

# Hartbeat







“Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today”

*His Majesty The King's address to the Nation and the Commonwealth.*

## A life of service

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Like thousands of people across Hartlepool, we were devastated by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Although she was 96-years-old, the death of our longest-ever reigning monarch was a huge shock and the outpouring of grief we witnessed from people across the Borough showed just how much she was loved.

Her Late Majesty clearly found great joy and fulfilment in the service of her people and presided with such dignity and grace for 70 years.

Now – just as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II would have wanted – we welcome a new chapter in our great country's great history by saying...

God Save the King.

**Councillor Brian Cowie**  
Ceremonial Mayor of Hartlepool

**Councillor Shane Moore**  
Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council

**Denise McGuckin**  
Managing Director of Hartlepool Borough Council





# Proclaiming our new King

The Hartlepool proclamation of the new sovereign's accession to the throne was made by the Ceremonial Mayor of Hartlepool Councillor Brian Cowie on the steps of the War Memorial in Victory Square.

The proclamation of a new monarch is an age-old ceremony last performed in February 1952 on the accession of Queen Elizabeth II and townspeople joined civic representatives to witness this historic event.

It was also a further opportunity for people to lay flowers in memory of Her Majesty The Queen on the grassed area next to the war memorial and to pause and read the many poignant tributes that had already been left.

Our new King will be known as King Charles III, and his wife Camilla becomes the Queen Consort – the term used for the spouse of the monarch.

Prince William and his wife Catherine will now be officially known as the Prince and Princess of Wales. They remain the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge but the new title takes precedence.

The symbolic high point of the accession will be the coronation, when the King, who is 73, is formally crowned. Because of the preparation needed, this is not likely to happen for some time - Queen Elizabeth succeeded to the throne in February 1952, but was not crowned until June 1953.

For the past 900 years the coronation has been held in Westminster Abbey - William the Conqueror was the first monarch to be crowned there, and King Charles III will be the 40th.

During this elaborate ceremony the new King will take the coronation oath and the Archbishop of Canterbury will place upon the King's head the solid gold St Edward's Crown, which dates from 1661. This crown is only worn by the monarch at the moment of coronation itself.

King Charles III has also become Head of the Commonwealth, an association of 56 independent countries and 2.4 billion people. For 14 of these countries, as well as the United Kingdom, he is head of state.

These countries, known as the Commonwealth realms, are: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

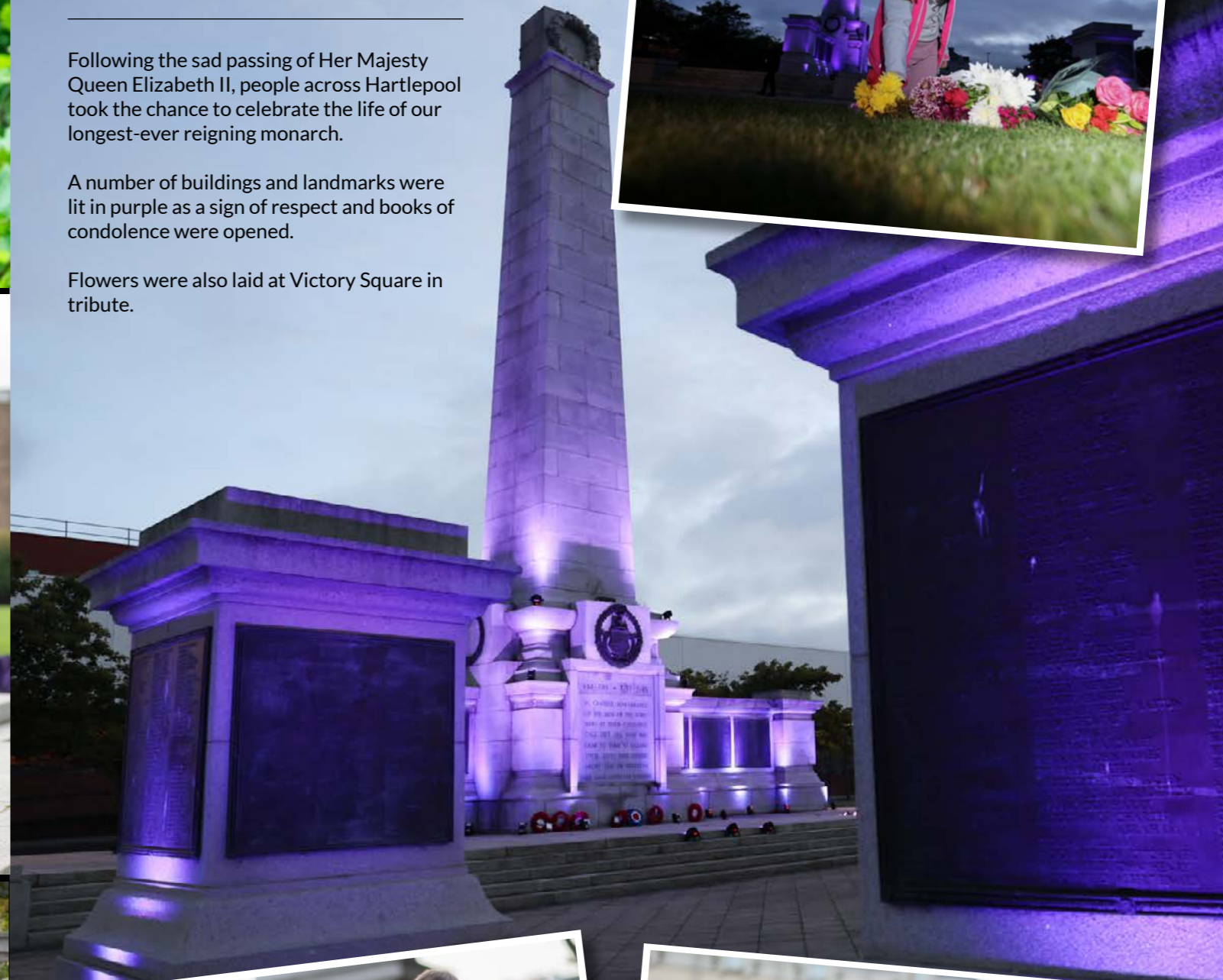


# Remembering a life well-lived

Following the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, people across Hartlepool took the chance to celebrate the life of our longest-ever reigning monarch.

A number of buildings and landmarks were lit in purple as a sign of respect and books of condolence were opened.

Flowers were also laid at Victory Square in tribute.





# Seventy remarkable years

On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives were held throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.

Here in Hartlepool, we marked the start of the Platinum Jubilee by covering Hartlepool Art Gallery and St Hilda's Church in dazzling Union Jack effect lighting.

During the June bank holiday weekend, we organised a number of events including beacon lighting ceremonies, a live stream of the Platinum Party at the Palace and Hartlepool Jubilee Sunday which included some of the most dazzling performances the Borough has ever seen!



# Discover your Hartlepool roots at new history centre

If you're a heritage buff or you're interested in digging back through your Hartlepool roots, the new Family and Local History Centre is the place for you.

The centre, which is part of Hartlepool Community Hubs, has recently opened its doors in Sir William Gray House on Clarence Road.

It houses an extensive selection of local and family history resources which were previously held in storage at Community Hub Central. The new, larger location makes them much more accessible.

There are maps showing how the town has grown, electoral rolls recording who lived where and an extensive collection of Hartlepool and West Hartlepool parish registers of births, deaths and marriages dating as far back as the 1500s, thousands of photographs, plus much more.

The centre is free for everyone to use, and if you are a Hartlepool Libraries member you can also use its computers to access online resources such as Ancestry, Find My Past and the British Newspaper Archive for free too. The friendly, expert staff are on hand to help and advise.

The centre staff are helping Hartlepool resident Kath Ayre, a retired lab technician, to find out more about her late father Alfred Dickinson's life and wartime service.

"My father died when I was 17 and my mother died shortly afterwards, which meant that there is a big chunk of my family history missing from my life," said Kath.

The research is still in its early stages but the centre staff have helped to put Kath in touch with the Friends of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, with which her father served, and have also raised a smile with the revelation that sometime after the war, Alfred was fined for speeding on his motorcycle on Port Clarence Road!

Next on the to-do-list for Kath and the centre team is a search through the parish records.

"It has been an eye-opener," said Kath. "I didn't realise there would be so much here, and the help from the centre staff has been excellent."



Kath Ayre gets some help with her research from Family and Local History Assistant Karen Jordan

Karen Jordan, Family and Local History Assistant, who has been helping Kath, said: "When people come in we try to help them build up a picture of their ancestors and what life would have been like for them. We get enquiries from all over the world."

Kath added: "It's quite fascinating and very worthwhile. It dots the 'i's and crosses the 't's in your life."

The Family and Local History Centre is open Mondays to Thursdays from 10am to 3pm - no appointment is necessary.

For more details call 01429 523422 or email [infodesk@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:infodesk@hartlepool.gov.uk)



**HARTLEPOOL  
COMMUNITY HUBS**





# Council Plan

## Annual Report 2021/22

### #NowIsTheTime

We recently published our Annual Report to give residents and businesses a clear view of key achievements, as well as an understanding of what is still to come.

The annual report, which is linked to our Council Plan for 2021 – 2024, details progress against our vision that Hartlepool will be a place...

