

Spotlight Magazine



BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Barnsley



Barnsley – the place of possibilities

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YouTube

November 2023

Welcome to the latest edition of Barnsley Spotlight magazine

Hello

Many of us will be looking forward to spending the festive season with our family and friends. With our **Christmas** lights switch on at **Barnsley Bright Nights**, and **festive food festival**, we have lots of things to get you in the festive spirit. Check out **pages 4 and 5** for ideas on how to make this time of year extra special for you and your families.

In this edition, we're looking forward to seeing how our **family hub model** will bring services and support right across the borough. You can read more on **page 6**.

We know that the winter months can be difficult for lots of us, and we want to let you know about the **advice and support** on offer to **help keep you warm** and **save on your energy bills**. Find out more on **page 9**.

You can read more about our **fantastic residents** and **what's happening** in your local area on **pages 17 to 22**.

We'll see you again in the spring for the next edition.

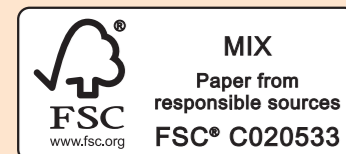


Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE,
Leader of Barnsley Council



Sarah Norman,
Chief Executive of Barnsley Council

Tell us what you think about our magazine at surveys.barnsley.gov.uk/s/BarnsleySpotlight.



Double awarding winning Council of the Year 2023

We're delighted to have made history by becoming the first council to win the two most prestigious awards in local government in the same year, **The Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Council of the Year** and the **Municipal Journal Local Authority of the Year**.

Both awards highlight Barnsley's excellent reputation nationally.

We hear from many people how much they love **The Glass Works** and our town centre. It's fantastic to have two sets of independent experts in local government, tell us just how impressed they are. Judges recognised we deliver **high levels of service across the board** compared to other areas, we spend less money than other areas, and we're doing things that stand out.

This is a huge source of shared pride and puts Barnsley on the map for others to learn from our success.

The council can't stand still, and neither can the borough. We must continue to be ambitious and move forward. We've already **invested £5 million in local areas** and **new shop fronts for businesses** and the next £30 million phase



will further improve things. Wombwell High Street is already seeing the benefit.

The council and private sector funded **Youth Zone** will bring world-class facilities for our young people.

The **SEAM Digital Campus** (Courthouse site) will bring improved car parking, a new town centre urban greenspace and new high-tech jobs and businesses.

As part of sharing our success, we've been visiting our teams to say thank you, hosting visitors from other councils, and giving talks at LGC events up and down the UK.

We're a high performing council

- **Children's Services** rated as **good**.
- **Preventing delayed discharges** from hospital.
- **77% care leavers** are learning or working.
- **100 Kickstart** placements.
- **Lead council** for offering T-levels.
- **700 young people** helped by GROW project.
- **UK's largest** council-led rooftop **energy project**.
- **Outstanding** 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service.
- **79% customer satisfaction** with Adult Social Care.

Market Gate Bridge

We're pleased to say we're in the final stages of the construction of **Market Gate Bridge**, which will be opening very soon.

It's a little later than we'd hoped, and we understand it's been frustrating for some. A project of this size is always likely to encounter a few hitches along the way. It's very nearly there now and we know it will have been worth the wait – it certainly looks the part!

The bridge is a landmark feature on the Barnsley skyline and the first thing people see when arriving by bus or train, giving the wow factor our outstanding town centre deserves.

It will provide easy access directly into The Glass Works Square to encourage even more people to access our vibrant town centre through active travel, whether on foot, by bike, wheelchair or scooter. The bridge will be fully accessible with lifts at both ends and cyclists will also be able to take their bikes into the lifts or walk them up the steps using a dedicated cycle wheel groove built into the bridge.

The majority of the funding has come from external sources, including £7.3m from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and £2m from Network Rail. This was part of Network Rail's programme of replacing level crossings with safer alternatives.



For more information about the project, go to barnsley.gov.uk/MarketGateBridge.

Goldthorpe's exciting new town square now open

A new town square bringing hope of a bright future to the heart of Goldthorpe is now open.

The Heart of Goldthorpe hosts a market every Thursday from 9am to 3pm with a variety of stalls ranging from sweets and baked goods to household items.

The square, which will also be a venue for public events, has winding paths, curved planting beds, informal seating, an area for reflection and contrasting paving patterns where children might play.

The Horse and Groom pub had become disused and was demolished to make way for the new square. Its memory is preserved in the square with a specially-designed mosaic artwork inspired by the pub sign.

The Heart of Goldthorpe is one of five projects in Goldthorpe shaped through public consultation, which are being funded through the £23.1m awarded to Goldthorpe from the UK Government's Towns Fund.

The projects also include:

- the regeneration of traditional terraced streets
- developing land to encourage businesses to invest
- the renovation of the Dearne Playhouse
- creation of a new cultural hub at the Welfare Park
- improvements to play facilities and a new visitor hub at Phoenix Park.

Towns Fund investment in Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe and Bolton upon Dearne supports our **investment work in the main high streets and local areas across the borough, helping them to thrive.**

See barnsley.gov.uk/TownsFund for more information.



BARNSELEY BRIGHT NIGHTS IS BACK!

Free fun for all the family. Join us as the town centre is lit up with art installations, a lantern parade, and Christmas lights on **Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November.**



On Friday 24 November, we'll switch on the Christmas lights in style, with The Glass Works Square bathed in a sea of light, colour and sound. A stunning multi-media show will be projected onto buildings, featuring festive stories inspired by our communities. Then explore the town centre and discover interactive installations at Barnsley Civic, Barnsley College, the Cooper Gallery gardens, Alhambra Shopping Centre, and St. Mary's Church.

On Saturday 25 November join the Barnsley Bright Nights parade, as a host of community groups, artists and artworks will journey through the town

centre. The illuminated parade will feature hand-crafted lanterns and puppets, as well as street artist performers and dancers.

