

this is **Redcar & Cleveland**

the council magazine for the local community

Issue 51 | Spring 2023



Clean up Sweepy Jean!

Children name new road sweepers. Page 7



To contact the council call 01642 774774
or www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Election time – don't forget your photo ID!

ON THURSDAY, 4 May 2023, elections will be taking place across the borough.

All 59 council seats will be up for grabs, as well as the seats from the five parish councils in Redcar and Cleveland. If you are already registered to vote you do not need to do anything further.

For the first time this year, electors across England will be required to provide photographic ID at polling stations in order to vote.

Various types of photographic ID will be accepted, including passports, driver licences and provisional driver licences, blue badges, concessionary bus passes and any form of Identity card which is PASS mark approved (Proof of Age Standards Scheme). These forms of ID will be accepted even if they have expired for their intended use, as long as the image of the elector still bears the same resemblance. For any elector who is unsure about whether they have an accepted form of ID,



further information can be obtained from the Electoral Commission at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or by calling 0800 328 0280. Poll cards providing information about the elections and where your allocated polling station is located will be delivered from Monday, 27 March.

For those who have recently moved houses, or have never previously registered to vote, you have until 17 April to register. This is a simple process which can be done online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or

by contacting the Council on 01642 774774.

There is also an option for electors to vote by post. This allows electors to cast their vote ahead of the election and from the comfort of their own home. Any elector can apply for a postal vote up until 5pm on the 18 April. Existing postal voters will receive their packs from Wednesday 19 April and new applicants will receive theirs around Tuesday 25 April.

Notice this? So do your clients! Advertise here.

TAKE the chance to advertise your business or organisation in 'this is Redcar and Cleveland' – one of the best read publications in the area.

This magazine is published three times a year, is delivered to more than 62,000 homes in all corners of the borough and was voted the public's favourite source of council news and information in two major council surveys.

To find out more email christopher.webber@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Terms and conditions apply.



Open book:
New library and community hub opens in Ormesby



p4

Clean sweep:
Clifford Forward, 11, of New Marske, one of the winners of a road sweeper naming competition



this is Redcar & Cleveland is free to residents and if you, or someone you know, doesn't receive a copy please email communications@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk. Also contact the team if you are visually impaired and want the magazine in a different type size. The magazine is printed by Precision Colour Printing on part-recycled paper and is recyclable.



Exciting projects: See how towns and villages will be transformed in the coming year

p18

Annual Review: Find out what has been achieved and improved across the borough in the past year

p21

Ask For Angela

A PROVEN safety initiative, which ensures anyone who is in Redcar town centre on an evening out can seek help, has been rolled out. Anyone who feels unsafe, vulnerable or threatened when visiting Redcar town centre bars, clubs and licensed businesses taking part in the 'Ask for Angela' scheme, will be able to seek help with their situation from venue staff by asking them for "Angela." Using this code phrase will indicate to staff you require help with your situation, maybe by being seen safely to a taxi, or by calling venue security or the police. Venues supporting 'Ask for Angela' have been offered training so they can help customers who tell them they are in a situation making them feel vulnerable and unsafe by asking for 'Angela'. Venues supporting the scheme will display the "Ask for Angela" posters. The Council has received CURV (Crime Unit Reduction of Violence) funding to roll the initiative out in Coatham ward initially. If successful, the plan is to roll out the scheme borough wide. Cleveland Police are supporting the campaign.

"Hi I'm Angela"

Are you on a date that isn't working out?
does it all feel a bit weird?

If you go to the bar and ask for "Angela" the bar staff will know you need some help getting out of your situation and will call you a taxi or help you out discreetly - without fuss

#askforangela

NATIONAL PUB WATCH stronger together

www.nationalpubwatch.org.uk
ADMIN@NATIONALPUBWATCH.ORG.UK



MAGICAL STORIES:
Professional storyteller
Elizabeth Baker entrances
Year 5 children from
Overfields Primary

Open book! New library and hub reopens

A MUCH-LOVED library and community hub at the heart of the community has opened its doors once again after a major refurbishment.

Ormesby Library opened in the 1960s but was becoming tired-looking and has been transformed into a modern library and vibrant community hub the whole community can enjoy.

It's hoped the only community building in the Ormesby ward will have increased use as a library but also as a community centre.

The interior has been redesigned to create a place for people to meet, learn, play, explore and connect. It boasts a new flexible meeting and events space to allow multiple uses of the building at any time. The furniture chosen can be easily moved to create an even bigger space to enable the venue to be used for lots of activities. It is now a modern space which realises the potential and power of what a library and community hub can be. An improved heating and light system has been put in place.

It has already proven to be a hit with the first members of the

public to walk through the doors. Children from nearby Overfields Primary School enjoyed hearing stories from professional storyteller Elizabeth Baker to celebrate the reopening.

Headteacher Tracy Watson explained the school had used the library and community space a lot and had missed it. She said: "It's as if someone knocked it down and started again – I'm really impressed. To us, there is nothing more important than a child being able to open a book and read so it's been lovely to see the children itching for the place to reopen."

It wasn't just younger members of the community who enjoyed the first day. Marie Toombs, 97, explained she uses the space as a place to meet people and find information. She said: "I think it's



NOW OPEN: Ormesby Community Hub and Library

wonderful. There's so much light and space – whoever designed it knew what they were doing."

It's hoped the community hub and library will be used for events, including film nights and even music nights, as well as for community groups and a small conference-style space for meetings. The building is also being used as a warm space where people may get tea and coffee during the cost of living crisis.

Library consultation

THE Council wants to hear your views on what you value most about our libraries and what you'd like to see in future. To complete a survey, visit our online community engagement platform <https://redcarcleveland.uk.engagementq.com/> where you'll find a link to the survey on the main page. If you would prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey, please ask at your local library.

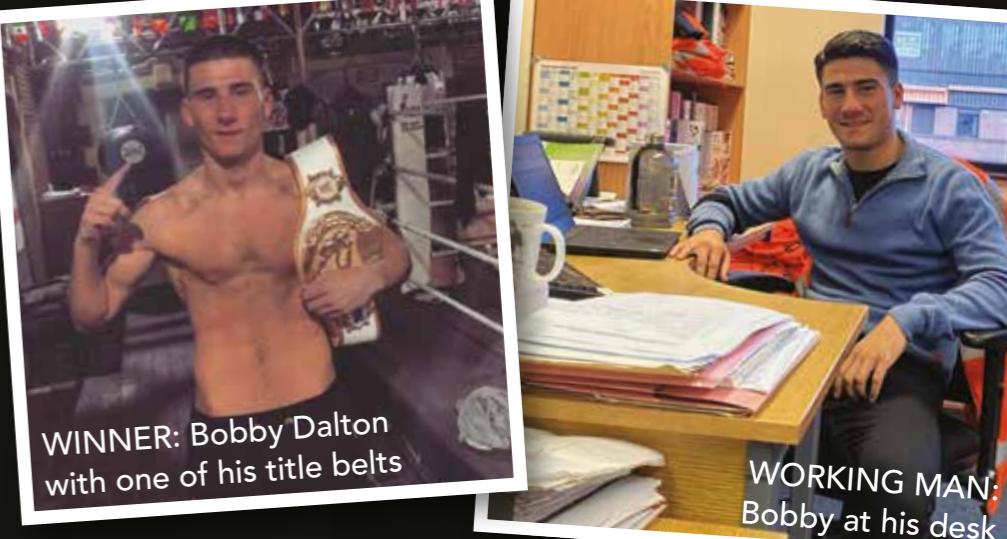
Boxing Bobby!

