

Spotlight Magazine



**BARNSELEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# Barnsley



**COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2023**

**LGC Awards**  
2023

ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2023  
**IMJ**

**Barnsley – the place of possibilities**

YouTube

Information correct at the time of printing February 2024.

Stainborough Castle, Wentworth Castle Gardens

March 2024



# Welcome to the latest edition of Barnsley Spotlight magazine

Hello

In the last edition, we celebrated winning the double-award for council of the year in 2023. In this edition, you'll find more of the stories that show our dedication to be even better and make Barnsley the place of possibilities. See how you can win a great prize and what you can buy at our local markets on pages 3 and 4, have fun with arts and crafts at our libraries on page 5 and learn about children's book author and illustrator Brian Wildsmith on page 8.

We'll be back with the next edition in the summer.



Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader of Barnsley Council



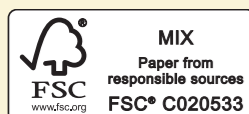
Sarah Norman, Chief Executive of Barnsley Council

### Council of the year



Read more on our council of the year web page at <https://bit.ly/3UytEPV>.

Tell us what you think about our magazine at [surveys.barnsley.gov.uk/s/BarnsleySpotlight](https://surveys.barnsley.gov.uk/s/BarnsleySpotlight).



# Investing in Barnsley

Our focus in Barnsley is to deliver excellent services while investing in the borough. We do this because we want Barnsley to thrive and to give people ambition and a sense of pride in where they live.

### Creating an ambitious future

Barnsley must move forward, and we're committed to making this happen. Our one-off capital investment projects are what set us apart from other councils, which is one of the reasons we're double-award winning council of the year. We use funding from the government, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority or other funding bodies to create these opportunities.

Over the next four years, we're investing £64 million, including an additional £2 million of our funds for roads and highway maintenance, as well as external funding in major infrastructure improvements, including council housing, schools and transformational projects such as:

- Moving forward with our **Health on the High Street** plans with our health partners, building on the success of the **Community Diagnostic Centre** in The Glass Works.
- Developing and piloting approaches to **enrich young people's lives** in Barnsley so that **all young people have the same opportunities** as those from wealthier homes. This includes creating an activity park next to the town centre's forthcoming **Youth Zone** and working with the world-renowned **Barnsley Youth Choir** to create a new Northern Academy for Vocal Excellence (NAVE).
- Further work to transform our Principal Towns, **improving the environment** and giving urban spaces and buildings **new purpose**.

Our financial position is **well-managed**, but things are difficult. We've had to make tough decisions, but we can **keep delivering the services people need** for this year. The bulk of our revenue budget, which supports our day-to-day services, comes from council tax, government grants, fees, charges and business rates. Still, this total has not kept up with service demands and the cost of living.

The council's element of Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, with **most households paying no more than an extra £1.50 per week**. That's broken down by 2% to support Adult Social Care and 2.99% to maintain other vital services.

**We very much recognise the financial pressure on you and your families. It's an incredibly hard decision, which hasn't been taken lightly, but without this extra income, we would have to change or stop delivering some of our services, impacting everyone.**

### Support for you and your family

If you're struggling to pay your Council Tax or need help with your finances, utility bills, food, housing, health and wellbeing, or advice on your employment and skills development, you can find lots of support on our **More Money in Your Pocket** webpage at [barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP](https://barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP).



# WAKE UP YOUR WEEKNIGHT

AND MAKE SPRING YOUR THING!

SCAN TO WIN!



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 £30 DOLLY'S DESSERTS  
 £20 JD SPORTS  
 £20 RIVER ISLAND

Terms and Conditions apply. See website for details.

Created by

THE GLASS WORKS

BARNSELY



# Stunning new bridge

We're delighted that our new town centre bridge is open and being well-used.



The bridge safely connects The Glass Works and wider town centre with the Metrodome and Oakwell, 365 days a year, not just when Barnsley FC are at home. Several traffic-management measures are in place on matchdays to help maximise safety, and we're exploring longer-term improvements to junctions and pavements to further improve safety for pedestrians.

The installation of the lifts was delayed due to supply chain issues, and we apologise for any inconvenience this caused.