- Where people are enabled to live healthy, independent and prosperous lives
- Where those who are vulnerable will be safe and protected from harm
- Of resilient and resourceful communities with opportunities for all
- That is sustainable, clean, safe and green
- That has an inclusive and growing economy
- With a Council that is ambitious, fit for purpose and reflects the diversity of its community



Notable achievements include:

- The Holiday Activities and Food Programme has supported over 3,000 children
- Over £380,000 of inward investment secured from external funding partners for sport and physical activity related projects in 2021/22, including £250,000 for the new accessible cycling track at Summerhill
- Ageing Well Funding secured to assist older people to improve their physical, mental and emotional well-being
- Multi-agency Child Exploitation Hub established
- The Bread and Butter Thing introduced to provide a sustainable solution to food poverty in the town supporting 200-300 people each week to access affordable food
- Routes to Work has supported 419 'hardest to reach' people to positively progress to employment
- 99% of Year 11 students and 95% of Year 13 students received an 'offer of learning' for the following year of their studies – both above the regional and national average
- First Climate Pledge adopted, committing the Council to a journey to Net Zero emissions by 2050
- Footpath resurfacing schemes totalling over 2,000m<sup>2</sup> have been completed
- Bid won for £25m of government Town Deal funding to further improve Hartlepool
- Planning permission submitted for Highlight leisure centre
- Work to bring the Headland Amphitheatre – renamed Elephant Rock – back into use completed
- Increased opportunities for residents to contact the Council through digital channels
- Your Say Platform launched for consultation and engagement activity



## Huge boost for Hartlepool as Town Deal projects approved

Civic leaders have welcomed the Government's approval of four of the projects forming the £25 million Hartlepool Town Deal.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has given the go-ahead for the renovation of the former Wesley Chapel; connectivity improvements between The Waterfront, the town centre and Seaton Carew; and health and social care and civil engineering skills academies.

This clears the way for work to start imminently.

As Hartbeat went to press, approval for a fifth and final project – the reimagining of Middleton Grange Shopping Centre – was awaited.



An artist's impression of the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre proposals

"Hopefully, we will soon also get approval for the reimagining of Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and together these projects will help to completely transform our town centre, whilst also providing state-of-the-art facilities that will enable us to boost the career prospects of local residents."



The Civil Engineering Skills Academy

Hartlepool was one of 100 towns across England invited by the Government to develop innovative regeneration plans and potentially secure up to £25 million. The Borough Council was informed last year that it had been awarded the full amount.



The former Wesley Chapel

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "This is a huge moment in the history of Hartlepool, and one that we have been eagerly awaiting. It is fantastic news that we are now in a position to start work on these key schemes.



The Health and Social Care Skills Academy will be located at the University Hospital of Hartlepool

Alby Pattison, Chair of the Hartlepool Town Deal Board which brings together representatives of the public, private and voluntary sectors, added: "It makes me very proud to see two and a half years of hard work by the Town Deal Board and the Council come to fruition."

The Health and Social Care Skills Academy, located in Ward 10 at the University Hospital of Hartlepool, is a partnership between North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and Hartlepool College of Further Education. It is estimated that over 3,000 learners will pass through its doors every year. The Civil Engineering Skills Academy, based at sites in Brenda Road and Exeter Street, is a partnership between Seymour Civil Engineering and the college. It aims to provide a range of construction, welding and civil engineering qualifications to more than 1,000 students a year.

You can read the Council Plan Annual Report 2021/22 in full at  
[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/annual-report](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/annual-report)



## We'll keep you entertained

There's lots to look forward to on the Hartlepool cultural scene in the coming months.

The annual Hartlepool Fireworks Spectacular makes its welcome return following the pandemic. It takes place this year on Friday 4th November.

Wrap up in your warm winter woollies and head to Seaton Carew to see the sky light up in this free event for all the family, which will include musical entertainment and a fair. Visit [www.culturehartlepool.com](http://www.culturehartlepool.com) for updates.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a family panto and AJ Theatrical Productions will be back at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre from 13th to 24th December with Jack and the Beanstalk, giving a new twist to the classic fairytale.

Join our hero Jack and his dotty mum Dame Tilly Trott as they are tricked into selling their beloved cow Daisy for a useless bag of beans.

Laugh along with Simple Simon, boo and hiss the evil Fleshcreep and cheer on Jack as he sets out to rescue his sweetheart Jill from the evil giant's castle in the clouds!

Adult tickets are £22 (stage facing) and £18 (side balcony) and children's are £18 and £15 and are on sale now at [www.hartlepooltownhalltheatre.com](http://www.hartlepooltownhalltheatre.com)

Book before the end of September to get a 10% early bird discount – use the code EARLY22.

Hartlepool Art Club will be in the spotlight in Hartlepool Art Gallery from Saturday 19th November onwards in its 75th Annual Exhibition.

On show will be a range of original artwork by current members for sale at prices to suit all pockets. While you're there, browse the Christmas shop for gorgeous gifts.

Entry is free – visit [www.hartlepoolartgallery.com](http://www.hartlepoolartgallery.com) for details.

It's always nice to have something to look forward to in the New Year, so treat yourself to An Evening with Jeff Stelling on Wednesday 1st February at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre.

Compered by former professional footballer and ex Hartlepool manager Craig Hignett, this not-to-be-missed show will see Jeff talk through his glittering career, from the early days to hosting the world's biggest football show, Gillette Soccer Saturday.

Jeff will be sharing a fascinating, behind-the-scenes insight into what goes on in the studios and some incredible football stories from over 20 years of working with some of football's biggest stars.

For details of ticket prices and to book visit [www.culturehartlepool.com](http://www.culturehartlepool.com)



Panto favourite Danny Posthill (right) will star in Jack and the Beanstalk



This year's fireworks display is on Friday 4th November



There will be a feast for the eye at Hartlepool Art Club's Annual Exhibition



Make a date for An Evening with Jeff Stelling

## Wanted! Your memories of Mill House Leisure Centre

With plans for Highlight, Hartlepool's new multi-million pound leisure centre, progressing well, we're inviting you to take a nostalgic step back in time.

We're keen for you to share with us your memories of the town's existing Mill House Leisure Centre in Raby Road which will, in due course, be replaced by the new development on The Waterfront.

Perhaps you have some old photos or vivid memories of fun times that you are happy to write down and send in to us.

We already know that the opening day, March 4th 1972, was a very exciting time, with the local press even reporting that some children fainted in the crush to get in.

In those days, you could enjoy a swim for the princely sum of 10p for an adult and 5p for a child!

Using the material we receive from you, we hope to organise an exhibition that will go on display in due course. You can send your memories to us at [millhousememories@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:millhousememories@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Highlight was granted planning permission in July and construction work is due to begin early next year following completion of the process to appoint a main contractor.

The building has been designed by GT3 Architects and its strong linear lines are inspired by the railway tracks which ran from local timber and coal yards into the former dockland site during the 19th and early 20th centuries.



## Work starts on £21m full fibre investment



**“we are committed to growing the town's economy to create a range of high-quality job opportunities for local people, and the provision of high-speed internet connections is key to that.”**

Councillor Shane Moore  
Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council

Work has started to install the latest super-fast digital technology across Hartlepool - promising enhanced internet connectivity for thousands of households and businesses.

Construction of a £21m town-wide full fibre network is being delivered by Granemore Group on behalf of CityFibre.

Work in each area usually takes a few weeks to complete, although construction teams will typically be outside homes for just two to three days. CityFibre will get in touch by mail before any work starts.

The overall project is expected to be completed by 2025, although the first services will go live much sooner.

Full fibre networks – unlike many current copper-based fibre broadband services – use 100% fibre optic cables

to carry data at light speed all the way from the home to the point of connection.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council, said: “I'm delighted that construction work is underway. As an authority, we are committed to growing the town's economy to create a range of high-quality job opportunities for local people, and the provision of high-speed internet connections is key to that.”

Steph Carter-Smith, CityFibre Area Manager for Hartlepool, added: “This project is about much more than simply putting fibre in the ground. Strong digital infrastructure plays a major role in boosting local economies and we look forward to giving residents and businesses a choice of the best possible packages from a range of internet service providers.”



# THIS IS THE WORLD



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## New operator takes over Summerhill café

The café at Summerhill Country Park in Hartlepool has reopened following the appointment of a new operator.

Daisy & Beas who also have a play café in the town's Villiers Street, is owned by Sara Harvey.

Current opening hours are 10am-6pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 10am-8pm on Wednesdays, 12-8pm on Thursdays and 10am-4pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

The opening hours are, however, subject to change at certain times to cater for bookings on the site's new cycle track and events taking place on the wider Summerhill site.

The café offers a wide variety of snacks, breakfasts and meals, including a range of healthy, home-made options

Sara who employs 12 people across her two sites, said: "I am so pleased to have taken over the café service at Summerhill and I would like to thank Hartlepool Borough Council for giving us this opportunity.

"It is going really well, we have been well received and the level of footfall has been just great.

"Over time I'm looking to bring some of the popular play elements from Villiers Street to Summerhill.

"We are operating the café at Summerhill as a Community Interest Company with the intention of ploughing any profit into good causes in the local community."

Dan Garthwaite, Hartlepool Borough Council's Participation and Strategy Manager, said: "Visitors to the site tell us how much they value a catering service, and we look forward to working closely with Sara and her team to make the café a long-term success."



Daisy and Beas owner Sara Harvey (right) with Summerhill Café Assistant Manager Zipporah Naylor to Summerhill.

## Official opening of new Summerhill cycle track

The new 750-metre cycle track at Summerhill Country Park will be officially opened on Saturday October 15th.

There will be family taster cycling sessions, races on the track and a range of additional activities around the site.