BOBBY Dalton spends many days in a classroom learning about drainage systems as a council apprentice...but at night you may just find him fighting his way to stardom in the professional boxing ring.

For Bobby, 24, of Redcar, is a professional welterweight who has won all three of his professional fights at Newcastle Arena after winning a string of amateur titles.

He turned professional after somehow managing to work full-time on the borough's roads as a Highways Operative and working hard to make it as a boxer at the same time. Now he has grabbed a chance to take on an apprenticeship in civil engineering.

"I'm up training every day before work and then I'm right back at it every night," says Bobby, who lives with his long-term girlfriend.



WINNER: Bobby Dalton with one of his title belts

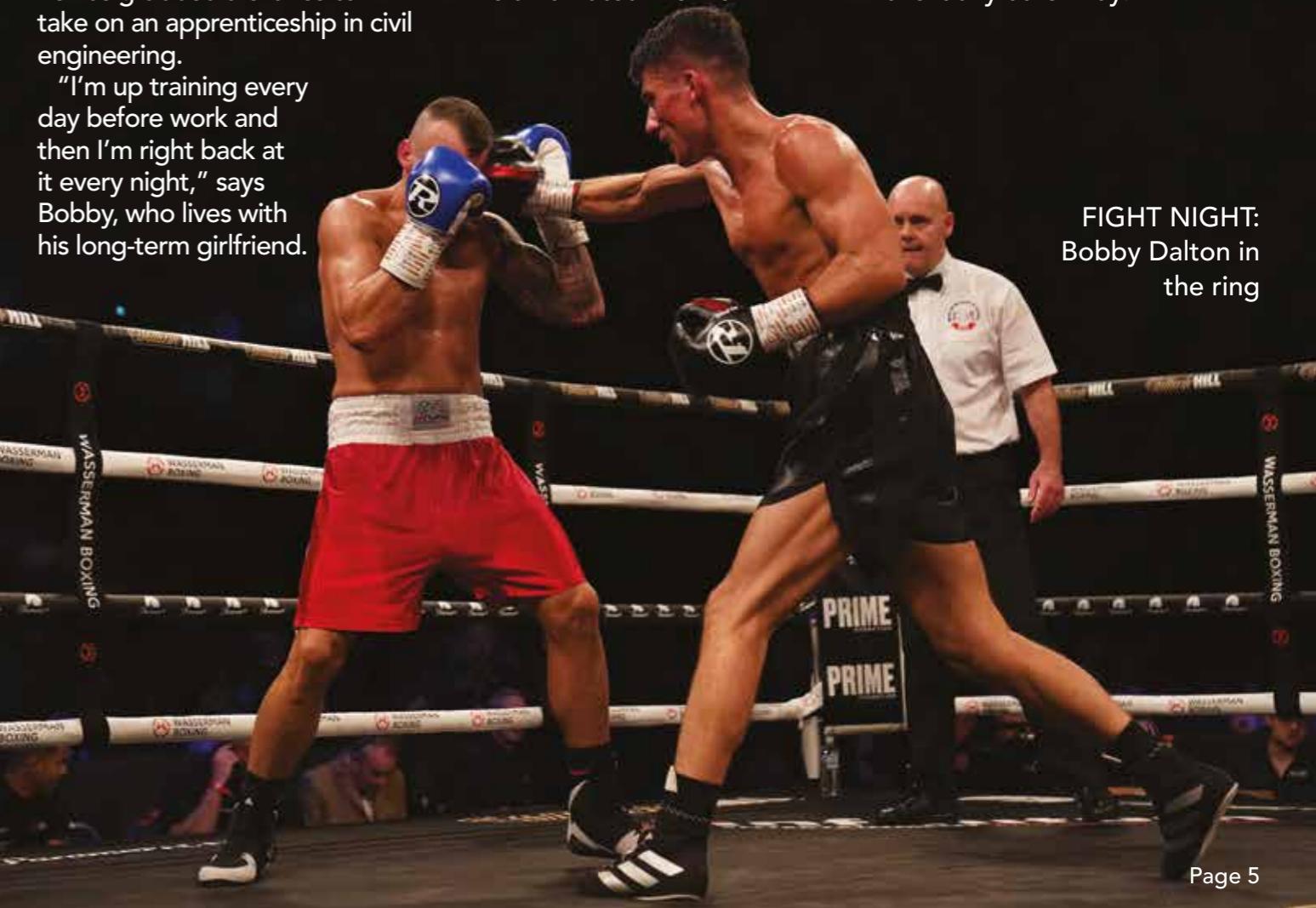
"But I'm as dedicated to my apprenticeship. It's a great chance for me to build a career and I'm loving being at college two days a week. I'm really grateful for the chance. Boxing doesn't bring in much money and I knew not to put all my eggs in one basket."

Bobby explains he started boxing aged 11 with Redcar's Frankie Wales before moving on to the Phil Thomas gym in Middlesbrough where he is coached by Craig Carney.

As an amateur he won

fame and plaudits across the North-East before turning professional after 50 fights. He won the Tyne, Tees, Wear belt, the North-East Championship belt in his age category and the 71 Kilo Elite Belt.

"I think I was the best in the North-East for my age," says Bobby, "and I'm more determined than ever as a professional. It's a real dual life, learning about drainage systems in the day and fighting my heart out at night – and I wouldn't have it any other way!"

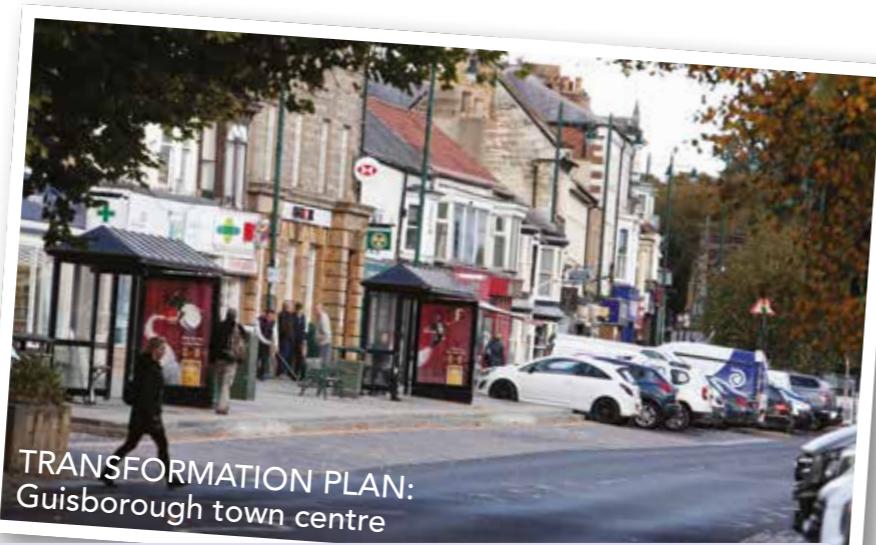


FIGHT NIGHT:
Bobby Dalton in the ring

Huge investment in town centre

GUISBOROUGH Town Centre will be transformed thanks to a successful funding bid.

JUST under £20 million will be invested for key projects in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency following a successful bid for the Government's Levelling Up Fund. This was pulled together jointly by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Middlesbrough Council.



