

this is

Redcar & Cleveland

the council magazine for the local community

Issue 56 | Winter 2024

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED UNTIL DOORS OPEN



All aboard for Santa!

Father Christmas is visiting Saltburn Tramway, plus your guide to festive events. Pages 8 to 11



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

facebook.com/redcarmacleveland or on @RedcarCleveland

Do you qualify for Pension Credit?

PLUS other financial support, healthcare available to you and how to keep warm this winter.

Pension Credit - what you need to know

THE Government is encouraging people who may be entitled to Pension Credit to make a claim. If you qualify for Pension Credit you may also receive other assistance such as Winter Fuel payments and Council Tax Support.

To find out more visit the government website www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim or call 0800 99 1234. If you are entitled to Pension Credit but have not claimed it yet, you have until 21 December 2024 in order to be eligible for the 2024 Winter Fuel Payment.

The Council's Welfare Rights service is writing to low income pension aged households who should be claiming pension credit and offering assistance to claim as well as checking to make sure they are receiving all the financial assistance that they are entitled to.

Warm spaces

VENUES and community centres to grab a free cuppa in the warm and meet new people are available across the borough once again this year.

One of them can be found at The Brickyard Bakery, Westgate, Guisborough where baker Ed Trehitt has opened up rooms for people to pop in and make a brew free of charge.

Ed, who was early to take part in the Warm Spaces scheme which first opened up venues for free hot drinks in the winter of 2022, explained he even keeps the room open in the summer. He said: "It started as way to help people through the cost of living crisis as energy costs rose, but we found people really appreciated coming in and meeting others for a chat or a good read without the pressure of needing to buy a drink and we decided to keep it open all the time."

Other venues and community spaces are taking part in the scheme across the borough. Find out more on the Council's website under 'cost of living support'.

Find out more on the Council's website and search Cost of Living Support or call us on 01642 77477



Stay safe and warm

CLEVELAND Fire Brigade has once again teamed up with the Council and others across the Tees Valley for its award-winning Stay Safe and Warm scheme.

The scheme is completely free and open to anyone living in the area covered by the brigade. No age restrictions apply.

It offers access to heaters and other equipment as required (following a free home assessment). So, whether it's a short-term issue such as a boiler breakdown or an ongoing heating issue they can help. Go to www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/community/ssaw/ or call 01429 874063

Household Support

THE Government has announced another round of funding for Household Support financial assistance which residents will be able to claim this winter until March. The funding is intended to assist householders both of pension and working age who are financially struggling with the cost of living. Details of how to claim are on the Council's website – just search Household Support Fund.

Welcome...

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

THE festive season is almost upon us and, once again, we can look forward to a celebration of goodwill across our borough.

From large-scale events to smaller and more localised celebrations, there is the promise of a great time for all the family. I would like to pay tribute to all those who give their time and considerable skills to ensure that all our residents have the opportunity to share the festive feeling near where they live.

This edition of your magazine also features some remarkable

stories of dedication to helping those in need of love and support. From foster carers who open their homes to give a child or young person the best possible start in life, to volunteers who give up their time and use their experience to create a better place and an improved life for their communities and the people who live in it.

They all deserve our praise and thanks, and I can't speak highly enough about everything they have achieved.



Hopefully, they and you will have the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends over the festive period.

I would like to wish everybody and merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Cllr Alec Brown

Leader of the Council



WARM HEART: Ed Trehitt at Guisborough's Brickyard Bakery



SANTA'S ON BOARD: Connie Beacham, four, and Ella Griffiths, eight, both from Redcar, with Santa on Saltburn Tramway.



School nursing: Meet Nurse Elaine who has been looking after our children for more than four decades - and is still going strong. **p23**



Ten years of care... 60 years of love



Fostering heroes: The couple who fostered hundreds of children for 42 years - and still see their first foster child every week. **p12**

Loving couple: Meet Jennie - just one of our heroic unpaid carers - supporting her husband through dementia after 60 years of marriage. **p4**

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. ♻️

In the summer edition of the this is Redcar and Cleveland magazine, we told how the Eston Remembrance Committee received a Mayor's Community Achievement Award for its fantastic work in the area. We would also like to pay tribute to the Eston Residents Association for its excellent work over nearly 25 years up to 2019, including the creation of a heritage garden in Eston Square.

CARING: Jennie and David today



MEMORIES: Jennie and David on their wedding day



Ten years of care... 60 years of love

Thousands of people give their care, love and support to family members, friends or neighbours, unpaid, every day. We met one of them, Jennie Blake, who tells her story here.

WHEN Jennie enters the room her husband David, who lives with dementia, suddenly brightens. Looking Jennie in the eye he says one word: "Beautiful."

It's an emotional moment for Jennie, 78, from Redcar, who has been a loving wife to her husband for 60 years, including the past 10 years when David has been living with dementia.

Jennie, who is spreading the word about help available for unpaid carers, explains she and David are parents of two children and grandparents of four, with a fifth grandchild

on the way. The couple have faced many challenges since David presented with signs of dementia 10 years ago at the age of 70.

Jennie first took the role of his unpaid carer while David was still at home and received valuable support from Carers Together, Dementia Action Teesside and the Memory Clinic. "The nights were the most difficult times" she explains. "He used to be quite restless and it was difficult for me to look after him."

David's condition didn't stop them from enjoying activities

together such as the Dementia Dance and other activities that Dementia Action Teesside facilitate. "I've met some amazing friends," said Jennie. "They are always at the end of the phone."

David now lives in a care home due to his condition. He still recognises Jennie every time he sees her and he never misses a chance to tell her how beautiful she is. "He loved life. He would hold the audience everywhere he went," is how Jennie, who still receives some support following David's move to the care home, describes him.

Many of us don't consider caring for a loved one as being an unpaid carer or acknowledge that it can cause mixed feelings. The Council commissions services that can help. Please seek support if you need it.

You can find information about services for unpaid carers, including an activity calendar at www.wecareyoucare.info; <https://informationdirectory.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk>. Alternatively, contact the Access Team on 01642 771500 or 01642 524552 (out of office hours).



Young at heart

MEET the 80-year-old youth worker who is still wowing and supporting teenagers every week and has no plans to retire.

