

this is **Redcar & Cleveland**

the council magazine for the local community

Issue 54 | Spring 2024



**Let's go
fly a kite!**

What's on this spring,
pages 4, 5 and 7



To contact the council visit
www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

 facebook.com/redcarcleveland or on  [@RedcarCleveland](https://twitter.com/RedcarCleveland)

Heading to the polls in 2024? – don't forget your photo ID

THIS year will be a big one for British politics. On Thursday 2 May elections of Police and Crime Commissioners will be taking place across the country, and it is almost certain that a General Election will also take place sometime this year.

Electors across the borough will head to polling stations on 2 May to determine who will be the next Police and Crime Commissioner for the Cleveland Police Force area and who the next Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority will be.

Photo ID

For all elections in 2024, those who vote at the polling station will need to take an accepted form of photographic ID with them. This could be a British passport, a photo drivers' licence, or even your bus pass. Better still it doesn't even matter if the ID is out of date for its original purpose, as long as it has your current name on, and the photo still resembles you, you can use it. A full list of accepted forms of photo ID can be found at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID. If you don't have any photo ID, you can apply for a FREE Voter Authority Certificate at gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate



Apply to vote by post

Will you be away on election day? Do you struggle to get out and about? Or would you just simply like the comfort of voting from your own sofa? Why not apply to vote by post or appoint someone to be your proxy and go to the polling station on your behalf.

Postal vote applications can now be completed online at gov.uk/apply-postal-vote. All you need is five spare minutes, your personal details including

your national insurance number and a digital photo of your signature. If you would prefer to appoint a proxy, an application to do so can be made at gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote

When voting by post all you have to do is complete the postal voting statement, cast your vote and post it back to us! It is important that you use a **Royal Mail post box** to return your postal

vote, as changes to electoral law mean that anyone handing their postal vote in at a polling station **MUST** complete a declaration form; failure to complete the form will result in the postal vote being rejected. The only Council building where postal votes can be handed in is Redcar Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar, TS10 1TD. Please note that a form will have to be completed when handing it in. An individual can legally only hand in their own postal vote and postal votes of up to five other people. Anyone classed as a political campaigner, which includes candidates, agents, or anyone else involved or engaged in an election campaign is prohibited from

handling postal votes, other than their own and those of their immediate family.

Key dates for 2 May

If you have moved house or have never been registered to vote, remember to do so by Tuesday 16 April at gov.uk/register-to-vote. If you wish to vote by post, your completed application must reach us by 5pm on Wednesday 17 April, or if you wish to appoint a proxy, applications must reach us by 5pm on Wednesday 24 April. Applications for Voter ID must be made by 5pm on Wednesday 24 April.

Welcome...

...to the spring edition of the **this is Redcar & Cleveland** magazine



We are finally starting to see lighter nights and thoughts turn to enjoying time with family and friends outdoors.

In this edition of the magazine, you can find details of some of the events coming this year in our borough. These include a new kite festival, which will provide a spectacular day out for families. This kind of festival has been held elsewhere and has been hugely popular and our borough provides the perfect backdrop for the kites. As the festival will be on our beautiful coastline, there is a good chance we will get the wind to make it a success!

We also welcome elite cyclists back to our borough with the East Cleveland Classic in April. Our landscape provides a terrific challenge for some of the country's best riders and I'm sure the crowds will turn out to welcome them as they race through our towns and villages.

Concerns about the cost of living still linger and this edition of the magazine feature the community groups who are dedicating their time and skills to help others. It is great to be able to highlight this work – they make a huge difference to people's lives and their efforts are very much appreciated.

Finally, we've pulled together some facts about the work of the council during 2023. Times are undoubtedly challenging but we're proud that our services are there for our residents every day of the year.

I hope everyone gets the opportunity to enjoy the better weather and our beautiful borough over the coming months.

Cllr Alec Brown

Leader of the Council



Right on cue!

Our very own pool playing champ who is a key member of the England team

p13



Inspirational youth:

Meet the inspiring young people who have achieved so much after leaving the care system

p14



KITE RUNNERS:

Erin Storey (aged nine) and Byron Storey (aged eight) are looking forward to Redcar Kite Festival in May. Find out more on page 5.

Review of the year:

What has been achieved in the past year

p12

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. ♻️

If you require any assistance applying to vote by post or proxy, or applying for Voter ID please call **01642 774774** or email – electoralregistration@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

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.redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy



PEDAL POWER: Cyclists Robyn Clay (left) and Megan Anderson celebrating announcement.



Cycling classic comes to East Cleveland

Sun 14 April, 9am start

ELITE level cycling returns to Redcar and Cleveland on Sunday 14 April when the East Cleveland Classic takes place.

The challenging road race route builds upon the circuit used for the 2023 National Championship Road Race and has been modified and extended to pass through Guisborough.

The circuit starts and finishes in Saltburn and will take in Skelton, Guisborough, Charltons, Boosbeck, Lingdale and Brocton. The women will

race over four laps of the circuit covering a distance of 68 miles, with the men completing six laps and a total race distance of 100 miles.

Racing will get under way at 9am for the women and 1pm for the men, and both races will start and finish near the bandstand in Saltburn. Robyn Clay (pictured), who turned professional last year and competed in the National Road and Circuit Race series events, said:

"The 2023 nationals race looked really tough - a lot of climbing and that was evident

in both the women's race and the men's race.

"I think the Saltburn finish is spectacular, and very special. It's a course that only the strongest riders can win on.