TRANSFORMATION PLAN:
Guisborough town centre

A total of £15 million will now go towards the regeneration of Guisborough town centre. This includes:

- improvement works on Westgate, Bakehouse Square and Chaloner Street by realigning car parking areas, providing outdoor retail space, street furniture, signage, trees and CCTV;
- environmental improvements around the Chapel Beck area to create an attractive recreation space for visitors;
- landscaping and play improvement to the King George V Playing Field replacing recreation apparatus to promote natural play and deliver a new skate park;
- a Town Centre Commercial Grant Scheme – to assist private businesses with shopfront and property improvements in keeping with the conservation area;
- providing a new sustainable active travel route (cycling and walking) from Guisborough to Nunthorpe, via the Guisborough Forest and Woodland Walkway Visitor Centre. This route is off road in the rural central section with connections to existing and proposed cycle routes for onward travel to East Cleveland, central Teesside and North Yorkshire including the North York Moors National Park;

A total of £4.812 million will go towards the Newham Grange highway scheme (B1365) to help unlock the site for additional housing in Middlesbrough. This includes funding the delivery of around 800 houses on the Middlesbrough Council-owned site at Coulby Newham.

A second bid submitted by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council which was made on behalf of Redcar's constituency and would have transformed Eston, was unsuccessful.



Guisborough Forest and Walkway Centre will have better access and parking

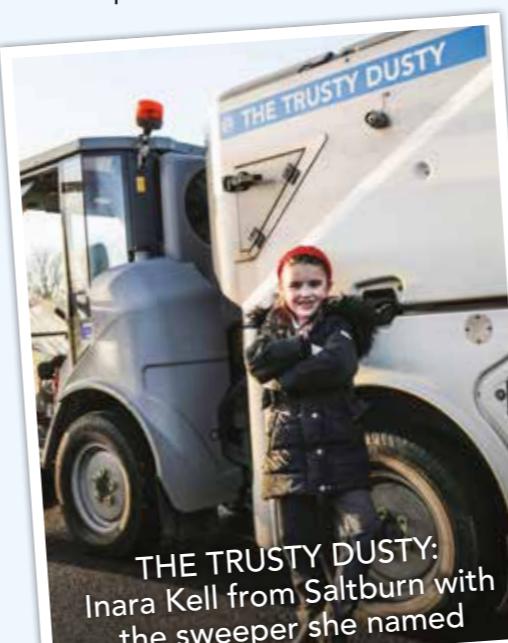


COMPETITION WINNERS: Abi Prunty, nine, Inara Kell, six, Edward Prest, 11 months and his Mum Michelle, Sophie Prunty, seven and Clifford Forward, 11

YOUNG people have dusted off their thinking caps in a competition to name seven of the Council's new street sweepers.

Meet Obi-Wan Cleanobi, the Trusty Dusty, Orlando Broom, Clean up Clarence, Sweepasaurus Rex, Sweepy Jean and Clean Cleo – the new names for the Council's magnificent seven new street sweepers.

The winning names take pride of place on the side of the new



THE TRUSTY DUSTY:
Inara Kell from Saltburn with
the sweeper she named

sweepers so residents can look out for them on their grime busting missions.

Inara Kell, aged six from Saltburn, who came up with one of the winning names, 'The Trusty Dusty', said: "I chose 'The Trusty Dusty' because it sounds funny - it makes me think of something that cleans and dusts and is trusty to use. I'll be very excited to see it on the streets because naming it almost makes me feel like I'm the one driving it.

"I'm also very happy to have won the book vouchers because I love reading. I'd like to buy Charlie and the Chocolate Factory or another Roald Dahl book."

Sisters Abi Prunty, nine, and Sophie Prunty, seven, who thought of the name, 'Clean up Clarence', added: "We loved trying to think up names for the street sweepers, it was good fun, and it was really exciting to find out we had won!"

"We hope it really makes a



CLEAN-UP CLARENCE: Sisters Sophie Prunty (left) and Abi Prunty with their street sweeper

difference to litter around the area, especially near the beach. We always pick up rubbish on the beach - it's so easy to do and if everybody did it would make a big difference."

Last year the Council bought seven new street sweepers which play an important role in keeping the borough clean and green. Three of the sweepers run on climate-friendly hydrotreated vegetable oil fuel which produces 92% less CO2 emissions than diesel and contributed to the Council winning an Alternative Fuel Vehicle Champion Award at the national Green Fleet Awards.



Proud to Care

Be part of something special



Jasmine Grey, Care Assistant for Caremark which provides care in people's homes in East Cleveland, said:

"I studied care at college and got my NVQs in Health and Social Care and then did placements and it is always something I wanted to do, to help other people."

"We get to help people in ways no-one else can – it is so worthwhile and totally different than other jobs."

If you would like a career you can be proud of, that is rewarding and flexible and makes a real difference to your community, then a career in care could be for you.

To search for a job in care near you please visit www.indeed.co.uk or www.adultsocialcare.co.uk/job-search.aspx

this is Redcar & Cleveland

Meet our Social Work Academy's first recruits

THE first 'graduates' of an innovative social work council academy for children's social workers are about to start work.

The Council's Children's Social Work Academy is designed to help new social workers begin their first cases with confidence after receiving extra support and guidance.

And three new recruits, who have all recently qualified as social workers, were already benefitting from the scheme at the time of the launch of the academy project in January.

Simone Handley, 29, explained she wanted to work in safeguarding but had no working experience so she knew the academy will be the right place to start her career. "The team has been really supportive and eased me into my role," said Simone. "They broke the process down for us and now we are fully prepared to take on our own cases."

Beth Weatherall, 22, who graduated from Teesside University, said: "At the beginning I was a bit nervous



to take my own case but now I am confident in my skills."

Beth Brooks, who is also 22 and graduated from Teesside University, said: "I'm mostly shadowing until I am ready to get a case of my own, but I'm excited to develop my skills."

Newly qualified workers will spend eight to 10 months within the Academy, being

supervised and supported, then progressing into a social work team, with additional mentoring support from advanced practitioners for a further two months. For further information and to request an application form, please email amanda.baxtrem@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Domestic abuse and substance misuse – help available

DO you think you may be experiencing domestic abuse? Do you need help with your drug and/or alcohol use? If the answer is yes to one or both of these then THRIVE, which is an integrated domestic abuse and drug and alcohol service, is on hand to help. No-one is turned away from this one-stop service. If you need help contact: We Are With You - www.wearewithyou.org.uk which provides

substance misuse provision, Harbour - www.myharbour.org.uk which provides domestic abuse services or Intuitive Thinking Skills - www.intuitivethinkingskills.co.uk which provides recovery and independence programmes.

Or for further information and advice please contact THRIVE on 0300 3033781 or email THRIVE.WithYou@NHS.net

A place to call home

A COUPLE have told of how they've opened their home to give young people leaving care a safe place to start out in life.

Julie Felgate and Jim Lackenby, from Skelton, started as foster carers, but 10 years ago started providing a home to youngsters aged 16 and over under the Council's Supported Lodgings and Staying Put schemes.

These days they have two men, Taylor and Joe, both 20, living with them and explain that both first came as foster children before staying on under one of the two support schemes for young care leavers. Joe has been with them for eight years and Taylor has been with them, off and on, for 11.



HOME: Julie Felgate, Jim Lackenby, Taylor Mac Gill and Joe Murphy

becoming a foster carer and Supporting Lodgings host.

Julie, who works as a Business Support Assistant for Children Services at the Council, adds: "They're both really good kids. Taylor started to become more focused on what he wants to do in the future and Joe has found a job. It's nice to see them both doing well."

They advise any people who would want to do Supported Lodgings or Staying Put to be patient and honest with each other. "But try to keep it entertaining at the same time," comments Jim. "And make sure they know where the washing up liquid is!" adds Julie.

If you can provide a home to a teenager or young person over 16 and you want to get involved with Staying Put and Supported Lodgings, please call 01287 612645 or email Vivienne.Hall@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk. Hosts receive financial support of £175 per week for a placement through the Council.