Entering her eighth decade, Margaret Neesam might be expected to be putting her feet up – not working several nights a week with children and teenagers as a council youth worker.

But for Margaret, who is also a much-loved dinner lady at Rye Hills Academy in Redcar, her time with the youngsters remains "a joy."

"I feel a bit of a fraud getting all this attention," says Margaret, who works at TunedIn! youth centre in Redcar and Skelton Youth Club three nights a week. "The truth is I get more out of this job than I put in. I think I'm a kid myself at heart!"

Margaret, a youth worker for more than 40 years, said she experienced a touching moment at Rye Hills on her 80th birthday when children and staff held a special reception for her in the school and gave her flowers with posters

around the school and children "giving me high fives all day."

The married mother-of-two said her favourite part of the job was seeing young people who may be shy or socially isolated when they first arrive make friends. "It doesn't take them very long," she says.

"It's what I like to see. You get

people talking about young people getting into trouble but, let me tell you, they are tame compared to how we were in the 60s with no mobile phones. People forget how they really were as young people.

"The staff are great, so supportive. I keep thinking they'll ask me to leave and say, 'you're too old' but they haven't yet. I think it keeps you young and with the times when you spend time with young people."

Find out more about youth services and support for young people at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/youth-services

YOUNG SPIRITS: Margaret Neesam with members of the TunedIn! youth centre Chloe, Kayleigh and Brody



If Margaret's story has inspired you, the Council is looking for passionate and enthusiastic youth workers to support us on casual basis.

Please contact us at 01642 513653 or email: 25K@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Drama in Saltburn

RESIDENTS and visitors were surprised to find a full-scale film crew and actress Sheridan Smith recording a major drama in Saltburn last month.

ITV were in town to film a four-part series called Fight for the Truth about Teesside mother Ann Ming's 15-year campaign to change the law in order to bring her daughter's murderer to justice.

Ann eventually succeeded in changing the centuries-old Double Jeopardy law following the murder of her daughter Julie Hogg in Billingham, County Durham, in 1989. Her determination secured the conviction of William 'Billy' Dunlop, who

admitted the murder while serving time for another crime.

The ITV series is being filmed at locations across the North East and in Saltburn, filming took place on the pier and on Amber Street in the town.

Ann Ming, who is acting as consultant throughout the production process, said: "I wasn't going to let this (800-year-old law) stand in my

way of getting justice for Julie.

"I'm overwhelmed that Sheridan Smith will be playing me. Having such an iconic and talented actress portray me is truly wonderful."

Sheridan Smith said: "I am so honoured to have been asked to play the role of Ann Ming... She is a truly courageous and remarkable woman to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude."

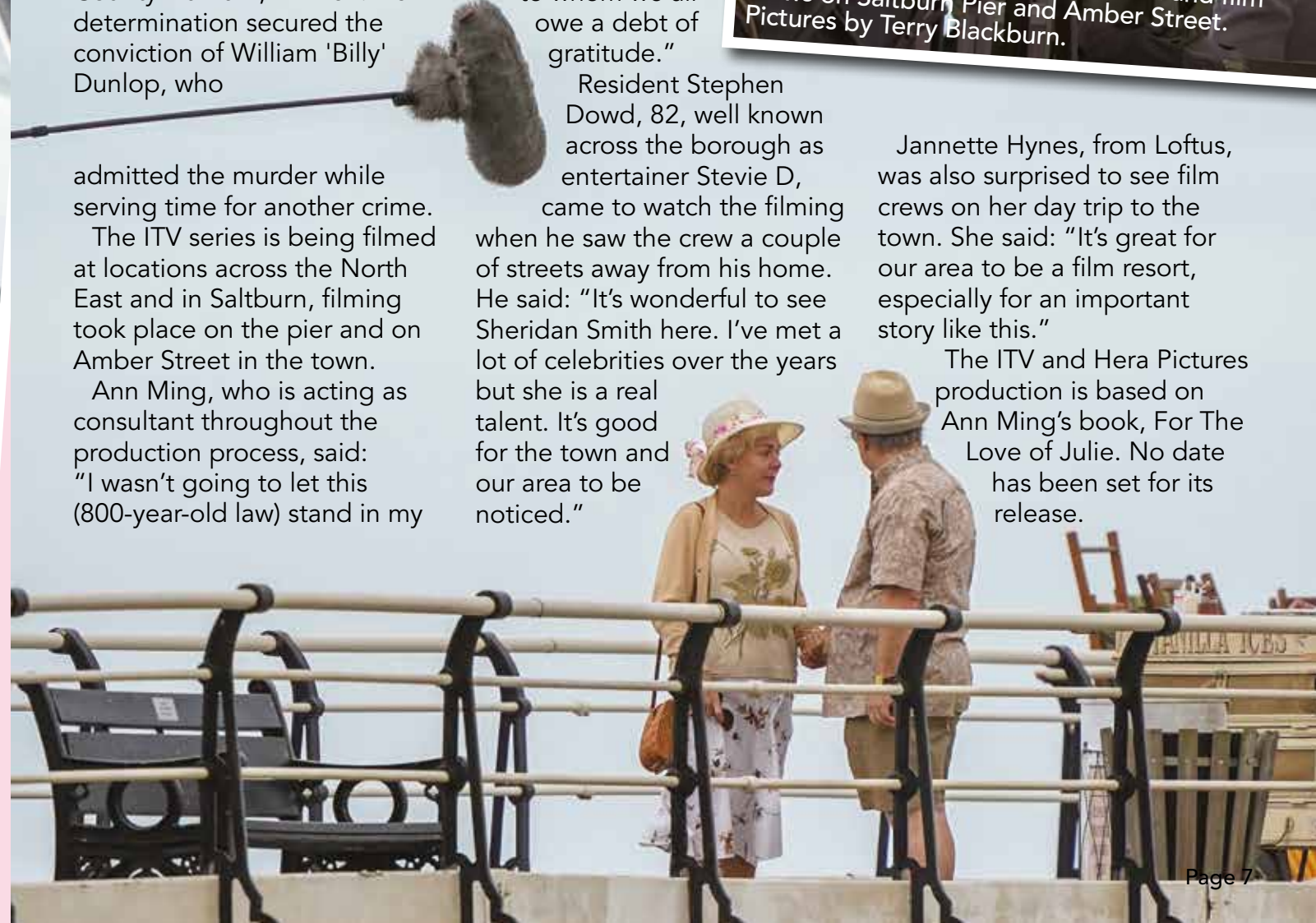
Resident Stephen Dowd, 82, well known across the borough as entertainer Stevie D, came to watch the filming when he saw the crew a couple of streets away from his home. He said: "It's wonderful to see Sheridan Smith here. I've met a lot of celebrities over the years but she is a real talent. It's good for the town and our area to be noticed."