"I'm looking forward to being back in Saltburn this year and hopefully being in good enough condition to get a good result."

Managing Director of British Cycling Events, Jonathan Day, said: "We are delighted to return to Redcar and Cleveland to deliver another prestigious event in the region and would like to thank the council and other local partners for enabling us to deliver an exciting and challenging course for our riders and supporters on the roadside."

The event will be overseen by the delivery partner Community Traffic Management.

Easter activities at Flatts Lane, Woodland Country Park

Various craft activities will be taking place in the visitor centre during the Easter holidays. £3 per child which includes a small treat.

March 26, 10.30am - 1.30pm

March bunnies and chicks.

March 27, 10.30am - 1.30pm

March wool chicks and decorations.

March 28, 10.30am - 1.30pm

March Easter selfie frame and bunny prints.

Oddsocks presents

Julius Caesar

Kirkleatham Museum and Grounds

Thur 4 & Fri 5 July

Gates open at 6:30pm, performance begins 7:30pm.

Two hours including interval. Suitable for all ages.

Rome 44BC. Egotistical emperor Julius Caesar is sweating (and it's not just the heatwave). His liberal Senators are a stabbing pain in the backside. They've had enough! Rome is in chaos, trust in the government is weak and the emperor's fate is written in the stars (or the 'entrails of a goat'). The peasants are revolting as the most famous political coup in literature is given the Oddsocks treatment. On your marcus, getus setus, let the games begin!



Lets go fly a kite!

Sat 25 and Sun 26 May

REDCAR is set to reach new heights this year when some of the world's largest inflatable kites take to the skies above Majuba beach for the first ever Redcar Kite Festival.

Taking place on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May, kites of all descriptions, sizes and colours will take to the air for two days of aerial displays.

Internationally renowned kite experts will provide spectacular displays which will include flying frogs, sky-high snakes, leaping lizards, daredevil dragons, and scores of exotic inflatables.

Visitors can also get involved and learn the skills of kite flying from the professionals with kites available for loan during the event.

Alongside the kites, there will also be entertainment, music, workshops and a delicious food market, making Redcar's first ever kite festival an event for everyone to enjoy.



KITE RUNNERS:

Erin Storey (aged nine) and Byron Storey (aged eight) looking forward to Redcar kite festival in May.

Apply now!



With a wide range of courses and great facilities, there's never been a better time to study at **Redcar & Cleveland College!**

Choose from:

- BEAUTY THERAPY** | **BRICKLAYING** | **CARPENTRY & JOINERY** | **COMPUTING & IT** | **CREATIVE MEDIA**
- EARLY YEARS** | **ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS**
- ENGINEERING** | **FOUNDATION LEARNING**
- HAIRDRESSING** | **HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**
- MULTI-SKILLS** | **PLASTERING** | **PLUMBING, GAS & HEATING** | **PUBLIC SERVICES** | **SPORT**



01642 473132 | INFO@CLEVELAND.AC.UK | WWW.CLEVELAND.AC.UK/OPEN-EVENTS

REDCAR & CLEVELAND COLLEGE etc.



GRADUATE IN REDCAR

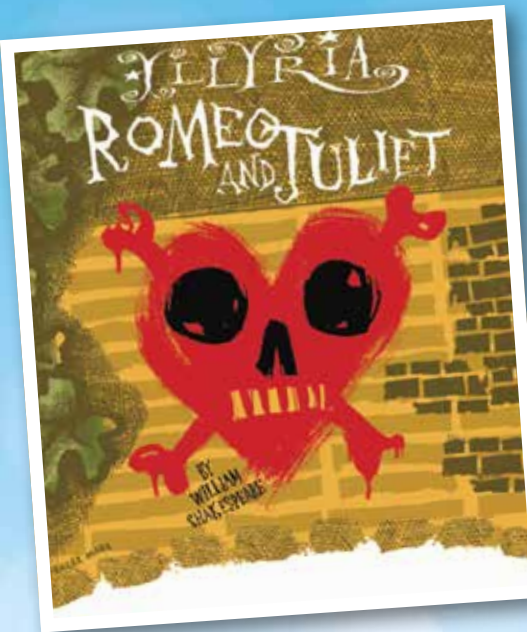
Are you ready to change your career or upskill for a promotion? Study a university level course close to home, starting this September.

Choose from a wide range of full and part-time higher education courses, in partnership with Teesside University. Courses include counselling, education and training, engineering, and health and social care!



UCAS
Missed the UCAS deadline? It's not too late to study with us!

01642 473132 | INFO@CLEVELAND.AC.UK | WWW.CLEVELAND.AC.UK/19PLUS



Illyria presents Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare (Outdoor Theatre)

Gisborough Priory
14 July. Gates open 5.30pm, performance starts 6.30pm, Running time (approx): 2hrs 20mins (inc 20-minute interval)
Suitable for all ages.

The award-winning company, Illyria is back! With a passionate, poetic, and utterly gripping production of this favourite. Shakespeare states in the opening lines of this play that we are going to see an explosive swash-buckling romance. But the surprise he has in store for us is that it's extremely funny too.

Illyria presents The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle by Hugh Lofting, adapted by Oliver Gray
Flatts Lane Country Park
16 August. Gates open 2pm, performance starts 3pm
Running time (approx):

1hr 50mins (inc 20-minute interval). Suitable for ages 5+ (younger children also welcome!)



When Dr John Dolittle of Puddleby-on-the-Marsh is taught by his wise old parrot Polynesia how to talk to animals, news of his skills spreads far and wide.

