

DARLEY 2021/22

A year in the life of our community

Darley and Summerbridge Community Primary School Federation

What a strange two years we have had, and here at Darley Community Primary School we too have felt the impact that the challenges of the pandemic have created. However, the whole school community has rallied when things have got tough and now, as the pandemic appears to be easing somewhat, we can enjoy some normality once again.

The school continues to thrive with healthy numbers coming through the doors as we build on the 'Good' Ofsted judgement we received two years ago. Our children and staff never cease to amaze me with their positive attitudes and we are now really looking forward to the Spring and Summer with lots of great learning opportunities planned for all our children.

If you would like to find out more about your local school, visit www.darleyandsummerbridge.co.uk/ or contact us to arrange a visit, 01423 780234.

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). Young people complete fun activities which count towards badges which are awarded once all tasks have been completed. 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 for living and this is encouraged by teamwork challenges, problem solving and visits to various places of interest.

Obviously over the last two years normal Scouting has been very difficult. However, the Beaver and Cub Leaders managed to continue to offer a virtual programme online until we were able to resume face to face meetings. The Scouts found this somewhat more difficult, so they were set challenges by email to keep them on track. We were all very grateful when we were able to get back to physical meetings, albeit outside, sanitised and socially distanced to start with. All Sections are now back to weekly meetings at CCCC and we are looking forward to the lighter nights and getting back to some real “hands on” Scouting.

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 who signed up as Scout Leaders on the understanding it would only be for a couple of hours a week!! More help would be greatly appreciated to ensure the future of Scouting in the village. Please get in touch if you think you would like to get involved! It's fun, we promise!

Darley Cricket Club

We had a very successful 2021 season with the first team winning Division 1 and the second team finishing a very credible third. The first team hosted an Australian overseas player who had an exceptional season with the bat.

We were very well supported by local businesses and dignitaries who sponsored the match ball each week. This sponsorship is vital in the running of the club and maintaining the ground.

For this coming year the club has a new president, Mr Tom Carver, who is taking over from Mrs Bev Beecroft.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new generation of cricketers in May as we host our first All Stars (5–8 year-olds) and Dynamos (8–11 year-olds) teams for an eight-week program.

Darley Heritage Group

The group has not undertaken any recent projects, but it is still happy to accept any old photographs or memories of times past in Darley, to add to its archives. Contact Sue Welch, swelch@darleygreenacres.net.

The three books produced by the group: Darley Remembered, Darley Celebrations and Darley Memorial Hall, are still available either from Darley Shop, or direct from Sue Welch. If you are new to the village, why not have a look at them to see what it once was like?

Darley Village Website

Consult www.darleyvillage.info for details of all the village projects, facilities and organisations, and contact details for all those responsible. It is managed by the Parish Council, and holds details of all the Council members and all the agendas and minutes of its meetings. There is a village calendar and sections for local news and events, so make it your first point of call for information.

If any organisation has details that need posting, please contact clerk@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk.

Darley Community Library

After a difficult year, the Library Service has progressively re-opened over the last few months as allowed by the easing of Covid restrictions. Whilst we have obviously had a much-restricted opportunity to loan books this year we have still had 531 visitors and loaned 575 books.

In addition to books for loan which are provided by NYCC Library services, we have introduced a new service supported by Nidd Plus which provides jigsaws to borrow.

This year we celebrate 10 years of Darley Community Library and we hope to continue for many more to come.

None of this however would be possible without the continued support of our loyal band of volunteers and

also the support provided by Christ Church Management Committee.

RAF Menwith Hill

2021-22 has continued to be affected by pandemic restrictions and changed working practices.

RAF Menwith Hill continues to observe the strictest level of Covid regulations whether they be from the UK or the US. This affected activity through the winter of 2021. Some restrictions, such as mask wearing in communal spaces, are still present in early 2022. Our Base Director, Mr Chris D. Agar, has spent his first full year with us and is hoping 2022 will provide the opportunity for events and outreach not possible during his tenure to this point.

We were able to hold a socially distanced Civic Leaders Briefing morning in September 2021. This was attended by over 15 Mayors and Parish Council Chairman from the local area.

We continued our outreach work spending two days with Darley School and 8 in Ripon Walled Garden. We spent two days in Pateley Bridge in March 2022 and will continue working there in the autumn, as well as returning to Darley School. We are also volunteering alongside the Darley Playing Fields Association. The base Toy Drive took place in December 2021 collecting over £16,000 of gift cards, vouchers and toys for children and young people in need in the local area.

The base rationalization programme, begun after the major manpower re-shuffle in 2015, is nearing its end. All that remains to be demolished are the 1980s houses at the north eastern corner of the base, and the old police HQ. The water tower, not part of the demolition programme, is also due to be dismantled. Other than what has been previously reported, there have been no new additions to infrastructure. Press coverage about expansion of the base is misleading and caused by confused local journalism which reported a 45-foot long portacabin as a 45-metre-high building.

However, re-design of the main gate will commence this year which may cause some inconvenience both on Menwith Hill Road and on the B6451 by the Nessfield entrance.

Darley Memorial Hall

The Hall has reopened after the Pandemic, with Dances, Film Nights restarting, as well as Snooker and Bowls.

Gym Club continue to use the Hall four times a week. The Hall has been used for a charity Race Night, a couple of Weddings and Birthday Parties.

Darley Memorial Hall Look forward to welcoming the community back to the Hall.

Christ Church Community Centre (CCCC)

2021 was a difficult year for CCCC. The committee with support from members of our local community have managed to meet the challenge to keep CCCC available for use when government guidelines allowed.

