

DARLEY 2020/21

A year in the life of our community

Darley and Summerbridge Community Primary School Federation

Darley and Summerbridge Community Primary School Federation serves the rural communities of Lower Nidderdale, nine miles west of Harrogate in the heart of North Yorkshire. There are 120 pupils attending the main schools (51 and 69) with two thriving, governor-led pre-schools on site at both settings (c.55 children on roll). The number of families with direct links to the federation totals 132 families. The federation employs close to thirty members of staff and has a Full Governing Body of 10 members.

At the beginning of lockdown 1, the decision was made to close Darley CP School and instead, keep Summerbridge open for vulnerable children and those children of key workers. Both schools re-opened to all pupils in September 2020 and all children returned. Class arrangements were re-structured so that pupils could make up for lost learning and as such the classes in both schools are as follows: Reception and Year 1; Year 2 and 3; Year 4, 5 and 6. During lockdown 2 and 3, both schools remained open throughout.

Since our full return on 8th March 2021 pupils continue to have a staggered start to the day, zoned playtimes, staggered lunchtimes and staggered ends to their day. Our recovery phases run parallel with the national easing of lockdown restrictions, and like everyone, we are looking forward to 21st June when we can really begin to re-building our lost opportunities.

Darley Cricket Club

Due to the pandemic the 2020 season didn't get underway till mid-summer. Darley first team had a successful season finishing runners up and the second team finished fifth.

The 2021 season gets underway on 24th April.

Hookstone Memorial Hall

Like many businesses and village halls Hookstones' has been a victim of COVID 19. Fortunately, the hall had a little money tucked away for emergency repairs, and we were able to access some government COVID grants. Little did we think these monies would be used to cover insurance and utility bills without any income over the last twelve months. Hopefully we will be back to a 'new normal' soon.

On a positive note, family groups/permitted bubbles have enjoyed playing table tennis on our newly acquired table.

Whilst the Billiards and Snooker Hookstone Clubs are not currently playing matches, their members are able to practice ensuring COVID 19 restrictions and advice. If you wish to join, please contact Martin Smith on 01423 780519 or Alex Houseman on 01423 780789 who will give you full details.

Our volunteers have missed seeing each other and all those who supported our monthly food days. These became quite a hub for locals and visitors to our area.

They enjoyed our warm welcome. We are hoping to be in a position to do something similar as the country gets back to 'normal' and we can ensure customers and helpers can be kept safe.

If you are looking for a small unique venue please come and have a look at what Hookstone offers with no obligation. We are taking bookings from 21st June 2021, subject to current restrictions. Please contact Alastair Procter on 01423 780115 or by email - aprocter321@btinternet.com.

Darley Heritage Group

The group has not met during 2020/21, but its three books are still available direct from Sue Welch (swelch@darleygreenacres.net) or from Darley Village Shop. These are Darley Remembered, Darley Celebrations and Darley Memorial Hall.

If you have any old photos or memories of Darley, we would love to hear from you so that they can be put into the village archive.

If anyone has kept a diary or taken a set of photos, or written poems detailing the coronavirus pandemic and its effect on our lives in Darley over the past year, we would also be delighted to have that. Real history has been in the making during 2020/21, and ought to be recorded.

Darley in Bloom

The group had big plans for 2020, with a special Gardeners' Question Time event, two coffee mornings and our popular Darley Open Gardens. Unfortunately, these all had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, so no fund-raising events were possible.

Thanks to a grant from the Parish Council, and some kind donations, the group was still able to purchase the plants and bulbs needed for the village flowerboxes and these were planted up in a COVID-secure way, using some additional help from local people.

The flower displays throughout the village looked as good as ever, and were even more admired than usual, given that many villagers were confined to the immediate area and therefore were walking past the boxes more often.

Currently there are no 2021 fund-raising events planned, as the exit from lockdown is still not clear, so once again the group will be hoping that local people feel able to make donations to ensure their village looks blooming beautiful.

Please contact the Treasurer, Sue Welch, swelch@darleygreenacres.net, or look out for further information about how to donate in the newsletters.

There is now a Darley in Bloom page on justgiving.com, and lottery tickets bought via thelocalotto.co.uk for Darley in Bloom contribute 50p from every £1 ticket.

RAF Menwith Hill

2020-21 has been a year as strange for RAF Menwith Hill as it has been across the community.

The pandemic meant many months with changed personnel levels and very different ways of working. We employed remote working and closed many facilities. At all times the base has worked within UK Government guidelines in terms of social distancing and work place protections.

During 2020 our base Director, Ms Sally Holcomb, left us to return to the United States. Our new Director is Mr Chris D. Agar who will be with us until 2022 and is joined by his wife (who is British), and his two young daughters.