Jannette Hynes, from Loftus, was also surprised to see film crews on her day trip to the town. She said: "It's great for our area to be a film resort, especially for an important story like this."

The ITV and Hera Pictures production is based on Ann Ming's book, For The Love of Julie. No date has been set for its release.



TV DRAMA: Actress Sheridan Smith and film crews on Saltburn Pier and Amber Street. Pictures by Terry Blackburn.



It's Christmas!

Your guide to all the festive fun in your towns and villages



FESTIVE FUN: Ice sculptures and light parades will return this year



LIGHTS FANTASTIC: Entertainment at Redcar Christmas lights switch on



Time to sparkle!

Redcar Lights Switch On and Illumination Parade
Sun 24 Nov, 12pm - 6pm (lights switch on at 5.45pm)

IT'S beginning to look a lot like Christmas across Redcar and Cleveland with a packed programme of festive fun and events planned. The festive season kicks off in spectacular style in Redcar Town Centre on Sunday 24 November for the pantomime-themed Lights Switch On and Illumination Parade. Expect stunning visual displays, music, lights and all-around joy.

There will be performers and entertainers in the High Street from 12pm, a musical main stage programme hosted by BBC Tees from 3pm and Illumination Parade from 4.15pm. Earlier in the day, there'll be a chance to meet and greet Santa and Friends in his grotto near the Blue Clock from 12pm to 3.30pm.

There will also be a festive street food market from 12pm to 6pm with a range of artisan

traders, music from community performers and a colourful collection of walkabout performers including illuminated stilt walkers and fairy godmothers and Urban Kaos' Groove Mission Christmas.

The Illumination Parade will leave the Civic Centre at 4.15pm and process through the town. Look out for Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Maleficent, Peter Pan and Tinker Bell as well as over 200 participants from schools and community groups who will throng the streets with artwork, lanterns and costumes created with artists to light up the route.

Itinerary: 12pm-3.30pm Meet & Greet Santa and Friends (Blue Clock), Performers and Entertainers in the High Street – 12pm, Main Stage Programme – 3pm. Illuminations Parade – 4.15pm; Lights Switch On – 5.45pm

A Fairytale Christmas at Ormesby Hall
Every Fri to Mon from Fri 22 Nov until Sun 22 Dec
10.30am - 3pm

Rooms adorned with decorations from beloved fairy tales including Cinderella, Snow Queen and Hansel and Gretel. Find out more and prices at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ormesby-hall

Brotton Christmas Bazaar
Sat 23 Nov, 11am - 3pm,
Brotton Village Hall

Stalls from local businesses, food and drink.

New Marske Christmas Parade

Fri 29 Nov, starting at 5pm
Parade will start at 5pm from the Chapel and feature Father Christmas on a fire engine. Crafts, family activities, stalls and a chance to meet Santa.

Saltburn Christmas lights switch on

Sat 30 Nov, 5pm
Carols round the Christmas tree and Santa Parade in Saltburn's premier Christmas community event.

Christmas Fayre
Land of Iron Museum, Skinningrove, Sat 30 Nov, 10am - 11am quiet slot for SEND families only. 11am-12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm for general admissions
Entertainment, craft fair and visit Santa and his elves. £5 per child and tickets can be booked online.

Pop-up Christmas shopping event
Flatts Lane Country Park, Normanby. Sat 30 Nov and Sun 1 Dec, 10am - 3pm
Pop-up stalls supporting local business. Coffee and cake. Free entry.

Chaloner Street Christmas Market
Guisborough, Sun 1 Dec
Stalls and entertainment.

Guisborough Christmas Festival
Tue 3 Dec, 4pm
Santa's Parade with reindeer, children's entertainers, rides, musical performances and Santa's grotto in Sunnyfield House. Many shops, cafes and restaurants open for the extended evening. The event is free but tickets for Santa's Grotto

are £3 each from Sunnyfield House or call 01287 634595.

Marske Christmas Festival and Parade
Thur 5 Dec, 3pm - 6pm
Marske Community Partnership present their annual festival bringing out the spirit of Christmas throughout Marske.

Wreath-making workshops
Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park, Sat 7, Sun 8, Sat 14, Sun 15 Dec
Two-hour sessions are from 9.30am, 12pm and 2.30pm
All equipment supplied (but welcome to bring your own if you like). £25 per person (non-refundable). Booking is essential please email flattscentre@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk, telephone: 01642 459629 or call into the Visitor Centre.

Community carols
St Paulinus RC Church, Guisborough, Mon 9 Dec, 7pm
The Mayor will lead carols with Salvation Army Band followed by mince pies and coffee. Money raised from donations for local charities.



TRADITIONAL: Santa and elf at Kirkleatham

Georgian Christmas... and Santa!

Kirkleatham Museum and Grounds, Saturday 30 Nov and Sunday 1 Dec – 10am to 3pm each day

ENJOY an old-time Christmas season at the museum and grounds at the Georgian Christmas event. There will also be a host of other fun events and activities this festive season to help you celebrate a traditional Christmas.

As well as at the Georgian Christmas event on Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December, Father Christmas will also be at the museum on Saturday 7 December and Sunday 8 December between 10am and 3pm (also Thursday 5 December and Thursday 12 December between 4.30pm and 6.30pm for children with additional needs). Booking through Ticketsource is essential – including to see Santa at the Georgian event. Find out more on the museum's Facebook page or call 01642 479500.

Keep up to date with all the Christmas fun and activities in the borough at www.redcarcleland.co.uk/enjoy

Christmas Fayre
Ormesby Library & Community Hub, Wed 11 Dec
Fun Christmas events throughout the day.

