quite tiring, especially in the bad weather and dark nights. Without this scheme it would have taken me a lot longer to pass as I was able to take two lessons a week thanks to the money I saved."*

"It has really helped me in both my work and day-to-day home tasks. I'm a mother of four, so it's great not having to rely on public transport or family members to go shopping or for days out."

Local home care providers are being invited to submit the details of staff members who are unable to drive but would like to pass their test to help them in their care worker role.



Employability Durham

If you're aged 25 or over, live in County Durham and are unemployed or facing redundancy, Employability Durham could help you back into work or set you on the path to starting your own business.

Employability Durham provides careers information, advice, and support on an individual basis. Help is available for anyone who is newly unemployed or who has been unemployed for some time and doesn't know where to start with their job search. You can also access advice and support if you would like a change of direction or are on the lookout for a new role.

For more information visit www.durham.gov.uk/employability, contact the team on 03000 262 009 or email employability@durham.gov.uk

Up-to-date information on where you can access Employability Durham support is available at www.facebook.com/EmployabilityDurham



**Employability
Durham**



European Union
European
Social Fund

DurhamLearn

Our DurhamLearn service offers a wide range of courses to help people develop their skills with programmes catering for different needs and interests.

With both online and in-person courses available across the county, people can complete their course through a mix of each format to fit in with their own commitments.

We also work with training providers across the county to provide links to apprenticeships and traineeships.

Jessi Hodgson completed her traineeship with DurhamLearn in March. After improving her English, maths and employability skills, she secured a work placement in equine care with Dapple Clydesdale Stud Stables in Tow Law.



Jessi said: "I really enjoyed my work placement and gained so much confidence working at the stables. I was delighted when they said they were so pleased with me that they could offer me a full-time position."

David Lee, DurhamLearn manager, said: "This is just one example of our many success stories at DurhamLearn. A traineeship is a great opportunity for young people to gain real life work experience whilst building their confidence and improving their academic skills."

To find out more visit www.durham.gov.uk/durhamlearn or contact the DurhamLearn team on 03000 266 115 or by emailing durhamlearn@durham.gov.uk



“ This is just one example of our many success stories... ”



Upskilling, Employability and Discretionary Project

More than 100 people have been supported on their journey into work by a scheme in Teesdale.

The Upskilling, Employability and Discretionary Project, managed by Bishop Auckland College, has been funded by the Teesdale Area Action Partnership for the last four years.

Focusing on training where there is no other mainstream funding available, the project provides training for local industries that are struggling to recruit employees, such as road haulage, agriculture, and hospitality.

Aaron Parker, who received funding through the scheme, said: "I'd like to say thank you for the help and support with the Mountain Leader Programme. I am still completing my accreditation, but it has already helped me and my business massively. I now run a growing business called The Conscious Self. I'd like to say the service was awesome and extremely helpful."

The scheme is also running in Spennymoor, Bishop Auckland, Shildon, Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough.

For more information contact Denise Hopps at Bishop Auckland College on 01388 443078 or email denise.hopps@bacoll.ac.uk



Better for everyone

What's on



A Town Called Christmas

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Thursday 24 to Sunday 27 November

Gala Durham

Tuesday 29 November to Saturday 24 December

Far away, beyond the snow, and nestled in a perfect nook you'll find a town called Christmas.

Clementine dreams of a place where gingerbread houses glow under twinkling fairy-lights, and chocolate coins are currency. Where the streets are filled with snow-ball fights, and laughter hangs like baubles in the air! The happiest place on Earth.

Or at least it used to be...

Buckle in for a rollercoaster of magic, music, and mayhem as our hero crash-lands in a crumbling town where only the long-forgotten fables, a cantankerous caretaker and a glitching robot remain! Can they save the day, and the town called Christmas?

A brand-new show for adventurers aged 3 plus and their grown-ups.

British Sign Language interpreted performances of *A Town Called Christmas* will take place on Thursday 24 November at 10.30am at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, and Wednesday 7 December at 10.30am, and Saturday 10 December at 1.30pm at Gala Durham.

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

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

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



SLEEPING BEAUTY

Sleeping Beauty

Wednesday 23 November to Sunday 8 January 2023
Gala Durham

Prepare for the panto of your dreams...

Briar Rose is about to turn 16 and has just found out that she is to be married to poetry-mad Prince Chad of Middles-boroughly. But she has a plan...she'll run away and escape with the help of her best friend Sammie the Dog.