The track is available during the week for drop-in public cycling. There is no need to book, and more information about the dates and times of sessions is available at [www.activehartlepool.co.uk/summerhill-cycle-track](http://www.activehartlepool.co.uk/summerhill-cycle-track)

A number of track slots have also been set aside for club/group hire and bookings for these can be made by emailing [summerhill.cycling@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:summerhill.cycling@hartlepool.gov.uk) or calling (01429) 284584.

The new track - made possible by funding from British Cycling and Hartlepool Borough Council - has been built to provide accessible, traffic-free community cycling facilities and opportunities for people of all ages and cycling abilities.

It is fenced and floodlit and built on gently sloping terrain, and incorporates varying elevations and degrees of cornering difficulty. Two secure cycle storage containers have been installed on site.

Money has also been secured for a separate children's learn-to-ride area next to the visitor's centre.



## Venues invited to support second Hartlepool Restaurant Week

Following the success of the first-ever Hartlepool Restaurant Week at the start of the year, restaurants, cafes and pubs in the borough are being invited to take part in a second run of the popular promotion in October.

The inaugural event to promote and celebrate the town's eateries was extremely popular with businesses and the public alike, attracting an estimated 3,000 diners, both local and from outside the town.

The October event will run from Monday 17th to Sunday 23rd. Businesses wanting to take part will be required once again to develop a specific Restaurant Week menu or special offers within their existing menu at the set prices of either £5, £10, £15 or £20. They can choose the price points which suit them.

These menus and offers will then be promoted in advance through a dedicated 'Hartlepool Restaurant Week' web page and marketing campaign.

The initiative – which is led by Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Growth Team – is absolutely free for Hartlepool eateries to take part in.

Councillor Mike Young, Chair of the Council's Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee, said: "At a time like this when we are facing very substantial cost of living pressures, we want to build on the huge success of the last Restaurant Week to encourage more people to use their local eateries, which will be offering incredible deals under this scheme."



"We have some absolutely fantastic restaurants, cafes and pubs in Hartlepool and we're really pleased to give them another opportunity to raise their profile. I'm sure the unbeatable fixed-price menus will prove especially tempting for customers."

"Whether or not your business took part in the first event, we'd love to hear from you."

**Any venue interested in being involved in Hartlepool Restaurant Week should email [tourism@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@hartlepool.gov.uk)**

## This 'thank you' means so much

When Hartlepool Borough Council school bus driver Chris Thompson reached the last day of this year's school run, he received a surprise he'll always remember.

St Hild's student Maddie Cameron handed him a letter she had written, thanking him for driving her and her friends to school for the past five years and for always being so nice and helpful.

"We couldn't have made it without you! You made sure we got to school on time and put up with all of our grumpy morning faces," wrote Maddie, who is now moving on to college in her goal to become a paramedic.

"Thank you for working through the pandemic, ensuring we all arrived at school ... Thank you for taking us home every evening, making sure we were safe. Thank you for being such a huge part of my life over the last five years."

Chris said: "In ten years on the school run it was the first thank you letter I had received. I was really taken aback and very moved – it just made it all worthwhile."

"Maddie was no trouble and it was a pleasure to drive her. I wish her good luck and success in the future."

Kieran Bostock, the Council's Assistant Director – Place Management, said: "What a really kind thought from Maddie. It is testament to Chris and so many other colleagues just like him who quietly carried on working in the background amid the pandemic to ensure the borough continued to function."

"Whilst these efforts may not have been obvious to the public, it is clear the positive impact they have had. I would like to place on record my thanks to all those staff who were so dedicated to the service in the most challenging times."



## Another sizzling summer of fun

Hartlepool Holiday Fun has been another soaraway success this summer with thousands of children and young people taking part.

The project – run by Hartlepool Borough Council in partnership with different organisations across the town and funded by the Department for Education – provides activities for children and young people aged 4 to 16 over the main school holidays throughout the year.

On the summer programme was an array of activities including crafts and a wide range of sports – all of which were free.

There was plenty to keep children and young people entertained and help them discover new hobbies and skills, make new friends and build their confidence, plus they got tasty meals into the bargain.

There has been some amazing feedback from parents, with one saying "Thank you – good to see the Council doing amazing things for our children during the holidays."

Another said: "My child has always loved to draw, but you have given him a new chance to excel at something he loves and to make similar-minded friends," while another said "Thank you for this experience – it was really special."

Councillor Jim Lindridge, Chair of the Council's Children's Services Committee, said: "We were thrilled to receive such fantastic comments from parents and we're delighted that thousands of children and young people were again able to enjoy exciting, stimulating activities over the summer holidays and receive nutritious meals as well."

"Hartlepool Holiday Fun keeps going from strength to strength and there'll be more to look forward to with our Christmas programme, details of which will be announced closer to the time."

## Ambitious "Production Village" plan unveiled

A bid for £16.5 million of Government funding aims to kick-start ambitious plans for the further regeneration of Hartlepool Town Centre.

Hartlepool Borough Council hopes to secure the money in Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund.

At the heart of its bid is the proposed creation of a Production Village in the Lynn Street/Whitby Street area which is intended to be a catalyst for Hartlepool's fledgling screen industries sector.

This will build on the high-quality facilities already in place at the Northern Film and TV Studios in Lynn Street, on the site of the Northern School of Art, and at The BIS in Whitby Street, the Council's award-winning centre for start-up creative businesses.

The Council intends to purchase, redevelop and selectively demolish existing premises to create flexible spaces to provide post-production, back office and wider support services to the screen industries. A new urban park/square will transform the look and feel of the area.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council, said: "The bid, if successful, has the potential to completely transform this part of the town centre, bringing huge benefits to Hartlepool and its residents as a whole"

"It will enable us to develop a thriving screen industries sector, attract inward investment and create a range of new job opportunities for local people."

An announcement on whether the bid has been successful is not expected until later in the year.



Maddie Cameron and Chris Thompson





# Ships signing up to visit Tall Ships Hartlepool 2023

With less than a year to go until the world-famous Tall Ships return to Hartlepool in July 2023, we're delighted to see ships starting to sign up for this iconic event.

As Hartbeat went to print, 17 ships had confirmed their entry including six Class A vessels – the largest category of tall ships.

## CLASS A

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT II

DAR MŁODZIEZY

EENDRACHT

FRYDERYK CHOPIN

ROALD AMUNDSEN

STATSRAAD LEHMKUHL

## CLASS B

BETTY

RUPEL

SWAN

## CLASS C

BELFER

ESPRIT

SAEFTINGHE

SPANIEL

WIELKOPOLSKA

ZENOBE GRAMME

FARAMIR

## CLASS D

TARA

# Get involved

Event officials are keen to ensure that local people and businesses know how they can get involved.

The event will take place from Thursday 6th July to Sunday 9th July 2023, and bring with it a range of opportunities, including becoming a Sail Trainee aboard a participating vessel, a volunteer or a sponsor.

Businesses can also register their interest in having a presence at the event, and this may be in the form of an exhibition stand, a stall, a catering concession or even as an artist.

Catherine Honey, Hartlepool Borough Council's Event Director Tall Ships 2023, said: "We would love to hear from the community and businesses on how they would like to be involved in this exciting event. There is now less than one year to go and we are encouraging the town to get in touch and be part of it!"

"We are asking for expressions of interest and this can be done by submitting an online form available at [www.tallshipshartlepool2023.co.uk](http://www.tallshipshartlepool2023.co.uk)"

Residents wishing to volunteer will be key to making Tall Ships Hartlepool 2023 a success and you can find out more at a number of drop-in events at Community Hub Central on York Road.

**Tuesday 11th October 1pm – 4pm**

**Wednesday 12th October 9am – 12noon**

**Wednesday 19th October 5pm – 7pm**





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## Hubs are great for helping you to stay well

Hartlepool's Community Hubs and Libraries offer a wide range of reading resources and exciting activities, but did you also know that they can help you stay healthy and happy?

Between them they provide a range of support to help people maintain both their physical and mental wellbeing.

There's a Motomed specialist motorised stationary cycle to enable people to improve their mobility, support groups for anxiety, depression and memory loss in partnership with other organisations, fun exercise sessions, a Chatty Café to help people get chatting and reduce loneliness, plus much more.

Keith Bage has osteoarthritis and has difficulty moving and walking and uses a mobility scooter.

He pops into Community Hub Central in York Road every day to enjoy the social activities and to use the Motomed cycle, which gives supported movement to the legs to improve muscle tone and circulation, boosting strength and stamina.

"The sessions have transformed my life," says the 73-year-old retired machine operator, who was assessed to use the Motomed by the Hub's Wellbeing Team.

"Before I could hardly move at all, but now I'm much more mobile. I can walk round my garden with my sticks or walker, I can go to the shops again and I'm looking forward to going back to my local club. The support and encouragement from the Hub staff has been brilliant."

All the Hubs and Libraries also hold weekly Hub Socials, where people of all ages can drop in to enjoy crafts and games, socialise, make new friends and enjoy a cuppa.

Norma Clifford, who is 88, has been a regular at the Hub Socials at Seaton Carew Library since autumn last year together with her sisters Josie Reay and Jenny Lawn and friends.

"I had only just moved to Seaton and I didn't know people. I mentioned it to my sisters and we decided to pop in and we've been coming regularly ever since," said Norma.

"It's a social thing - we have a laugh and quizzes and crafts and we really enjoy it. It doesn't cost us anything and we get a cup of tea as well. It's the highlight of our week - I would definitely recommend it."

