

DARLEY & MENWITH 2023/24

A year in the life of our community

Christ Church Darley

Church services continue with the pattern of previous years, although this pattern is now being reviewed to see if the timing and frequency of services can better meet the needs of our community and make it easier for people to attend.

For children and families, Messy Church meets in Hookstone Memorial Hall on Saturday tea times, (4-6pm) approximately once every two months, when craft activities are followed by songs, stories, and a family meal. Forest Church is another activity for children, taking place monthly in the garden beside Holy Trinity, Dacre on Sunday mornings. We hold a Family Service at 9:30am on the third Sunday of every month in Christ Church.

In conjunction with Christ Church Community Centre (CCCC) we have been making the entrance to the church building from the west more accessible for people with disabilities. The step has been raised and, when the weather permits, the drive level will be raised to provide a smooth access to the church and CCCC.

The re-ordering of the church building, which created a flexible, warm, and comfortable space, has encouraged a number of groups to use the church during each week. There are still spaces available for other activities and the church would make an excellent exhibition space, or venue for talks, lectures etc, with a sound system, Wi-Fi, and projector all available.

Darley Memorial Hall

Last year, the Charity that owns and runs Darley Memorial Hall underwent a significant change of status to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This means that the Hall and land is now owned by an incorporated body, not simply held in trust in the name of individual Trustees, which secures its long term future for the village.

The Hall has hosted its usual wide range of major activities, including regular monthly sequence dances, well-supported film nights, featuring many great movies, and the indoor bowls and snooker clubs throughout the winter. The Hall has also accommodated several bookings at short notice, and has been able to host events for a wide range of organisations, as well as events for local residents.

Major events have included two big functions to celebrate the coronation of HM King Charles III (a Ceilidh and an afternoon tea party, both attended by nearly a hundred local villagers), the Thanksgiving Day dinner for RAF Menwith Hill, attended by many local Mayors and civic dignitaries, meetings of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, conferences of the regional association of Women's Institutes, cycle races and many private parties and celebrations.

In-Harmony Community Choir

In Harmony is a local choir with members who sing together every Tuesday evening at Christ Church Community Centre under the guidance of our talented Musical Director. Our members are drawn from the surrounding villages, and we are open to all adults.

We sing a varied programme in two or three part harmony and the main aim is to enjoy singing together as well as developing technique and confidence. Aside from this, singing has a proven positive impact on mental health and well-being.

Our choir number have risen this year to the largest membership in many years and we like to include social get-togethers in our calendar. In the last twelve months we have performed at a number of events including the HM King Charles III's coronation celebrations, a number of Christmas lunches and a recital at Darley Methodist Church.

Anyone interested in joining should contact the Chair, Lucy Malby (lucy.malby@icloud.com or 07823 554496).

Christ Church Darley Scout Group

Christ Church Darley Scout Group is made up of three sections – Beavers (6-8 years), Cubs (8-10½yrs) and Scouts (10½-14yrs). During weekly meetings, the young people complete fun activities which count towards badges which are awarded once all the required tasks have been achieved. The programme also includes camps, hikes and outdoor adventures, putting the "OUT" into ScOUTing. The aim of the Scout movement is to help youngsters learn Skills for Life and this is encouraged by teamwork challenges, problem solving and visits to various places of interest.

We have an extensive waiting list, particularly for the Beaver and Cub Sections, and sadly we are unable to offer everyone an opportunity to experience Scouting in Darley. Putting your child's name down early is to be recommended to avoid disappointment.

Christ Church Darley Scout Group relies on a team of dedicated volunteers to run the various activities. If you think Scouting is something you would like to get involved in, please get in touch. No previous experience is necessary, just a great sense of humour and a desire to join in the fun!

The Charity of Isabel Day

This small charity owns and manages a number of small parcels of land in Darley and Thornthwaite that were bequeathed many years ago. The Trustees are drawn from the two parishes and are able to use the income from the land or investments to award small grants to local organisations within these parishes. If your organisation has a project that needs some support, please contact Sue Welch, one of the Trustees.

Darley Heritage Group

Over the past fifteen years, the group has compiled the leaflet Darley Heritage Trail and three books full of old photos and memories of Darley. Copies are all available at the village shop, or from Sue Welch on 01423 780970. So if you are new to the village, get hold of them to learn about its history.

The group is not currently involved in a project, but continues to collect old photos and reminiscences, so if you are a long-standing resident and have anything to add to the village archive, please contact Sue.

Darley Community Library

The Library Service has recorded another successful year with 554 visitors and 657 loaned books. This is broadly similar to 2023 when we saw 635 visitors and 633 books borrowed. In addition to our library books, we also continue to loan jigsaws which are provided to us by Nidderdale Plus.

We are open on Mondays from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, Tuesday 10.45am to 12.15pm, Saturday 10am to 12 midday.

We have also continued to support Duke of Edinburgh aspires within the village.