Don't miss out on the chance to make memories that'll last a lifetime!



Visit barnsley.gov.uk/Events for all the details, and make sure to follow Barnsley town centre on Facebook and Instagram. #MakeItYours



MAKE IT FESTIVE



Get this brand-new event in your diary. Barnsley is hosting its very own Christmas market in the town centre from **Thurs 7 to Sun 10 December.**

Enjoyed Flavours Food Festival back in May? Then you're sure to love this. Join us for hot food trucks, delectable drinks, and stalls to pick up a fantastic range of Christmas gifts for the whole family. While in town, make sure to explore our other independents, visit Barnsley Markets and The Glass Works and **make a day of it.**

MAKE IT YOURS

From Panto to live stand-up comedy, independent bars to first-class eateries, Barnsley town centre has everything you need to make amazing memories this festive season. Visit with your friends, family, or colleagues – there really is something for everyone.

"For the first time in 26 years, we've got the Panto coming back to Barnsley Civic which is just amazing. We've done loads of work over the last 18 months asking people in Barnsley what they remember about the Civic and loads of people have told us that they either came to the Civic for the first time to see a Panto or that they brought their kids." – Anthony, Barnsley Civic.

You can also enjoy a spectacular family pantomime at The Lamproom Theatre this December.

"I've been a massive supporter of Barnsley town centre for its nightlife. I've just seen it develop and get more appealing over the years. I know people who come from all over to have a night out in Barnsley. They'll travel from Nottingham, Leeds, even from Scotland just to come and have a night out here. The fact that it's been awarded the Purple Flag status for how safe it is I think says a lot about the town and the people that work and party in it." – Steve, Comedy Shop.

Head to barnsley.gov.uk/VisitBarnsley for all our recommendations.



barnsley.gov.uk/TownCentre





Exciting new Family Hubs and Start for Life launches in Barnsley

A brand-new, dynamic service to help support families recently launched in Barnsley.

The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is a £3.4 million investment to make sure families flourish in Barnsley. From conception right the way through to young adulthood, families will be supported through Family Hubs with a strong Start For Life offer at their core, which will be easily accessible throughout the borough.

Family Hubs will build on the success of Family Centres, providing additional services that are easy to access.

The first pilot Family Hub was successfully launched in August at the Kendray and Worsborough Family Centre, with an action packed, fun-filled day out for the local community.

Following a ribbon cutting ceremony by Mayor of Barnsley, Councillor James Michael Stowe, families were welcomed in to meet a wide range of services who can offer guidance, help and support in the local community whenever they need it.

As well as the activities provided at the Hub, including a sensory garden, messy play area and outdoor activities, a children's entertainer provided lots of fun, including singing, dancing and a foam party.

Early Start, Families Strategy and Service Manager at Barnsley Council, Laura Hammerton, said: ***"The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme is a brilliant opportunity in Barnsley. It's a way of bringing together***

different services and support for families across the borough.

"Our Family Hubs will allow people to share their needs, and our amazing team of professionals work together like never before to address any challenges families might be facing."

Following feedback from families in the Family Hubs public consultation in September 2023, the service will look to develop to give families the support they need over the coming months.

Further Family Hubs will open across Barnsley with online services being continuously reviewed and improved to help provide the best service and support possible for families who need it the most.

The proposed model will provide more services and support for families across Barnsley. Families will be able to access support face-to-face in a Family Hub, face-to-face in the community and online.

For further information you can visit the Family Hubs Facebook page: [facebook.com/BarnsleyFamilyHubs](https://www.facebook.com/BarnsleyFamilyHubs) or contact 0800 0345 340 to speak to the Family Hubs team.

The Magic of Middle-Earth has arrived in Barnsley

Museum visitors in Barnsley will be transported to a magical world which promises dragons, elves, and haunting soundscapes.

The Magic of Middle-Earth exhibition is dedicated to the incredible work of J.R.R Tolkien and the generations of writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers, environmentalists, creators, and game designers he influenced.

The exhibition, which runs until April 2024 at Experience Barnsley Museum, situated in Barnsley Town Hall, allows visitors to go beyond 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' epic fantasy novels to discover the artistic legacy of Tolkien's incredible fantasy world.

Presenting a magical treasure trove of over 200 rare objects and artworks, The Magic of Middle-Earth exhibition will showcase a rare first edition copy of 'The Hobbit' from 1937, dramatic models and dioramas including The Battle of Helms Deep, concept artwork, as well as theatre, music and movie-inspired memorabilia and prop replicas.

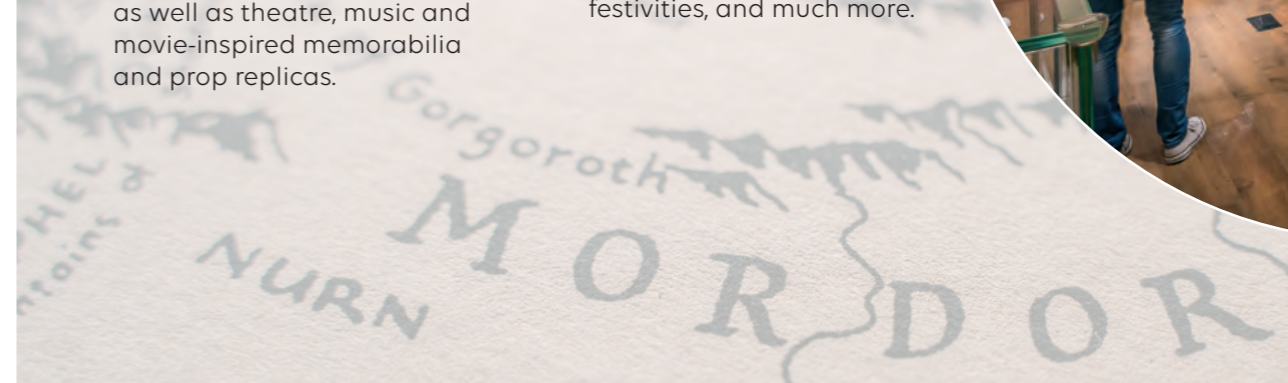
The free exhibition, with donations welcomed, also includes stunning paintings illustrating Tolkien's deep passion for the natural world, Middle-Earth inspired video games and LEGO sets, and a soundscape including music by Howard Shore, who composed, orchestrated, conducted, and produced the music of 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit' films.