To find out more visit Hartlepool Community Hubs on Facebook or call or drop into your local Community Hub or Library.



Keith Bage does his daily workout on the Motomed bike, watched by Hub Navigator Denise Murphy



Norma Clifford (left) enjoys a Hub Social session at Seaton Carew Library with Josie Reay, Margaret Holtom, Jenny Lawn and Judith Moore



# Come and work with us!



Have you ever considered coming to work for your Council?

The popular view of the Council is we empty bins, sweep the streets, cut the grass and fill the holes in the roads.

Important though these services are, there is much more to the Council.

We are one of the largest employers in Hartlepool and offer part-time, full-time and fixed-term employment including casual work. We are an equal opportunities employer and the

job opportunities we offer are wide-ranging.

These include – but are not limited to – cleaning, catering, passenger transport, trades such as plumbing, gas, electrical and joinery, HGV drivers, homecare, leisure, culture, enforcement, finance, engineering, social work, child psychology and business support.

We want to attract the best people to work for the residents of Hartlepool and feel it's vital that our employees are well rewarded.

When you work with us, you have access to a wide range of employee benefits designed to attract, motivate and retain the very best people – have a look at the following page.

When you join Hartlepool Borough Council, it can be the start of a really rewarding and fulfilling career – just ask Kieran Bostock, the Council's Assistant Director of Place Management.

## Kieran's story

Kieran Bostock joined the Council in 2002 as an apprentice in the Engineering Division.

He studied to become a fully qualified Civil Engineer in 2010 and went on to complete a Masters degree in Project Management in 2012 – study which was fully supported by the Council and undertaken on day release.

By 2018 Kieran was running the Council's highways-related operations and in 2020 he was appointed Assistant Director and now oversees highways, construction, planning, waste management, environmental services, vehicle fleet and passenger transport.

"When I left school I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life but I knew I didn't want to do A Levels, so I followed my passion at the time, which was designing things," says Kieran, who is 36. "From there I discovered a love of higher education and learning.

"At 16 I didn't know much about what the Council did – I thought it was just repairing potholes and fences – when in reality there is such an amazing variety of services.

"No two days are ever the same. It's really satisfying working to help the residents of Hartlepool and I have been instrumental in delivering multi-million pound schemes with some exceptional teams.

"I'm immensely proud to work for the Council and I am very grateful for the opportunities and encouragement I have had to develop and progress in my career."



To find out more about our latest vacancies visit  
[www.northeastjobs.org.uk](http://www.northeastjobs.org.uk)

# Our staff benefits



## FINANCIAL

Competitive pay rates with incremental progression.

Access to a career average pension scheme with employer contributions and life assurance benefits, and an Additional Voluntary Contribution salary sacrifice scheme.

Access to [www.kaarp.co.uk](http://www.kaarp.co.uk) for great discounts and savings on everyday purchases.



## TIME OFF

A generous annual leave entitlement which increases after five years of continuous service, plus the option to purchase additional annual leave, and occupational maternity, paternity and sick pay entitlements.



## BEING ACTIVE

Wellbeing initiatives.

A cycle-to-work scheme with savings on bikes and equipment.



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Career development and apprenticeship opportunities.

Professional and personal development opportunities including qualification-based training and support with statutory professional membership fees.



## WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Up to 13 flexi days per year, subject to eligibility, and time off in lieu arrangements.

Flexible and hybrid working and flexible and phased retirement options.



## FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Emergency Dependents, Bereavement, Adoption, Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave.



## PERSONAL WELLBEING

Occupational health services, signposting to wellbeing support services, access to free eye tests for DSE users and a Healthcare Cash Plan.



## GETTING AROUND

Salary sacrifice car leasing and car loans, plus subsidised car parking subject to availability.



## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Disability Confident Employer.

The opportunity to belong to a recognised trade union.

Favourable paid leave arrangements for reservists.



YEAR 11

# OPEN EVENTS

**Peterlee Campus Open Evening** - Wednesday 28th September 5pm-6.30pm  
Includes Vocational Course, A-levels at ED6, The Technical Academy and Apprenticeships

**Houghall Campus, Durham, Open Day** - Saturday 1st October 9.30am-11am

**Please check the website for details of which courses are offered at each site.**



100% A-LEVEL PASS RATE FOR THE LAST 7 YEARS. 2016-2022.\*

Ranked No.1

in the whole country for A-level Progress Score 2018.

\*Students taking 3 A-level subjects



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edc.ac.uk

## Creating Outstanding Futures






## Covid autumn booster programme launched

Eligible Hartlepool residents are being urged to take up the offer of a Covid autumn booster when invited to do so.

Nationally, around 26 million people are entitled to a top-up jab, including everyone over the age of 50, those with weakened immune systems, health and social care workers, care home residents and housebound people.

Craig Blundred, Hartlepool Borough Council's Director of Public Health, said: "The NHS will contact people when it is their turn, and I would urge everyone invited to attend for a booster to take up the offer without hesitation."

"Full vaccination is the best way for everyone to protect themselves and those around them from Covid."

"If people don't get their booster jab, they run the risk of catching Covid and having a more serious illness which, in turn, will result in increased pressure on an already stretched NHS."

Subject to supply, flu jabs may be provided alongside Covid boosters and where this is the case eligible people are being urged to take up this offer too.



## Celebrating Hartlepool's parks and those who maintain them

Two much loved Hartlepool parks have retained their prestigious international quality award.

Summerhill Country Park and Ward Jackson Park have retained their Green Flags, having held them since 2008.

Managed by Keep Britain Tidy, the award scheme recognises well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management.

Councillor Bob Buchan, Chair of Hartlepool Borough Council's Adult and Community-Based Services Committee, said: "Keeping our Green Flag Awards is fantastic recognition of all the hard work by the Council's parks team, gardeners, Summerhill staff,

volunteers and Friends Groups to keep all our parks and open spaces looking at their best all year round."

Councillor Tom Cassidy Chair of the Council's Neighbourhood Services Committee, added: "These awards highlight what an amazing job our Parks Team and staff do. I would also like to mention and especially thank all the dedicated volunteers who provide so much valuable support for our open spaces, everything from litter picking and keeping paths clear, their work does not go unnoticed."

Visitors to parks are asked to support the Council and volunteer groups by disposing of litter responsibly and cleaning up after their dogs. Find out more about Hartlepool's parks at [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/parks](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/parks)

## Volunteer with us

Come and be part of a dedicated team of volunteers who make a difference to Hartlepool's parks. You could be involved in: planting flowers, building nest boxes, helping with wildlife surveys, and so much more. No matter how much free time you have to volunteer, there is something for everyone who wants to get involved, as and when they can. Contact [parksandcountryside@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:parksandcountryside@hartlepool.gov.uk) to find out more.



"We are lucky to have so many parks within a short distance of where most people live"

"Ward Jackson Park is amazing...long may it continue"

## GCSE results success

Young people in Hartlepool have achieved some very good GCSE grades this year despite the challenges that they have been faced with over the last two years as a result of the COVID pandemic.

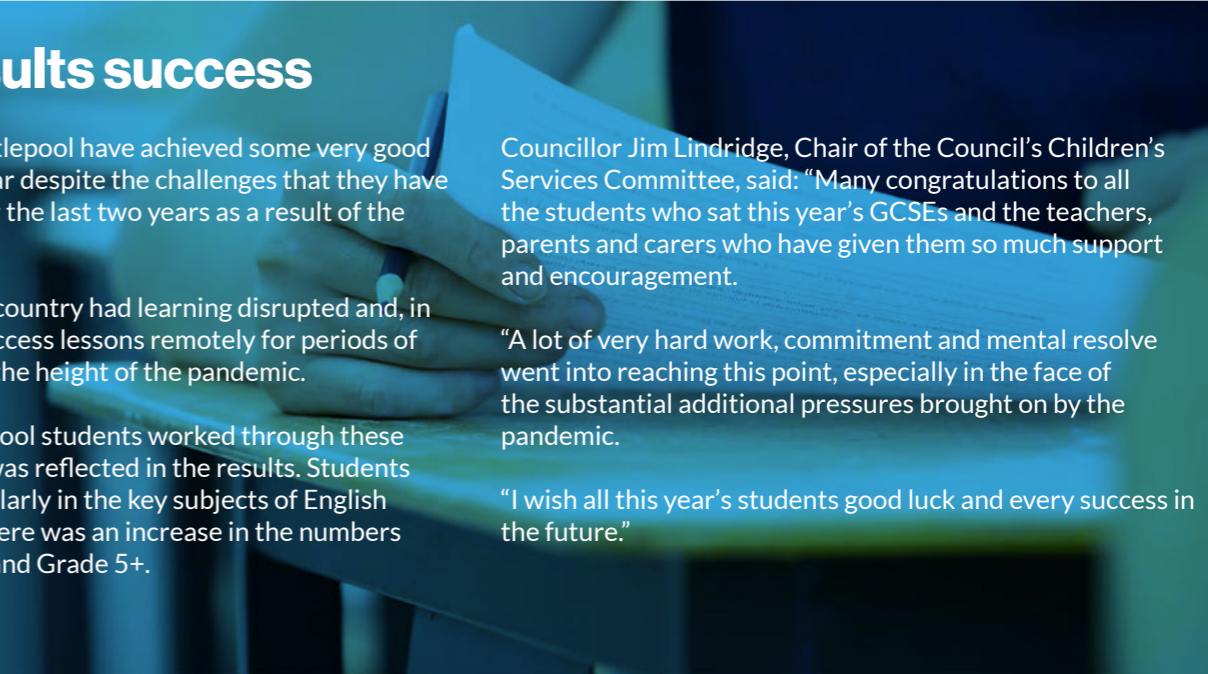
Students across the country had learning disrupted and, in some cases, had to access lessons remotely for periods of time, particularly at the height of the pandemic.