We chose to get the bridge open as soon as possible rather than waiting for the lifts, final public realm improvements and cosmetic works to be complete. We now look forward to the

removal of the temporary bridge. This needs careful coordination with Network Rail and we've already had to cancel it once due to it being too windy for the crane to operate. It's scheduled to go ahead on Saturday 16 March, weather-permitting.

When Network Rail closed the Jumble Lane crossing, we took the opportunity to create something special in the heart of the town centre. The ambitious design complements The Glass Works brilliantly and adds to the continued development of our outstanding town centre.

We're grateful for your patience throughout the construction process and although it's taken longer than we all would have liked, it was worth the wait.

# Our wonderful markets

A friendly atmosphere, personal service and the fruits of years of experience await you at our markets, where stallholders have been supported by a series of initiatives.

Penistone Market continues to be bustling on Thursdays and Saturdays, with stalls offering everything from freshly-made pies and beautiful flowers to gourmet cheeses, jewellery and homewares.

Goldthorpe's Market returned last October with the opening of the new Horse and Groom Square

at the heart of Goldthorpe, which was funded through the £23.1m awarded to Goldthorpe from the UK Government's Towns Fund.

It's open from 9am every Thursday, with regular stalls offering fresh fish, fruit 'n' veg, jewellery, traditional sweets, fashion, tasty cakes and household essentials.

Hoyland Market runs on Tuesdays and Saturdays. We are making improvements to Hoyland Town Square which will allow for further trading opportunities.

Wombwell also offers a range of stalls and is set to welcome more traders to the High Street following the launch of a business grants scheme similar to that which proved popular ahead of the launch of Goldthorpe Market last year.

Under our Principal Towns and Local Centres Programme, we carried out repaving and resurfacing and introduced new seating, litter bins and planters last summer to make

Wombwell High Street an even more welcoming place to be.

For more information about what's on offer at our markets, and details of how to become a trader, visit [barnsley.gov.uk/Markets](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Markets).

This year we celebrate the **775th anniversary** of the Barnsley Market Charter being bestowed by King Henry III. Barnsley Market, standing as one of the oldest markets in the country, has been integral to the town's growth and identity since 1249. The significant milestone in the history of the market will be celebrated throughout the year in acknowledgement of the market's enduring role in shaping the vibrant community of Barnsley.

For more information, visit [theglassworksbarmsley.com/events](https://theglassworksbarmsley.com/events).



# Creative experiences at Barnsley Libraries

Over the past six months, the 'All In' programme at Barnsley Libraries, supported with public funding from Arts Council England, has seen a host of local creatives deliver high-quality activities and events across our libraries.

Last summer, local artists and creatives were invited to apply to become one of the creative commissions and bring exciting activities and events to Barnsley Libraries. After receiving a huge response, two Creative Residencies and eight Micro Commissions were selected by the National Portfolio Organisation Steering Group.

So far, we've hosted:

- An inspiring photography exhibition and creative workshop by Sean O'Connell.
- 'Granny Norbag Saves the Planet', an interactive puppet show by Malcolm Carrat.
- A series of creative writing workshops for people experiencing menopause by Jilly Sumsion.
- 'Plastic is Everywhere!', a special song and performance by Natasha Holmes and Chris McShane during Barnsley Book Festival.
- Paintings by Lucy Pimpernel-Wood loaned by our Home Library Service customers, helping everyone be part of the festivities.

- Amazelab helping children discover science through story diorama workshops.
- Discovering more about moths and biodiversity in an art installation and family workshops with Bridg Murray.
- A poetic response by Tom Juniper to the story of Maurice Dobson.

In addition to numerous creative commissions, we've hosted some other exciting events including the unveiling of Richard Kitson's portrait of Ian McMillan at Library @ the Lightbox and Plot 17 Garden Party in The Glass Works Square.

There is much more to come from the art commissions including a very special exhibition at Library @ the Lightbox by Beka H, who has worked with groups across Barnsley to create interactive bookends which can be found hidden amongst the shelves of the library.

And for younger visitors and their families, a creative residency is taking place towards the end of March called 'Bee Kind' – a visual and performing arts collaboration by Natasha Clarke and Stevie Cairns. The interactive performances for children and families discover Billy the Barnsley Bee.

Bee Kind will tour their show across the borough libraries, whilst also offering families a 'stay and play' activity.

This is the first year of a three-year project, with many more exciting creative experiences to come. There is something for everyone at Barnsley Libraries, and everyone is welcome to join in.

For more information on any of the activities and events, and to book your place, please visit [barnsley.gov.uk/LibraryEvents](https://barnsley.gov.uk/LibraryEvents).



1. Ian McMillan with Richard Kitson's portrait. 2. Plot 17 at Barnsley Garden Party. 3. Workshop with Lucy Pimpernel-Wood.

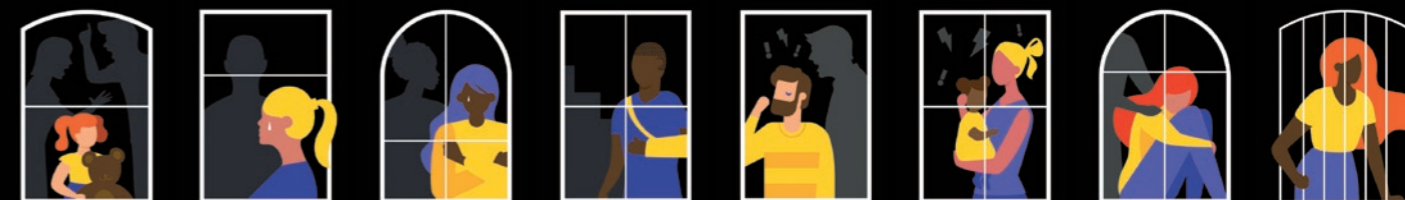


# WE HAVE A COURSE FOR YOU!

We offer a range of full and part-time vocational courses, A Levels, apprenticeships and T Levels (Technical qualifications).

[www.barnsley.ac.uk](http://www.barnsley.ac.uk) ☎ 01226 216 123 ✉ [info@barnsley.ac.uk](mailto:info@barnsley.ac.uk)

**Did you know?**  
We offer **FREE** English and Maths courses.



## #SPEAKUP domestic abuse support

**We're committed to working together in Barnsley to prevent and tackle domestic abuse, helping to improve the lives of victims, survivors and their children.**

Abusive relationships can take many different forms, whether the abuse is physical, emotional, sexual, economic or financial, as well as controlling or coercive behaviour. If you or anyone you know is affected by domestic abuse in Barnsley, please know that there is support available.

We work with IDAS to offer high-quality support for our communities, providing help and accommodation to victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Their support is available to everyone and is delivered by highly trained, specialist advisors, helping people get the right support to rebuild their lives and recover from abuse.

To learn more about the wide range of support IDAS offers, including support groups, online video support sessions and live chat, please visit [idas.org.uk](http://idas.org.uk).

The Barnsley team can be contacted by calling **03000 110 110** or by emailing [info@idas.org.uk](mailto:info@idas.org.uk). If you're in immediate danger, please call 999.

Find out more about the support IDAS offers by scanning this QR code.



## Expand your career prospects with our university-level courses

**Increase your earning potential, gain a deeper understanding of your profession or you can develop on a career goal.**

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- > Sport
- > Teacher Training

[www.barnsley.ac.uk/he](http://www.barnsley.ac.uk/he)  
☎ 01226 216 123 ✉ [info@barnsley.ac.uk](mailto:info@barnsley.ac.uk)



**We achieved over 95% positivity score in the 2022/23 National Student Survey.**

## Barnsley businesses inspire students

In just three months, our Skills and Employability team worked with schools and businesses to inspire over 4,000 students.

We worked together to hold nine activities for 4,000 students across the borough. Schools and colleges welcomed 66 large employers and seven small-to-medium-sized businesses. Thanks to 134 volunteers, a whopping 701 hours made these activities possible.

The events ranged from employer talks to mock interviews. These opportunities help to support students as they look towards their futures.

One Careers Advisor said: *"The session was a valuable experience for our students. Learning about career journeys and skills that*

*employers value makes a big impact. It's wonderful to see the students working together and preparing for interviews. They felt confident enough to be brave and complete their mock interviews."*

Schools and business that would like to work with us can find out more at [barnsley.gov.uk/BEA](http://barnsley.gov.uk/BEA).

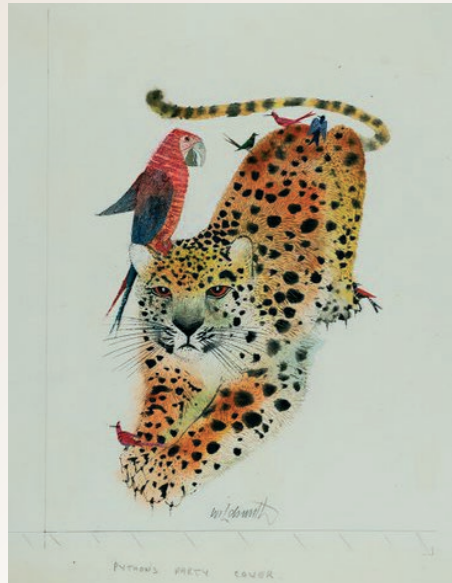
If you're over 19, find out how we can support you to get started in learning and work. Scan the QR code or visit [barnsley.gov.uk/SkillsAndEmployability](http://barnsley.gov.uk/SkillsAndEmployability).





# Barnsley goes wild for Brian Wildsmith

World-renowned children's book author and illustrator Brian Wildsmith will be celebrated through a season of exhibitions spanning two of Barnsley Museums' fantastic free attractions.



Jungle Party – Front Cover © The Brian Wildsmith Estate, 2024. Reproduced with permission of The Brian Wildsmith Estate and Oxford University Press.

The World of Brian Wildsmith includes two new free exhibitions of art and illustrations which will enchant children and parents alike. **Paws, Claws, Tales and Roars: The Art of Brian Wildsmith** at the **Cooper Gallery** and **Coming Home: The Life of Brian Wildsmith at Experience Barnsley Museum**, will run from **Saturday 20 April to Saturday 21 September**.

The shows will be awash with the vibrant palette and limitless imagination that define Brian's beloved books, including his ABC, The Owl and the Woodpecker, Jungle Party, and many more.

**The World of Brian Wildsmith**, will be a delight for all ages – from younger visitors to families, designers, artists, and illustrators, to anyone interested in literacy. The exhibition will encourage everyone all to read more, look closer, and create. There will be a programme of activities based around Brian's stories, including 'Brian's Wild Wood' which will be available to explore in the Cooper Gallery, and opportunities for budding artists to learn new skills, including a local school competition: 'Paws, Claws, Tales and Roars – The New Generation.'

The two exhibitions delve into every aspect of Brian's creative journey, spotlighting his masterful draughtsmanship and wildly imaginative use of colour. Both exhibitions have been developed with love and passion in collaboration with Brian's family and Barnsley Museums.

Brian died in 2016. This marks the first time that his personal collection of original illustrations, early works, drawings, paintings, photographs, and memorabilia are being shown together anywhere in the world. It offers a never-

before-seen glimpse into his artistic brilliance. Whilst Brian later made France his home, it was only fitting that his family choose his birth town of Barnsley as the first to showcase this unprecedented body of work, spanning sixty years of creativity.

In parallel to this event, British heritage brand **Liberty Fabrics** will be launching a capsule fabric collection, 'Wildsmith's Wonderful World,' featuring original illustrations by Brian reimagined by Liberty. These unique fabrics will be highlighted within the exhibition and products made using the collection will be exclusively on sale from the Gallery shops.

Born in Barnsley in 1930, Brian studied at Barnsley School of Art before receiving a scholarship to London's Slade School of Art. He made his name in 1962 when Oxford University Press published his ABC, a richly coloured alphabet, brimming with patterns, textures, and the sheer joy of paint.

**To find out more about the exhibitions, visit [barnsley-museums.com](https://barnsley-museums.com).**

**BARNSELY MUSEUMS**



The Amazing World of Words – Space © The Brian Wildsmith Estate, 2024. Reproduced with permission of The Brian Wildsmith Estate and Oxford University Press.

## The World of Brian Wildsmith

**We can't wait for you to experience 'The World of Brian Wildsmith'.**

In preparation for the arrival of this magical exhibition, we would love for Barnsley's budding artists and illustrators to get creative and draw something in the style of Brian.

Here's the frame for your masterpiece... when completed hand it in to the Cooper Gallery or Experience Barnsley Museum and collect your limited edition badge. All entries will be included in an online gallery.





# Sustainable Barnsley

## Avoid contamination and recycle right

We want to make Barnsley cleaner, greener and more sustainable. You can help us achieve that by recycling right.


That means making sure the right things end up in the right bin.

Follow our handy tips to help us increase the amount of waste that's recycled.

For more information on what items go in each of your bins, visit [barnsley.gov.uk/Waste-a-z](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/Waste-a-z).

### EVERYBODY THINK!

Please make sure that cardboard takeaway boxes don't contain any food waste and are clean before putting them in your blue bin. If they're heavily food-stained, they should go in your grey bin.



Batteries, vapes and electrical items should be recycled at supermarkets and Recycling Centres. They shouldn't go in your grey bin as they pose a safety risk to our crews.



Nappies belong in your grey bin and not your blue or brown bin.



Aerosols, including empty deodorants and hairspray cans, can go in your brown bin alongside your glass, plastic and cans.



It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it – that's what gets results.

[barnsley.gov.uk](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk)

That's why we're improving some of the ways you can interact with us.

We will be introducing an online service where you can request what you need at the **click of a button**, such as booking a bulky waste collection.



You'll get real-time updates about your request, keeping you in the know.

We're also **welcoming our new chatbot**, 'B-bot', who can help you navigate your way around our website.



So, if you're looking for information about your next bin collection or to find your nearest recycling centre, **B-bot will be on hand to offer you support.**

Coming soon!

# COMMUNITY GALLERY WORKSHOPS ART THEATRE MUSIC CULTURE



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## Family goals

Every child deserves a loving family home, and anyone with room in their home can foster.

Our foster carers get high-level support and training through our local fostering community.

Get in touch with our friendly, local team today to discover how you can change a child's life.

- ☎ 01226 775 876
- 🌐 [barnsley.gov.uk/Fostering](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Fostering)
- 📱 @FosteringBarnsley



## Breastfeed any time, anywhere

We champion breastfeeding in our borough and want mums to feel confident and empowered to breastfeed their babies anytime, anywhere.

There's lots of support available to help families do this, find out more:

- ☎ 01226 775 700
- 🌐 [barnsley.gov.uk/InfantFeeding](https://barnsley.gov.uk/InfantFeeding)
- 📱 @BarnsleyInfantFeedingTeam



PROUD TO BE DOUBLE AWARD-WINNING COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2023

## Remember your photo ID when voting at a polling station

Accepted forms of photo ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK driving licence or a blue badge. Some concessionary travel passes, such as an older or disabled person's bus pass and Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card) are also accepted.

If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID (Voter Authority Certificate) online or by completing a paper form which you can get by contacting our Electoral Services at [electoralservices@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@barnsley.gov.uk) or by calling us on 01226 773 070. Please apply well in advance for a Voter Authority Certificate before 5pm on Wednesday 24 April.

More information on the accepted forms of a photo ID and free voter ID can be found on The Electoral Commission's webpage at [electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk) or by scanning the QR code to go to our website.



Register by  
11.59pm  
Tuesday  
16 April

### Register to vote

To be able to vote in the upcoming elections, you need to make sure you're registered. It only takes five minutes, and all you need is your National Insurance Number.

### Voting by post?

There are changes to voting by post. You need to apply online to vote by post and you'll need to prove your identity when applying. You also need to reapply for a postal vote every three years.

5pm  
Wednesday  
17 April

Find out more information on postal voting and how to apply for it, by visiting The Electoral Commission's website at [electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk).



# Don't be caught in two minds. You could be having a stroke.

In Barnsley, we're committed to working together to help everyone in our communities **enjoy life in good health** and make sure you can get **the right support at the right time**.

That's why we're coming together with health and care organisations across Barnsley to encourage everyone to act fast on possible signs of a stroke.

We know that acting fast on possible symptoms is important as it helps you get the best possible treatment to prevent long-term health conditions stemming from strokes and could save your life.

Working with stroke cafés, we've spoken to local stroke survivors and their families to hear their stories, including the symptoms they experienced, to help everyone think twice about strokes.

Betty, a stroke survivor from Hoyland, told us how two weeks before her stroke, she had suddenly lost her eyesight and had a **"gripping headache"**. Her stroke started with a **"tingle in your feet"**, which very quickly worked its way up until she had lost feeling down the right side of her body.

Luckily for Betty, her daughter was a first aider and knew what to do, immediately contacting 999. She said she was **"in the right place, at the**

**right time"**, and has got use back in her body slowly.

We also spoke to Dean, another local stroke survivor, who told us he was driving when suddenly, he got this **"funny headache"** for about an hour. A week later, the same thing happened when his daughter was in the car, who encouraged him to see a doctor about his symptoms.

Finally, we spoke to Julie, a stroke survivor from Goldthorpe, who was at work when all of a sudden, her speech became slurry and she started to feel very disorientated.

She thought she just needed a shower to warm up but two hours later, the right side of her face was numb, which she described as being like **"someone pulling on my neck"**. She then called an ambulance which came quickly to get her the right support.

As part of our new Barnsley stroke campaign, all the stroke survivors we spoke to wanted to share one simple, urgent message – **act fast, dial 999**. You can learn more about the campaign, including the symptoms to look out for, at [barnsley.gov.uk/Stroke](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Stroke).

**We would like to thank Betty, Dave and his wife Julie, Dean, Julie, Nigel and his wife Diane, Pam and Stuart for sharing their stories with us.**

**F**acial droop, **A**rm weakness, **S**peech changed. **Think Stroke.**

## ACT FAST CALL 999

Proudly working with



**Dean**  
Stroke Survivor,  
Barnsley



**Pam**  
Stroke Survivor,  
Wombwell



**Nigel**  
Stroke Survivor,  
Brampton



**Julie**  
Stroke Survivor,  
Goldthorpe



**Dave**  
Stroke Survivor,  
Mapplewell



**Betty**  
Stroke Survivor,  
Hoyland



# Keeping you warm and well

**Our Warm Homes team can provide advice and support to help make your home warmer and cheaper to run, as well as processing grant applications for our boiler and insulation schemes.**

Many residents in the borough have already benefitted, including a man in Thurnscoe who had a boiler replaced and he was delighted with the results.

**"I'm over the moon,"** he said. **"It's made a big difference; it's lovely and warm now."**

**"The work took about three weeks and I've got no issues whatsoever. The workers were brilliant, I can't fault them. They were spotless and wouldn't leave until everything was perfect."**

**"I can't appreciate what you've done or thank you enough."**

Another resident in Elsecar reported **"a terrific improvement"** in their circumstances, going from wearing several layers all day just to keep warm to having a warm and healthy home after contacting our team to have some work done at their property.

**To see if you could benefit, scan the QR code to go to our webpage for more information or like our Facebook page: facebook.com/WarmHomesBarnsley.**



# Celebrate your spring wedding at Barnsley's Town Hall

Step into a world of timeless elegance and celebrate your love in the heart of history at the prestigious Town Hall in Barnsley. As the flowers bloom and nature awakens, there's no better season than spring to say "I do." Nestled in the rich tapestry of the town's heritage, the Town Hall provides a captivating backdrop for your wedding.

Picture this: your grand entrance on the exquisite marble staircase, surrounded by the opulence of a bygone era. The Town Hall's architectural splendour will elevate your special day to capture moments of pure romance against the stunning frontage of the Town Hall, where history and love intertwine.

Our dedicated team at the Town Hall will ensure that every detail of your spring wedding is flawless, from the meticulously maintained gardens to the awe-inspiring interiors. With a commitment to excellence, we offer a seamless experience that allows you to focus on the joy of your day.

Make your memories as timeless as the venue itself. Choose the Town Hall

in Barnsley for your spring wedding and let the magic of history embrace your love story.

**Book now to secure your date at [barnsley.gov.uk/Weddings](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Weddings).**





# WHAT'S ON

**Barnsley** town centre hosts incredible **free events** all year round. **Here's what to expect in 2024!**

Dates and events subject to change.

**ALL FREE**

## FLAVOURS FOOD FESTIVAL

Thursday 16 to  
Sunday 19 May



## BARNSLEY LIVE! MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday  
8 June



## BARNSLEY'S BIG WEEKEND

packed with family  
fun activities

Friday 12  
to Sunday  
14 July

## BARNSLEY BRIGHT NIGHTS LIGHT FESTIVAL

Friday 22 and  
Saturday 23  
November



## CHRISTMAS MARKET

Thursday 5  
to Sunday 8  
December



Plus lots more  
events will be  
announced  
throughout  
the year.



[barnsley.gov.uk/events](https://barnsley.gov.uk/events)



# MAKE IT YOURS



**BARNSLEY**