Soon animals across the world send messages asking for his help. So, he buys a leaky old ship and, together with his trusty pet-crew of Jip the dog, Chee-Chee the monkey, Dab-Dab the Duck and permanently hungry Gub-Gub the pig, sets forth on a mission to heal illness, spread compassion and gain a greater understanding of the animal kingdom.

Between the Tides 24 and 25 August

Following on from the successful debut of the Between the Tides festival in Redcar last year, the Council will be bringing it back for 2024.

Taking place across Redcar town centre, you can yet again immerse yourself in a cast of colourful characters and pop-up performances, workshops and so much more.



Kirkleatham Museum Presents:

100 Years of Fashion

From the History Wardrobe Collection

A century of the art of women's dress, from 1900 to the 1990s.

Friday 29 March -
Sunday 22 September 2024

FREE ENTRY
DONATIONS WELCOME

Kirkleatham, Redcar, TS10 5NW

redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy/kirkleatham-museum

[/kirkleathammuseumandgrounds](https://www.facebook.com/kirkleathammuseumandgrounds)

Help during the Cost of Living Crisis



The following organisations can provide help to residents during challenging times.

England Illegal Money Lending Team

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) investigates and prosecutes illegal money lenders – also known as loan sharks. The team also provides specialist support to victims and communities affected by this crime.

If you are worried about someone who is being taken advantage of by a loan shark, please contact Stop Loan Sharks 24/7 Helpline on 0300 555 2222 for support or visit www.stoploansharks.co.uk.

Citizens Advice

Citizens advice offers guidance on various areas including benefits, debt and money, housing, employment, consumer, energy, family, law and court, immigration and health.

Adviceline: 0800 144 8848, Monday & Wednesday 11am - 7pm, Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 4.30pm and Friday 9am - 4pm.

Email: enquiries@citizensadvice.org.uk

Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/local-citizens-advice/0014K000009EMKQQA4/
Weekly drop-in sessions are taking place across Redcar and Cleveland.

Cleveland Fire Brigade – Stay Safe and Warm

The 'Stay Safe and Warm' initiative offers a range of help such as advice on managing bills, signposting to available funding, free home assessment and referrals for free boiler replacement/repair where necessary.

More information: [/www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/community/ssaw/](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/community/ssaw/) or by calling 01429 874063

South Tees Affordable Warmth Partnership – Middlesbrough Environment City (MEC)

The South Tees Affordable Warmth Partnership offers a range of services such as:

- Emergency heating in case of heating breakdown;
- Benefits checks and welfare advice;
- Social activities;
- Mobility and falls prevention information;
- Healthy eating and lifestyles advice.

More info: 0800 304 7084, warmhomes@mencity.org.uk or mencity.org.uk

Carers Together

Carers Together is a registered charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for carers. They deliver the following services:

- Adult carers information and support service;
- Transition agenda for young adult carers aged between 15-25;
- Hospital liaison service to support carers within hospital settings for when the person they care for is in or discharged from hospital.

More info: carerstogether.co.uk/, call 01642 488977 or email: info@carerstogether-rc.org.uk

Teesside Mind

To find out about their current projects like Road to Recovery, which offers wellbeing support, and their carers service, please see www.teessidemind.org.uk

To help shape what they do and how they do it, please scan the QR code to answer their survey.



For more support available please visit www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support

Meet our community volunteers

Meet some of the Redcar and Cleveland volunteering groups which have been making a great difference in their local communities

Boosbeck Village Hall

BOOSBECK Village Hall Committee is another group making a difference in their local community with help from the Friends of Boosbeck Village Hall.

Every Tuesday, locals can take part in an arts group held with support from Whippet Up while on Thursday is time for a Snack & Chat when people gather to play card and board games and socialise.

A dementia-friendly singing group meets every other Wednesday and once a month families get together for the

popular family quiz. Seasonal events, kids' parties and disco afternoons are also organised throughout the year.

"I'm from Boosbeck," says one of the volunteers, Paddy O'Rourke, 32. "Before our group took over the committee in 2017, the old volunteers

were doing so much for the people living here. The Boosbeck Village Hall is a massive part of my life."

If you'd like to see what the group has been up to, head over to their Facebook page Boosbeck Village Hall.



ARTS GROUP: Volunteers and residents enjoying an arts session

Ladies of Steel

THE Ladies of Steel community group has a long history of helping those living in Dormanstown since 2006.

The volunteering group has done countless fundraisers over the years to help families going through hardships.

During the Covid pandemic, the group, with funding from several organisations and residents, put together more than 17,000 packed lunches for children, hundreds of food parcels and thousands of vegetable and fruit



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: The Ladies of Steel volunteers at the pensioners' afternoon

bags for pensioners.

"We don't just run a community group, we live here and know the struggles people go through and we want to do what we can to help them," said Chris and Debbie Powlay, the people running the group, initially founded by Debbie.

Post-Covid, bringing people together became their mission and that's how the pensioners' afternoons started. Every other Thursday, many pensioners from across Redcar and Cleveland gather at the Corus Club for an afternoon of fun,

music and quizzes.

Free day trips on a minibus, kids' themed parties, holiday events and movie afternoons are all part of the continuous efforts this group is making for their local community.

Find out more about them on their Facebook page Ladies of Steel.



DELICIOUS MEAL: Liz Robinson serving soup to a resident

Lazenby Village Hall group

LIZ Robinson, 70 from Lazenby, has been involved in many community projects over the years.

Due to her connections with the village hall and funding from various organisations Liz, together with her husband Fred, family members and locals, are hosting weekly community events at the Lazenby Village Hall.