Festive evening
Ormesby Hall, Fri 6 and Fri 13 Dec, 6pm to 8.30pm
Festive music, food and drink stalls to enjoy by the fire pit. Find out more at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ormesby-hall

Meet Father Christmas
Ormesby Hall, Sat 7 Dec - Sun 22 Dec
Enjoy The Frost Kingdom Show, featuring Father Christmas, The Snow Queen and Jack Frost, followed by a meet and greet and photo op with the characters and elves. Find out more including prices at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ormesby-hall

Santa visit & Christmas crafts
Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park, Sat 21 Dec and Sun 22 Dec, various sessions from 10am - 2.30pm
Visit Santa in his Grotto, receive a gift, and have fun making Christmas crafts in special one-hour sessions in the Centre. £8 per child. Booking and pre-payment is essential (non-refundable). Email flattsLANECENTRE@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk, call 01642 459629

Boxing Day Dip
Redcar Esplanade and Beach, Thur 26 Dec
Return of the hugely popular, (and freezing) dip.

New Year parties
Guisborough
Thur 23 and Fri 24 Jan
Guisborough Town Council brings you two New Year parties. Enjoy musical entertainment and afternoon tea served to parish residents aged 70 and over only. Admission is free but tickets can be obtained in advance. Ring Sunnyfield House on 01287 634595.



FESTIVE FUN: Ice sculpture and festive parade in Saltburn



SANTA'S HERE! Erin, 10, and Byron, 9, with Santa on Saltburn Tramway

Santa at Saltburn Tramway

December 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23 and 24, various times ranging from 10.30am to 4pm on different days

ONE of the iconic trams will be transformed into Santa's enchanted grotto where your family can take a festive ride with Santa himself. Each child will receive a special gift.

Tickets must be booked in advance. £15 for 2 adults and 1 child (aged 2 to 16) plus £10 for each additional child a maximum of three children. www.ticketsource.co.uk/redcar-and-cleveland-borough-council or type in Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council in the ticketsource website.



Tree sale

Real Christmas trees will be on sale in December at Guisborough Forest and Walkway and Flatts Lane Country Park. Profits will go to the 'Friends' groups supporting both centres.

Saltburn Ice Trail

Saturday 7 December, 10am to 4pm

THIS year renowned ice sculptors Sand in Your Eye will create nine amazing ice sculptures around the theme of pantomime across Saltburn, creating a wonderful one-day trail for families to explore.

Each sculpture will reveal a secret that you'll need to find to complete the trail competition. The trail will feature a live ice carve, and a workshop with its own ice post box, where the elves will help you write and post your letters to Santa. And there will be photo opportunities with Cinderella and Prince Charming as well as walkabout pantomime dame characters.

We're also joined by Saltburn Inspired who, in partnership with the Ice Trail, will bring a Christmas market to Saltburn Community Hall with stalls, crafts and a beer and carols sessions with music from the Saltburn Smugglers.

Foster carers at the heart of recruitment drive

FOSTER FAMILY: Neil and Janette Dewsbury, Alan Dewsbury, Donny O'Shea and Claire Dewsbury

A much-loved foster couple retiring after 42 years have made an urgent appeal – with the very first child they ever fostered by their side - for a new generation of foster carers to come forward.

IT WAS nearly 42 years ago when a two-year-old boy first walked into the home of then brand new foster couple Janette and Neil Dewsbury and changed all their lives forever.

That little lad, Donny O'Shea, still calls round to Neil and Janette for Sunday lunch - and he was right there with them, beaming with pride, when the couple and their children Alan and Claire received special thanks on their retirement as foster carers from the Mayor of Redcar and Cleveland.

They were thanked for helping Donny. And they were thanked for helping other children. Hundreds of them. Vulnerable children from newborn babies to teenagers on the brink of adulthood who have been shown a loving home by the Dewsburys.

Donny surely spoke for all of those at the emotional high tea in the Dewsbury's honour laid on by Mayor Cllr Neil Bendelow. "I don't know what would have

become of me without them," he said. "I'd like to say 'thank you for everything.'"

The Dewsburys from Liverton Mines, who were awarded MBEs for fostering, are appealing for the next generation of foster carers to come forward. It's a serious and urgent appeal. There is a shortage of foster carers across the country – latest Government statistics show there are 98,000 children in care on any one day and there are only 55,000 foster carers.

For Neil and Janette, a key reason to foster and remain fostering has been the support that council social workers and teams are able to provide. "We had family support and we couldn't have done it without our children, Alan and Claire," said Neil. "We've also had some amazing social workers. You're part of a team when you foster."

That feeling of being part of a team is inspiring the new generation of Redcar and Cleveland foster carers. Carers like Helen Laing, 47, of Redcar, who fosters with her husband Mark with the support of their son, Harry. "I foster because I love children," she says, simply. "I love seeing them learn that life can be fun."

"I feel well supported here (as a foster carer with Redcar and Cleveland council). I



was with an agency before when I talked to other foster carers at the council and saw the support they were getting."

Nikki Hart, 55, and Gillian Dove, 62, from East Cleveland who have fostered for eight years, agreed the challenges are there but the positives are huge. "To see a child smile for the first time when they feel safe and loved, it's so

rewarding," said Gill. "Our advice for anyone thinking about it is to go for it," said Gill.

Foster carer Duncan Lindsay, from Eston, who has fostered for over 12 years with his wife, added: "The process is very thorough and took a while but we have never looked back."

For Janette and Neil, no longer experiencing that feeling of reward every day will be a big loss. Janette shed a few tears after being thanked by the

Mayor, saying; "I'm a bit lost when we wake up in the morning now. I think, 'where's my baby?' "It's been a privilege."

Neil said he'd also feel the loss. "We'd do it all again," he said, talking of his pride for Donny, that one time two-year-old still by his and Janette's side today.

Supporting our foster carers

OUR foster carers all have an allocated social worker as well as access to 'buddy system' contact with other carers, the offer of



MAYOR: Mayor Cllr Neil Bendelow held a special event for the family

extensive training, fostering events including monthly get-togethers and a unique model of support called the Mockingbird System designed to provide the kind of support an extended family provides. There is also financial support of a weekly allowance and fostering fee of up to £550 a week per child as well as council tax exemptions.



NEW GENERATION: Foster carer, Helen Laing from Redcar



REWARDING: Foster carers, Nikki Hart and Gillian Dove from East Cleveland.



NO REGRETS: Foster carer, Duncan Lindsay from Eston.