Tolkien was an English writer and a professional colleague and friend of Barnsley-born educationalist and Cooper Gallery benefactor Sir Michael Sadler in the 1920s. During that time, as Vice-Chancellor at The University of Leeds, Sadler created the position of Professor of English Language especially for Tolkien. They would work together in Oxford over the next two decades, during which period Tolkien would write his famed novels.

The Magic of Middle-Earth will also involve hands-on activities including Dungeons and Dragons-esque gaming sessions, a clay-making 'Dragon Eyes' session activities during Barnsley Bright Night's festivities, and much more.

**The Magic of Middle-Earth Experience Barnsley Museum, Barnsley Town Hall
30 September to 6 April 2024
Free entry.**

Find out more about the exhibition on our website [experience-barnsley.com/whats-on/the-magic-of-middle-earth](https://www.experience-barnsley.com/whats-on/the-magic-of-middle-earth).



Creating new ways to connect with our culture

Our libraries are welcoming hubs connecting our communities, bringing people together to fall in love with reading, feel proud of where they live and express their creative side.

We want to push the boundaries of what you might expect to find at your local library, and nowhere is that more evident than our dynamic and exciting events programme.

We've been busy bringing new experiences to our local libraries since the last edition of Barnsley Spotlight, **helping to develop skills and creativity among people of all ages.** We have plenty more planned that we can't wait to tell you about.

If you joined us at Barnsley Garden Party in September, you may have seen Plot 17's travelling eco hip-hop block party rocking Library @ the Lightbox.

We were delighted to welcome the duo to spread the message of 'making things green', encouraging families to connect with nature and enhancing children's literacy.

Eco-friendly hip-hop is certainly a new one for Barnsley Libraries, which is why they were the perfect guests to help us kick off our 'All In' programme of events.

Supported using public funding from Arts Council England, our 'All In' programme is bringing new ways for you to connect with our borough's rich culture. We have lots planned over the next few months and there really is something for everyone.

We're currently running a series of Library Lates, giving adults plenty of different experiences to try and ways to meet new people as part of our later opening hours. From jewellery making to songwriting workshops, come down to one of our events and see a new side of your local library.

We're also getting ready for our first Barnsley Book Festival, a two-month-long celebration of acclaimed authors and inspiring stories. Keen readers will have plenty to look forward to in February and March, and we can't wait to welcome everyone into the festivities.

Whether you're looking for family-friendly fun or want to try something new, our 'All In' programme has you covered.

We're always thinking up new ways for children to fall in love with their local library.

Over the past few months, we've hosted our very first Hebocon, giving kids a chance to build their own sumo wrestling robot. We also teamed up with Little City to help little ones get in the Halloween spirit with their award-winning role-play experience.

One experience we're really excited about is our new sensory play sessions at Library @ the Lightbox using our Playbox, which was funded thanks to Arts Council England. Guided by our Children's Librarian, we're helping families explore the joy of sensory play in a relaxed, friendly environment.

There's always something new happening at Barnsley Libraries, so pop in and see what's on offer for yourself.

Visit barnsley.gov.uk/All-In to see what we have planned.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



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UK Government



#SPEAKUP domestic abuse support

Healthy relationships are kind, equal and trusting, free from fear, harm, violence and abuse. Abusive relationships can take many different forms; the abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, economic or financial, as well as controlling or coercive behaviour.

If you or anyone you know is affected by domestic abuse, please know that there is support available in Barnsley.

Our partners, IDAS, provide support and accommodation to victims and

survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence in Barnsley. As well as one-to-one support, IDAS can support people to rebuild their lives and recover from abuse alongside others who have had similar experiences. They can also provide support virtually through online video support sessions, WhatsApp, online live chat, or over email.

If you're affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence or know someone who is, please find out more about the support available through IDAS. The Barnsley team can be contacted by calling 01226 320 112 or by emailing

info@idas.org.uk. There's also more information available on IDAS' website at idas.org.uk. If you are in immediate danger, call 999.

On our website, we've also got more information about the different types of abuse and how you can spot the signs. Find out more at barnsley.gov.uk/SpeakUp.



Warm Homes support available

We know that this winter will be difficult for many people, and our Warm Homes team are here to help.

Keeping ourselves and our families well is the key to living productive and happy lives.

Our dedicated Warm Homes Officers will be providing support in the community, as well as online and over the phone, to residents who want to reduce their energy bills and keep their homes warmer for longer.

Ciaran, one of our Warm Home Officers, says: **"With the continued rising costs of living, our residents are understandably concerned about the cost of energy and how to keep warm**

and healthy at home while also finding ways to reduce energy usage and save money on their bills.

"I'll be helping them to access the latest grants available for heating and insulation to be installed at their homes to improve energy efficiency, as well as providing general advice and guidance around other services available to help."

Regular events and dedicated drop-in sessions will be running again throughout the winter, allowing you to meet the team and find out how they can help.

For more information about the events or support available, go to barnsley.gov.uk/WarmHomes or call 01226 773 366 to speak to the Warm Homes team.