From bingo nights on Mondays, to the 'Soup and a Bun' dinners on Wednesdays and an eco-shop for Lazenby residents on Fridays, these gatherings give people a chance to get out of their homes, socialise, and enjoy a free delicious meal in a warm place.

'Soup and a Bun', their most popular event, runs every Wednesday from October until March between 12.15pm and 2pm. "Anyone is welcome," said Liz. "When we started, back in 2022, it was October, cold and miserable, the energy bills were going up and I thought it was a chance for people to get out of the house and come to a warm space to socialise."

Footprints in the Community


LOCAL charity Footprints in the Community has been supporting people in Redcar and Cleveland to help reduce poverty and isolation for more than 10 years. In November 2023, it joined forces with the Council to safety test small electrical items donated by residents to Dunsdale Recycling Centre, passing them on to families and people in need.

In the first three months, Footprints has helped 25 families with donations of kettles, lamps, vacuum cleaners and slow cookers. The electricals have been redistributed through their Redcar Area Foodbank, Next Step Shop and New Start projects.

Meet one of the volunteers

One of the people behind this is Dave Smithson. Dave has been a member of Footprints' project The Shed for around eight years and started volunteering more than six years ago. "It feels good to know that what we do helps other people. Everybody who accesses our services has been referred to us, so we know those people really are struggling."

To find out more about The Shed or to become a volunteer, go to the Facebook Page The Shed Redcar or visit footprintsinthecommunity.co.uk

To make an electrical donation, see next page 



EVERY DONATION COUNTS: Carolanne Cousins, Manager of The Shed and volunteer David Smithson holding electrical donations



Make a donation, help someone in need

IN November 2023, the Council launched a new scheme allowing residents to donate small, domestic electrical items they no longer use but which are still in working order to help those in need.

Since then 106 electric items have been brought to Dunsdale Recycling Centre to be tested and redistributed to the local community and 38 families and individuals have benefitted from the donations.

The Council has teamed up

with local community groups Footprints in the Community and Loftus CIC (Community Interest Company) which regularly collects the items, test them to ensure their safety, and donate them through their foodbanks and programmes.

Electrical items which are accepted include: toasters, kettles, blenders or food processors, lamps, slow cookers, steamers, sandwich toasters or small grills, hairdryers,

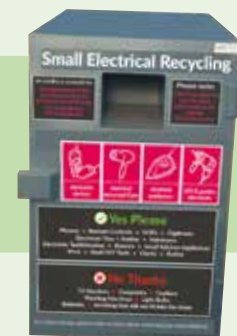
To find out more about this project and future collection options, please head over to www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/donate-your-electricals

microwaves, air fryers, alarm clocks, coffee machines and irons. Donations can be brought to Dunsdale Recycling Centre any day without requiring a prior booking (if residents are solely bringing small electricals for this scheme).

Non-reusable devices such as e-cigarettes and larger electricals will not be accepted as part of this scheme even if they are still in working order.

How to dispose of faulty electricals

Any faulty/non-working electricals should be disposed of at local WEEE banks, for more details and locations, please visit: www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/weee



Sign up to our monthly newsletter



Our residents newsletter allows you to get updates directly to your inbox. Sign up now for direct updates on:



Latest job opportunities



Roadworks information



People like you



Services for you



Exciting local events

To sign up: www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/resident-newsletter

All smiles for Mr P, the therapy horse

A MINIATURE horse is bringing smiles and laughter to elderly people in Redcar and Cleveland.

Mr P (for "Mr Perfect"), a 15-year-old American Miniature Horse, gives residents the opportunity to say hello to a friendly visitor.

Among the venues visited by Mr P was the council-run Activities and Wellbeing Service at St Germain's Grange, attached to the supported housing scheme for elderly people in Marske – to the delight of tenants, day visitors and staff.

Visitors to the Activities and Wellbeing Service centre

reminisced about much loved animals they had had in their lives as Mr P calmly walked from person to person to be petted.

Katy Smith, who brought Mr P from her KL Pony Therapy and Events centre at Northallerton, said Mr P was the first of her miniature horses and she now has 11. She and her horses, which grow to about 38 inches in height, have travelled the country to visit centres for the elderly, children's hospitals, universities and schools.

"It doesn't make me a millionaire when it comes to



NEIGH-BOURLY: Activities Co-ordinator Sharon Welford and horse owner Katy Smith with Mr P

money," Katie laughed, "but it makes me feel very rich in so many other ways. We get smiles everywhere we go. It's joyful."

Dan's on cue for success

DAN Walker has won two international trophies with England's Pool Team this year... despite hardly playing any more.

Dan, a Career Coach in the Council's Employment and Training Centre in Grangetown, won a place in England's six-strong A Team in late 2022 and the team have won both the European Championship and the wider Nations Cup this year.

But Dan, of Redcar, who works full-time and is the father of a six-year-old girl, says he is so busy he hardly gets to practise.

He said: "I love playing and I'm really passionate about it but I don't actually spend much time playing any more. I have my little girl with me half the time and after work, trying to set up a new pool hall in Redcar and all the rest, it's hard to find the time.

"I'm the only one in the England team who works too. The others all have sponsorship and play a lot more tournaments and events than I can. So I'm really proud to make the team and help us win."

Dan, 31, started out as a billiard player at 15 in Redcar Working Men's Club boys billiards club every Sunday morning. He loved it and later switched to pool as it was more accessible.