Despite this, Hartlepool students worked through these challenges and this was reflected in the results. Students did very well, particularly in the key subjects of English and Maths, where there was an increase in the numbers achieving Grade 4+ and Grade 5+.

Councillor Jim Lindridge, Chair of the Council's Children's Services Committee, said: "Many congratulations to all the students who sat this year's GCSEs and the teachers, parents and carers who have given them so much support and encouragement."

"A lot of very hard work, commitment and mental resolve went into reaching this point, especially in the face of the substantial additional pressures brought on by the pandemic."

"I wish all this year's students good luck and every success in the future."





# WHAT A WEEKEND WE HAD!



Photo caption (top left, clockwise): Graeme Steele; Danielle Horner with Coun Bob Buchan, Chair of Hartlepool Council's Adult and Community Based Services Committee and Mayor Coun Brian Cowie; Steven Horner with Coun Cowie and Mayoress Coun Veronica Nicholson; Helen Godfrey, George Wood and Matty Hynes

Hartlepool's Big Lime Weekend 2022 has been hailed a huge success – and even featured a father-daughter double victory!

The weekend took place from Friday-Sunday August 12th-14th and comprised a predictor swim, an aquathlon and a triathlon.

Predictor swim competitors submitted their predicted time when entering and tried to match it on the day. The winner was Danielle Horner who completed the 750-metre open water course within Hartlepool Marina in 8 minutes 35 seconds compared to her prediction of 9 minutes 14 seconds. Last year, the predictor swim was won by Danielle's uncle Phil Horner.

And to keep the family theme going, dad Steven won the aquathlon – a 750-metre open water swim and a 5km run – in 30 minutes and 37 seconds.

The triathlon saw 187 people compete in a 750-metre open water swim, a 20km cycle ride and a 5km run. Graeme Steele was the winner in 1 hour, 1 minute and 7 seconds

There was also the option of entering the triathlon as a relay team to split the disciplines. The winners were Helen Godfrey, George Wood and Matty Hynes in 1 hour and 46 seconds.

Winner of the Triple Lime Challenge - for competitors who entered all three events - was Kris Whitelaw in 1 hour, 45 minutes and 13 seconds when his three times were added together.

Paula Carroll, Hartlepool Borough Council's Participation Manager (Sport & Physical Activity), said: "Congratulations to all of the competitors on their efforts and thanks to the many people who came out to support them."



## Active - Healthier - Together

Our vision for the future is for everyone in Hartlepool to be able to lead an active lifestyle

The new Active Hartlepool brand replaces Get Hartlepool Active and encompasses Mill House Leisure Centre, Headland Sports Centre, Brierton Sports Centre, Summerhill Country Park, Carlton Adventure, the Council's grass sports pitches, the Participation Team and the Family Time project.

It reflects our mission to place customers at the heart of everything we do, inspire people to be more active and use sport and physical activity to improve our communities.

[www.activehartlepool.co.uk](http://www.activehartlepool.co.uk)



**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Big Lime Weekend 2023, Friday 18th – Sunday 20th August. Watch out for more details on the Big Lime Series and Active Hartlepool Facebook pages.**



## Join the Stoptober challenge!

Stopping smoking is one of the best things you can do for your health and it's never too late.

The benefits are almost immediate, as your body responds within minutes.

Now smokers are being urged to join in Stoptober 2022, the annual campaign that begins on October 1st.

The reasons for doing so are compelling, with research showing that if you quit for 28 days you are five times more likely to quit for good.

Within 20 minutes of stopping your pulse starts to return to normal, in 3-9 months your lung function increases by up to 10% and after a year your heart attack risk halves.

And, of course, it's not just your health that benefits, your finances receive a boost too!

Whilst Stoptober is aimed at all smokers, it is specifically focussing this year on smokers aged 25-50 who work in routine and manual jobs.

Once you decide to stop, the following tips may help - list your reasons for quitting, tell people you are quitting, if you have tried to quit before remember what worked, use aids such as vapes, have a plan if you are tempted to smoke, list your smoking triggers and how to avoid them, stay busy and exercise away the urge.

Hartlepool Borough Council's Community Hub Navigator Team, health advisors based in the Community Hub Central in York Road and Community Hub South in Wynyard Road, are able to offer support.

And why not download the NHS Quit Smoking app for free?



Contact Hartlepool Borough Council's Community Hub Navigator Team

(01429) 272905 helping@hartlepool.gov.uk



Download the free NHS Quit Smoking app



## A local smoker talks about her stop smoking journey



### When and why did you start smoking?

All my friends started smoking at school basically to try and look cool. I felt under pressure to join in.

### For how many years did you smoke and how many cigarettes did you smoke before quitting?

I smoked for 17 years and usually rolled my own cigarettes to smoke around 20 a day.

### How did smoking affect your health and day-to-day life, and what made you decide to quit?

I smoked even though I was asthmatic. I used to wheeze and cough and couldn't walk far without getting out of breath. I caught Covid and developed bronchitis. I could hardly breathe and it scared me. My GP advised me to seek help to quit.

### What challenges have you faced?

I still find the time when I would have had my first cigarette of the day the hardest test, and I have to be very careful when I have consumed alcohol. When I get cravings I go out the back for fresh air and have a quick vape.

### How did you successfully quit?

The Community Hub Navigator Team has been a real help. My Navigator has been very supportive, and he's only a call away if I have any questions. It really helps to have regular meetings.

### How has life improved since quitting?

I've been smoke-free nearly 5 weeks and my wheeze and cough has gone. I have more stamina to walk longer and I'm not using my asthma inhalers as much. I've certainly got more money and my hair and clothes smell better.

### What advice would you give to other people trying to quit?

Contact the Hartlepool Community Hub Navigator Team. Without their help it would have been a lot harder. It's also important to get help and support from your partner and/or family.

## Could you be a foster carer?



There's never been a better time to be a foster carer for Hartlepool Borough Council, with more support available now than ever before.

Caring, loving foster homes are urgently needed for children in the Council's care – especially those aged 12 and over.

Starting later this autumn, Hartlepool Borough Council's Fostering Team, in conjunction with the UK's leading fostering charity The Fostering Network, will be delivering the Mockingbird programme, which is an innovative method of foster care using the Mockingbird Family Model.

This is an extended family model that provides sleepovers and short breaks, peer support, regular joint planning and training and social activities.

The programme improves the stability of fostering placements and strengthens the relationships between carers, children and young people, fostering services and birth families.

Jane Wilson, Hartlepool Borough Council's Fostering Manager, said: "We are delighted and proud to be joining the Mockingbird programme, which will offer



an unrivalled level of support and encouragement to our foster carers, including support and mentoring from experienced foster carers.

"When you combine that with a good financial package to foster in a way that works for you – including respite and short breaks – plus great training, the support of a dedicated supervising worker from our Fostering Team and regular support groups, it really is a great time to become a foster carer in Hartlepool.

"Being a foster carer is so rewarding. There's no 'typical' foster carer, so please don't rule yourself out, whatever your age, background or circumstances – we'd love to hear from you."

**To find out more about being a foster carer, visit [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/fostering), call 01429 405588 or email [fosterandadopt@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:fosterandadopt@hartlepool.gov.uk)**



Supported by





## Adult safeguarding in the spotlight



The campaign is being supported by Hartlepool Borough Council and the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board, the statutory body responsible for setting the strategic direction for safeguarding adults in the Boroughs of Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees.

Councillor Bob Buchan, Chair of the Council's Adult and Community Based Services Committee, said: "We are pleased to be supporting Adult Safeguarding Week once again this year, and to be working closely with partners to raise awareness of this very important issue.

"As an authority, we are strongly committed to protecting and upholding the right of all adults to live safely, free from abuse and neglect.

"We want to empower people by giving them the information they need to recognise the signs of abuse/neglect and report their concerns."

He added that it is important to remember that safeguarding relates to adults of all ages, not just older people.

Darren Best, Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board, said: "We acknowledge that it can be very hard for a person to seek help, but action can only be taken if they or someone who is concerned about them – a family member, a concerned neighbour or even someone who might not initially think it is their business - is prepared to come forward.

"It's important that you report any concerns that you might have as soon as possible to ensure that people are not left at risk of abuse and neglect."

Safeguarding Adults Week, a campaign to raise awareness of adult abuse and neglect and the help that is available, will take place this year from November 21st-27th.

Led by national charity The Ann Craft Trust, the campaign will focus on a different aspect of safeguarding each day:

- Monday – Sexual Exploitation, Modern Slavery and County Lines
- Tuesday – Self-Neglect
- Wednesday – Creating Safer Organisational Cultures
- Thursday – Elder Abuse
- Friday – Domestic Abuse in Tech-Society
- Saturday & Sunday – Safeguarding in Everyday Life

## GET IN TOUCH

For more information about how to report abuse and neglect go to [www.tsab.org.uk](http://www.tsab.org.uk)

Alternatively If you are worried or want to talk to someone call Hartlepool Borough Council on (01429) 523390 or email [iSPA@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:iSPA@hartlepool.gov.uk) On evenings and at weekends, the number to call is (01642) 524552.