Library drop-ins timetable

Library	Day	Dates	Time
Cudworth	Wed	15 Nov, 13 Dec, 24 Jan, 21 Feb, 20 Mar	10am-12pm
Darfield	Tues	28 Nov, 9 Jan, 6 Feb, 5 Mar	10am-12pm
Dodworth	Mon	27 Nov, 8 Jan, 5 Feb, 4 Mar	2pm-4pm
Goldthorpe	Mon	20 Nov, 18 Dec, 29 Jan, 26 Feb, 25 Mar	10am-12pm
Grimethorpe	Wed	8 Nov, 6 Dec, 17 Jan, 14 Feb, 13 Mar	10am-12pm
Hoyland	Tues	28 Nov, 19 Dec, 30 Jan, 27 Feb, 26 Mar	1pm-3pm
Library @ the Lightbox	Thurs	2 Nov, 30 Nov, 11 Jan, 8 Feb, 7 Mar	2pm-4pm
Mapplewell	Fri	17 Nov, 15 Dec, 26 Jan, 23 Feb, 22 Mar	1pm-3pm
Penistone	Thurs	23 Nov, 21 Dec, 1 Feb, 29 Feb, 28 Mar	10am-12pm
Roundhouse	Tues	14 Nov, 12 Dec, 23 Jan, 20 Feb, 19 Mar	2pm-4pm
Royston	Thurs	16 Nov, 14 Dec, 25 Jan, 22 Feb, 21 Mar	10am-12pm
Thurnscoe	Fri	24 Nov, 22 Dec, 2 Feb, 1 Mar, 29 Mar	10am-12pm
Wombwell	Thurs	9 Nov, 7 Dec, 18 Jan, 15 Feb, 14 Mar	10am-12pm
Worsborough	Fri	10 Nov, 8 Dec, 19 Jan, 16 Feb, 15 Mar	2pm-4pm



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Siblings waiting for loving homes

There are currently around 60 children across South Yorkshire who are waiting for permanent, loving adoptive homes. Nearly half of these need to be adopted with their brothers or sisters.

Lots of people want to adopt, but unfortunately, children in sibling groups often wait much longer to find a loving family. That's why our regional adoption agency, One Adoption South Yorkshire, is hoping to find people who can meet the needs of these children.

Significant events like Christmas and birthdays can be difficult for children who are adopted as it can bring back memories of their life before adoption. Being able to share these times with a sibling can make it a lot easier; sharing happy memories and as well as being able to make new ones together is important.

The brother and sister bond is especially important for adopted children, with national research showing that the bond can support mental health, emotional wellbeing, social skills, and help children settle into a new family.

We welcome applications to adopt from people of all backgrounds, regardless of your race, religion or sexuality. The only criteria is that you must be 21 years or older, have space in your home and a willingness to provide a safe and loving home for a child. Find out more at oneadoption.co.uk.



Every child deserves a loving family home

Fostering keeps Barnsley children near the people and places they love. It's life-changing for you and the child. When you're a part of our local fostering community, you'll receive financial assistance as well as high-level training and support. Anyone with room in their home and their heart can foster, so never discount yourself.

Get in touch with our friendly, local team today. @FosterBarnsley 01226 775 876 barnsley.gov.uk/Fostering



Plan your perfect day at our Town Hall

Are you planning your special day, and looking for an unforgettable winter wedding experience?

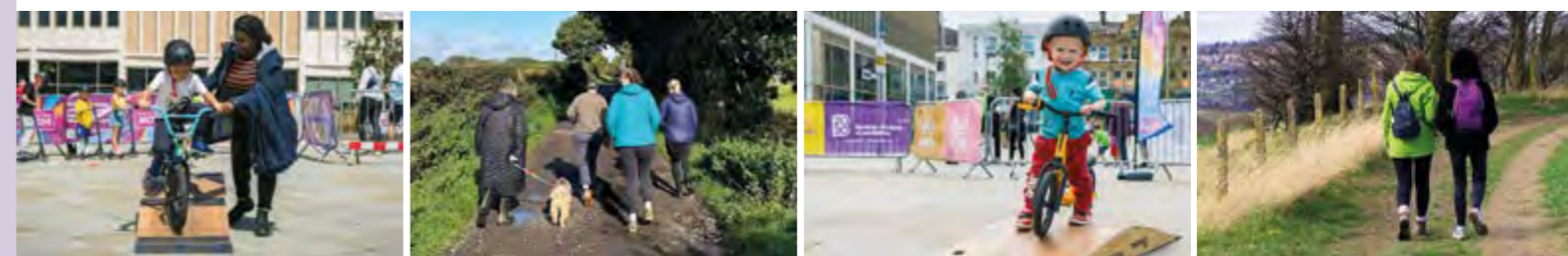
Designed to create lasting memories, the Ceremony Suite at our prestigious Town Hall provides a remarkable backdrop for exchanging vows and celebrating love. Its unique ambiance perfectly complements the enchanting winter season, making it the ideal choice for those wishing to tie the knot.

Starting from November 2023, we're delighted to allow one official ceremony car access onto the Town Hall drive every Saturday. This exclusive privilege adds a touch of elegance and grandeur to your special day, setting the tone from the moment you arrive.

For an exceptional winter wedding you will cherish forever, you can book the Ceremony Suite at the Town Hall by visiting barnsley.gov.uk/Weddings. We look forward to hosting your magical celebration.



Get active



If you're looking to get active in a fun and easy way, our **What's Your Move** campaign, delivered by our Sport and Physical Activity team, can help.

You don't need to go to the gym and break a sweat, even a short walk gets those active minutes up and keeps you ticking over mentally and physically. There are many great options in Barnsley for adults and children to keep you active all year round.

For example, our RampUP and Sports Van activities over the summer holidays helped more than 2,800 children engage in

physical activity by giving them the chance to experience cycling and scooting alongside football, athletics and other sports in a free, relaxed environment.

You should have the best possible chance of enjoying life in good physical and mental health.