None of this however would be possible without the continued support of our loyal band of volunteers who together have provided over 275 hours of time to support the North Yorkshire Council outreach library service in our community during the last year.

Christ Church Community Centre (CCCC)

Our recent flier advertised 25 regular activities spread between CCCC and Christ Church. New this year is Craft and Connect and the addition of an occasional pop-up barber.

Successful social events have been a Pop-Up Indian Restaurant, Village Get Together BBQ, and a Christmas Canape evening.

Members of the committee have helped FOD with the Coronation celebrations and the Village Christmas Afternoon Tea held in the Memorial Hall.

At the end of the year all the components were in place for the West Drive Access Project to commence. The project has had many setbacks with funding and obtaining the necessary permissions. A successful grant application to the Knabs Ridge Wind Farm Community Fund, support from County Councillor Murday through the NYC Locality Budget and support from Darley and Menwith Parish Council, finally secured the funds required in October. We look forward to the project being completed in Spring.

2023 saw the retirement of Christine Houseman, who has been treasurer from the onset of the CCCC project in 2005, and Ken Metcalfe, our safety officer since 2008. Their support has always been invaluable.

The most valuable asset that CCCC has is its pool of volunteers. Without their contributions, this centre would not be the busy hub that it is. We have a dedicated committee and enormous support from residents who have started, and organised many of the groups.

Focus on Darley

Focus on Darley is a voluntary organisation made up of all the local charities and groups in the village. It publishes the regular Village Newsletter, which keeps everyone in the village informed about activities and events and organises community events on behalf of the village.

The Parish Council makes an annual contribution to the printing costs of the newsletter, and all of the organisations in membership of Focus on Darley pay a membership fee that also supports these costs. All the work of editing and distributing over 600 copies every two months is done by volunteers.

Focus on Darley helped the village to celebrate the Coronation of HM King Charles III by helping with the organisation of a Ceilidh on Coronation Day in Darley Memorial Hall. This was followed by a free afternoon Cream Tea on the Monday open to everyone, and it was pleasing that the organisation of this event involved some new volunteer organisers.

In December, a Christmas Tea Party took place for all the village in Darley Memorial Hall, and Christmas carols were played by the Summerbridge and Dacre Silver Prize Band. This was intended to be on Low Green, but in view of the inclement weather it had to be relocated to Darley Memorial Hall.

Hookstone Memorial Hall

www.h-m-h.co.uk

Hookstone Memorial Hall is in need of new volunteers. If you feel you can offer some free time in becoming a Trustee and or supporter, please speak with Alastair Procter: email aprocter321@btinternet.com/ telephone 01423 780115.

Enquiries regarding booking the hall for your event, Diane Rawnsley can give you more details (rawnsleysroost@aol.com or telephone 07887 357437). The Honorary Secretary is Suzie Field (field.bents@btinternet.com and telephone 07843 058110). Information regarding the Billiard & Snooker club are available from Martin Smith on 01423 780519.

Darley Cricket Club

The 2023 season was mixed, with the 1st team getting relegated to Division 2 and the 2nd team getting promoted to Division 5. The junior Allstars cricket continued to thrive on a Friday night.

We fitted a new electronic scoreboard last season, which works very well. This year we are hoping to extend the pavilion.

Thanks to all our sponsors for supporting us financially.

Darley and Summerbridge Primary School Federation

In September 2023, Darley and Summerbridge Primary School Federation officially joined Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (YCAT) and is now part of a thriving child-centred trust of nine rural primary schools. Our schools have not lost their identities however and continue to serve the rural communities of Lower Nidderdale, nine miles west of Harrogate in the heart of North Yorkshire.

There are 177 pupils attending the schools which provide education for 2 to 11 year-olds. The schools continue to work hard delivering a broad and enriched curriculum. Offering bespoke, contextualised learning opportunities for our children is key to our success and we aspire to equip the children with the skills they will need as they grow up. We are blessed with having an amazing staff, supportive parents, a hard-working governing body and of course, our brilliant children. To find out more about your local schools, visit: www.darleyandsummerbridge.co.uk.

Darley Playing Fields Association (DPFA)

The past 12 months have once again been busy for the DPFA. The Boules Courts saw our inaugural open Boules competition which will be repeated on a much larger scale this year. Entries are now closed and matches under way heading to the finals on the August Bank Holiday Weekend. The Courts have also been re-dressed with a new smaller gravel playing surface.

The firework display was well-attended once again and supported by local sponsors to whom we are very grateful. For this year, we intend to safely re-introduce bonfires to make the event more special.

The children's playground has continued to be our focus & we have added a large new "Scramble Stax Jungle" for use by children of all ages. In addition, we installed some wooden benches to provide additional seating for parents & carers.

The Trustees have been working hard in the background developing plans for a new Multi-user Games Area to be located at the western end on the football field. The plans also include new changing facilities which will allow the shop to expand into the existing changing rooms creating more space for a café area inside the shop. This is a large project which we will be consulting on with residents over the coming months.