"Teesside has the best billiard players in the country because it's still a game in working men's clubs," said Dan. "I still love the game but pool has more opportunities - although there's currently only one pool hall in Teesside at Stockton which we're trying to fix. I also run the Redcar

pool league, which involves all the organising of fixtures, collecting subs, arranging presentation nights.

"The Nations Cup" was held in Bridlington and, as well as 11 European teams, teams were fielded from Mexico and Australia. Even the Shetland Isles had a team.

The European Championships were held in Malta with 12 teams fielded from Catalonia to Cyprus. Dan has also won the Redcar Pool League and had to go through a long qualifying process, first as a County player, before winning his place in the England A team.

As well as having limited opportunities to practise, Dan's chances to take part in tournaments are also restricted for financial reasons, although he did receive sponsorship and support from Redcar's Claxton Hotel, Carlin How's Cuts Exhausts and Tyres and Thornaby's Print & Press.

Dan told of his pride. He said: "I love representing my country - and actually winning with the team is just amazing."

Dan is looking for sponsorship for the Nations Cup competition due to be held in Bridlington later this month. He can be contacted on Daniel-walker92@hotmail.co.uk or 07301 544322



Inspiring young people to succeed

TWO inspirational young people have told of their experiences growing up in care.

Reece, 23, has told his story after winning the Champion of the Year award from the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum for his role in ensuring the voices of care leavers are heard.

And Bethan, 19, who works for the Council, explained she gives up her free time to contribute to the Regional Care Leaver Board to give a voice for other care leavers across the North East. Reece and Bethan tell their stories below:

Bethan, in her own words

I AM a 19-year-old care leaver, employed by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council. From a young age, I was raised by my grandmother who worked in children's residential homes within Redcar and Cleveland. In my early teenage years, my grandmother was diagnosed with lung cancer and then later diagnosed with Dementia. Because her care needs increased, I dropped out of school to look after her full time. Unfortunately, in June 2020, she passed away which meant that I was moved into foster care when I was 16.

A new, supportive family

I moved in with foster carers, who showed nothing but love and care towards me. They provided me with a stable home, a family and the drive to study for what I wanted. I began to study my A-levels at Middlesbrough College and, after liaising with a careers adviser, I was introduced to the term 'apprenticeships'. After further discussions about apprenticeships, I was offered a position within the Culture and Tourism team as a Business Support apprentice. I spent 16 months with a team who were so inspiring and helped me achieve so much. As well as working

full-time in my apprenticeship, I was attending Redcar & Cleveland College twice a week completing a Level 3 evening access course in Humanities.

Her hard work paid off

I have now completed both my apprenticeship and access course and am working in the Children's Education department.

I now live independently and am a voice in the Regional Care Leavers Board, which allows me to voice my, and other care leavers from our local

authority, opinions and what changes we would like to see from our Local Offer.

I don't allow being a 'care kid' determine where I want to get in life, and I will continue to work hard to get where I want to be.



Reece

REECE, who entered the care system aged just five, is taking an Open University course in Primary Education and praised the Council's Care Leaver Team (known as Target) for offering him support in the years since he left residential care. He has spoken about what support has worked for him...and what could be better.

He said: "The team at Target are amazing. It was them who helped me get on to the Open University course, providing everything I needed and they really do so much to help alleviate the loneliness that a lot of us feel when we go off on our own.

"I really support these new commitments and it is exactly right. That said, I'm not going to pretend a lot more shouldn't be done for care leavers and I bring this up whenever I can. Until you turn 18 when you are in care there are these relationships you have with staff and suddenly that stops. You don't see them any more and you get this sense of loneliness. There needs to be more preparation. When you



end up in accommodation it can be scary depending on who you are with. You don't always know how things work when you're setting up your own home."

Reece added that many care-experienced people also needed support on how to build safe relationships.

He said: "If you keep moving from place to place, as I did, you get more and more unsettled. I was very lucky with the support workers I got in residential care

but I had dozens of foster placements and five schools. It's hard to settle down. Also, you don't always know basic, practical things at first like how to fix a plug or what to do if the electricity goes off. That's why these improvements at the Council and the support you get from Target, like the new app or the help you get to write CVs or when they make sure everyone gets a present at Christmas, can be so helpful."

Some of our care leavers would like to live in a supported home. If you think you could offer a home to a young person aged 18 to 21 coming out of care, please contact Redcar and Cleveland's supported lodging team on **01642 771650** to discuss in more detail or to request an information pack.

Review of 2023

THE next five pages are dedicated to a review of the year and the Council's focus on serving residents.


The following statistics show what has been achieved. You'll also find information about priorities for the future including on how the Council may be able to work more closely with communities.

Total spend in the borough by your Council
£61.5m 



Photo credit: Michael G Shaw.