Joe, who has recently got a job in TC Industries in Carlin How, explains that staying with Jim and Julie is "the best place I've ever been in. Me and Taylor have known each other for years, we're like brothers."

Taylor is also thinking about what he wants to do in the future. "I've worked on site for a building company, and I like these kind of hands-down jobs that are more practical. I also like going to the gym, keeping fit and being active."

"Having Joe and Taylor with us has been difficult at times, but fun. Seeing them succeed is the most rewarding part of doing this," says Jim, who used to work at the steelworks before

Neil and Janette celebrate a fostering ruby milestone

Neil and Janette Dewsbury have just celebrated their 40th anniversary of foster caring – and they're still going strong.

"IT started with a little lad staying one night 40 years ago," remembers Neil Dewsbury. "We were just concentrating on that little two-year-old boy that night. We never thought we'd be here 40 years later!"

Neil and Janette, now both in their 60s and living in Liverton Mines, know exactly what became of that toddler. "He comes round for lunch every Sunday," laughs Neil.

The couple are our borough's most experienced foster carers. "It would be impossible to say how many children and young people we've cared for," says Neil. And it is testament to their commitment to fostering that in 2019 they received MBEs for their commitment to vulnerable children.

Neil and Janette are rightfully proud of the children and young people they've fostered over the years. "We have a little photo gallery of lots of them," say the couple, "we still talk about them all the time and sometimes we get updates about them. We started off caring for children on a long-term basis, so cared for five or six children in the first 17 years or so but through the years we've looked after all ages, including children with learning disabilities, those with physical disabilities, a teenager



CARING: Neil and Janette Dewsbury

from North Africa and children for respite." More recently, the couple have cared for babies, young children, and even supported parents through parent and child placements.

The couple who successfully combined fostering whilst working and raising their own children admit that fostering is not an easy path, but they stress the rewards it brings. Janette explained that seeing the children after they have moved on from their care and thriving is "a lovely thing to see". Neil explained: "One thing you need to foster - apart from real commitment and not being shocked too easily - is a sense of humour. Don't expect things

to go smoothly or perfectly but, if you hang in there, you will see the results and it can be amazing – it's so lovely to see a happier child. I can't think of anything more rewarding."



Fostering

Could you help change the future of a child or young person?
Contact the fostering team on 01642 444087 or visit <https://fostering.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/>

OPEN EVENTS!

We offer a wide range of full-time courses, T Levels and apprenticeships for ages 16-18!

Thursday 16th March 2023

School leavers (16-18) event

Tuesday 25th April 2023

Higher education (19+) online event

Wednesday 17th May 2023

School leavers (16-18) event

All events are 5pm-7pm

Full-time courses (16-18):

BEAUTY THERAPY | BRICKLAYING | CARPENTRY & JOINERY | CHILDCARE | COMPUTING & IT | CREATIVE MEDIA | ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION | ENGINEERING | FOUNDATION LEARNING | HAIRDRESSING | HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE | MULTI-SKILLS | PLASTERING | PLUMBING | POLICING | PUBLIC SERVICES | SPORT

Higher education courses (19+):

COUNSELLING | EARLY YEARS | EDUCATION AND TRAINING | ENGINEERING | HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE | SUPPORTING TEACHING AND LEARNING (STL).

Access to higher education (19+):

ACCESS TO HE HEALTH | ACCESS TO HE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES | ACCESS TO COUNSELLING

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: WWW.CLEVELAND.AC.UK/OPEN-EVENTS

01642 473132 | INFO@CLEVELAND.AC.UK | WWW.CLEVELAND.AC.UK



etc.

Tree-mendous effort!

THE planting of more than 19,000 trees across Redcar and Cleveland this winter is in full swing as the Council continues its drive to create a greener borough.

The mixed native trees will help increase biodiversity in the area and support the Council's ambition to become a carbon neutral borough by 2030. They are being planted at 25 sites across the borough ranging from 2,000 at Whale Hill, 2,000 at Pit Park, Boosbeck and 1,000 at New Marske woods.

Planting trees helps to remove pollution from the air as well as making our urban and rural environment a more green and pleasant place for everyone to enjoy.



TREE PLANTING: Ian Piggins and Aaron Mackenzie planting trees in Eston

Fight against plastic pollution

MARSK Litter Action have a new weapon at their disposal in their fight to remove plastic pollution from our beaches. When using them we could be mistaken for a character from the Ghostbusters film, but this is important work."

The volunteer group use a special vacuum machine developed by environmental organisation Nurdle, in partnership with Karcher, to separate nurdles, a harmful microplastic about the size of a coffee granule, from the sand.

Nurdles are a harmful pollutant that are the raw materials for all plastic products. They eventually end up in the sea and get washed up on our beaches and can be mistaken for food by birds and marine life.

Carolyn Granthier, the founder of the group, said: "The machines were kindly gifted to the group and they do a great job of helping remove plastic

pollution from the beach. Using them we could be mistaken for a character from the Ghostbusters film, but this is important work."

The best way to reduce nurdle (and other microplastic) pollution is to reduce demand for plastic products. Using recycled plastics is more environmentally friendly, as it conserves natural resources and reduces waste.

Marske Litter Action provide access to equipment and organise coordinated litter picks. You can get involved by visiting their Facebook page or emailing marskelitteraction@hotmail.com.



PLASTIC POLLUTION:
Carolyn Granthier using the machine to remove Nurdles from Marske beach

Electric vehicle charging rollout

PLANS to provide more EV Charging points across the Borough are progressing well with several sites going live recently.

Additional charging points are now located at Fishermans Square, Seafield House, West Dyke Road (south) and Civic Centre car parks in Redcar, Cat Nab car park in Saltburn, Fountain Street long stay car park in Guisborough and North Road car park in Loftus.

The Central Depot in Dormanstown and Skelton Depot also have new EV chargers to support the council's ever-expanding fleet of electric vehicles.

Further sites have been flagged up and are being surveyed for suitability.

A map showing the location of all EV chargers is available on the website under Maps Redcar and Cleveland EV Charging Points www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/maps.



For further information please visit
www.greenerfuture@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Boost for Family Hubs

FAMILIES across the borough will receive extra support thanks to a £2.6 million funding boost.

The Council is one of 75 local authorities across the country to receive Government funding for Family Hubs which provide support to parents and carers of children and young people aged to 19.

The funding will help transform and improve both the range and availability of services at existing family hubs - including health visiting and maternity services.

A new 'Start for Life' Offer is also being developed which will provide parents and prospective parents with a guide about what to expect through the first 1001 days of a child's life, from the antenatal period through to aged two years. Other support for new parents of children aged two and under will include help with infant-parent relationships, mental health, parenting and support for infant feeding. There is also a separate focus on supporting children aged three and four years who were born at the height of the pandemic who may need extra support with their communication and language development.

Find out more about family hubs on the Council website at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk



FAMILY TIME:
Grangetown
Family Hub

What goes in your blue recycling bin



No thank you X

- X All types of plastic bags (all colours)
- X Food waste or any items with grease and food residues
- X Clothes / textiles / bedding
- X Nappies
- X Takeaway boxes
- X Polystyrene
- X Electrical items /batteries

Yes please ✓

- ✓ Cans & tins (aluminium & steel)
- ✓ Cardboard (clean & dry)
- ✓ Plastic pots, tubs & trays
- ✓ Glass bottles & jars
- ✓ Plastic bottles

Paper container

- ✓ All mail, including envelopes (with windows)
- ✓ Newspapers & magazines
- ✓ Catalogues
- ✓ Paper

The top 5 items mistakenly put in recycling X

1) Plastic bags: Processing machinery does not recognise bags containing recyclable items. Please empty any recyclable items into your blue bin and place the plastic bag in the household waste bin. Alternatively, take plastic bags to your nearest supermarket that offers plastic bag recycling.