The Council's dedicated Hartlepool Now website also provides a comprehensive guide to services for adults at [www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk](http://www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk)

More information about Safeguarding Adults Week 2022 is available at <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/events/safeguarding-adults-week-2022/>

## Recognising the support for the young LGBTQ+ community

Hartlepool Borough Council has been shortlisted for two awards at this year's Hart Gables LGBT Alliance Awards.

Shortlisted in the 'Local Authority Commitment to LGBT Communities', Hartlepool Borough Council's Youth Service have been nominated for their continued dedication to the young LGBTQ+ community in Hartlepool by providing a safe space for hundreds of young people to be themselves, free from discrimination for over 10 years.

The second nomination is for Hartlepool Youth Worker Caroline Smurthwaite, who has been nominated for this year's 'Tara Davison Kindness Award' which recognises the commitment and hard work she has put in to support the young LGBTQ+ community.

One of the young people who accesses Hartlepool Borough Council's Youth Service LGBTQ+ sessions had this to say about Caroline: "Caroline was so nice to me on my first day. I was really nervous and I felt like I might not fit in but she welcomed me with open arms, so I would like to thank her very much. I have only been here for a few sessions and I feel so welcomed."

Councillor Jim Lindridge, Chair of Hartlepool Borough Council's Children's Services Committee, said: "These nominations are a fantastic recognition for all the hard work our Youth Service and youth workers do day in and day out for our young LGBTQ+ community in Hartlepool.

"Take Caroline for example, she has been a youth worker working with the Council's Youth Service LGBTQ+ sessions for over four years and her nomination for the Tara Davison Kindness Award is a true reflection of the hard work and dedication she has put into her role and the young people of Hartlepool over the years."

The LGBT Alliance Awards were created in 2020 by the charity Hart Gables to celebrate commitments and achievements of local services and individuals which bring communities together.

Hart Gables is a support service across the Tees Valley for those who identify as LGBTQ+ and they work so that people are given equal opportunities through supporting the local community and working with partner organisations.

## Hate crime reporting appeal

The Hartlepool Community Safety Team is urging victims of hate crime to come forward and report incidents.

It has issued the appeal ahead of National Hate Crime Awareness Week which this year is running from October 8th-15th.

The team which was set up to provide a co-ordinated response to crime and anti-social behaviour problems, comprises staff from Hartlepool Borough Council, Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Brigade, all based together at Hartlepool Police Station.

Councillor Shane Moore, the Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council and Chair of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, said: "Hate crime has no place in Hartlepool and we are not prepared to tolerate it in any of its forms.

"It is important that people inform us of issues as and when they occur so that timely action can be taken."

Hate crime is any criminal offence perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on someone's race/ethnicity/nationality, gender, gender identity, alternative sub-culture, religion/faith/belief, sexual orientation, or disability.

It can be reported in a number of ways:

- To the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.
- Online at [www.report-it.org.uk/](http://www.report-it.org.uk/)
- At any one of a network of third party reporting centres which exist around the Borough of Hartlepool. Details of their locations are available at [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/third-party-reporting-centres](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/third-party-reporting-centres)



# Hartlepool Learning & Skills is now part of the Community Hubs!



We're bringing our fantastic provision into the community to ensure that everyone across Hartlepool can easily access our range of services including:

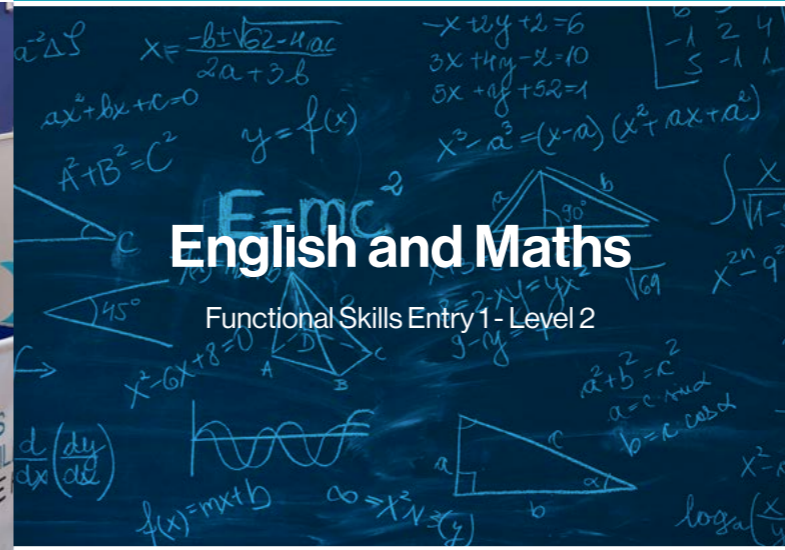
- Careers Service
- Qualifications
- Apprenticeships
- Personal Development Activities
- Learning Opportunities
- Workforce Development
- Volunteering
- Employment Support



# We offer a variety of courses, with most adults able to access these for free, including:

## English and Maths

Functional Skills Entry 1 - Level 2



## Level 3 Children & Young People's Workforce

Develop the knowledge and skills required for working with children and young people from 0-19 years



We have a friendly team who can help you achieve your goals whether you want to gain new skills, socialise with other people, study for a qualification, become a volunteer or progress into your chosen career. You can find us within the Community Hubs:

## Digital Skills

Essential Digital Skills for Life and Work  
Entry 1 - Level 2



## Level 3 Understanding Mental Health

Develop key knowledge of mental health to support a range of occupational areas



### Community Hub Central



124 York Road  
TS26 9DE  
Monday to Friday  
(10am-4pm)

### Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts



King Oswy Drive  
TS24 9PB  
Monday & Wednesday  
(10am-4pm)

### Community Hub South



Wynyard Road  
TS25 3LQ  
Tuesday & Thursday  
(10am-4pm)

## Level 3 Management Skills & Knowledge

Ideal for those working in a team leader role with operational responsibilities



## Level 3 Understanding Autism

Gain the knowledge and understanding required to support those living with autism



You can also call our team on: 01429 868616 [jobs.skills@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:jobs.skills@hartlepool.gov.uk)

or visit our pages on HartlepoolLearningandSkills @HartlepoolLSS HartlepoolLearningandSkills

We also have over 100 Online Learning courses which can be studied at your own pace across topics such as Management, Diversity, Safeguarding and Health.



# Foggy Furze by-election result

Carole Thompson (Labour Party) has been elected as a Hartlepool Borough Councillor following a by-election in the Foggy Furze ward on September 8th.

The by-election was called following the resignation of Stephen Picton.

The full result was:

Barry McKinstry (Liberal Democrat) – 49

Pamela Shurmer (Conservative Party) – 391

Connor Stallard (Independent) – 126

Carole Thompson (Labour Party) - 443

The turnout was 15.79%.

A further by-election is scheduled to take place in the Throston Ward on Thursday October 13th following the resignation of Amy Prince as a Councillor.

To find out more about this election go to  
[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/elections](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/elections)

For more information about your local Councillors go to  
[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/councillors)

Details of Councillors' ward surgeries can be found at  
[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/ward-surgeries](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/ward-surgeries)



**Hartlepool  
SENDIASS**

## Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) in Hartlepool



The service provides free, confidential, impartial support and advice for parents, carers and young people up to the age of 25 years in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disability.

### We can:

- Support you to work with educational settings to help your child's education
- Provide information about the range of education support services
- Provide information and support about SEN Support Plans, Statutory Assessment procedures and Education, Health and Care Plans
- Provide information and support about Disagreement Resolution and Mediation Services and SEND First Tier Tribunal Appeals
- Provide advice for young people and parents on gathering, understanding and interpreting information to apply it to their own situation
- And much more.....

### How to contact us:

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Call: 01429 284876 or 07776 491662

Email: [HARTLEPOOLIASS@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:HARTLEPOOLIASS@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Visit: [www.hartlepoolsendiass.co.uk](http://www.hartlepoolsendiass.co.uk) to leave a message or complete an on-line referral form

START (Supporting Treatment and Recovery Together) is Hartlepool's substance misuse service.

Launched in September 2020, it is commissioned by Hartlepool Borough Council's Public Health Team to deliver community-based treatment services to adults and young people in the Borough.

To highlight its work, we are providing a moving and inspirational account of one man's recovery after years of drug addiction.



## BILLY'S STORY

Former heroin addict Billy has turned his life around and is now helping others as a valued member of staff at Hartlepool's substance misuse service.

He is a Substance Misuse Care Co-ordinator at START, a partnership between Hartlepool Borough Council and Foundations.

He also spends two and a half days a week as a Substance Misuse Specialist with the Council's Community Support Team in the town's Victoria Ward.

And just for good measure, he even finds the time to do youth work on two evenings a week!

Now clean for almost nine years, Billy's humble, cheerful and optimistic outlook on life belies the problems he has overcome.

He identifies his problems as beginning at an early age - as an "Army kid" until the age of 8 his soldier dad's regular postings prevented him from putting down roots and forging long-term friendships.

"I also have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) traits which tends to go hand-in-hand with substance misuse," he says.

Billy was a bright child - he didn't even have to revise to do well in exams - but his academic performance began to tail off in his teens and he ultimately failed to fulfil his potential.

His first issues with addictive behaviour involved fruit machines and then he began experimenting with drugs in his mid to late-teens, initially cannabis before being exposed to heroin in his mid-20s.

"I had never been in trouble with the police until my late 20s when I started to get arrested for petty crime. Thankfully, I never went to prison," he says.