But after failing to receive an invitation to Briar Rose's Christening years ago, the Evil Witch Karen has cast a curse which will see Briar Rose sleep for a hundred years. And she's got one more spell up her sleeve to make sure that happens...

Brought to life by a North East cast of new and familiar faces, this hilarious telling of the classic story of Sleeping Beauty mixes mayhem, music, laughter and some incredibly interesting ice cream.

There will be British Sign Language (BSL) interpreted performances on Saturday 3 December at 1pm, Tuesday 13 December at 7pm and Wednesday 4 January at 6pm (also captioned), as well as a relaxed performance on Friday 9 December at 1pm.

Tickets from £7 (family tickets from £54 min. one child).

Box Office: 03000 266 600
galadurham.co.uk



Aladdin

Thursday 1 to Saturday 31 December

Empire Consett

Empire Consett's smash hit pantomime returns with the magical tale of Aladdin.

Joining Empire Consett regular Leah Bell for a magic carpet ride of a panto will be comedy legend Tommy Cannon as His Royal Highness The Emperor Tommisso Cannonisso. Packed full of magic, dazzling costumes, all your favourite characters and lots of adventure, this panto brings a modern twist to the traditional story.

Let the adventure begin!

There will be a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreted performance on Wednesday 28 December at 3pm, as well as a relaxed performance on Wednesday 28 December at 11am.

Tickets from £10 (family tickets from £56 min. two children).
03000 262 400
empireconsett.co.uk



Dick Whittington

Wednesday 14 to Sunday 18 December

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Join Dick Whittington on an adventure to London where the streets are paved with gold.

TaleGate Theatre returns to Bishop Auckland Town Hall with another spectacular pantomime.

Packed with songs, slapstick, silliness, audience participation and all the fairytale magic of a traditional pantomime, this fun-filled extravaganza is guaranteed to delight the whole family.

Tickets from £8 (family ticket £32 min. two children).
03000 269 524
bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

Gala Durham



Monday 23 to Tuesday 24
January 2023, 7.30pm

Giovanni Pernice – Made in Italy

Strictly Come Dancing 2021 champion Giovanni Pernice invites you to join him on a journey to his homeland for his brand new 2023 production of 'Made in Italy'.

Joined by an outstanding ensemble of some of the best dancers and singers from the Ballroom and theatre world, this show promises to be a fantastic night out. This Italian themed show features an incredible soundtrack, stunning choreography, and beautiful costumes. £40.

03000 266 600
www.galadurham.co.uk

Empire Consett



Wednesday 16 November,
7.30pm

The Lindisfarne Story

Back in 1971, Lindisfarne released their groundbreaking first album and began to attract the fervent fan base that followed them for decades.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of this classic album, Lindisfarne frontman Billy Mitchell and founder member Ray Laidlaw tell the group's amazing story with a combination of superb songs, vital video, tall tales and of course, scurrilous gossip. £22.50.

03000 262 400
www.empireconsett.co.uk

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Friday 18 November, 8pm

Hilarity Bites Comedy Club

Closing out the year in style, we've a double headliner show in November as we welcome Maff Brown and Ashley Frieze to Hilarity Bites.

Maff has been recommended as one of the top ten acts to see at the Edinburgh festival by GQ magazine. Twice. He also plays at all the top clubs in the UK as a headliner, including at London's world-famous Comedy Store, and writes on shows such as *Mock the Week* and *8 Out Of Ten Cats*.



Meanwhile, with his charming, daft, and warm brand of music-infused stand-up comedy, guitar-toting funny man Ashley Frieze has been entertaining audiences across the UK for nearly 20 years. His original songs, with well-crafted lyrics and catchy tunes, span many genres from Jazz to Coldplay via 1960's girl-group pop.

We'll have a further act in support and popular Kiwi comedian Sully O'Sullivan will be host for this show. Tickets £10 or £8 if booked in advance.

03000 269 524
www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

Durham Record Office – online talk

Thursday 17 November, 10.30am-11.30am

Margaret Farrington – a tale of sociability and sanity in Georgian Britain

This free online talk is part of Durham Record Office's popular Third Thursday Talks series. Guest speaker Richard Pears, architectural historian, will explore the story of Margaret Farrington (1725-98). Born in Newcastle to a respected Anglican clergyman and his wife, she enjoyed the polite entertainments and socialising of Georgian London. This was cut short by her diagnosis of lunacy in 1765 and she returned to the North East to be cared for by her extended family until her death at Lamesley, near Gateshead in 1798.