2) Textiles: These can be taken to Dunsdale Recycling Centre to be recycled.

3) Food waste: Leftovers, even containers covered in food/grease, cannot be recycled and should also be placed in your household waste bin.

4) Nappies: Not recyclable items. Please dispose of them into household waste bins.

5) Polystyrene: We are unable to recycle. Please put it in your household waste bin.

Go green to cut bills

ENERGY bills have risen in the last year and are still unpredictable. If you are struggling, extra help may be available depending on your circumstances. Redcar & Cleveland Warm & Well service can provide advice and information on grants and other types of support to help households reduce energy bills through free insulation measures, improved heating systems and winter-related benefits.

Further information is available on our website at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/housing/housing-standards/energy-efficiency-and-housing or phone 01642 771289.

Land of Iron museum opens its doors



A BRAND-NEW state-of-the-art attraction celebrating our industrial heritage is now open.

Land of Iron is the new name for Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum in Skinningrove. The new name reflects the unique experience that visitors will go through when they step foot in the museum, following its £2.3 million revamp.

Standing on the site of the first ironstone mine in Cleveland, Land of Iron allows people to get up close and explore the story of Britain's Iron Valley and the people that powered it.

This hands-on journey will

Opening times:

Land of Iron is currently open Monday and Fridays, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm). Free car parking is available on site.

Ticket prices: Adult - £10 | Child (3-15 years) - £5 | Under 3s/Essential carers - Free | Student*/Senior - £7.50 | Family ticket – £22.50

*Students must provide a valid NUS card or proof of age is required for school/sixth form students

There is 20% off ticket price for residents of Redcar and Cleveland. To book visit <https://landofiron.org.uk>

take visitors back 150 years to a time of industrial revolution when the area and its people supplied over a third of the world's iron and steel.

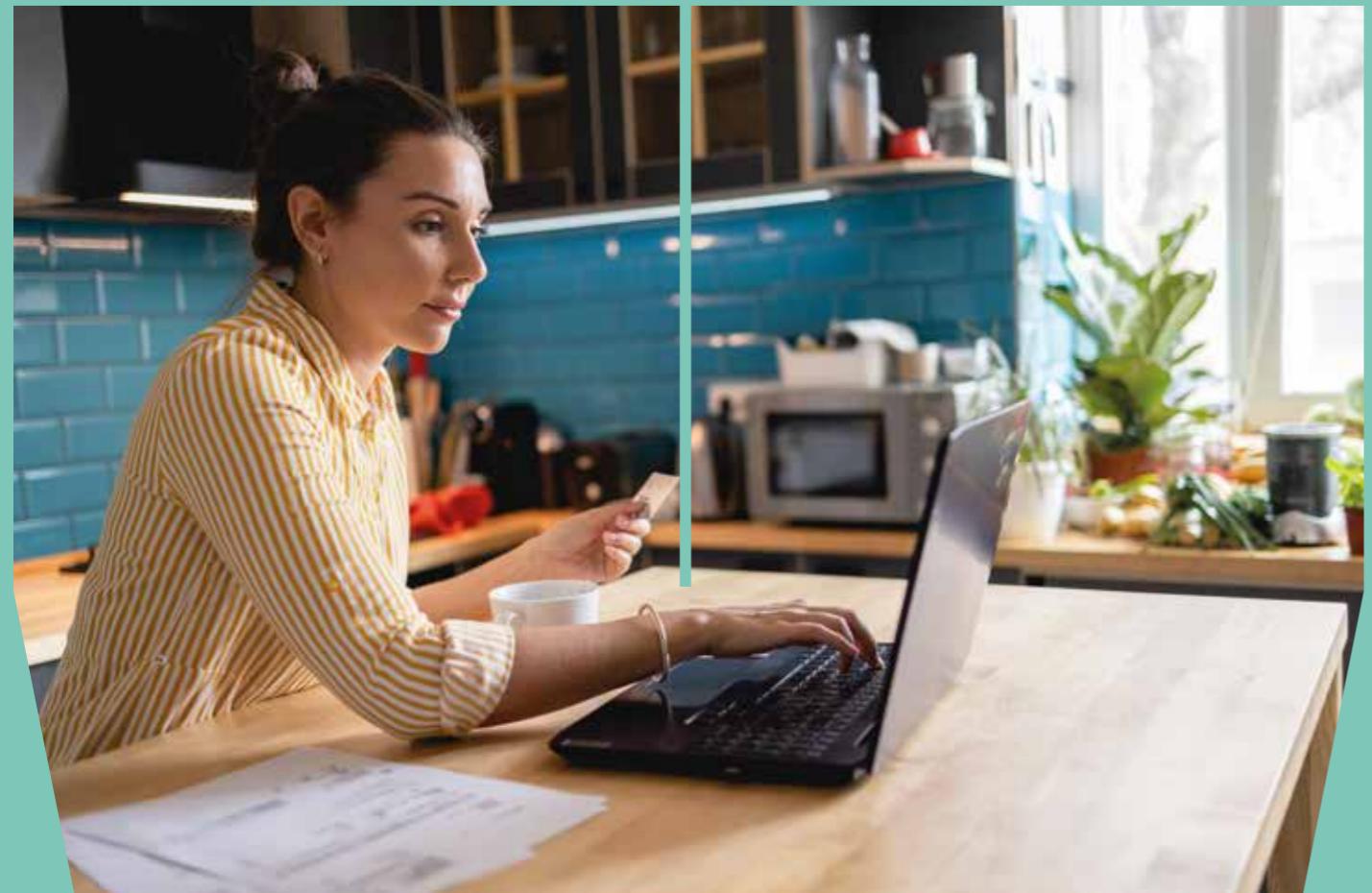
The exhibition is interactive and designed with every age in mind.

Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, £1.445 million was invested into the expansion project, known as 'Room to Grow'. Further funding of £800,000 had been received from the Coastal Communities Fund, £200,000 from the Tees Valley Combined Authority and £50,000 from private donations.

NOT A NUMBERS PERSON?

You're not alone. Three in ten (31%) of UK adults don't think numbers are for them.

Free, flexible maths courses could help.



Search Tees Valley Multiply



TEES
VALLEY

Multiply

A new life after war

Two families who escaped the misery of war in Syria have told of how dedicated support workers and members of the public gave them a second chance at life.

A YOUNG mother picks up her baby in her living room as she chats to her mum and mother-in-law. It's the kind of everyday scene which could be found in any home in Britain on any day...but this simple moment hides a truth that this is a family escaping the misery of war.

That mother, Ranim Saleh was forced to flee Syria with her family aged 19. Her younger sisters, 15 and 11, escaped with her along with their mother, Faten, and father. They didn't plan on coming to Britain, still less a town called Redcar they'd never heard of. Instead they made it to Egypt, only later coming to our country as part of an international scheme.

Ranim's mother-in-law Lina Falahoghali, 60, tells a similar story as she holds her toddler grandson on the sofa. As war ravaged she and her family, including son Anas, fled to Lebanon, only later being moved to our area through an international resettlement scheme.

This desperate situation eventually led to a much happier one - romance for Ranim and Anas which has led to marriage and now two children, a boy, 18 months, and a new-born boy. It's proof that life goes on. But sometimes life needs a little help and for these families that help came in the form of Refugee Resettlement Team's support workers like Ebtisam Elwsayef.

Ranim and Ebtisam outline the sometimes surprising problems refugees face. Ebtisam explains: "A big thing is official letters. It sounds strange to British people but in the Middle East things like hospitals, doctors, benefits information and appointments – anything official – is usually done face to face."

A serious long-term problem for these families is transferring professional skills. Before coming to the UK, Anas was an electrical engineer here he must



HONEYMOON: Anas Al Husami and Ranim Saleh on honeymoon in Scotland

prove himself all over again by gaining a new qualification – all in a second language. It's a process which could take five years – frustrating for a young, family man.

These problems haven't stopped either of these families working as volunteers and Ranim, who with her family is deeply worried about the recent devastating earthquakes back in Syria, herself even briefly worked for Unicef in London. And they are contributing long term. Ranim is studying computing at Teesside University and her sister is studying pharmacy at Liverpool University.



NEW START: Faten Birakdar, Support Worker Ebtisam Elwsayer, new mum Ranim Saleh and Lina Falahoghali

Redcar and Cleveland's key construction projects -

What you'll see in 2023

RESIDENTS of Redcar and Cleveland will see parts of the borough transformed this year, as key construction projects will begin to take shape.

The Council's aim is to deliver landmark projects to create jobs, increase pride and improve quality of life, as well as provide an exciting cultural and visitor offer for everyone to enjoy.

The construction of an **18-hole adventure golf course** and a **children's outdoor play area** on Redcar's seafront will finish this spring.

The golf course will be called "Frosty Penguins' Putting Adventure" and will sit alongside the quality play area based on a nautical theme. The eastern side of Majuba Road car park and part of the demolished buildings site will see new grassed areas, landscaping, lighting, and a re-modelled car park. The new car park and grassed recreational area created on the old Bowl site will open in the spring.

The project has been funded via the "Welcome to" Fund, which is administered by Tees Valley Combined Authority and Redcar Town Deal funding which was granted by the Government.



The **Coastal Activity Hub** on Redcar's seafront is also expected to open this summer. A unique shipping container village will host a range of activities, sports and events which could include the likes of windsurfing, kiteboarding, horse-riding, running, cycling and yoga, alongside public toilets, showers and changing rooms.

The hub has already secured interest from British Triathlon and British Cycling to run community events.

The project will be funded by TVCA and the Redcar Town Deal Fund.



For more information on Redcar Town Deal projects, please visit: redcartowndeal.com



Conservation works will also begin on **Redcar Central Station** this summer.

The Grade II listed building will be transformed from an empty, dilapidated building into a vibrant, welcoming gateway to the town and will function both as a leisure and retail hub as well as a key transport link. It will have rail facilities including ticket machines, travel information and covered waiting areas.

A total of £5.950 million from the Redcar Growth Zone and "Welcome to" Fund administered by TVCA, has been allocated to the project.

The Council's Regulatory Committee approved plans in February for a new family attraction to be built, which will be known as the **Culture and Leisure Anchor Attraction**. This will transform Redcar's High Street and Esplanade and create a new outdoor events space.

This means the former M&S building and Goodwins will be demolished this spring, and construction of the attraction will begin in the summer.

The **Town Centre Transformation** project will also commence later in the year, this project also funded by the Redcar Town Deal, will see the town centre high street, the Esplanade and Station Road transformed with new paving, planting, trees, seating areas and lighting.

The **Clean Energy Education Hub** at Redcar & Cleveland College, which is funded by the



Redcar Town Deal, will be completed this spring and courses will commence throughout the year. The hub will help prepare people, and deliver the skills needed, for future green jobs coming to the area.



Works to make the **former United Reformed Church** in Loftus structurally safe and water-tight are complete.

The refurbishment will concentrate on making the church a working space for a group of artists who are keen to work closely with the community, helping local people learn more about the arts and getting creatively involved.

A total of £1.35 million has been secured from the Council's Indigenous Growth Fund administered by TVCA for this project.



This autumn, the library in Loftus will be relocated to **Duncan Place**, which is being renovated and extended under the Future High Streets scheme. The library building located at Hall Grounds will be demolished.

Duncan Place will bring together several council services under one improved and extended building including a modern library, revitalised spaces for youth and family

Temperance Square in Loftus is to be transformed. Planning permission has been granted to demolish the existing buildings in the area and build a new single-story Employment and Skills Hub.

This will aim to reduce unemployment numbers within Loftus and wider East Cleveland, encourage new business start-ups and increase the number of training and skills courses on offer.

A total of £1.8 million of the Future High Streets Fund has been dedicated to this scheme, as well as £760,000 from the Indigenous Growth Fund administered by TVCA. To find out more about the Loftus Masterplan and other projects happening in Loftus through 2023, please visit www.loftusmasterplan.co.uk





Are you entitled to a Council Tax reduction?

THE 2023 Council Tax bills will start being delivered from this week...but might you be entitled to a reduction or even be exempt from paying completely?

Did you know the Council has support schemes that can cover up to 100% of your council tax liability if you are of state pension age - or up to 82.5% of your council tax liability if you are working age but in a low income household, e.g. living on pension credit, benefits or low earnings.

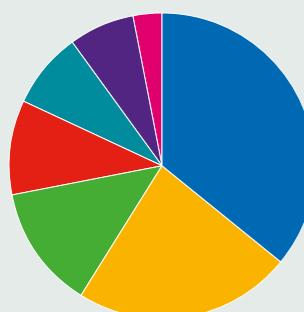
Some properties can have a reduction in council tax because they have been adapted for a

disabled person. Another way people have their bill reduced is if they are living alone with single people entitled to a 25% discount. You still count as living alone if another person in your home is under 18, on certain apprenticeship schemes, aged 18 or 19 years old and in full-time education, severely mentally impaired or live-in carers for people who aren't their partner, spouse or child under 18.

To find out about discounts and exemptions and how to apply visit www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk and click on 'council tax discounts and exemption'.

Where Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council spends its funding

For every £1,000 we receive in funding, we spend it on:



We receive funding for schools and Housing Benefit claims but the level of this funding is set by Government and the Council cannot influence this.

Need help? Here's where to find it:

LOTS of us are feeling the pinch this winter as the cost of living rises. Below is a list of organisations and support services who may be able to help.

Redcar and Cleveland Money Advice

This service, provided by the Council and partners, aims to ensure that you have access to financial information, advice and support covering: benefit entitlement and disputes, dealing with debt, affordable housing, improving digital skills, accessing community banking, planning for retirement, budgeting support and help with utilities. To access the service either visit: <https://redcar-cleveland-self.achieveservice.com> or call 01642 771166

Money Helper

Free and impartial help with money matters, backed by government.

www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en

Redcar Citizens Advice

enquiries@rccitizensadvice.co.uk
01642 030000

South Tees Affordable Warmth Partnership

warmhomes@menvcity.org.uk
0800 304 7084

Carers Together

info@carerstogether-rc.org.uk
01642 488977

Stop loan sharks

www.stoploansharks.co.uk/
0300 555 2222

Credit Unions/Community Banks

South Tees Community Bank;
www.southteescommunitybank.org.uk/ or call 0191 2767963 or email admin@moneywise.org.uk

Annual Review 2022/23

THE next five pages are dedicated to a review of the year. Four key areas have been identified as the focus for the borough. They are: Bringing Prosperity and Improving the Appearance of the Borough, Tackling Climate Change and Improving our Environment, Investing in the Long Term and Meeting Residents' Needs.

Read the following pages to find out what has been achieved.

Annual News Review

THE year 2022 will forever be remembered as the year Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away.