We hope many of the children who participated have been inspired to cycle and scoot more. If they have, we've got schemes available to help you loan a bike, get your bike fixed and find the best routes in the borough to enjoy active travel.

But what is active travel and what are the benefits?

Active travel is choosing to take a short journey by walking or cycling

rather than driving. Doing this just one or two days a week is a great starting point and these small steps can make a huge difference to your own physical and mental wellbeing as well as the environment – every minute counts.

You can find out more about active travel, ways to get active and the What's Your Move campaign on our website at barnsley.gov.uk/Services/Sport-And-Leisure.



Free PSSR Accreditation

Are you a Barnsley business looking to start or expand your work with the public sector? Our partners Go4Growth are offering the PSSR Accreditation for free, to help your business thrive.

Go4Growth understands the challenges that smaller businesses and voluntary organisations face when seeking to enter the public sector marketplace. Their mission is to help you build the skills, knowledge, and confidence to successfully find and hopefully secure public sector contracts.

It's a simple process that takes you through the Standard Selection Questionnaire before working through two stages that aim to look at the basic building blocks any organisation would need to take part. It allows you to provide evidence that you have the necessary tools, knowledge and understanding of processes and can be a great way to demonstrate your readiness to take part to potential clients.

The PSSR tool also identifies areas where you might need to further develop your knowledge or resources. By addressing these gaps, you can enhance your chances of securing growth in the public sector. There's lots of

helpful information, guidance and resources for you to access also as part of gaining the accreditation.

Go4Growth are there to support you throughout your accreditation journey and beyond. Whether you need assistance, have questions, or want a chat, they're just a call, email, or meeting away:

Email: support@go4growth.co.uk

Phone: 07557 773 837

Access the PSSR: pssr.net-positive.org

Book a chat: bit.ly/G4GCalendar



Armed Forces Walkway



Barnsley's Armed Forces Walkway, situated on Westgate by the College Gardens, provides a space for families and friends to remember loved ones who have served or are still serving.

One of the families that have recently purchased a walkway stone, and attended one of the annual unveiling ceremonies, said:

"The ceremony was perfect, poignant, personal, superb, amazing. A massive thank you to you for making it special - I can't tell you how much it means to me. Our journey started with the army and now I have closure of our final journey with the stone."

The honed granite stones feature the name, rank, and service number

of the individual being honoured. Walkway stones can make the perfect Christmas gift for someone with a permanent reminder of their loved one who has served or is still serving in the HM Armed Forces. Stones can also be purchased for armed forces units that have a connection with Barnsley.

If you would like to make a dedication to your loved one in this way or give the perfect gift at Christmas, visit barnsley.gov.uk/Armed-Forces-Walkway.



Ey up Barnsley, how's thi ticker?

Over the past year, our **How's Thi Ticker** team has been very busy, making it easier for you to get free blood pressure checks in your local area.

You may have seen our friendly team out and about countless times as we've been popping up all over the borough, from community centres to local businesses.

We've helped shoppers browsing our markets, book lovers in their local library and guys looking to freshen up their look at their favourite barbers.

By going out to our communities, we've been able to perform more than 5,000 free blood pressure

checks and have really important conversations about looking after your heart.

By working with local pharmacies and the NHS, we've been able to help people with high blood pressure readings get the support they need.

We've had some great feedback along the way, including from Timothy, who we recently spoke to at Penistone Market.

He told us the sessions helped him to continue focusing on healthy lifestyle choices, thanks to our "professional, approachable, helpful and friendly" team.

So, if you see the team out and about this winter, come say hi and get your blood pressure checked for free. It's quick, painless and could save your life.

Keep an eye on Barnsley Council's Facebook page to see where we're popping up next.



Northern
College



SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SYMCA
MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Your home from home.

Northern College, Yorkshire's only residential College for adults aged 19+.

It's time for change.
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Meet Barnsley Hospital's Healthy Lives team

The Healthy Lives Team at Barnsley Hospital provide advice and treatment on ways to keep healthy and reduce illness. Our work includes asking patients about things that can harm health (such as smoking, alcohol and poor housing), giving treatment and support during a hospital stay, and arranging help from community services when people go home.



NHS
Barnsley Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Treating tobacco addiction

To help protect people's health, Barnsley Hospital is smokefree, meaning that staff, patients and visitors cannot smoke anywhere on site. To prevent patients getting unpleasant withdrawal symptoms, we give free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and friendly support to everyone admitted to hospital who smokes. We also arrange ongoing support in local communities if patients choose to continue to stop smoking after discharge.

Early help for children and families

Our Early Help Navigator team work with children, young people and families at the hospital who may benefit from extra support. They identify issues that may harm children's health and wellbeing, such as money, housing, and mental health concerns, and support families to access services across Barnsley that can help.

Supporting people who drink high amounts of alcohol

Our specially trained Alcohol Care Nurses care for people who drink high amounts of alcohol that may harm their health. They work closely with patients, families, carers, hospital staff, and community services to treat people during and after a hospital stay. They also help people to make changes that encourage safer alcohol consumption.



Dan Jarvis was joined by Ben Parkinson MBE, members of 212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital, hospital staff veterans, and other representatives from the hospital.



NHS
Barnsley Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Barnsley Hospital's Veteran Aware plaque was officially unveiled last month by Barnsley Central MP Dan Jarvis, a former Major in the British Army.

The plaque communicates our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and has been awarded following accreditation from the Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance. Barnsley Hospital is recognised as being a great employer and also committed to providing the best care for, and support to, the armed forces' community.



9 – 27 December 2023

barnsleycivic.co.uk | 01226 327 000

"THIS IS A PANTOMIME SHIMMERING WITH FRESHNESS AND ORIGINALITY."