Darley in Bloom

The group has continued to plant and maintain the many flowerboxes throughout the village, to keep the village looking good. If you would like to help, then please contact Peter Dransfield, the Chairman. There are regular monthly working parties, along with occasional special sessions to get the boxes planted, emptied, or maintained.

The group also arranges fund-raising events in order to be able to buy the plants and arrange watering, so during 2023/24 it held coffee mornings and an Antiques

Evening. There is no automatic funding from Darley and Menwith Parish Council or North Yorkshire Council, so profits from these events, along with other donations are essential. Thanks to all who help.

Many thanks also to those villagers who contribute regularly by purchasing Local Lotto tickets each week. The Local Lotto is operated by North Yorkshire Council and 50p out of every £1 goes directly to your selected 'good cause'. Do search for this on the internet and select Darley in Bloom as your target. You have the chance of winning a cash prize, and Darley in Bloom receives enough money to pay for a good proportion of the summer plants.

RAF Menwith Hill

The primary construction activity on Base over the last year has been focused on our Main Entrance. As you will have seen if you have driven past the Base recently, it has undergone a significant revamp. This has been done to enhance its effectiveness and improve the process for accessing the Base. We expect it to open in the Summer. The work obviously involved the closure of Menwith Hill Road for a large part of 2023. We apologize again for the inconvenience this caused. We are very grateful for the patience of everyone affected.

Alongside a new Main Entrance, we have also started work on a new Support Facility for the Base which is located on the site of the old Child Development Facility. This building is expected to be completed in 2025. There is further work in the pipeline for the coming years. We are hoping to demolish and rebuild our Base Fire Station. If all goes according to plan, work on this will likely start in 2027.

Construction and maintenance activity inevitably involves contractor vehicle and lorry traffic and we are very mindful of the need to minimize the impact on our local roads. This is at the forefront of our minds as we are doing our planning and scheduling.

Visits for members of the local community continued and we hosted six groups alongside three cadet troops. There is a full calendar of base visits for the coming year. We hosted a Civic Leaders Briefing morning in June 2023 and held our Thanksgiving event at Darley Memorial Hall for the second time. It was a huge success once again with over 100 people attending. We hope to continue the tradition this year.

We continued our outreach work, spending time with Darley Playing Fields Association and completing the outdoor stage for Darley Primary School. We have also spent time at Ripon Walled Garden. We hosted Harrogate and District Young Carers to a day out at a local Farm Park, and our 2023 Toy Drive collected gifts and vouchers for over 650 children in need in our local area.

Darley Village Website

The village website at www.darleyvillage.info shows all the details of the village facilities, organisations and projects and has contact details for all those responsible. It is managed by Darley and Menwith Parish Council and holds details of all Council members and the agendas and minutes for all its meetings.

Regular activities are listed, and one-off events, such as Film Nights and major fund-raisers, are found here too, as well as on the village calendar. Local news covers upcoming roadworks, information from North Yorkshire Council and other items of local interest, so check on the website to keep up-to-date.

If any organisation has information that needs posting, please contact clerk@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk.

Organisation contact details

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Christ Church Community Centre	Sue Runham	01423 780317	suerunham@hotmail.co.uk
Christ Church, Darley	Bryan Dexter	01423 781535	bdxldx@gmail.com
Christ Church Darley Scout Group	Erica Spencer	01423 780905	akelaccd76@gmail.com
Darley Community Library	Theresa Watts	01423 780359	dandtwatts640@gmail.com
Darley Cricket Club	Tim Marriner	01423 780318	marrinja@aol.com
Darley Heritage Group	Sue Welch	01423 780970	swelch@darleygreenacres.net
Darley in Bloom	Peter Dransfield	01423 780054	Peterdransfield27@gmail.com
Darley Memorial Hall	Jane Wardman	07443 477359	secretary@darleymemorialhall.com
Darley Methodist Church	Alan Jordan	07532 436790	alanjordan1951@gmail.com
Darley & Menwith Parish Council	Martin Pearson	07541 518456	clerk@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Darley Playing Fields Association	Mark Simpson	01423 781809	msimpso7@gmail.com
Darley and Summerbridge Primary School Federation	Nick Coates	01423 780234	ncoates.darley@ycatschools.co.uk
Darley Village Website	Sue Welch	01423 780970	sue@darleyvillage.info
Focus on Darley	Angela Houseman	01423 780056	angela@ehouseman.co.uk
Hookstone Memorial Hall	Suzie Field	07843 058110	field.bents@btinternet.com
InHarmony Community Choir	Lucy Malby	07823 554496	lucy.malby@icloud.com
RAF Menwith Hill	Angela Marquis	01423 777971	angela.marquis.gb@us.af.mil
The Charity of Isabel Day	Sue Welch	01423 780970	chairman@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk