

Spotlight Magazine



# Barnsley



Barnsley – the place of possibilities

Information correct at the time of printing October 2024. Photo: © James Mulkeen.

The Glass Works Square, Barnsley

YouTube

November 2024

## Welcome to our winter edition

You'll find everything you need to get into the festive spirit with a roundup of spectacular events happening across the borough this season on pages 4 and 5. We've also packed in helpful advice to keep you warm and well throughout the colder months.

On pages 7 and 8, we share exciting updates about the transformation of the Dearne Playhouse and community centres, while page 12 covers how we can work together to keep our roads safe and recycle right. Don't miss page 15, where you can explore our range of memorial options to honour our Armed Forces community.

**We hope you enjoy this edition.**



**Cllr Sir Steve Houghton CBE,**  
Leader of  
Barnsley Council



**Sarah Norman,**  
Chief Executive  
of Barnsley  
Council



### We hope you enjoy reading Barnsley Spotlight!

As we review our plans for future editions, we want to hear what you think of our Barnsley Spotlight magazine. Have your say in our short survey by scanning this QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/BarnsleySpotlightSurvey>.



# Comprehensive support plan for pensioners

**In Barnsley, we understand the pressure rising costs are placing on residents, in particular, our elderly residents and we're committed to providing support everyone needs to stay warm and well this winter.**

In response to the recent changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance, which is now limited to people receiving Pension Credit or other low-income benefits, we're taking active steps to protect and support our communities.

We're using the Household Support Fund, funded by the Government, to help residents who may not qualify for the Winter Fuel Allowance, so that no one is left without essential help during the colder months.

Recognising the need for action, Barnsley councillors passed a motion calling for a review of the Winter Fuel Allowance eligibility criteria. While understanding the need for change, there are concerns about the exclusion of people who do not qualify for Pension Credit but are still

on low incomes and facing financial hardship. We're writing to the Government, urging them to reconsider and expand the eligibility requirements for this critical allowance.

We're aware that many eligible people in Barnsley have yet to claim Pension Credit. This is money they're entitled to, and it could make a real difference this winter. That's why we've launched a borough-wide campaign to boost Pension Credit uptake, ensuring no one misses out on this vital benefit.

Additionally, we're making use of the Government's Household Support Fund to help people who may not qualify for the Winter Fuel Allowance under the new rules. We're working with community groups across the borough to ensure everyone gets the help they need.

For more details, our More Money in Your Pocket website features a simple Pension Credit calculator to help people estimate their entitlement, along with details on other support available in Barnsley.

**Visit the More Money in Your Pocket website at [barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP](https://barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP).**

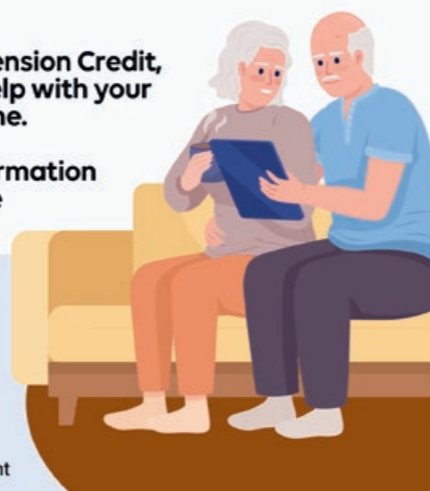
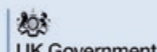
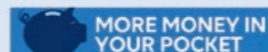
## Are you or someone you know over the State Pension age?

**Many people are missing out on Pension Credit, which gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're on a low income.**

**There's also lots of other local information and support available on the More Money in Your Pocket website.**



Scan the QR code or visit [barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP](https://barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP) to find out more.



# Supporting communities this winter

**The winter months are a busy time for our teams, whether we're out responding to bad weather or helping more people stay safe, warm and well. There's lots of support available, and lots of ways we can come together to help everyone in our communities over the colder months ahead.**

## Keeping our roads safe

Our gritting crews will be working hard over the winter to keep primary routes across the borough clear – that's 321 miles of road! We will be on standby around the clock until the end of April, ready to head out and grit day or night.

Please take care when travelling in colder weather, check that your vehicle is winter ready and leave plenty of time for your journey in adverse weather.

**For more information on our gritting routes and planning winter journeys, visit [barnsley.gov.uk/Gritting](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Gritting).**

## Looking after our communities

There are lots of things we can all do to help everyone stay safe and well this winter, including:

- ❄️ Try to heat rooms you spend a lot of time in to at least 18°C, such as your living room or bedroom, and keep your windows closed.
- ❄️ Keep updated about weather warnings by regularly checking the Met Office website.
- ❄️ Boost your immunity by getting your flu jab or Covid vaccine if you're eligible.
- ❄️ Check in on your family, friends and neighbours during cold weather, particularly older people, and ask if they need any help, like something picking up from the shops.

## More Money in Your Pocket

We know that the winter can be a difficult time financially and we're

here to help you. Our More Money in Your Pocket webpage is filled with lots of useful information about different types of support that can help you.

**Find out what support you're eligible for by visiting [barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP](https://barnsley.gov.uk/MMIYP).**



## Winter newsletter

Advice on how to stay warm and well this winter - directly to your inbox



**Subscribe today!**

# Make special memories this Christmas at Barnsley Museums

**Get into the festive spirit by taking a trip to any of our attractions and getting involved in the many activities and events we have on offer.**

On Saturday 7 December and Sunday 8 December, join us for a heart-warming production of A Christmas Carol in the beautiful setting of the Cannon Hall ballroom. Meet the miserable Ebenezer Scrooge and help reignite his love for Christmas. This activity is suitable for all ages, with 30-minute performances from 11am, 12pm, 1.30pm, and 2.30pm. £5 per person.

A special guest will be coming to Cannon Hall this December.

Come along for A Very Victorian Christmas, where you will hear festive stories from our Victorian nursery maid. Then, sit down with Santa to share your wish list and receive a special gift from the magical man himself. This event takes place every weekend until Sunday 22 December. £15 per child. Adults don't need to book a ticket, but due to limited space, we ask that a maximum of two adults attend per booking.

**Book your tickets online at [barnsley-museums.arttickets.org.uk](http://barnsley-museums.arttickets.org.uk).**

*Many more of our activities are free to enter, so why not come along for a fun-filled festive day out?*

**To find out more about our upcoming activities and events, visit [barnsley-museums.com/whats-on](http://barnsley-museums.com/whats-on).**



## Could you benefit from our Warm Homes team?

**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.**

Keeping homes warm is very important to leading a healthy life, and many residents in the borough have already benefited from the Warm Homes scheme.

One resident who received support through our scheme said: *"I'd like to let you know how much the grant means to me; it means a lot."*

*"As a pensioner, I was contemplating not so long ago that I may need to take out a loan to pay for*

*some upgrades that are needed in my property to make it more comfortable and safer. Right now, I think I no longer need to consider that option, which is a big relief to me and my wellbeing.*

*"A much appreciated 'thank you' for having such a scheme available to residents in Barnsley."*

If you're struggling to keep your home warm, we can help by giving you advice on making it warmer and cheaper to run. To see if you could benefit, scan the QR code, visit [barnsley.gov.uk/WarmHomes](http://barnsley.gov.uk/WarmHomes) or give us a call on **01226 773 366**.

Alternatively, come along to our next Healthy Homes drop-in event on **Friday 29 November in Barnsley Market**. We'll be there from **8.30am**



**to 2pm** along with other key council services and partners to provide advice and guidance on staying warm and well through winter.

# AUTUMN + WINTER

2024

**ON SALE NOW**



**BARNSELY CIVIC**

[barnsleycivic.co.uk](http://barnsleycivic.co.uk)  
**01226 327000**

**Eldon Street  
Barnsley, S70 2JL**



# FREE EVENT

Fri 22 and Sat 23  
November 2024

5-8.30pm

Various locations around  
Barnsley town centre

# MAKE IT YOURS



Join us for two nights of spectacular light, art, entertainment and festive cheer.

On Friday 22 November, **Bright Nights** begins in style, with **The Barnsley Carol** multimedia projection and live performances from **Barnsley Singers**. Then discover a range of interactive installations around **Barnsley town centre**.

On Saturday 23 November, join the **Barnsley Bright Nights parade**, starring the amazing inflatable **Strobilophones**.

Scan the code to find out more details.



visitbarnsley.co.uk/whats-on



# Sustainable makeovers for our community centres

Sustainability is at the heart of our work to improve our community centres across Barnsley.

We want everyone to have access to high-quality facilities but are also committed to ensuring these vital venues are energy-efficient and fit for the future.

Under our Principal Towns and Local Centres Programme, we're improving much-loved centres around the borough. The aim is to modernise and revitalize them while reducing running costs and boosting sustainability.

Mapplewell Village Hall and Library has seen a major £350,000 overhaul, with a range of improvements.

These included new LED lighting and installed a new energy-saving boiler and heating system.

We also updated and enhanced the library in the same building as part of our Libraries Refurbishment Programme.

Wombwell Town Football Club is now undergoing its own upgrade.

Alongside electrical works and a new decking area, new solar panels are being installed to reduce energy costs.

Great Houghton Miners' Welfare Hall is also benefiting from a major



The opening of Mapplewell Village Hall.



Work on Great Houghton Miners' Welfare Hall.

refurbishment. This includes the installation of LED lighting, a new roof, and kitchen renovations.

These works will improve energy efficiency and ensure the hall remains a valuable community asset for years to come.

This initiative underscores Sustainable Barnsley, our commitment under the Barnsley 2030 programme to create sustainable communities with reduced carbon emissions.

We've already invested more than £5 million through our Principal Towns and Local Centres Programme and are doing even more to help our towns and villages thrive.

Visit [barnsley.gov.uk/PrincipalTowns](https://barnsley.gov.uk/PrincipalTowns) to learn more about how our investments are transforming local facilities. Find out about Sustainable Barnsley at [Barnsley2030.co.uk](https://Barnsley2030.co.uk).



# Dearne Playhouse

## transformed by grand restoration



### The Dearne Playhouse in Goldthorpe is welcoming back audiences and creative groups following extensive renovations supported by the UK Government's Towns Fund.

Originally the community's Miners' Welfare Hall, the Playhouse has been transformed into a modern, accessible cultural hub, while preserving its historic character.

The refurbishment has included adapting the basement – previously used for storage – into multiple rehearsal rooms and a soundproofed music rehearsal studio.

The ground floor has been fully redecorated, a new stage floor installed, and dressing rooms and backstage areas upgraded.

Stonework around the entrance has been restored and energy-efficient LED lighting and a new boiler installed. We've also fitted exterior CCTV for enhanced security.

The Playhouse, a valued community asset, is now fully accessible, thanks to the addition of a walkway and a new entrance to the basement.

Fresh creative opportunities are already being taken: the newly-formed Dearne Playhouse Musical Theatre Company will operate from the basement, while Barnsley Youth Theatre is launching a new branch there.

The Playhouse's traditional pantomime is also making a return, with Snow White to be staged from 19 to 22 December.

Theatre manager Julie Medlam, said: **"We can't wait to raise the curtain on a new era for our much-loved theatre."**

Our Major Projects Team oversaw the works, which were carried out by O&P Construction.

Neighbouring Welfare Park, home to Dearne and District Football Club, is also benefitting from the investment, with resurfaced access roads, restored pathways, new public artwork, and plans for a 72-space car park.

This initiative is part of the Goldthorpe Town Deal, a package of major projects in Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe and Bolton upon Dearne funded by £23.1 million from the Towns Fund.

We've already delivered the new Horse and Groom Town Square in the heart of Goldthorpe. New sustainable housing is being brought forward in Goldthorpe and a new community hub is planned for Phoenix Park in Thurnscoe.

**Towns Fund investment supports our work under our Principal Towns and Local Centres Programme to helping local high streets and communities across the borough to thrive.**

For more information, visit [barnsley.gov.uk/Goldthorpe](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Goldthorpe).



Barnsley Youth Choir East rehearsing at the Playhouse.



Barnsley Hospital are asking for your help to make sure patients get up, dressed, and moving if they have to spend any time as an inpatient.

Prolonged bed rest can result in loss of muscle strength and decline, both physically and psychologically.

This is known as 'deconditioning'.

The Eat, Drink, Dress, Move initiative is a therapy-led approach to care which supports patients to actively participate in their recovery.

For most patients staying in hospital, this will be getting dressed, eating well, staying hydrated and moving around.



Patients and staff enjoy a cup of tea and slice of cake

Activities are organised every day

The benefits of keeping active whilst in hospital have been clearly demonstrated by research and audits.

Benefits include helping patients get back to their own homes, reducing complications associated with dehydration, and maintaining physical skills for independence.

Family, friends and carers can all help by bringing in suitable snacks, day clothes and supportive footwear, and encouraging loved ones in hospital to have a sip of a drink.

Please check with healthcare staff on the ward if you have any questions or concerns.

# 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](http://www.barnsley-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk) or call 01226 644900

 Follow us @TalkingTherapyBarnsley



for anxiety and depression

Service delivered by South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust



# OPEN DAY

Tuesday 3 December  
4.00pm – 7.00pm

Search Barnsley College events or Barnsley Sixth Form College events.

[www.barnsley.ac.uk/events](http://www.barnsley.ac.uk/events)



## Want to learn something new in 2025?

Upgrade your skills and advance your life!



Adult and Part-time Open Day  
Saturday 23 November 2024  
4.00pm - 7.00pm

[www.barnsley.ac.uk/adults](http://www.barnsley.ac.uk/adults)

Scan the QR code to see our courses:



# Working together to keep Barnsley's roads safe



Every single death or serious injury on Barnsley's roads is a tragedy, and every casualty is one too many.

We all want Barnsley's roads to be safer for everyone who uses them, which is why we've launched Safer Roads Barnsley.

Alongside our road safety strategy, our ambition is to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by at least 50% by 2030, with a long-term goal of zero people killed or seriously injured by 2050.

We'll be promoting road safety to all residents, whether you are a pedestrian, cyclist, driver, motorbike user or horse rider.

**We all have a part to play – road safety is everyone's responsibility. Find out more about road safety in Barnsley at [barnsley.gov.uk/Safer-Roads-Barnsley](http://barnsley.gov.uk/Safer-Roads-Barnsley).**

# Think before you bin it

## Recycling plays an important role in protecting our environment.

Batteries and electrical items are commonly hidden in many in everyday items including:

- remote controls
- toys
- vapes
- smoke alarms
- electric scooters
- shavers
- mobile phones and laptops.

## Don't put electrical items in the grey bin.

Please do not put vapes or batteries in your grey bin.

All batteries and electrical products should display the 'crossed out wheelie bin'. This means they should be taken to a suitable collection point and not put in your bin.

Batteries contain hazardous materials and if not recycled currently can explode when crushed and lead to fires in our collection vehicles and recycling centres.

## Where can I recycle batteries?

Take them to our recycling centres. These are open seven days a week, find our nearest centre by visiting [barnsley.gov.uk/HWRC](http://barnsley.gov.uk/HWRC).

Supermarkets, recycling banks, and vape shops all offer a recycling service for batteries and vapes.



**Make sure you're putting the right thing in the right bin. For more information, visit our website [barnsley.gov.uk/services/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/recycling-batteries-and-vapes](http://barnsley.gov.uk/services/bins-rubbish-and-recycling/recycling-batteries-and-vapes).**



**E-WASTE**  
PLEASE RECYCLE

Funded by  
UK Government

Grow your  
Ambition

## Get help to grow your confidence and skills!

### Who is it for?

If you're currently not in education, training, or employment and would like to try a new activity or experience - we can help. Our Ambition Team is here to support you every step of the way. You'll get to meet new people, try new things, grow your confidence, and learn new skills.



### How does it work?

The first step is to get in touch - send us an email with your name and contact details and someone will be in touch for a chat - it's that simple!

It's your journey and we want to find the right way forward for you. We'll support you at the right pace, with activities and opportunities you'll enjoy. We can also help you with practical things like updating your CV, getting online, or accessing local services.



### It's as easy as 1,2,3:

1. Meet your Ambition Coach.
2. Tell us about the hobbies and interests you have, and anything new you'd like to try.
3. We'll match you with local opportunities!



Taking part doesn't affect any benefits you might be claiming.

 [workandskills@berneslaihomes.co.uk](mailto:workandskills@berneslaihomes.co.uk)

SCAN  
HERE!



[www.berneslaihomes.co.uk/Ambition](http://www.berneslaihomes.co.uk/Ambition)

Skills &  
Employability

SOUTH YORKSHIRE  
SYMCA  
MAYORAL  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY

berneslai  
homes

## Grow your career with Barnsley Council

At Barnsley Council, you'll join a team that's full of opportunities to develop in your career and thrive in your work. We'll support you every step of the way, from your first induction to your personal and professional development and ongoing career.



Lauren joined the team as an Early Years Apprentice, allowing her to learn on the job. With supportive staff always on hand and countless opportunities to develop her skills, Lauren has grown and thrived in her role. Throughout her apprenticeship, she's learned so much and gained confidence along the way - all while getting to see the children she works with learn and grow thanks to her support.

George works as a Project Manager in Adult Social Care. From volunteering days and regular development check-ins, to a wealth of e-learning sessions and courses, he loves the opportunities to grow and develop that come with working at the council. For George, it's "somewhere you can work, and strive, and progress".

Whether you're just starting your career or looking to take the next step, as part of the team, we're here to support you in excelling in your role. Find out more about working for Barnsley Council at [barnsley.gov.uk/Jobs](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Jobs).



# The magic of fostering

We spoke with Jon, a long-term foster carer for Barnsley who spoke about fostering in his own words. Here's what he shared about fostering as a single person, and the joy of seeing children in his care grow.

*"Being a long-term foster carer is a bit different; all plans are medium to long term, such as building up skills for young people to grow up and achieve their ambitions, and develop good relationships with their schools, as well as their family members where this is possible."*

*"It's great to see the change in the child in my care. I invest a lot of time in his hobbies - we go swimming, and I take him to football training."*

*"You need to have a realistic expectation of the young person and put the hours in - I learn something new every day! We are also currently learning how to play guitar together."*

*"It's important to support them to develop their own identity, and it's great to see the change in them as they grow in confidence."*

Could you be a foster carer like Jon? Whether you're new to fostering, or have been wondering about it for a while, you could provide the magic of care to Barnsley's children.

Visit [fosteringbarnsley.co.uk](https://fosteringbarnsley.co.uk) to find out more today.



## Armed Forces Walkway

We hold our deepest respect and pride for our local armed forces community. The Armed Forces Walkway, located on Westgate, by the College Gardens, is a dedicated space that pays tribute to those who have served, or are currently serving in the HM Armed Forces. It also serves as a poignant place for family and friends to reflect and remember their loved ones.

The honed granite stones feature names, rank, regiments, and service numbers of individuals 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 HM Armed Forces. Stones can also be purchased for armed forces units with a connection to Barnsley.

We know that many people enjoy visiting the Armed Forces Walkway, which is why we are committed to improving it, giving it the prominence it deserves. The walkway has seen recent enhancements, including a lectern produced and installed by Turner Signs Ltd, and a bespoke hanging basket post which includes a military decoration.

As plans for improvements progress, further information will be shared on the Armed Forces Barnsley website at [barnsley.gov.uk/Armed-Forces](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Armed-Forces).

For further information about the walkway, including how to apply for a commemorative stone, please visit [barnsley.gov.uk/Armed-Forces-Walkway](https://barnsley.gov.uk/Armed-Forces-Walkway).



#18

IF I LOOK UNCOMFORTABLE, I AM.



## WalkSafe

Safe spaces have been identified across Barnsley to help you feel safe while you're out and about.

Download our free, local personal safety app today by scanning the QR code.

Visit [nomore-standwithus.com](https://nomore-standwithus.com) to see how we can help stop violence against women and girls.







**gifts** and **yummy food** and **friends** and **drinks** and **celebrating** and **glitter**  
and **parties** and **fun** and **meeting** and **laughing** and **baubles** and **family**  
and **relaxing** and **giving** and **dressing up** and **shopping** and **twinkling lights**  
and **traditions** and **surprises** and **singing** and **cocktails** and **magic** and ...

# THIS IS CHRISTMAS



[theglassworksbarnsley.com](http://theglassworksbarnsley.com)

SHOP\_DINE\_PLAY

*Created by*

THE  
**GLASS  
WORKS**

BARNSELEY