The Stage

**BARNSELY
CIVIC**

Panto Ever After

OUT NOW
AUTUMN + WINTER
2023



BARNSELY CIVIC

FEATURING

23 SEP
20 JAN
I'M SORRY

03 NOV
SPLASH TEST DUMMIES

04 NOV
THE BLACK LAMPS

29 NOV
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

1 DEC
TOBY FOSTER'S LAST LAUGH COMEDY CLUB

9-27 DEC
CINDERELLA

01226 327000 www.barnsleycivic.co.uk

SCAN TO GET YOUR COPY



Personal hygiene and care bank empowers local families

The cost of living has affected many households since the pandemic and significantly changed the Dearne Area's priorities.

In response, our Dearne Area Team started talking to people in the Dearne community to learn about their needs and develop projects helping families who need support. One of these projects is a personal hygiene and care bank that gives families access to everyday household items.

Councillor Wendy Cain had spoken to many families in the community during local summer events about how they were struggling financially and approached the Dearne Area Team to discuss what support could be provided. With advice and support from the Dearne North and South Ward Alliances, a plan was drawn up to create a local hygiene and personal care bank. Here, hygiene and care items – as well as household cleaning products – could be handed out for free to the families that need them, freeing up money for them to buy other essentials.

The project was made possible through funding from the Household Support Grant. Finding an appropriate location to establish the bank was a crucial step, and it was Emma, a dedicated volunteer at the Renaissance Centre, who proposed it as an ideal spot. The Renaissance Centre, housed within a historic

school building on Priory Road in Bolton on Dearne, demonstrated immense generosity by waiving the rental fee, enabling the project to continue for a longer time.

In a commendable show of support, Tesco in Wath placed a substantial order for hygiene products and guaranteed their timely delivery.

Our partnership with multiple Dearne-based organisations, bolstered by the support of our local elected representatives, has proven to be immensely beneficial. Thanks to the collective contributions of children's centres, the Salvation Army, Station House, and Berneslai Homes, we have extended our support to a wide range of residents who require assistance.

As the bank began receiving referrals, it became evident how essential this support was. Positive comments poured in from families who have benefited from the support. One resident shared, **"It's a huge relief to not worry about missing out on some food items. My family will always be thankful to those behind this project."**

Councillor Wendy Cain, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities, said: **"Helping our families and local people is integral to what we do as a council, and I'm so proud of the work we've done in the Dearne Area to support those in our communities who need it most. If you're struggling with the rising cost of living, please know that support is available for you."**



As well as projects in your local area funded by the Household Support Grant, a range of support is available on the More Money In Your Pocket webpage at barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP."

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making this project a success.

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For more information about volunteering opportunities or projects happening in your area, please get in touch with the Dearne Area Team at DearneTeam@barnsley.gov.uk. Or follow us on Facebook to find out what activities and events are happening near you at facebook.com/DearneApproach.

History Days celebrate Worsbrough's rich industrial heritage

In September, many of you came along to celebrate Worsbrough's heritage with us at our Worsbrough Local History Days.

Back in 2021, the Worsbrough Industrial and Social History group (WISH) got in touch with the Central Area Team for support in securing permissions and funding to install a new mining memorial in the area.

With support from Principal Towns funding, the memorial was built to commemorate the lost lives of men and boys through single fatalities and mining disasters in Worsbrough. Alongside this, the Ward Alliance worked with members of the local history groups to develop a heritage trail map, highlighting key points of historical interest in the area.

The Community Development Officer recognised that this presented a fantastic opportunity to further promote the rich industrial and social heritage of Worsbrough. Working together with other local history groups, the Ward Alliance, and Worsbrough Mill, the first Worsbrough Local History Days were held last year. The two-day event was a fantastic success, with over 300 people attending, showcasing the projects that local groups had been working on throughout the pandemic and celebrating the new memorial.

The volunteers in the working group felt inspired to make the History Days an annual event and continued to meet regularly with the Community Development Officer to plan this year's event.

Stephen Lonsdale, from the Worsbrough Industrial and Social History Society (WISH), said:

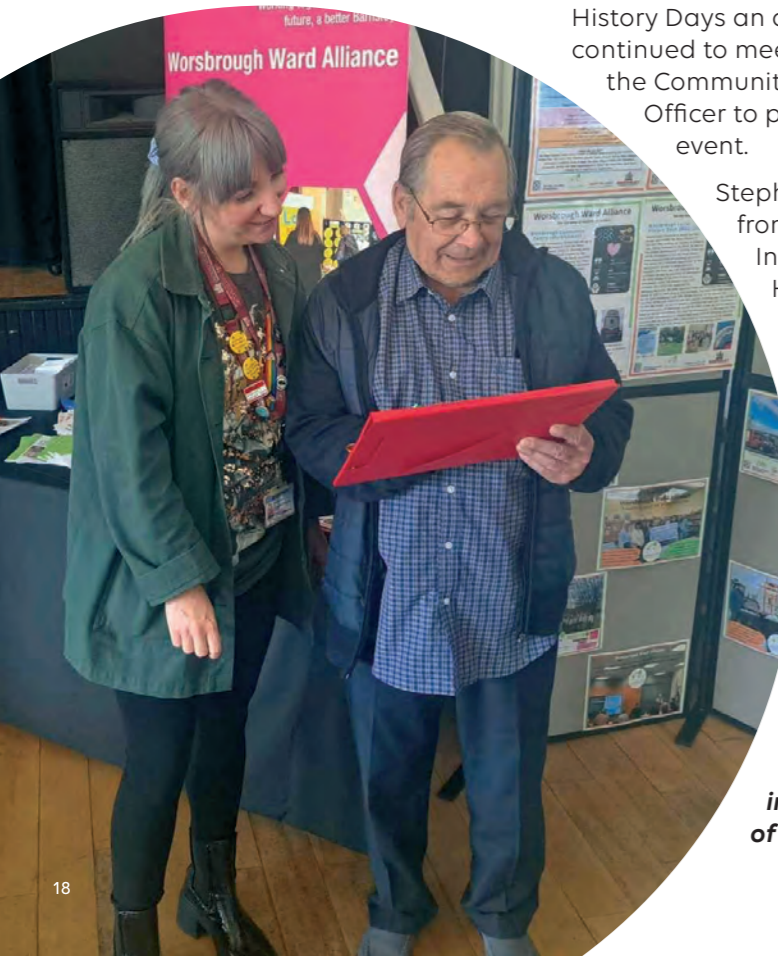
"We're really pleased to be a part of the local history days in Worsbrough, which celebrate and remember 200 years of industry in the area. Years ago, Worsbrough was one of the most productive places in Barnsley in terms of industry, with