As the summer approached more groups were allowed to return. Many of our users are elderly and were understandably anxious not to return to group activities,

consequently life did not return to CCCC fully until September. Our income was significantly impacted with the result that CCCC had to draw £500 from reserves to meet overhead expenses.

Book Exchange and Butties, Bakes and Brews are regular coffee mornings that encourage people to meet and chat.

Lunch club has evolved into Meet and Eat, a community drop- in lunch which we hope will encourage more villagers to call in and enjoy a hot meal and company.

Progress with the improvements to the west entrance has been slow, next year we hope to complete the work.

Funding from Knabs Ridge Wind farm Community Fund and the National Lottery Community Support Fund have facilitated the installation of a ventilation system and extra freezer capacity.

A defibrillator has been installed thanks to generous support from the Darley with Menwith Parish Council, Harrogate Borough Councillor Thomas Watson, and North Yorkshire County Councillor Stanley Lumley.

We face a doubling of our energy costs next year which will necessitate increasing our hire fees.

Dedicated volunteers who organise a vast range of groups are the life blood of CCCC, their role is essential to the success and future of this community centre, their contribution in 2021 is much appreciated and will continue to be vital going forward into 2022.

Hookstone Memorial Hall

It is good to see the hall's use growing following a couple of years of restrictions due to Covid 19. There have been a couple of events on a Saturday morning which have been well supported. Bookings for private events are also increasing.

The Billiards and Snooker Club have welcomed new members this year. The club has resumed playing matches which members are enjoying. For information regarding the Club please contact Martin Smith on 01423 780519 or Alex Houseman on 01423 780789.

Enquiries regarding booking the hall for your private venue please contact Alastair Procter on 01423 780115 or by email aprocter321@btinternet.com.

Darley in Bloom

Darley in Bloom was unable to hold fundraising events over the last year due to Covid restrictions, but members were still able to work on the flowerboxes and fill them with autumn and summer plants. We received many compliments on the colourful displays and hope we can continue planting them.

Many thanks to the Parish Council and other local people for their donations, together with a large number of you who buy Local Lotto tickets every week. We couldn't have done it without you.

This year we are again planning our flagship event – Darley Open Gardens. This will be held on 3rd July, and we already have 11 gardens signed up! Mark the date in your diary.

Darley Playing Fields Association

The past 12 months have been busy for the DPFA. The gradual loosening of the COVID-19 restrictions allowed us to hold a firework display in November albeit with restricted numbers and it felt great to be able to host the community once again as well as raise some much-needed funds.

The football field has been well-used and thanks to the recent drainage improvements has proved to be an excellent playing surface throughout the winter.

The children's playground entry/exit restrictions have now been removed and some of the adult equipment repaired and back in use. Regular inspections continue and work was carried out to repaint some playground equipment with great support from volunteers from RAF Menwith Hill.

Steve Willis and his team at the shop have continued to provide an excellent service to Darley villagers over the last year and we continue the Meals on Wheels service with help from many local volunteers.

The DPFA Trustees are always looking to improve and expand the facilities on offer and after identifying we had available space, proposed the building of a Boules Court. Work was started at the end of March and the two-lane court is now finished and ready to be used. Once again we received enormous support from RAF Menwith Hill and the Men's Shed in Pateley Bridge. Financial support came from the National Lottery Communities fund and the Parish Council donated two Platinum Jubilee benches.

Looking forward we would like to further develop the children's playground with more equipment and we will be consulting with the community shortly.

Christ Church

Last year was another unusual one, dominated by Covid and discussion about what we are allowed to do, wanted to do, and whether people would attend if we did things a particular way. Services gradually returned to their normal pattern as the virus seemed to be less harmful and so many of the congregation and the community were vaccinated. Throughout it all Alastair, our Vicar, was there offering his leadership, support, thoughtful guidance and sheer hard work providing normal services and online version as the times dictated, in spite of succumbing to Covid himself.

Other than the streaming of services, this has not been a time for innovation or major changes. We have reviewed our safety policies, considered our responsibilities for the environment and begun to plan fund raising again, as our reserves have been depleted. Thankfully the community use of the church is now picking up. This has enabled us to build up the reserves in the past, but with increasing energy costs will not be quite so easy now.

Focus on Darley

This organisation is made up of all the local groups and publishes the regular Newsletter which keeps everyone in the village informed about activities and events and organises community events on behalf of the village. A

Food Safety course for all those involved in food preparation at events is also being arranged.

New Year's Eve celebrations were arranged for December 2021 but unfortunately the Omicron variant of Covid 19 meant that they had to be cancelled at short notice. However, it was agreed to hold a Platinum Jubilee Celebration Ball on 28th May 2022 for which Alison Jane's Chequers Band have agreed to perform. Tickets are available – please contact jubilee@darleymemorialhall.com or call or text 07740 951046.

At the present time it is not envisaged that there will be a New Year's Eve Party organised by Focus on Darley this year, but we would be happy to advise anyone who might be interested in organising an event.

Organisation contact details

Organisation	Contact	Phone	Email
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's Angels WI	Joanne Hayes	07710 660799	darleysangelswi@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	janeandcatrina@gmail.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 Community School Federation	Nick Coates	01423 780234	headteacher@darley.n-yorks.sch.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
RAF Menwith Hill	Angela Marquis	01423 777971	angela.marquis.gb@us.af.mil
The Charity of Isabel Day	Nigel Nicholas	01423 781387	nn520712@googlemail.com