At his lowest point, 6ft 3ins Billy, an injecting drug user, weighed less than 10 stones. At one point he became dangerously ill with a serious chest infection.

His turning point came when he saw a former schoolmate, himself a heroin addict.

"For a time he just disappeared but I didn't pay much attention because I was so wrapped up in myself. However, I saw him after six months and he looked "brand new", so healthy. He had managed to go away and sort himself out and that planted a seed," recalls Billy.

This experience, together with the support of two "really persistent" drug workers - one of whom he now works alongside - and the on-going care of those closest to him resulted in him seeking help with his addiction.

Billy last took drugs on October 31st 2013, and has since devoted his life to helping others.

And he has a simple message for anyone considering seeking help for an addiction.

"Just come to Whitby Street and talk to us. We know what a big step it is to pick up the phone or walk through the door. We don't put people on the spot - we don't sit in circles, for example. Getting in touch is just the first step, but it is the beginning of something.

"Please, please give it a try."



## GET IN TOUCH

Self-refer by contacting START on (01429) 285000, emailing [substance.misuse@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:substance.misuse@hartlepool.gov.uk) or simply walking into the service in Whitby Street (TS24 7AB). Staff are also based in Community Hub Central in York Road.

Professionals can also refer with consent from the individual wanting treatment. People can also refer family members or friends, although it must be with their consent. People do not have to go to see their doctor to be referred, although where a person is in treatment with START their GP will be informed.

[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/START](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/START)



## Tips for a healthy smile



The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact on health care, including the provision of dental services.

Whilst NHS dental practices are open and able to safely provide a full range of treatments, they continue to face a challenge in balancing the clearance of work backlogs with the management of new patient demand.

Patients with urgent needs and delayed treatment will be seen first, with routine and non-urgent dental care provided on a prioritised basis.

If you have a dental problem, you should:

- Contact your regular dentist but if you do not have one call any dentist. Visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) to find a dentist close to you.
- You will be given advice or offered an appointment, if appropriate.
- For urgent dental care out of hours or at weekends that cannot wait call NHS 111.

If your teeth and gums are healthy a check-up may not be needed as often as in the past.

In the meantime, advice on oral health remains the same - stop smoking and limit your alcohol intake, whilst also reducing the amount of sugary drinks and food you consume, to help keep your teeth and gums healthy. In the case of children, in particular, they should:

- Eat less sugar less often, and only at mealtimes.
- Avoid sugary food and drinks before bedtime.
- Try sugar-free, diet or no added sugar drinks.
- Choose healthy snacks and drinks in between meals, such as fresh fruit, cheese, milk and water.
- Use a fluoride toothpaste – for children under the age of 3 use a smear of toothpaste containing at least 1000 ppm. Children over the age of 3 should use a pea-size amount of toothpaste containing between 1350-1500 ppm.
- Make regular visits to the dentist, with the first visit coinciding with the appearance of their first tooth.

## Take control of your sexual health

It has never been easier to get sexual health advice, tests, treatment and contraception.

Teesside Sexual Health Service offers free, confidential and non-judgemental sexual health services, and is open to people of all ages, genders and orientations.

The face-to-face service is located at The Fens Medical Centre in Catcote Road and offers free contraception advice, STI testing and access to long-acting reversible contraception.

A range of online services is also available, including advice, sexually transmitted infections (STI) home test kits and access to condoms and contraception.

It is really important to protect yourself from sexually transmitted infections and diseases such as chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and HIV by having safe sex and using a condom. Everyone aged 16-24 can join the free C-Card scheme at local pharmacies or order free condoms online to be delivered to your door

Recently, there has been a rise in cases of syphilis across Teesside and symptoms may not always be obvious. If you notice a change in your health, including a painless sore (chancre) on your genitals, anus or around your mouth, a rash on your body - especially on the hands or soles of your feet, swollen glands or flu-like symptoms, including a fever or headache, get tested.

Contact the Teesside Sexual Health Service on 0300 3301122 from Monday – Friday between 9am-5pm to arrange an appointment or visit [www.thesexualhealthhub.co.uk/services-near-you/teesside/](http://www.thesexualhealthhub.co.uk/services-near-you/teesside/)

## Making your home more energy efficient to help save money on your energy bills

The Sustainable Warmth competition is a government initiative which Hartlepool Borough Council was delighted in securing almost £2 million in funding from to help homes across the town become greener while reducing energy bills.

With work already underway, the scheme aims to tackle fuel poverty and help the most vulnerable by increasing the energy efficiency of homes, reducing energy bills (or offsetting increasing energy costs), and supporting low-income households, making homes warmer and improve the residents' general health and wellbeing.

A typical household with gas heating could be entitled to a grant worth up to £10,000 on average, to help improve their home's energy efficiency; homes that don't have a gas connection can also benefit from grants worth up to £20,000.

The Sustainable Warmth Scheme is open to homeowners with a gross household income of under £30,000 and meet eligibility criteria such as living in a low energy-efficient property with a rating of D, E, F or G. Help is also available to landlords and their tenants, with landlords expected to contribute towards the cost.

The Council is working in partnership with 0800 Repair, who are part of Pacifica Home Services, to help deliver a wide range of energy efficiency measures to homes across the town including: solar panels, air source heat pumps, external solid wall insulation, cavity and loft insulation, plus more, all aimed at reducing your energy usage this coming winter.

We revisited the Racinto family home, which received external solid wall insulation and solar panels, installed by 0800 Repair under a previous scheme, to ask how things were going after the energy efficiency upgrades.

Mr Racinto said: "You can really see a difference when the colder weather arrives, the external insulation is fantastic; our home keeps the warmth in and the cold out! The external wall insulation, plus the solar panels means our energy usage has reduced massively, and I would recommend upgrading your homes under the Council's scheme."

The Racinto family is among many local residents to benefit from energy efficiency home improvements from previous government funding schemes and now thanks to the ongoing Sustainable Warmth Scheme, many more can join them.

You can see if you qualify for FREE energy efficiency upgrades by visiting our website at [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/sustainable-warmth](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/sustainable-warmth) or by calling our contact centre on 01429 523333



Solar panels fitted to the family home



Mr Racinto pictured with representatives from 0800/Pacifica back in January



Family home after the installation of external solid wall insulation



# Hardship Advice and Support for Residents

As the cost of living soars, it is important that you know what help is available and how to access it.

## Fuel Debt Advice

Find out more about the Government's Energy Bills Support Scheme at [www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer) Get more information about the Warm Home Discount Scheme at [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/warm-home-discount-better-targeted-support-from-2022](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/warm-home-discount-better-targeted-support-from-2022)

The role of Ofgem as the independent energy regulator is to protect energy consumers, especially the vulnerable.

[www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/getting-help-if-you-cant-afford-your-energy-bills](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/getting-help-if-you-cant-afford-your-energy-bills)

The Energy Saving Trust is an independent organisation working to address the climate emergency and offers advice about how to make your home more energy efficient.

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/)

NEA is a national fuel poverty charity, working to ensure that everyone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is warm and safe at home. [www.nea.org.uk/advice-support/](http://www.nea.org.uk/advice-support/)

Locally, advice on fuel - including help for eligible residents to access the Fuel Bank - can be obtained from Hartlepower on (01429) 806400, Advice@Hart on (01429) 748010 and Hartlepool Citizens Advice Bureau on (01429) 408401.

## Universal Credit

You may be able to get Universal Credit if you are on a low income, out of work or you cannot work.

[www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit)

## Pension Credit

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income.

Pension Credit can also help with housing costs. Visit

[www.gov.uk/pension-credit](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit)

## Local Council Tax Support

To find out if you are eligible for Local Council Tax Support, or other Council Tax discounts, visit [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/counciltax) If you are having difficulties paying your bill, call (01429) 284166 or email [recovery@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:recovery@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## Free School Meals

Call (01429) 284188 or visit [https://hartlepool-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free\\_School\\_Meals\\_\\_apply](https://hartlepool-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_School_Meals__apply)

## Discretionary Housing Payment

Local authorities have discretion to award a Discretionary Housing Payment to a person who is entitled to Housing Benefit, the housing element of Universal Credit and who, in the opinion of the authority, requires some further financial assistance to help with their housing costs or to move to more affordable accommodation.

[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20127/benefits\\_and\\_grants/850/discretionary\\_housing\\_payment](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20127/benefits_and_grants/850/discretionary_housing_payment)

## Local Welfare Support

Local Welfare Support (LWS) is a limited discretionary fund, managed by Hartlepool Borough Council to help residents stay in or return to their community or to give help in a crisis.

[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/local-welfare-support](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/local-welfare-support)

## Food Support

For more information visit

[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/discounted-food](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/discounted-food)

If you need access to the The Trussell Trust Foodbank please contact the Local Welfare Support Team on (01429) 806895.

The Bread and Butter Thing operates across Hartlepool, offering residents the chance to buy low-cost shopping. Visit

[www.breadandbutterthing.org/members](http://www.breadandbutterthing.org/members)

The Too Good to Go app aims to make sure food is not wasted. It lets customers buy bags of surplus food at great prices directly from businesses. Download from the App Store or Google Play.

## Help with School Uniform

The Council works with the voluntary sector to run a recycled school uniform scheme. Donated uniform is shared with Hands Up Hartlepool in the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and Poolie Time Exchange at Bovis House in Victoria Road. A small donation is requested but not essential.