Her life has been reconstructed entirely from archive sources, including an inventory of her possessions which draws a picture of her life in a well-appointed residence near Oxford Street, and discovering the familial ties that rescued her from the horrors of what passed for mental health treatments in public asylums and private madhouses.

The event is free, but donations are welcome via optional payment link. **Booking in advance is essential.** Your booking confirmation email will contain instructions how to join the event online.



recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk/pgEventResult Enquiries only: 03000 267 619

ONGOING EVENTS



Until Friday 30 December

Unity is Strength: Durham Miners' Gala

Mining Art Galley, Bishop Auckland, DH147JF

This landmark exhibition captures the community spirit, pride, solidarity and identity celebrated through Durham Miners' Gala, also known as the Big Meeting. 01388 743750 aucklandproject.org/whats-on



Online event until Saturday 31 December

Durham University: Treasures of Palace Green Library

This selection of highlights from the collection includes an Ancient Egyptian letter, rare editions of the Nuremberg Chronicle and Thomas More's Utopia, plus ornate works by Francis Bacon and William Morris. 0191 334 2932 stories.durham.ac.uk/treasures-of-palace-green-library



Until Friday 31 March 2023

Tunstall and the Tudors

Durham Castle, Durham City, DH1 3RW

Meet Cuthbert Tunstall: bishop, scholar, diplomat, builder, and author of England's first maths book, celebrating its 500th anniversary this year. He might just be the most important man in Tudor England that you've never heard of. 0191 334 2932, www.dur.ac.uk/durham.castle/



The third Sunday of every month, 9am-2pm

Northern Dales Farmer's Market

Wynyard Hall Hotel, Wynyard, TS22 5NF

Head to the fabulous walled garden and visit award-winning food and drink producers from Northern Dales Farmer's Market. 01740 644811 www.wynyardhall.co.uk

Second Wednesday of the month, 11am

LGBT+ Over 50s County Durham

Various locations in Durham City

An inclusive and supportive social group for older LGBT+ people and their allies. Meet new friends and enjoy conversation and refreshments. 0191 303 8604 www.lgbt50durham.org.uk

Permanent exhibition

The Chris and Steve Rocks, Coming Home Art Exhibition

Town Hall, Spennymoor, DL16 6DG

Artwork by twins Chris and Steve Rocks, abstract artists with a celebrity following, can be seen in the Bob Abley art gallery in the brothers' hometown of Spennymoor. Free. 01388 815276 spennymoor-tc.gov.uk

First Saturday of every month, 10am-1pm

Brancepeth Archive at Brancepeth Castle

Brancepeth Castle, Durham, DH7 8DF

Open to visitors to explore the large collection of documents, maps, pictures, photographs, books and artefacts, all relating to the history of the ancient parish. 0191 378 9670 www.brancepethcastle.org.uk

NOVEMBER



Sunday 13 November, 10am

Remembrance Day Parade

Peterlee Central Club, Surtees Road, Peterlee, SR8 5BA

Organised by Peterlee Town Council, the Remembrance Day Parade will make its way from Peterlee Central Club to St Cuthbert's Church, Manor Way, for a service starting at 11am. 0191 586 2491 www.peterlee.gov.uk

Sunday 13 November, 2pm

Barnard Castle Band: Remembrance Concert

The Witham, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

A special Remembrance Sunday performance filled with a variety of pieces set to entertain a wide audience. 01833 631107, thewitham.org.uk



Monday 21 November, 5pm and 7.30pm

Christmas Wreath Workshop

South Causey Inn, Stanley, DH9 0LS

Add a touch of homemade charm to your Christmas with a traditional Christmas wreath workshop at the South Causey Inn. 01207 235555 www.southcausey.co.uk

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

» **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO** »



Saturday 26 November, 10.30am
Willow basket weaving workshop

Dalton Moor Farm, Murton, SR7 9JY

Learn several different weaving techniques as you move through the various stages of creating your very own willow basket. 07887551643 www.daltonmoorfarm.co.uk



Saturday 26 November to Saturday 24 December

Christmas daytimes at Beamish Museum

Beamish Museum, Stanley, DH9 0RG

Experience the festive traditions of the past while making special family memories. **Normal entry applies.** 0191 370 4000, www.beamish.org.uk