coal mines, a glassworks, lime kilns, mills and much more. As a group, we're really proud to promote and celebrate its rich history. There's plenty of historic points of interest to see in Worsbrough, and I'd really encourage anyone to come down to our next local history days and learn more about the history of the area."

Last month, local historian and filmmaker Joshua Daniels recorded some of your stories for a new film showcasing 'Working Worsbrough', chatting to Barnsley residents, including those who worked at Corah's Factory or Burling and Mending. The film has been commissioned by the Ward Alliance and is part of the History Days' ongoing project development to support and encourage interest in local history.

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For more information about volunteering opportunities or projects happening in your area, please get in touch with the Central Area Team at CentralTeam@barnsley.gov.uk. Or follow us on Facebook to find out what activities and events are happening near you at facebook.com/BarnsleyCentral.



National recognition for Exodus

Exodus has been working in the communities of Barnsley for 23 years, with the North East Area Council supporting them for nearly a decade. They work with children and young people, their families, and communities to support happy, thriving lifestyles. Exodus run 16 clubs in total, four taking place in the local area, and are proudly supported by the Area Council and Ward Alliances.

"Our unique approach has been working for over 20 years," says Martin Sawdon, Co-Founder and Development Manager for the charity. *"We don't just get the kids off the street and out of trouble for a couple of hours a week... that's the easy part. We build long-term trusting relationships that mean when the young people get to their challenging teenage years; they are among trusted adults and alongside peers doing positive and affirming things, as opposed to hanging about outside the bus station or the corner shop."*

Exodus and its impact have been recognised in many ways. They were finalists some years back in the Proud of Barnsley Awards and more recently were celebrated on the national stage at the Weston Charity Awards. Co-Founders Martin and his wife Jackie were awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours list.

Jackie said, *"We've been overwhelmed by the response from our family and friends to the award. It's the kind of thing that happens to other people, not us. I can't believe the number of people who have encouraged us and said how deserving we are. It doesn't feel like we've done anything that special, but if it helps us get support for Exodus for another 20 years, that is fantastic. Of course, it will*

be a great day when we get to visit Buckingham Palace and receive our medals, too."

Exodus has been a valuable partner to the North East Area Council. They've been actively involved in events like Cudworth Tea in the Park and have supported summer activities in the area. They've also collaborated with local schools and churches.

You might have noticed that Exodus has taken over the old Methodist Church on Barnsley Road. Alongside running one of their charity shops there, they've made sure the building remains accessible to other community groups, preserving it as a resource for the wider community.

"So many people locally have a connection with this building," said Martin. *"We really wanted to make sure it didn't fall into disrepair or be converted into alternative uses that didn't benefit the local community. Our hope is that it will remain an important local hub and resource for many years to come."*

Partnership is what the charity is all about. Over the years, they have supported many community groups in the region, from Brownies in Monk Bretton to Community Organisers in Shafton, delivering galas and events to improve the community and build cohesion.



Exodus's headquarters are right on our doorstep in South Hiendley. They have frequent open days and events, and readers of Barnsley Spotlight are warmly invited to come and see first-hand what the charity is all about.

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For more information about volunteering opportunities or projects happening in your area, please get in touch with the North East Area Team at NorthEastTeam@barnsley.gov.uk. Or follow us on Facebook to find out what activities and events are happening near you at facebook.com/NorthEastAreaTeam.

Pedaling progress

Mapplewell's new cycle track



North Area Council funding has been put to great use by a long-standing community group. Greenspace Group were awarded Stronger Communities Grant funding following a panel meeting in early 2022. Greenspace's Treasurer Carl Snowdon, who spearheaded the project, couldn't wait to get started, having also secured funding from Co-op's Community Fund.

The group set out to make good use of the area where the tennis courts used to be situated in Mapplewell Park, a place that was looking a little neglected. The Greenspace Group engaged with the local community to make sure their plans resonated with the neighbourhood's wishes. A standout idea emerged from these discussions: creating a cycle track for young children. This initiative aimed to improve the health and well-being of our youngsters, encourage physical activity and instill early cycling skills and road safety awareness.

Once funding was agreed, visioning quickly morphed into structured site plans. Barnsley Council Parks colleagues granted permission, and before we knew it, contractors had been identified, and the groundwork was underway. It was

very exciting when the track itself was installed. It didn't take long for the project to take shape and by September, the Greenspace Group were on hand to plant the feature roundabout with perennial shrubs. In May 2023, Ed Clancy, OBE, Olympic gold medallist, officially opened the cycle track in his role as South Yorkshire Active Travel Commissioner. It was a fantastic opportunity for Ed to address the children from Mapplewell Primary School, promoting the benefits of cycling for health, wellbeing, active travel and recreation.

North Area Council Chair, Councillor Dave Leech, said: **"The opening was great. The Area Council is delighted that the funding has contributed to installing a brilliant community asset. The cycle track will encourage children to be more active. The track is only a short distance from the new active travel route at the bottom of Bar Lane, and this facility will hopefully encourage more young people to cycle for recreation in their early years and continue to do so subsequently to access education and employment opportunities."**

Greenspace Group has always been ambitious, and we think you will

agree that they have triumphed with this project. The cycle track is a haven for young cyclists to practise their skills and an excellent place for families to spend time together. Head over to Mapplewell Park to check it out.