Their changeover formed part of an event held in September 2020 to open our Serenity Park as part of our 60th Anniversary commemorations. The covid safe outdoor event was attended by the Chairmen of our local Parish Councils and Mayors from across the district.

We were also honoured to be visited by HRH the Prince of Wales in October 2020 as part of his tour of Patron organisations in the north of England. He visited our operations centre and met members of the workforce as well as touring our Serenity Park.

We were thrilled to be able to undertake over eight days of outdoor volunteering through the autumn. Working in small groups we joined with Darley and Menwith Parish Council and NYCC to rebuild the bridge over Fringill Beck, and Ripon Walled Garden to complete restoration and planting in their orchard.

The base Toy Drive took place in a covid safe form in December 2020 collecting over £18,000 of gift cards and vouchers for children and young people in need in the local area.

Darley Playing Fields Association

Despite the unprecedented national COVID-19 pandemic situation the Trustees of DPFA have developed and improved the assets of the charity in a cost-effective way over the last twelve months and have recently set up a web-site for the charity.

Steve Willis and his team at the shop have continued to provide an excellent service to Darley villagers over the last year and have maintained the Meals on Wheels service.

The children's playground had to be closed for a few months due to COVID regulations. Before reopening, work was carried out to repaint the playground items, clearing the soft-landing areas of moss, weeds etc, an independent inspection of the site, completing a risk assessment, and installing a professional standard of safety signage. A number of volunteers from around the village helped in this work.

Sadly, we were not able to hold a bonfire & firework display in 2020 but intend to be back this November.

The Trustees have identified the raised plot of land at the west end of the playing field as a key development target over the next two to three years. The project plan will offer development options and villagers will be consulted over the preferred outcome.

Darley Memorial Hall

The Hall was closed down in March 2020 due to COVID 19. The Hall was reopened in August 2020 for the Gym Club only. A Film Night was held in October 2020.

Looking forward – The Gym Club have restarted and a couple of Dances have been provisionally booked for July and September.

A Film Night has also been provisionally booked for 28th May 2021.

Snooker and Bowls Club have not yet restarted.

Darley Memorial Hall look forward to welcoming the Community back to the Hall.

Focus on Darley

This organisation is made up of all the local groups, and normally arranges the New Year's Eve Party which raises funds for village groups, and publishes the regular Newsletter which keeps everyone in the village informed about activities and events.

New Year's Eve celebrations were unable to happen in 2020, which was a great blow to the resources of facilities in the village, although fingers are crossed for 31st December 2021.

As there was little activity in the village during 2020, because of COVID restrictions, the Newsletter was taken over by those involved with the Volunteer Support Group, and became a very useful method of telling people how to get help, or how to enrol to help others.

Now that the village is slowly returning to some sort of normal, the Newsletter will again revert to giving everyone information about what is (or soon will be!) going on in the village. The first issue will be out in early May.

Darley Community Library

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the Library housed at Christ Church Community Centre was forced to close its doors last March due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It remained closed until September when a small team of willing volunteers agreed to resurrect its services for the community, following strict Government COVID safety guidelines. Unfortunately, this was short lived and the doors were once again closed at the end of October.

During September 2020, the library was open for a total of eight hours and issued 38 books to 23 visitors. Fifteen hours of voluntary service were logged.

During October 2020 the library was open for a total of ten hours and issued 45 books to 15 visitors. Eleven and a half hours of voluntary service was logged.

Thanks must go to Theresa Watts, June Dowson, Nigel Nicholas and Mel Browne for providing the voluntary cover required to enable this valuable village facility to operate, albeit briefly.

All being well, the library should re-open in April 2021.

Christ Church Community Centre (CCCC)

2020 commenced with enthusiasm and plans to continue improving the facilities and activities at CCCC, all of us obviously unaware of the hard year ahead that our world would face. The arrival of COVID and the subsequent lockdowns and tier restrictions brought plans and current activities to an abrupt end.

CCCC partially reopened from mid-August into the first week of December.

We have donated 10 spare laptops to local schools where their use was be far more valuable for home schooling families than CCCC.

Keeping up to date with the changing Government regulations has been testing for a volunteer committee! We joined Action with Communities in Rural England, whose resources have been invaluable. Nidderdale Plus have also forwarded relevant information to help us.

Letting income reduced from £15,806 in 2019 to £4,432 this year - this has been a challenge when combined with the additional expense of making a Covid safe area.