The council also runs a small fund donated by the late Elizabeth Trowsdale Norman and her family. Elizabeth, who passed away aged 104, was born and lived in Hartlepool for half of her life before moving to North Yorkshire. Her family helped create a fund to support school uniform and essential school supplies to those suffering financial hardship. Preference is given to applicants from Hartlepool's Victoria Ward - where Elizabeth was born and lived while she was at school. Call Hartlepool Borough Council's Local Welfare Support Team on (01429) 806895 to apply.

## Energy Efficiency Schemes

For the latest advice on energy efficiency schemes contact the Council at [energy.assistance@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:energy.assistance@hartlepool.gov.uk) or visit [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/sustainable-warmth](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/sustainable-warmth)

The Government has a Boiler Upgrade Grant Scheme. Visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-may-be-eligible-for-the-boiler-upgrade-scheme-from-april-2022](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-may-be-eligible-for-the-boiler-upgrade-scheme-from-april-2022)

## Anglian Water

Anglian Water can provide help for residents paying their bills dependent on their circumstances. [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7487/anglian\\_water\\_support](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7487/anglian_water_support)

## West View Advice and Resource Centre

Visit [www.wvrac30.org.uk](http://www.wvrac30.org.uk)

## Citizens Advice Bureau

Visit [www.citizensadvicehartlepool.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicehartlepool.org.uk)

## Turn2Us

Turn2Us is a national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially. Check your benefit entitlement at <https://benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk>

# Family Trusts

Get *strength* on your side...

Tilly Bailey & Irvine  
law firm

tbi



Carolyn  
Tilly

Managing Partner  
Tilly Bailey & Irvine

## I am Carolyn Tilly, Managing Partner of Tilly Bailey & Irvine Law Firm and a member of its experienced Wills, Probate and Elderly Client Department.

I am often asked by clients whether setting up a Family Trust would be a good idea for them. The answer is often yes, as there are lots of advantages to setting up a Family Trust.

A Trust ensures security and protection for your assets and can make things as simple as possible for your family to deal with when you die. In fact, the need for Probate is often avoided altogether, which may help keep the costs of dealing with your estate down if the proposed rise in probate fees comes into force - this has been widely published in the press as a new *stealth tax*.

A Family Trust provides full protection for your beneficiaries, even if circumstances have changed. An example would be where your spouse or children (including adult children) have disabilities or lose capacity to deal with their own affairs.

It also protects against your children being disinherited as a result of your spouse remarrying after your death. Your chosen Trustees can deal with the property in the Trust in the same way as Attorneys would under a Power of Attorney.

## "It is important to take advice from solicitors specialising in this area of law"

Since it would be your Trustees who control the capital of the Trust Fund, including your house, these assets should not in normal circumstances, be taken into account in the assessment of your means for contribution to the cost of any residential care fees or other means tested benefits. However, your solicitor will need to give you individual advice as to how the regulations about care fees would affect you.

If you are considering setting up a Family Trust, it is important to take advice from solicitors specialising in this area of law.

Tilly Bailey & Irvine have a team of legal experts and offer free initial advice regarding Property Trusts and Wills, all to help you decide what is best for you.

### How much will it cost?

We charge a fixed fee, so there are no hidden surprises.

Contact us on **01429 264101** or visit our offices in Hartlepool, Wynyard, Stockton or Barnard Castle for the best support, and start feeling more secure!

Tilly Bailey & Irvine LLP

T: 01429 264101

W: [www.tbilaw.co.uk](http://www.tbilaw.co.uk)

York Chambers | York Road | Hartlepool | TS26 9DP

12 Evolution | Wynyard Park | Wynyard | TS22 5TB

Castle House | 11 Bridge Road | Stockton-on-Tees | TS13 3AD

8 Newgate | Barnard Castle | DL12 8NG

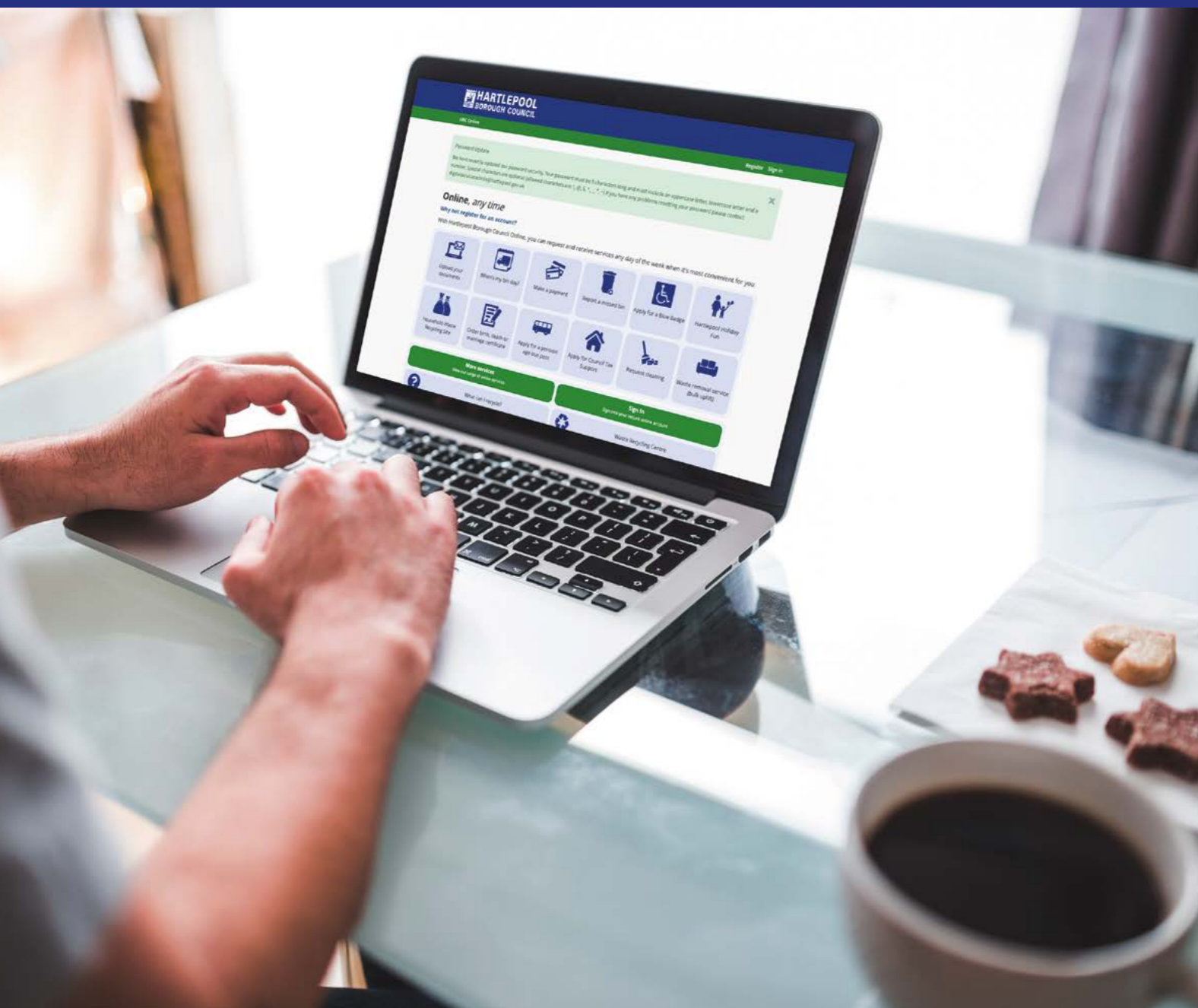
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**online.hartlepool.gov.uk**

## Successful season for little terns

The colony of rare little terns at Seaton Carew has enjoyed a successful 2022 breeding season, with a total confirmed count of 87 chicks.

Counting the number of chicks is a challenge, so the actual figure is likely to be even higher. Of the 87 counted, 67 have been ringed which allows their journeys and whereabouts to be tracked.

Huge thanks go to the volunteers and Durham Wildlife Trust wardens who helped protect the site over the summer as part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund SeaScapes

Partnership. They also helped erect a more substantial fence to protect the birds' nests.

We'd also like to thank visitors to Seaton Carew for respecting the birds' nesting site on the beach, close to the heart of the busy resort.

The birds have now set off on their long return trip to The Gambia in West Africa, but we are already excitedly looking forward to their return next year.



## Clampdown on off-road bikes

The Hartlepool Community Safety Team is calling on members of the public to support a clampdown on the anti-social and often illegal use of off-road bikes.

The multi-agency team which brings together staff from Hartlepool Borough Council, Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Brigade, is stepping up its efforts to tackle the problem following a rise in reported incidents.

It says local people have a vital role to play by providing information about who is riding the bikes, where they are being stored and the vehicles used to transport them.

Anyone with information should call Cleveland Police on 101. Alternatively, they can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Nicholas Stone, Neighbourhood Safety Team Leader with Hartlepool Borough Council, said: "Some people think that

off-road motorbikes and quad bikes are permitted to use certain areas, including the sand dunes along the coast, but that is simply not the case. They cause a noise nuisance and they are often responsible for causing serious damage to natural habitats supporting numerous species of animals and plants.

"In addition off-road bikes are often being ridden dangerously around the town by people without helmets, road tax, insurance, or a driving license and are placing the public at risk.

Hartlepool Neighbourhoods Inspector Zoe Kelsey added: "Residents' quality of life is being affected by the illegal or anti-social use of bikes around our town.

"Some of the reports we receive about how these off roaders are being ridden are very concerning and I believe it's only a matter of time before we see someone seriously injured - or even another tragic fatality in Hartlepool!"





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