Number of weddings by registration team
382 

Phone calls answered
47,474 

Potholes repaired
1,393 

Businesses supported
1,886 

Vulnerable children and families supported
1,500+ 

Successful closure orders
9 

Successful prosecutions brought by the Council
196 

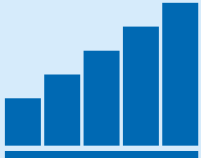
Bin collections



4,127,220



Value of regeneration and growth projects in the borough

£26.6m 



People attending our events
42,799 



Review of 2023

Visitors to Kirkleatham Museum

119,908



Adults supported

4,371

Food hygiene inspections

682



Tonnes of waste collected

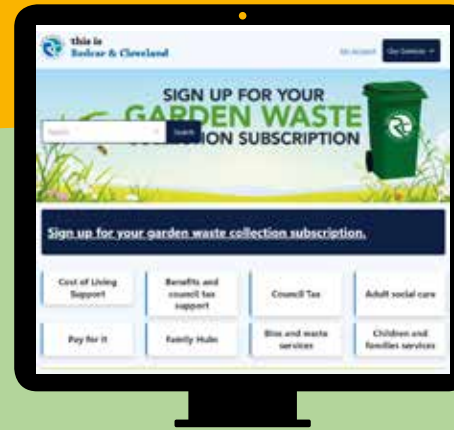


67,794



2.1m

Visits to the Council website



Planning applications decided

868



47

Number of apprenticeships



Families helped through the Council's Family Hubs

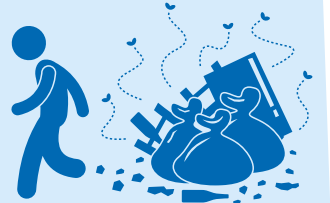


4,700+



Fly tipping collections

6,716



Licensing applications processed

1,318



Requests for housing assistance

2,134



Notices served over housing conditions

35



Our pledge to residents

The Council provides a wide range of services every day of the year, from supporting the most vulnerable to keeping our beautiful borough clean and tidy. Our Cabinet has agreed its priorities for the coming years and how we aim to achieve them. The plan also sets out what we will do to improve residents' lives and how you can make small changes to make our communities a better place to live.

Our priorities for the borough are:

- Start life well**
- Live and age well**
- Prosper and flourish**
- Clean and tidy**
- A strong and sustainable council**

What we will do

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Start life well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ We will strive to reduce child poverty in the borough. ▶ We will support children to thrive and fulfil their potential. | <p>Live and age well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ We will work hard to improve health and wellbeing. ▶ We will encourage community participation and volunteering. ▶ We will empower people to live independently. | <p>Prosper and flourish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ We will support the creation of good and well-paid jobs. ▶ We will help local people get the skills and training they need for quality jobs. ▶ We will spend money with local businesses. ▶ We will invest money to improve our towns and villages and lobby for better transport connectivity between them. | <p>Clean and tidy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ We will work with the local community to improve recycling levels. ▶ We will do our best to look after the environment. ▶ We will reduce the council's carbon footprint. |
|--|--|--|---|

What we'll do for residents

- Aim to provide clear, honest and helpful information.
- Do our best to provide excellent customer service.
- Be respectful and expect respect for all.
- Look at innovative ways to provide value for money.
- Reduce our carbon footprint.
- Bring people and organisations together to improve the area.
- Talk up the local area.

Our ask of communities

- Let us know if you are worried about a vulnerable child or adult.
- Recycle as much as you can.
- Keep the area tidy by putting your litter in a bin or taking it home.
- Get involved in your community and have your say.
- Support our local businesses.
- Talk up the local area.



Redcar's 'Beach Base' to open this spring

BEACH Base – formerly known as the Coastal Activity Hub – is on track for its grand opening in spring.

Residents will soon be able to visit the exciting new attraction based near Majuba Car Park in Redcar to see a variety of sports, activities, events, and competitions.

It will become a place for friends and family to meet for a coffee and watch or partake in sporting activities on the coast.

The hub will be run by Imaginative Productions – the operator behind Scream Factory and the Café at Kirkleatham Museum – and they are currently in the final stages of developing

the facility before opening day.

British Triathlon, British Rowing and British Cycling - the national governing bodies for their respective sports – have all endorsed the project with a vision of bringing community activities and local, regional, and national competitions to Beach Base, including the Go Tri series.

The hub will also offer the opportunity for local organisations to host a range of their own activities and events. The shipping container village will be used as a meeting place and an informal base for clubs, school groups, activity leaders, families, and groups of friends.

The toilets at the facility are now open to the public. There are four male, four female and two accessible toilets, and anyone can use them, even if you're just passing by.

The rest of the facility will still be closed while the operator fits out the container buildings and the final touches are made, but all external construction has finished so the loos are safe to use!

The facility will have toilets, showers, lockers, an equipment store and changing rooms.

The ambition is to attract people from far and wide to the area while giving Redcar and Cleveland residents a top-class facility on their doorstep.

The cost of the project is met by the Tees Valley Combined Authority and the Redcar Town Deal, funded by the UK Government.

Redcar and Cleveland's key construction projects - *What you'll see in 2024*

You will soon see major changes happening to the borough as key construction projects to take shape in 2024. This is what you're going to see this year:

Redcar Central Station

This spring, work will start on the transformation of the Grade II listed railway station building. As well as rail facilities, such as ticket machines and travel information, the work will also deliver retail and leisure use as well as food and drinks outlets throughout the day and evening.

The project, which is funded by the Government's Levelling Up Partnership Fund, will not be complete until 2025, but residents will see progress this year.



Seafront properties will be painted

Redcar's seafront properties on Newcomen Terrace will receive a colourful facelift this spring.

The buildings will be painted in vibrant pastel tones to help to create an attractive and welcoming entrance to the town. This project is funded by the Redcar Town Deal.



Construction will start on the leisure attraction in Redcar

The former Goodwins and Marks and Spencer's buildings are due to be demolished.

Major reconstruction will take place throughout 2024/25, building an exciting new venue for family-friendly entertainment. The facility will provide residents with things to do no matter the weather, making Redcar a year-round destination.

This project is funded by the Redcar Town Deal.

Improvements will be made to Redcar High Street

In summer, you will see improvements to Redcar's high street with new planters, trees and benches, more landscaping. This is thanks to funding from Redcar Town Deal.