Thursday 8 December, 7pm
Turrets Youth Theatre: The Fir Tree

The Witham, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

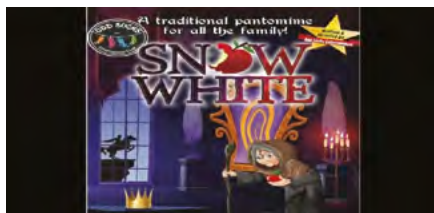
Experience the magic of Christmas at The Witham, with a re-imagining of Hans Christian Andersen's festive fairy tale. 01833 631107, thewitham.org.uk



Saturday 26 November, 1pm
Toft Hill and Etherley Community Centre Christmas Fair

Traditional village fair with stalls, refreshments, and a festive raffle. 0138 883 3293 www.etherleyparishcouncil.net

DECEMBER



Thursday 1 to Saturday 3 December, various performances

Snow White

Settlement Everyman Theatre, Spennymoor, DL16 6RY

Join Snow White and her friends as she ventures through the woods meeting lots of characters along the way. A magical traditional pantomime full of songs and laughter for all the family. 07813189774



Friday 9 December, 10.30am

Christmas with Colin

Bowburn Hall Hotel, Durham, DH6 5NH

Join St Cuthbert's Hospice for a luxurious festive lunch with special guest speaker Colin Anderson, former chef to the Royal Household. £40. 0191 386 1170 www.stcuthbertshospice.com/events



Saturday 26 November to Saturday 24 December

12 Days of Christmas Trail

Raby Castle, Staindrop, DL2 3AH

Embark on a winter exploration of the Deer Park, following the clues of a famous festive song. 01833 660202 www.raby.co.uk



Thursday 1 to Saturday 24 December, 3pm-4.30pm

Santa's Grotto at The Bowes Museum

The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP

A chance to meet Santa in his winter woodland grotto at The Bowes Museum. 01833 690606, thebowesmuseum.org.uk

Friday 9 December, 7pm

Bingo Goes Bonkers

Spennymoor Town Football Club, Spennymoor, DL16 6JN

It's eyes down and dancing shoes on for an amazing night of fun. Includes a three-course meal, live entertainment, and a disco. £26.95. 0191 4932300 www.spennymoor-tc.gov.uk

Sunday 12 December, 7pm-9pm

St Cuthbert's Hospice Light Up a Life service



Durham Cathedral, Durham, DH1 3EH

An opportunity for people to join together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we love. 0191 386 1170 www.stcuthbertshospice.com



Thursday 15 December, 9am-4pm

Durham Festive Food Producers and Crafters Market

Durham Market Place, Durham City, DH1 3NJ

The perfect opportunity to shop for food, drink, gifts and treats in the run-up to Christmas. 0191 384 6153 durhammarkets.co.uk



Saturday 17 December, 7pm

Christmas music and carols

Chester-le-Street Methodist Church, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3TF

Enjoy a festive performance of Christmas carols and music performed by the Argus Singers. 0191 388 1313 www.clsmethodist.org.uk

This is durham

 Find more events and activities at

www.thisisdurham.com/whats-on



Sunday 18 December, 2.30pm

Traditional Christmas concert with David Lowe and the Mighty Wurlitzer

New Victoria Centre, Crook, DL15 8EZ

The North East Organ Association and David Lowe present Christmas classics guaranteed to get you in the festive mood. Free for under 18s, £10.50 for adults. 01388 762467 www.netoa.org.uk



Tuesday 20 December, 7.30pm

Christmas By Candlelight

Durham Cathedral, Durham, DH1 3EH

An incredible West End cast and live band perform classic Christmas hits as you've never heard them before. Tickets start at £20. 0191 338 7178 www.durhamcathedral.co.uk

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

» KNOW BEFORE YOU GO »

NEXT YEAR



From Saturday 18 February 2023

Bearpark Artists Co-op. 30 Years of Art in Context

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

An exhibition of the Bearpark Artists' working lives as painters. See work from Romey Chaffer, John Foker, Barrie Ormsby, and a documentary record of the Co-operative in many different social contexts. Normal Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels and Gardens admission charges will apply. 0791 388 9397



Friday 24 February 2023, 10.30am-3.30pm

Get Messy

The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP

Get messy with UG, boy genius of the stone age, and create different effects using ink, wool and cotton buds to make a cave painting. Free when accompanying an adult paying membership of £12.50, £14.50, or £17.50-day ticket. 01833 690606 thebowesmuseum.org.uk



Saturday 21 January

Celebrate Lunar New Year in Durham City

More information about the event is available on page 5.



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