Her Majesty reigned for 70 years and our Mayor, Cllr Stuart Smith, summed up the feelings of many following her death in September. He said: "Throughout both happy and challenging times, she was an inspirational figure to us all and always put her country first...she will be greatly missed by people worldwide."

The Union flag was lowered in public buildings and many shared their memories of the Queen in official Books of Condolence.

Other major themes of the year was the continuing emergence of the Covid pandemic followed by the cost of living crisis which involved a major community response including establishing warm spaces in buildings across the borough.

Happier stories included the opening of the restored Guisborough Town Hall in April and, in May, the borough became the focus of the region when a realistic-looking 'whale' was washed up on Redcar beach to highlight environmental issues. The Queen's Jubilee in June was joyful although it now seems more poignant following Her Majesty's sad death. The baton relay for the Commonwealth Games came to our area in July and, in November, an iconic part of the borough's skyline changed forever when the former Redcar Steelworks' blast furnace was demolished.

Plans for the next year include exciting developments to improve and invest in the borough and it is expected more progress will be made attracting serious investment to the Teesworks industrial site and the focus on creating a greener, carbon-neutral borough will continue.



REMEMBERING THE QUEEN: The Queen visiting Teesport in the 1970s



BIG DAY: A Day of fun was enjoyed at Zetland Park for the Queen's Jubilee in June



COMMONWEALTH GAMES: Baton Bearer Martin Glass in Saltburn



BEACHED: A realistic-looking whale on Redcar beach with the former steelworks' blast furnace in the background



COMMUNITY PRIDE: Many of our residents do their bit to keep our beautiful borough looking its best, including the South Gare Litter Pickers



MOVIE NIGHT: Cinema returned to the borough in October when The Regent opened its doors once again

Tackling climate change and enhancing our environment

A carbon neutral borough by 2030

PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

Supporting nature and biodiversity

Improving recycling rates

Bringing prosperity and improving the appearance of the borough

PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

Being more proactive in looking after the appearance of the borough

Delivering landmark projects to create jobs and improve quality of life

Creating an exciting and cultural visitor offer

What we did in 2022/23:

- The North East's first net carbon-neutral road resurfacing scheme was completed in Redcar.
- We now have solar panels on 14 Council buildings. This includes the panels recently installed on Redcar & Cleveland House which during the summer often meant no electricity was required from the national grid at all. There are also solar installations on 16 schools across the borough too.

- We've doubled the amount of dedicated electric vehicle charging for our fleet.
- We've trialled Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in our fleet as an alternative fuel to diesel.
- We're on track for almost 20% of our fleet to be zero or low emissions by summer.
- We have bought and started planting more than 19,000 trees as well as thousands of bulbs across 32 locations. Starting in the spring, a range of colourful

- flowers attracting bees and butterflies will appear and be a fixture year on year.
- The Council has supported the independent Redcar Town Deal Board to develop multi-million pound plans to transform Redcar. As part of the project, the Clean Energy Education Hub – an innovative training centre created with Redcar and Cleveland College which will help deliver the skills needed for our area's growing green economy - is nearing completion.

What we did in 2022/23:

- Work has continued to transform Loftus as part of the multi-million pound investment in the town. So far, Handale car park has been refurbished and the former Barclays building in the Market Place has been restored to provide additional commercial space and accommodation. We have also started work on a new community facility at Duncan Place as well progressing plans for the United Reform Church and Temperance Square.
- The Festival of Thrift was held at Kirkleatham bringing an estimated 50,000 visitors to our area.

- The Regent opened its doors to the public in October to rave reviews, selling 4,600 tickets in the first nine days. The Regent, which has brought cinema back to the borough, also won Building Project of the Year at the Constructing Excellence North East awards.
- More than 75% of apprenticeships ended with either a job or further training or education and 74 young people got a start on the paid work experience Kickstart programme.
- Grangetown Employment and Training Hub celebrated

its fifth year of helping people into work and training and initiated a new scheme, The Youth Shack, a three-week programme where young people take part in special volunteering and community projects.

The Council has worked with the independent Redcar Town Deal Board develop multi-million pound plans to transform Redcar which include creating an Outdoor Adventure Play Area, Coastal Activity Hub, Adventure Golf and a major leisure attraction.

NEW START:
An inspiring educationalist talks to children at the opening of a new specialist school in Eston



Investing for the long-term

PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

Ensuring community needs are better met

Working to ensure the borough receives its fair share of resources

Minimising the financial impact of the cost of living crisis on local people

What we did in 2022/23:

- A new school serving children across the borough – and the entire Tees Valley – opened in Eston. The Progress School on Fabian Road offers specialist support.
- Some 12,000 low-income households with about 6,000 children received a Household Support Fund assistance payment prior to the Christmas period 2022 using the latest government funding. This includes families with children that would be eligible for free school meals.
- Following its restoration Guisborough Town Hall opened its doors to the public, providing a prominent focal point in the

heart of the town. The new facility offers visitor accommodation, help and information, as well as business space.

■ We cemented our place as a premier destination for world class cycling events, attracting thousands of people in the process. We welcomed the Tour Series back to Guisborough in May and followed this with successfully hosting the start of Stage 4 of the Tour of Britain in September.

■ Our Welfare Rights Team helped more than 1,900 residents receive an additional £4.9 million in benefits.

■ The Council opened and improved the offer of dozens of community venues, including libraries, to the public with a

range of activities, hot drinks and snacks, to help ensure everyone stayed warm this winter.

■ We supported 669 unpaid carers with respite and also other support to help them continue in their caring role.

■ During 2022, we registered 2,671 children and their families through our Family Hubs (a 57% increase from 2021). A total of 1,465 individual children and young people registered with and accessed our youth club sessions across the borough and there were 15,751 attendances at our youth club sessions, compared to 2021.

■ Total spend with suppliers with a postcode in Redcar and Cleveland in 2022 was more than £42 million.



Meeting residents needs

PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

Improving people's long-term physical health and mental well-being and boosting exercise opportunities

Taking more preventative actions and support to keep people safe and to enable more children and older people to live safely at home

Strengthening partnerships with schools and colleges to ensure young people's aspirations are raised and they receive a better secondary school experience

What we did in 2022/23:

■ We have provided opportunities for a wide range of young people to get on the career ladder at the Council, be it through the apprenticeship scheme which employed 31 people, or through the Kickstart scheme which provided 72 unemployed young people from the area with a paid work placement. The Youth Employment Initiative also supported its 1,000th young person into employment.

■ The Council has taken a number of positive steps to safeguard and care for children and young people including developing a range of follow-on accommodation for young people aged 16 and above leaving care or unable to live at home safely. We

also have launched a social work academy to develop the next generation of social workers. Inspectors awarded a Good rating to our Health Visiting and School Nursing Service.

■ We have made progress in developing a supported living care community for older people and people with disabilities. This has included residents moving into 16 properties at Hummersea, Loftus as well as starting with the construction of additional properties in Kirkleatham.

■ Our Empowering Communities Team worked with charities and voluntary organisations to engage with more than 500 residents to support their mental wellbeing.

■ We became the first area in the Tees Valley to launch an award-winning scheme to give extra support to fostered children and their families. The Mockingbird programme aims to provide an extended family model for fostered children involving the kind of trips out, visits and sleepovers a child might receive in an extended family.

■ A total of 2,748 adaptions were made to people's homes to support and retain their independence and help them return home from hospital.

■ Some 262 people received support at the Meadowgate Centre which helps people leaving hospital to regain independent living and a further 322 people received specialist support to remain at home after illness or hospital stay.