When we spoke to Carl about the project, he told us: **"The cycle track was a Greenspace long-term idea to encourage children at a young age to take part in cycling and gain confidence in a safe environment. It's great to see so many children enjoying the cycle path, using bikes, scooters and go-carts. The usage has been beyond our wildest dreams. The park is such a great place for children."**

You can find out more about the Greenspace Group on Facebook: @MappGreenSpace.

If you and your family use the cycle track and have any photos, we would love to see them. Or if you have a project idea for your local area, please contact northteam@barnsley.gov.uk.

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For more information about volunteering opportunities or projects happening in your area, please get in touch with the **North Area Team at NorthTeam@barnsley.gov.uk**. Or follow us on Facebook to find out what activities and events are happening near you at facebook.com/BarnsleyNorthAreaTeam.

A lifetime of community involvement

Jon has lived in Penistone all his life. Having been born here, he has seen Penistone grow from being a small market town to what it is today – a constantly growing and developing location bustling with lots of activity.

When Jon's working life started to wind down, he was ready for retirement; he found he had the time to get involved with his community and, in 2006, decided to stand as a Penistone Town Councillor. **"It is an ever-evolving environment. There is always something different coming up,"** he said about being a town councillor for 17 years.

Things such as the introduction of the council's Area Arrangements back in 2013 and the opportunity to become a Ward Alliance member. **"It felt like a natural progression from the Town Council,"** Jon said when asked why he chose to put himself forward.

Jon has been a Ward Alliance member since its commencement in 2013. He particularly enjoys discovering what is happening in the different villages. He values how the Ward Alliance can both support new groups and provide continued support to existing groups and help them work towards becoming self-sustaining.

As well as being a town councillor and Ward Alliance member, Jon happily spends his time helping in the community, carrying out

small jobs for local groups. A bit of hedge trimming here, white lining there. **"I like to tick away in the background and support where I can."**

He is also keen to get involved with the wider work of the Area Team, having recently sat on the Supporting Young People Grant Panel – a Penistone Area Council grant pot for projects supporting the health and wellbeing of young people across the Penistone area.

Supporting young people is a priority Jon encourages. He felt that the summer Sports Van funded by Penistone Ward Alliance and the RampUp activity delivered in partnership with Barnsley Council's Sport and Active Recreation team earlier this year were both worthwhile projects, and he would love to see more like this offered across the Penistone area. Being involved in his local community gives Jon a feeling of satisfaction. **"It feels good being part of the community,"** he says.

For those of you thinking about getting involved, Jon recommends that you **"just give it a go. Allow yourself a good few months before deciding whether it is for you and test the water."**

To find out more about the work of our Area Team, Ward Alliance and Area Council, please contact penistoneteam@barnsley.gov.uk or telephone 01226 773 012.



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For more information about volunteering opportunities or projects happening in your area, please get in touch with the Penistone Area Team at **PenistoneTeam@barnsley.gov.uk**. Or follow us on Facebook to find out what activities and events are happening near you at facebook.com/PenAreaTeam.

Hoyland social and support group

By Simon Davies, Chair of Hoyland social and support group



"I originally started a small mental health support group, which has expanded vastly over the past six months.

I'm the Chairperson, Simon Davies, and I've previously experienced problems with mental health, battling my demons with addiction. Since my recovery, I've wanted to help and support others to become better versions of themselves.

I'm passionate about building a positive local community that provides a safe space for all with opportunities to improve physical and mental health. These are what drove me to start the group, to begin with. Since then, many volunteers have joined forces to create the Hoyland Social and Support Group with a wide range of activities for all.

The group has recently achieved success in their funding applications to two Barnsley-based funding sources: £1,612.60 from Barnsley Better Bonds and

£1,500 from the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham Ward Alliance. This funding will be used for various purposes, including sustaining their weekly activities, supporting their newly established support hub, and organising additional community events, such as the Family Fun Day held in July.

We're also working alongside Barnsley Council's Community Development Officer and receiving one-to-one support from South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau to look at how they can expand and become more sustainable.

We currently see around 80-100 attendees at our activities each week, and I see us helping so many more people in the future. It's nice to see so many experiencing so much happiness through our group and know we are slowly combatting loneliness and isolation across our community."

If you feel you would benefit from attending a session, more

information can be found on their Facebook page at HoylandSupportGroup.

For more information on the ward alliances in the south area, please email southteam@barnsley.gov.uk.

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For more information about volunteering opportunities or projects happening in your area, please get in touch with the South Area Team at SouthTeam@barnsley.gov.uk. Or follow us on Facebook to find out what activities and events are happening near you at [facebook.com/BarnsleySouthAreaTeam](https://www.facebook.com/BarnsleySouthAreaTeam).

Talking Therapies



Are you feeling stressed?

Do you have trouble sleeping, feel anxious, worried or have low mood generally?

Would you like to learn how to manage your mental health better?

Barnsley Talking Therapies is a service available to any person 16 or over registered with a GP in Barnsley. Our service helps people understand and learn how to manage common mental health problems like stress, anxiety, low mood, and depression.

How we can help you

We offer a range of different talking therapies which can be accessed in a variety of ways:

- Face to face
- Telephone appointments
- Guided self help
- Workshops (group and online)
- Access to computerised treatment packages and apps
- Couples therapy

How to access the service

You can refer yourself via our website or over the phone, if you feel more comfortable your GP can make a referral for you.

Visit www.barnsley-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk or call 01226 644900



for anxiety and depression

Service delivered by South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust



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Stocking _ Tradition _ Festive _ Generous _ Friends _ Joyful _ Special _ Celebrate
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