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



Temperance Square in Loftus

This year, a single-storey building will be purpose built for training and working with relevant partners such as Jobcentre Plus and Beyond Housing.

Parking will be provided at the side at Newcomen Terrace where the building entrance is to be located, leaving the street facing (West Road) elevation surrounded by soft landscaping such as trees and a grassed area.

This is funded through Future High Streets funding from Government, Tees Valley Combined Authority and the Council, and should be complete by December.



To find out more about Loftus projects, please visit loftusmasterplan.co.uk

United Reformed Church

Works have started on the transformation of the former United Reformed Church.

The derelict building, which dates back to 1906, has stood empty for more than 20 years, but the building will soon accommodate artist studios, a gallery and workshop space.



Eston Pool

If planning permission is granted, construction will start in autumn on the build of a new swimming pool and learner pool as part of the existing leisure centre in Eston.

This will be a much-improved modern facility, becoming a place for residents to boost their physical activity, for families and friends to spend time together and see the return of swimming gala competitions.

The swimming pool will be complete in early 2026, thanks to Levelling Up funding from Government.



Coronation Park in Loftus

In late spring, works to improve Coronation Park in Loftus will be complete, providing an attractive park for both local residents and visitors to the town. This is funded through Future High Streets funding from Government, Tees Valley Combined Authority and the Council.



Bakehouse Square

Thanks to Levelling Up funding, work is currently being carried out to improve Bakehouse Square in Guisborough, including the lighting up of the Town Hall and new surfacing throughout.

To find out more about Levelling Up projects in Guisborough, please visit: www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/developing-the-borough



Let's green up the borough

A TOTAL of 100 mature trees will be gradually planted in areas with poor tree coverage across Redcar and Cleveland.

The new trees, which will be planted on sites in Loftus, Guisborough and Eston, will help improve the regions' appearance, biodiversity, air, soil, and water quality and support residents' health and wellbeing.

Funding for the project was secured from the Forestry Commission's Urban Trees Challenge Fund by the Council in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The Council also worked with Greengates Primary School and Ings Farm Primary School to deliver practical workshops – in partnership with Honest Graft – where children had the chance to graft their own fruit trees. Once big enough to be planted outside, the trees will create a small orchard within the schools.

The children had lots of fun,

learned practical skills and the trees they produced will help us towards a greener future.



TREE-MENDOUS: Horticulture Apprentice, Ryan Varey, planting tree at Errington Woods



Be the change you want to see

Make a difference

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Improve your work/life balance and develop your career. Choose from hundreds of rewarding roles and help to make a positive impact in your area.

Search hundreds of local council jobs at

northeastjobs.org.uk



This campaign is funded by UK Government

Do you run a business in Redcar and Cleveland?

Through a series of online workshops, businesses can get help to build their own carbon reduction plan, identifying areas of energy inefficiency, how to address them, and get a grant of £2,000 towards any capital costs required to achieve it. This could include LED lighting, solar PV, efficient compressors etc.

This programme, launched by Tees Valley Combined Authority, aims to help business owners reduce their utility bills and more information can be found by registering at <https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/business/business-growth-support/net-zero/>

Sustrans make bike parking easier

THE Sustrans Walking and Cycling team is improving bike parking in the borough. It has put bike racks inside Redcar and Eston Leisure Centres, Saltburn library, and IntelliSight Opticians, so you can lock your bike in busy public spaces with staff present.

Many businesses have also signed up to their "Bike Friendly Business" scheme in Redcar, allowing you to take your bike inside while you shop! More info at bfredcar.tiiny.site.

If you have any information or comments, email them at redcaractivetravel@sustrans.org.uk



MEMORIES: Karen Davies with now deceased husband Steve in happier times



Family's mission to help save lives

A FAMILY has made it their mission to save lives after losing a loved one to a cardiac arrest at the age of just 65.

Karen Davies has set out to install as many defibrillators as possible across Redcar and Cleveland in memory of her late husband, Steve, who suffered a cardiac arrest due to heart disease in January 2022.

After losing Steve, Karen and their children, Sarah and Scott, made it their mission to help prevent other people from experiencing such a painful loss by fundraising in his memory to provide the defibrillators.

During his life, Steve volunteered for several local charities and organisations such as The Beavers, Clark Lister Brain Haemorrhage, The Sporting Bears and Forever 12. He had also coached junior football teams, managing Marske United for five years, as well as being a forest ranger at Flatts Lane Country Park and a steward at the Tour de Yorkshire bike race.

Due to Steve's extensive connections both with local

businesses and charities through his volunteering work, the family managed to raise £9,000.

This sum allowed them to acquire eight defibrillators to date, each one of them having a commemorative plaque saying: 'A Gift from Steve, 2022'.

The defibrillators are installed in various places across the borough, including York Road Caravan Park, Turners Mill Pub, Wilton Care Home, The Racecourse Wine Lodge, Lazenby Social Club, Scott's Chemist in Roseberry Shopping Centre and Javac UK Ltd in the Britannia Park Industrial Estate.

The most recent one can be found outside The Regent Cinema in Redcar.

Karen said: "We are one very proud family. Having a defibrillator installed at the Regent was an important achievement for me, not only because Steve and I loved going to the cinema, but also because this is a central location for public use. Hopefully, they will never be needed, but if they save one life, it will all have been worth it".