To help make CCCC a Covid Safe area, successful grant applications were made to The Knabs Ridge Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund that is funded from the Government 's Coronavirus Community Support Fund. The grants have funded the installation of a ventilation system into the hall and library. The NLCF funding also helped subsidise hire fees, fund 6 months of partial overheads and purchase sanitising materials.

CCCC will struggle to meet overhead expenses in the year ahead. A claim has been made on our insurance policy for loss of income, the outcome of which we await.

Christ Church

The past year has been both difficult and unusual due to Covid. During lockdowns we have either been told not to hold public services or chosen not to do so under the restrictions which were imposed. We have had one wedding, with family only attending and one funeral limited to 30 family members, but also live streamed to others around the country and abroad. We have been unable to host community activities for most of the past year and fund-raising activities had to cease. We were grateful to those who responded to the appeals for donations to keep the church finances afloat, as we still had to pay our full share to the diocese.

Nevertheless, worship has continued. Our vicar, Alastair, with the help of wife Rachel and Tony Collins have hosted online services throughout the year and these have been streamed from Christ Church to the rest of the parish and much further afield too. The services can also be watched later on Facebook via the Christ Church Darley page and discussion groups and Zoom chats have all been helping to keep the church community together. At the recent Annual General Meeting, held via Zoom, there was unanimous appreciation for all that Alastair has done in very difficult circumstances.

We are currently holding one public service in the parish each Sunday, in addition to the live streamed service and look forward to resuming our normal pattern before too long.

Throughout the pandemic church members have been supporting others in our community and the initiative of the Church Committee resulted in the establishment of the Darley Covid Support Group, which totalled over 70 volunteers and has been held up as a model for other villages to follow.

Darley Community Support Group

Darley Community Support Group was set up at the start of the lockdown to provide support for those in the community who needed help. More than 80 volunteers came forward to provide help and by 30th June (during the first lockdown) assistance was provided as follows:

- almost 500 shops had been done – both at Darley shop and to local supermarket;
- over 140 dog walks had been done; and
- one volunteer had made over 125 face masks for people in the village and the wider community.

Some of the volunteers had started to return to work by the end of June and could not continue to provide the support. But by then the intense support needed by households had largely subsided.

Support continues to be provided by 11 volunteers delivering meals (made by Dusty Miller) on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meal deliveries still continue to be provided today with about 20 meals being delivered each week to the older people within the village. In total about 1,000 meals have been delivered in the last year.

Funding for the group's costs was obtained from the Knabs Ridge Fund.

Darley's Angels WI

It's been a challenging year for everyone, Darley's Angels WI has certainly been affected too.

We have maintained contact throughout the past year with all of our members, mainly via Zoom, but as lockdown has permitted during various time of the year, last summer we did manage to meet up in person in the form of walks, cycle rides, garden meet ups, and history trail around Pateley Bridge.

This year, as the light appears at the end of the tunnel, we are continuing with walks of small groups. We'll also be back on our bikes for some beautiful cycle rides, hopefully to include some tea shop/cake stops. Our sub groups will start to resume, our most popular being pudding club!

We already have some events booked in the calendar this year, to include paddle-boarding, gorge walking, an exclusive visit to Rigby & Peller, Allerton Waste Park and chocolate making. Once the CCCC is open, we will be resuming our monthly meetings (our first meeting being 24th June) and listening to some great talks including bee keeping and fracking and other environmental issues.

We have a very active Facebook page which is open to all ladies in the community to see what we get up to. For WI members, we have sub-Facebook groups for further activity. If there is anything anyone would like to do, I will try and organise it. We always welcome new members from 18yrs+.

Organisation contact details

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Christ Church Community Centre	Sue Runham	01423 780317	suerunham@hotmail.co.uk
Christ Church, Darley	Bryan Dexter	01423 781535	bdxldx@gmail.com
Darley's Angels WI	Joanne Hayes	07710 660799	darleysangelswi@gmail.com
Darley Community Library	Theresa Watts	01423 780359	dandtwatts640@gmail.com
Darley Community Support Group	Nigel Nicholas	01423 781387	nn520712@googlemail.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	janeandcatrina@gmail.com
Darley Methodist Church	Cindy Beck		cdbeck28@outlook.com
Darley & Menwith Parish Council	Parish Clerk	07541 518456	clerk@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Darley Playing Fields Association	Mark Simpson	01423 781809	msimpso7@gmail.com
Darley and Summerbridge Community School Federation	Headteacher	01423 780234	headteacher@darley.n-yorks.sch.uk
Darley Uniformed Groups	Erica Spencer	01423 780905	akelaccd76@gmail.com
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
RAF Menwith Hill	Angela Marquis	01423 777971	angela.marquis.gb@us.af.mil
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