Get in touch

If you think you can make a difference to the life of a young person please contact the fostering team:

Phone: 0800 917 7771 or contact@fosterwithnortheast.org.uk
Find out more: <https://fostering.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk>

Foster with
NORTH EAST

Blooming brilliant

NEIGHBOURS have transformed their once mundane alley into an award-winning bright and colourful community space. The hard work and community spirit of the residents from Muriel and Alfred Streets in Redcar were recognised in September this year, when they were given the prestigious Level 4 Thriving Award as part of the It's Your Neighbourhood event, an initiative of Northumbria in Bloom and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Since 2019, when the Council installed new gates for their alley, this group of neighbours have been working together

to revive the alley and make it more than just a place for their bins to be collected.

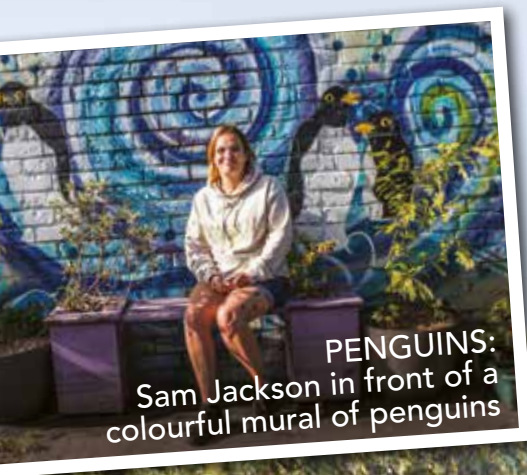
In time, flowers, fruit trees, small garden benches, lanterns and ornaments have been brought in by the residents to create a space where they can get together and socialise. The children have enjoyed this project the most as now they have a safe and bright place where they can play.

"We are very happy with how it's turning out. The kids are having so much fun playing here and I'm grateful to everybody who helped," said Sam Jackson, who initiated this project.

One of the alley's highlights are the wall murals created by talented residents Dawn

Monkhouse, Julie Pratt, Kath and students from Ryehills Academy who wanted to bring more colour to the area.

Another resident, Alex Monkhouse said "With having the gates fitted, this encouraged us all to come out and work together which brought us closer as a community." Mark Chapman added "We wouldn't all know each other if it wasn't for greening the alley." Val Richardson said a lot of people up and down the alley contribute with planters and maintenance, Dave, Sandra, Lawrence and James being especially active.



PENGUINS: Sam Jackson in front of a colourful mural of penguins



DRAGONS: Mural depicting dragons and volcanoes painted by a resident



RESIDENTS: Dan and Sam Jackson, Mark Chapman, Rebecca Manasseh, Alex Monkhouse, Julie Chapman, Dawn Monkhouse and the children from Muriel and Alfred streets.



Evie on her mission to tackle fly tipping

Meet the 'nipper pickers'

VILLAGE children are on a mission to stop the scourge of fly-tipping in their community.

Pupils at Whitecliffe Academy in Carlin How have been taking part in a pilot scheme which involves villagers and council workers working closely together to tackle fly-tipping and also improve recycling.

Council officers visited the primary school with an itinerary full of activities to teach the children about the harms of fly tipping, what good recycling is and how

they can help their area and the environment.

After an educational and interactive presentation given by the Recycling Team on what can and cannot go in your blue bin, the pupils put their knowledge to the test during a fun game of sorting. Divided into two teams, they had to look through a pile of waste items and identify those that can be recycled. It was an intense competition and, by the end, both teams learned valuable lessons about recycling.

Later in the day the children, armed with litter picking equipment and accompanied by teachers and council officers, went out to tidy the streets around their school. No fizzy drink can, cigarette butt or piece of paper could escape their determined litter pickers. They returned to the school with full bags, some with waste and some with recycling, all of them proud to have helped their local community and eager to share what they've learned with their families.

When asked about her day, one of the students Evie, aged eight, said: "Today I've learned that you should never fly tip because if you leave rubbish on the ground it will get into the soil and pollute the environment and hurt the animals."

She also has a final message for all adults and children in the borough: "Can you please stop fly-tipping and help us keep the planet healthy?"



Pupils from Whitecliffe Academy reminding people not to fly tip

NO THANK YOU X

Scan here for more recycling info, hints and tips



-  All types of plastic bags (all colours) X
 -  Clothes / textiles / bedding / shoes X
 -  Polystyrene X
 -  Food waste or any items with grease & food residues X
 -  Nappies X
 -  Electrical items / batteries X
 -  All types of takeaway packaging X
- 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.

What DOES and DOES NOT go in your blue recycling bin

YES PLEASE ✓

-  All mail, including envelopes (with windows)
-  Aerosols
-  Aluminium foil trays (must be clean)
-  Cans & tins (aluminium & steel)
-  Cardboard (clean & dry)
-  Catalogues & telephone directories



Items must be loose in the bin, not in bags

-  Glass bottles & jars (no liquids) ✓
-  Newspapers & magazines ✓
-  Paper and shredded paper ✓
-  Plastic bottles (wash & squash) ✓
-  Plastic food pots, tubs & trays (must be clean) ✓
-  Tin foil (must be clean) ✓

LIFE SAVERS: John Allinson and Loftus Scouts and leaders who helped save his life. Left to right: William Bagshaw, Niall Richards, Greg Richards, Dylan Powell and Tyler Duncan.



Granddad thanks scouts for saving his life

A GRANDFATHER says he owes his life to five scouts who found him collapsed in the woods.

John Allinson, 53, from Loftus, explained he went on a walk one hot evening after receiving some bad news, when he had a seizure and collapsed in nearby Rosecroft Woods while talking on the phone to his wife, Joanne.

It was there where scouts Tyler Duncan, Dylan Powell, William Bagshaw, and Greg and Niall Richards - and their scout leader, Helen Tyreman - found him unconscious.

The five young people, aged between 11 and 14, and Helen gave John medical assistance,

while speaking with his wife on the phone and escorting her to their location. They also contacted the emergency services for an ambulance and, following their guidance over the phone, undertook an assessment of John's condition.

Joanne described all the scouts as being; "wonderful, kind, calm and professional, a credit to scouting and our local community."

Five months later, John, a grandfather-of-four, said he is feeling better, keeping active and looking after his physical and mental health. He said: "What the scouts did on that

day was incredible and the gratitude that I feel towards them is beyond anything I can express with words."

The scouts and their leader, Helen, have stayed in touch with John. The older scouts will receive the Scout's Gold Award for their hard work and achievements over the years, while the younger ones are following in their footsteps, and all the scouts were invited for a special event at the Mayor's Parlour in Redcar. Helen said: "Our motto is 'be prepared!' and these young people proved they were more than prepared to help John."

How we are improving your towns...



Redcar Central Station

WORKS are continuing to progress well at Redcar Central Station. All external scaffolds are nearing completion and the roof to the building is in the process of being stripped ready for repairs. Internally, demolition continues to the rooms on the first floor.

The Council is currently accepting expressions of interest in taking space in the building if any local business owners are interested. Please email to find out more: gavinb@naylorsgavinblack.co.uk

Eston Pool

CONSTRUCTION works on the Eston Pool project started in September 2024.

The new building will feature a 25-metre six lane swimming pool and a separate learner pool as well as a changing village, 150 seat spectator area, officials room and Changing Places facility.

Once open, residents will have access to public swimming, swimming lessons for all ages and galas and competitions.

The pool will be complete in early 2026, thanks to funding from the Government, the Council and Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Loftus

WORKS are nearly complete in the transformation of the United Reformed Church in Loftus, which dates back to 1906. It has stood empty for 20 years, but the building will soon accommodate artist studios, a gallery and workshop space.

The refurbishment will make the church a 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.

The beautiful stained-glass window (pictured) was



STUNNING: Church window restored

recently removed, restored and reinstalled.

This project is being delivered by the Council and funded via Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Guisborough

FOLLOWING feedback from the Guisborough community on the proposals to transform Westgate and Chaloner Street, amended designs have been drawn up.

The proposals will deliver a range of enhancements within the town centre that will help to revitalise the area.

This significant investment from Government is an opportunity to improve

residents' and visitors' experience, drive economic growth, and promote Guisborough as an historic market town, ensuring the future sustainability of the High Street.

Subject to planning permission and conditions, works will start in early 2025 following engagement with business. A contractor has not yet been appointed but once this has happened, the Council will instruct that the works will be undertaken in phases to mitigate the impact on businesses, residents and visitors.

To see the plans, please visit: <https://redcarcleveland.uk/engagementhq.com/>



NEW PLANS: Guisborough transformed



HIGH STREET: What it could look like

Redcar High Street

REDCAR High Street is set to receive a facelift thanks to investment from the Redcar Town Deal. Residents and visitors will soon see improvements to the area such as new paving, street furniture, additional landscaping with plants and trees and improved lighting. Works will start in the new year, so there will be no disruption over the Christmas period.

Eston Precinct

A PLANNING application will soon be submitted in a step to transform Eston Precinct.

The proposed redevelopment aims to provide high-quality retail facilities and will enhance the surrounding area with new paving, trees and benches. These developments will help to attract new retailers and provide a better and more vibrant environment for residents to shop.

Plans have recently been drawn up and were shared with residents for their feedback. The paper and online surveys showed a 93% backing in favour of the redevelopment and 77% of people surveyed said they would use the facilities once built.

You can read more about the project, which is funded by Government and Tees Valley Combined Authority, here: <https://redcarcleveland.uk/engagementhq.com/>



ESTON PRECINCT: Current plans



Saltburn

THE benches on Marine Parade in Saltburn are being transformed thanks to the efforts of the local community.

Footprints in the Community, volunteers from 'Shed', and Steel River Fabrications have been commissioned by the Council to create new heritage style benches.

The first bench, in memory of Jade Bower, has recently been fitted just opposite the Lower Garden.

As work is being done by volunteers from the community Shed, the new benches will be produced and put into position gradually over the next few months. Works are also under way to improve the railings located on the lower promenade in Saltburn. These improvements are funded via Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Celebrating the volunteers

VOLUNTEERS have a massive, positive impact and here we celebrate just a few of the everyday heroes who do so much to help so many for no financial reward. Could you become a volunteer? Find out more below.

Living the good life

JUST one year ago, Paul Profitt and his friends first saw the 6ft high weeds on hard ground on a scrubland area of Warrenby Allotments...and felt a rush of excitement combined with determination to succeed.

"We couldn't even open the gate," laughs Paul. "Now look at it!" Paul, 59, from Dormanstown, gestures to the well-tended earth, friendly signs and happy people working the land on this community garden - or just chatting together over a brew.

It's all part of a vision Paul, a semi-retired granddad, first had more than 30 years ago to help people through the joy of gardening. Called The Good Life, the volunteer organisation is a centre for people facing various challenges including caring responsibilities, low mood, reduced mobility, and potential isolation to make friends and experience the pride of growing their own vegetables. In just one year, the group has more than 80 paid-up members (just £1 to join) and nearly 500 followers on Facebook.

"I had an allotment decades ago and I remember there was a charity garden and I thought



HAPPY GARDENERS: Paul Profitt (left) with volunteers at the community garden

it was a great idea and it stayed with me all those years. We give it a lot of thought. For a start, you don't actually have to garden if that's challenging - just come anyway for a cuppa! Or we have land prepared with woodchips for more elderly people to plant more easily. It's not just plants we're cultivating, it's friendship and wellness within our community. The funny thing is, I'm not even much of a gardener myself!"

Find out more about The Good Life on Facebook. Just type in The Good Life Community Garden or email thegoodlifecommunityproject@gmail.com Alternatively call Paul on 07762973248



VILLAGE HEART: Volunteers at a mural celebrating Boosbeck



Village home is where the heart is

IN just two years the volunteers of Boosbeck Village Hall have somehow managed to open a new accessible kitchen, create a community-designed war mural, redecorate, develop a new seating area and create mosaics depicting the village's history.

It's a record to be proud of. But as just one of the volunteers who made it happen, Lindsey Mays, a 40-year-old, mum-of-two, explains, the real achievement is the focus on community activities.

"A big driving force for me was when my dad got

Alzheimer's," says Lindsey, a trustee and committee member who stresses the role of the whole team. "For my dad it means he's in a familiar place where groups and community can take place where he doesn't have to travel. But there are so many things this space provides for children, and elderly people and just fun stuff for everyone.

"We're a charity run by volunteers and we have to raise funds to survive so we love it when someone says, 'I have an idea!' We have ambitious plans for the future."

Find out more about Boosbeck Village Hall on Facebook or its website on www.boosbeckvillagehall.co.uk Alternatively call 07760 437407

Opportunities to volunteer

Could you volunteer with the Council? Email volunteer@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk. Or there are many other opportunities. Find out more at the Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency rcvda.org.uk, call them on 01642 01642 440571 or email enquiries@rcvda.org.uk



MEMORIES: Susan McLaughlin and her beloved dog, Bailey

Dog lover's new role

COMING into her work serving the community, Susan McLaughlin shakes off wood shavings and wipes down paw prints and declares she already feels her day has been worthwhile.

For Susan, a Community Enforcement Officer, has recently started volunteering at the Maxi's Mates dog charity.

A Canadian who has lived in Yorkshire for 30 years - these days in East Cleveland, she explained her own dog - Bailey, a Rhodesian ridgeback, had to be put to sleep, aged 11, two years ago after becoming very ill. "A very hard experience, even worse than I thought it would be."

Susan said that as well as working full-time, she looks after her two young grandchildren, aged one and six, and lives alone so thought it unfair to get a new dog herself. Instead, she has become passionate about looking after the abandoned, stray and sometimes abused dogs the Redcar charity looks after.

"I absolutely love it," she said. "I want to work with dogs in future when I retire, so this is incredibly valuable experience and so rewarding. Can't tell you how wonderful it has been. I would recommend volunteering to anyone."

Find out more about how you can help Maxi's Mates on their website. Alternatively, email maxismates@gmail.com or call them 07507 104636



SeAH Wind's under-construction monopile factory

TWO MAJOR GREEN TEESWORKS PROJECTS SECURE MORE SUPPORT

The highly anticipated Net Zero project based on Teesworks in Redcar has received the green light from Government, with work beginning by the end of the year.

The £4billion project – led by bp and Equinor – will establish the world's first industrial-scale carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) facility at the site.

The confirmation of Government support will allow work to start by the end of this year – with operations expected to begin in 2027.

The project is set to create 3,000 construction jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs once the plant is operational. It is expected to add up to £300million to the economy per year.

The proposed power station will generate up to 860 megawatts of low carbon electricity – enough to power up to 1.3 million UK homes. Up to two million tonnes of CO2 emissions from the power station will be captured each year – emissions which would otherwise be released into the atmosphere.

The captured CO2 will then be transported by the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) by pipeline to a geological storage site under the North Sea, where it will be permanently and safely stored.

In another fantastic coup for the site, a further £225million has been secured to finance SeAH Wind Ltd's massive monopile production facility, currently under development.

The financing from Standard Chartered Bank and HSBC UK is supporting an additional investment to allow the factory to produce a wider range of components for the offshore wind sector and to meet the latest industry demands.

The major project – now totalling more than £900million – will create up to 750 jobs. When operational, the facility will be one of the largest of its kind in the world as it targets US and European markets.

Both of these groundbreaking projects are further enhancing the region's reputation as the "Silicon Valley of Net Zero", as it drives forward the UK in the cleaner, healthier and safer industries of tomorrow.

To discover the latest job opportunities on-site, visit www.teesworks.co.uk/jobs/jobs-careers

Still nursing after 45 years

A SCHOOL nurse has told of her deep, on-going passion to help our children after celebrating 45 years in the profession.

These days Elaine Verrill, 63, is Clinical Lead in the Council's School Nursing team supporting school nurses on the front line. It's a long way from that Monday on 3 September, 1979 when a young Elaine first walked into Middlesbrough's School of Nursing, put on the uniform and started her career.

"I'd already been working as a nursery nurse since I left school at 16," said Elaine, a mother-of-three and grandmother-of-nine who recently celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary to Martin. "My mum, she's 92 now and still going strong, was a nurse and I just loved children, so it just felt natural to become a paediatric nurse. It has been such rewarding career."

Elaine explained that, although she found working on wards with very poorly children very fulfilling

Elaine is no longer on the frontline but her team go into secondary schools for drop-in every week showing a visible presence. However, these days a lot more focus is on catching health – including emotional health – issues early for young people. As well as referrals, two very successful chatline are available, one for parents of children aged five to 11 and one for children aged 11 to 19, which can be confidential and anonymous.

it became even more emotionally hard when her own children came along. She moved into community nursing, becoming a Sister, and eventually into school nursing in 1996.

"Quite recently we had a mother in touch, clearly getting into a bit of a state about the behaviour of her son. We had a team responding very quickly out to see her. We got this really lovely 'thank you' message from her talking about what a big difference our work with the child had made. It made our day to get the message - but it's also an example of how early intervention works well."

COMMITTED TO CHILDREN: Elaine Verrill, Clinical Lead in the School Nursing Team.



CHAT is a text messaging service.

Text 07312 263100 if you're aged 11 to 19.

Parents of children aged 5 – 11 should text 07312 263717.

Available Monday to Fri - 8.30am to 4pm (3.30pm on Fridays).

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Golden girl!

THERE was a golden moment for a dad in the council office recently when his daughter popped in...with a real gold medal!

Paralympian gold medal winner Faye Rogers, 21, visited her father Chris and his colleagues in the Council's Information Technology team in Redcar wearing the gold medal she won in the 100 metre Butterfly event at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris.

She explained that one of her very first competitive swimming experiences was right next door at Redcar Leisure Centre.

"I'm so proud of her," smiled Chris, Project Lead who promised to take Faye for a lemon top ice cream, "she's

a gold medallist as well as World Champion and European record holder. It's amazing."

Faye, from Ingleby Barwick, who is studying biochemistry at Aberdeen University joked that the lemon top was a bigger prize than the medal! "It's been crazy since I got home," laughed Faye, who trains in the pool 18 hours a week and works out in the gym a further six hours. "I've been interviewed on TV and all kinds of media and gone to all kinds of events."

Faye, who said the medal is so heavy that she can't wear it for longer periods, answered questions from the team and



GOLDEN: Chris and Faye Rogers

explained the medal itself contains some metal from the Eiffel Tower itself. She said that she had competed in Olympic trials in 2021 but later was involved in a car accident and severely damaged her arm. Now she's focused on her study but also on competing in the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.



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everyone ACTIVE

Everyone Active manages these facilities in partnership with Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.

New Extra Care scheme coming soon to Guisborough!

Exclusively designed for over 55s*

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Graham, Extra Care resident



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Find out more below:

- 01287 213010
- info.aldaniticourt@housing21.org.uk
- Aldaniti Court, Spring Wood Road, Guisborough, TS14 7FD

*Other charges and conditions apply.



On the right road

A REPORT has highlighted significant improvements being made to our borough’s roads. A six-year resurfacing programme is continuing and last year nearly 110,000 square meters of road and 1,420 square meters of footpaths were resurfaced.

A Council report revealed that 98 per cent of the principal road network in Redcar and Cleveland was available at any given time; 93 per cent of pothole reports were responded to within five days.

Other statistics submitted to the Department for Transport showed that just 1% of A Roads, 4% of B and C Roads and 9% of unclassified roads needed attention, placing the borough in the top five in the country for carriageway condition.



ROAD: One of the borough's carriageways

There has also been investment in the Council’s fleet and machinery which is continuing to become more environmentally friendly and flood prevention programmes across the borough are ongoing.

The full Highways report was submitted to Borough Council on 3 October. Search ‘borough council’ on the authority’s website.

Life changing project for young people

AN IMPORTANT new project to help young people in danger of criminality and exploitation has been launched at a major event in Kirkleatham. Led by the SHiFT organisation, the project is a collaboration involving our council, Middlesbrough Council and partner organisations and will also help tackle knife crime and child exploitation.

Two teams have been created in South Tees who will work to break the destructive cycle of young people at risk of crime.



ANTI-CRIME INITIATIVE: Professor Martin Griffiths



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OPEN EVENTS 2025

Tuesday 11th Feb
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Events are 5:00pm – 7:00pm

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Electoral Register - don't forget to check

ALL households have received a canvass communication letter asking them to check the information currently on the electoral register is right or whether alternations need to be made before the revised register is published on 1 December 2024. In addition to responding to the canvass form, those people who have advised us that they need to be added to the register must complete their registration online (www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or respond to the letter which has been sent to them.

Throughout 2025, the majority of postal voters are required to renew their postal voting arrangements. The Electoral Team will contact all those affected in due course.



Supporting ALL our children

A SPECIAL education conference focusing on how to support all children in schools – especially those with emotional and mental health needs – was held last month. Education professionals from schools and agencies across the area heard directly from young carers and Children in Our Care who spoke movingly about

their experiences. The South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP) covers the whole of South Tees and the event was held at Middlesbrough FC's Riverside Stadium. Keynote speaker, Jonny Uttley, CEO at The Education Alliance, said that a good teacher in every class was vital.

Making the switch to digital

BETWEEN now and 2027, telephone providers will be moving most customers to new digital landline services, replacing analogue systems.

For most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward. Nobody will have to lose their landline service because of this change, as there will still be the option for a 'landline only' service should a customer not wish to purchase a general internet connection.

The exact migration process will depend on your

communications provider and the equipment they use. If you already have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router rather than the socket on the wall.

Communications providers will contact their customers ahead of the migration taking place, so you do not need to take any action until your provider contacts you directly.

Find out more at www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines

COUNCIL DIARY

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

November 2024

- 25, 10am
Governance Committee

December 2024

- Monday 2, 10am
Adult, wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 3, 10am
Children and Families Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Wednesday 4, 10am
Corporate Resources & Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Thursday 5, 10am
Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Thursday 5, 5.30pm
Climate and Environment scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Monday 9, 10am
Corporate Parenting Board
- Tuesday 10, 10am
Cabinet
- Thursday 12, 10am
Regulatory Committee
- Wednesday 18, 10am
Employment Health and Safety Committee
- Thursday 19, 2pm
Borough Council

January 2025

- Thursday 23, 10am
Regulatory Committee

February 2025

- Monday 3, 10am
Adult, wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Monday 3, 2pm
Governance Committee
- Tuesday 4, 10am
Children and Families Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 4, 5pm
Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (held at Community Safety Hub, Hemlington)
- Wednesday 5, 10am
Corporate Resources & Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Thursday 6, 10am
Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Friday 7, 10am
Climate and Environment scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 11, 10am
Cabinet
- Monday 17, 5pm
Corporate Parenting Board (held at Laurence Jackson School, Guisborough)
- Wednesday 19, 10am
Employment Health and Safety Committee

The 59 men and women representing 24 wards

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Christmas & New Year WASTE COLLECTIONS

The days listed in the tables below will be subject to an alternative collection day. **Please note that SOME of the collections will be brought FORWARD in advance of the usual collection days.**

The times of collections during the festive period are likely to vary so please present your bin by 7am on the day of collection. All other days will be collected on their scheduled day, which can be found on the refuse & recycling calendar at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/bin-search

General Waste



Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Wednesday 25 December 2024	Tuesday 17 December 2024
Thursday 26 December 2024	Thursday 19 December 2024
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Thursday 2 January 2025

Recycling



Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Wednesday 25 December 2024	Wednesday 18 December 2024
Thursday 26 December 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Friday 3 January 2025

Dunsdale Christmas Opening

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri (closed Wed): 8am – 5pm

Weekends: 8am – 5pm

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day,

New Year's Day

www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/dunsdale

Bins need to be presented kerbside at 7am on the morning of collection

Bulky waste: Last collection 16 December. Service restarts 16 January

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) must NOT be disposed of in ANY bin, however it can be disposed of correctly at Dunsdale Household Waste & Recycling Centre – examples of WEEE can be found on our webpage: www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/waste-electricals

Recycling tips for Christmas

Wrapping paper – often covered in plastic coating so NON-RECYCLABLE.

Christmas cards – REMOVE glitter, ribbons and other embellishments before recycling.

Packaging – polystyrene and laminated cardboard are NON-RECYCLABLE. Do the rip test on cardboard. If it rips – recycling. If it doesn't – general waste.

Sticky tape – is NON-RECYCLABLE. Remove tape from other products before recycling them.

Christmas trees – the Council is backing Teesside Hospice's tree collection service which raises money to support terminally ill people and their families. Other fantastic charities may also be offering this service in our area.