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RYANAIR



MARELLA CRUISES

Bannatyne spa



FAIRWOODS TRAVEL



House of Zara



School matters!

Making sure our children go to school has a vital effect on life chances. We spoke to Rachel Glover, Principal of Mo Mowlam Academy, who works with children who have taken a lot of time off school.

"ENCOURAGING a child into attending school isn't all about doing well in exams. You see them happier, you even see them physically healthier - you see children transformed."

So says Rachel who works tirelessly to encourage children who don't attend school to start putting on that uniform and getting themselves through the school gate every morning.

Mo Mowlam Academy is a special school and Rachel is quick to point out that her team is able to take approaches not always available in mainstream education. However, she believes her school's innovative approach may provide some useful approaches and ideas for colleagues across the education system on how sometimes taking a different tack can yield big results.

"It's really worth it - we have so many examples of what a really positive effect just getting a child to school can have," says Rachel. "We have a Year 11 boy with us now who wasn't going to school at all. In fact, he wasn't ever leaving the house at all as his anxiety was so bad. Now we have him with us every day and what is really heartening is he goes to a café every Friday, interacting with people. He's also about to take his GCSEs."

Rachel outlines some of the strategies which break through to some of our most persistent absentee children. "Every



SCHOOL MATTERS:
Rachel Glover, Principal
at Mo Mowlam Academy
Special School in Redcar

child is different but we might begin with education at home and when they come in have them with a familiar, friendly face just for a few hours and then build it up slowly from there. They might actually start going somewhere else, for example we've had children having lessons and learning skills at the well-known bakery in Guisborough. If they're late we might not make that an issue – it's better than them not being in at all. We also build relationships with parents who often might feel they're being blamed.

"Obviously - and for very good reasons - a mainstream

school might take a more stringent approach. But for some children with particular issues a bit of thinking outside the box and creating a situation where they actually want to come to school can have a really big effect on a child with their life ahead of them."

FACT: Children with little absence from school are nearly three times more likely to achieve five or more GCSE passes, including maths and English. Those who leave with just one GCSE grade better than their counterparts are likely to earn on average over £200,000 more throughout their lives.

Spring events

Here's what you can expect to do in our towns and villages this spring. For updates on exciting events and activities in Redcar and Cleveland, please visit: www.enjoyredcleveland.co.uk



Montgomery Bonbon Murder Mystery Trail Until Friday 31 March Kirkleatham Museum & Grounds

Go undercover and test out your detective skills on this museum mystery trail, inspired by Montgomery Bonbon (aka Bonnie Montgomery) the world's greatest ten-year-old secret super sleuth! Organised by Kids in Museums and Walker Books to celebrate the release of Murder at the Museum, a new children's book written by Alasdair Beckett-King and illustrated by Claire Powell.



Tea dance First Tuesday of every month Loftus Town Hall, 2pm - 4pm Entry £1

Craft fair & coffee morning Second Saturday of every month Loftus Town Hall 10.30am - 2.30pm Free Entry

Monthly fundraising event Last Saturday of every month Loftus Town Hall, 10am – 2pm Free Entry

Family prize bingo Last Saturday of every month Loftus Town Hall, Doors open 5pm - Eyes Down 6pm Entry £1

**Pop up & plant up
gardening club**
**Starts Tuesday 14 March –
continues on second Tuesday
of every month until October**
**Loftus Community Woodland
(adjacent to Hummersea
Primary School), 2pm - 4.30pm**
Free to attend (funded by a grant received from Woodsmith Foundation)

Northern 12 Stage Road Relays
Saturday 1 April
**Main hub of the event is
located on the Coast Road
outside Zetland Park, Redcar**

The Council, in partnership with New Marske Harriers, has secured the start of the Fitness North of England Men's 12 Stage and Women's 6 Stage Road Relay Championships 2023 and Under 17 and Under 15 5K Road Race Championships.

To host the race is a real coup for the area with the event attracting some of the country's leading athletes including Olympians.

Teams from as far away as the Scottish border through to Lancashire will do battle to qualify for the national relay championships which are due to take place in Birmingham later in the spring. More information is available at: <https://www.northernathletics.co.uk/>

**Children's Easter
craft workshops**
**Tuesday 4 April, Wednesday
5 April & Thursday 6 April**
**Flatts Lane Woodland Country
Park Visitor Centre in Normanby**
**Taking place 10am-3pm each
day (last entries 2.30pm)**
£4 per child

Drop-in Easter craft workshops for children. A variety of different crafts to enjoy and a little Easter treat to take home. Call 01642 459629 for more.

Easter egg hunt & picnic
Monday 10 April
**Loftus Town Hall & St
Leonard's Churchyard**
Entry £2

**Screening of
The King's Coronation**

Saturday 6 May
The Council will screen the King's Coronation live on Redcar High Street, alongside a range of other family-friendly films. Seats will be provided.

**Bad Dad – outdoor theatre by
Heartbreak Productions**

Friday 8 June
Kirkleatham Museum & Grounds

**Gates open at 5.30pm and
production starts at 6.30pm**
**Tickets: £15 adult, £13 child,
£55 family ticket (Family is 2 +
2 or 1 adult/3 children)**

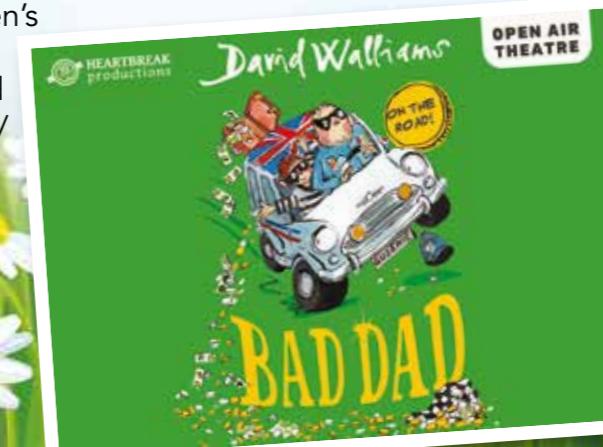
This warm-hearted tale follows the highs and lows of a father and son relationship as they navigate their way through a world of crime, car chases and convicts! Written by one of the UK's most popular children's authors - David Walliams. For more information and tickets please visit <https://www.redcarracing.co.uk/>



Armed Forces Day
Saturday 24 June
Redcar High Street, 10am – 4pm
Armed Forces is a chance to show our support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets.

**Redcar Racecourse
Fixtures 2023**

10 April: Easter Monday family fun day
17 April: Regular raceday
4 May: Regular raceday
22 May: Regular raceday
29 May: Zetland Gold Cup Family Day
30 May: Regular raceday
23 June: Regular raceday
24 June: Ladies' Day
For further information and to book tickets - www.redcarracing.co.uk/



COUNCIL DIARY

Times of meetings may change from time to time. Please check at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

March 2023

- Monday 6, 10am
Adults and Communities Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 7, 10am
Children and Families Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Wednesday 8, 10am
Resources Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Thursday 9, 10am
Growth, Enterprise and Environment Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Friday 10, 10am
Climate & Environment Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Monday 13, 10am
Governance Committee
- Tuesday 14, 10am
Cabinet

- Wednesday 22, 10am
Employment, Health & Safety Committee
- Wednesday 29, 10am
Regulatory Committee
- Thursday 30, 2pm
Borough Council

April 2023

- Tuesday 11, 10am
Children and Families Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 11, 2pm
Adults and Communities Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Wednesday 12, 10am
Resources Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Thursday 13, 10am
Growth, Enterprise and Environment Scrutiny and Improvement Committee
- Friday 14, 10am
Climate & Environment Scrutiny and Improvement Committee

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

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