What goes in your blue recycling bin



The top 5 items mistakenly put in recycling

- X 1) Plastic bags:** Processing machinery does not recognise bags containing recyclable items. Please empty items into your blue bin and place bags in household waste bins. Alternatively, take plastic bags to your nearest supermarket that offers plastic bag recycling.
- X 2) Textiles:** These can be taken to Dunsdale Recycling Centre to be recycled.
- X 3) Food waste:** Leftovers, even containers covered in food/grease, cannot be recycled and should also be placed in your household waste bin.
- X 4) Nappies:** Not recyclable items. Please dispose of them into household waste bins.
- X 5) Polystyrene:** cannot be recycled. Please put it in your household waste bin.

X Also a no: **Electricals/batteries**
X Black plastic items

Putting any of these items in your blue bin lowers our recycling rate as a borough, contributes to environmental damage and creates additional disposal costs, which could be better spent elsewhere.

Yes please ✓

CHECK IT BEFORE YOU CHUCK IT 👍

- ✓ Aluminium foil trays (must be clean)
- ✓ Aerosols, cans & tins (aluminium & steel)
- ✓ Cardboard (clean and dry)
- ✓ Plastic pots, tubs & trays
- ✓ Glass bottles & jars (no liquids)
- ✓ Plastic bottles (wash and squash)
- ✓ All mail, including envelopes (with windows)
- ✓ Newspapers & magazines
- ✓ Telephone directories
- ✓ Catalogues
- ✓ Paper

For further information on what can and cannot be recycled, please visit: www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/bins-and-waste-services/recycling

Sign up for garden waste collection service

RESIDENTS in Redcar and Cleveland can now sign up to get their garden bin emptied in 2024 by visiting www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/garden-waste-signup

The opt-in service, which will come into effect in April, will cost £40 for one garden waste bin to be collected fortnightly between April and November and £20 for each additional bin, up to a maximum of five.

If you have not already signed up for a customer portal account with the council, then you will be prompted to

do so. You will need to use your personal email address and your home details when registering. Your collection day for garden waste may not be the same as your current one. A permit and further information on a collection day will be provided at least seven days before your first collection.

The majority of local authorities, locally and nationally, have already made the decision to introduce chargeable garden waste collections amidst rising budget pressures.

The Council agreed to the

garden waste subscription service last year to ensure that the service remained sustainable and will only be paid for by those households that choose to use it. The types of garden waste collected include grass and hedge clippings, leaves, plants and flowers, twigs, sticks and small branches, weeds (but not Japanese knotweed).

For further information and details about the scheme please visit www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/garden-waste or call 01642 774774.

SIGN UP FOR YOUR GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SUBSCRIPTION

www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/garden-waste

Call: 01642 774774

Collections run from April to November each year

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Could you foster?



REDCAR and Cleveland has seen a sharp increase in the number of children and young people needing a fostering home recently. These children and young people need foster carers who can provide them with a safe, secure, and loving home where they can thrive and begin to heal from the trauma they've experienced.

The Redcar and Cleveland fostering team has put together some Frequently Asked Questions for any residents who are considering fostering.

What is foster care? Fostering is looking after a child or a young person when they can no longer remain in the care of their birth family - this can be from a few hours to a few years.

Are there different types of fostering? Yes. Whether it's providing a safe home for a child in the middle of the night in an emergency, caring for a child for a weekend as a respite carer, providing a child with a short term home or caring for a child through to adulthood, there are many types of fostering that can fit around your lifestyle.

Can I work and foster? Yes. Lots of our foster carers continue to work either part time or full-time and foster.

Can I foster if I claim Universal Credit? Yes. However, it's important that you seek independent financial advice around how fostering might affect any benefits you receive.

I have young children- can I foster? Yes, providing that we are confident that you can meet the

needs of any child placed within your care alongside caring for your own children.

Can I foster if I'm not married? Yes. We welcome applications from people who are married, single, living together or in a civil partnership.

Am I too old to foster? No. You need to be 21 or older but there is no age limit to being a foster carer.

Can I foster if I am in a same sex couple? Yes. We are an inclusive service and welcome applicants from all sexualities and all genders.

We are passionate about providing local children with local homes. If you'd like to know more about fostering with Redcar & Cleveland, residents are warmly encouraged to contact Foster With North East.
Phone: 0800 917 7771
Email: contact@fosterwithnortheast.org.uk
Website: fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

COUNCIL DIARY

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

March 2024

- Monday 11, 10am
Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 12, 10am
Children & Families Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Wednesday 13, 10am
Corporate Resources & Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Thursday 14, 10am
Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Friday 15, 10am
Climate & Environment Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 19, 10am
Cabinet
- Thursday 21, 3pm
Live Well South Tees Board
- Wednesday 27, 10am
Employment, Health & Safety Committee

April 2024

- Wednesday 3, 10am
Regulatory Committee
- Tuesday 9, 10am
Corporate Parenting Board
- Thursday 11, 2pm
Borough Council
- Monday 22, 10am
Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Monday 22, 2pm
Governance Committee
- Tuesday 23, 10am
Children & Families Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Wednesday 24, 10am
Corporate Resources & Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Thursday 25, 10am
Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Friday 26, 10am
Climate & Environment Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 30, 10am
Cabinet

May 2024

- Thursday 2, 10am
Regulatory Committee
- Wednesday 8, 10am
Employment, Health & Safety Committee
- Wednesday 8, 4pm
Corporate Parenting Board
- Thursday 16, 2pm
Borough Council
- Monday 20, 10am
Governance Committee
- Thursday 30, 10am
Regulatory Committee

The 59 men and women representing 24 wards

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