

# DARLEY 2022/23

## 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 130 pupils attending the main schools (64 at Darley and 66 at Summerbridge) with two thriving, governor-led pre-schools on site at both settings (c55 children on roll).

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. It is our intention to become part of the Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (YCAT) from September 2023 which will further strengthen the work that we do and is an exciting opportunity for all members of our federation. 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 our local school, visit: [www.darleyandsummerbridge.co.uk](http://www.darleyandsummerbridge.co.uk).

### **Darley Cricket Club**

We had a successful 2022 season with the first team finishing 3rd in Division 1 and the second team winning Division 7. The first team hosted a West Indian overseas player who had an exceptional season with the bat.

We were very well supported by local businesses and sponsors.

We are continuing to run the All Stars junior cricket on a Friday night and are hoping to install a digital scoreboard for this year.

### **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. Please contact Sue Welch ([swelch@darleygreenacres.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:clerk@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk).

### **Darley Community Library**

The Library Service has recorded another successful year following the easing of Covid restrictions seeing an increasing numbers of visitors. Over the last year we have had 635 visitors and loaned 633 books. This compares with 531 visitors and 575 books borrowed in the preceding year.

In addition to our library books, we have jigsaws available to borrow which are provided by Nidd Plus. We also continue to support Duke of Edinburgh aspirers within the village.

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**

During this year the base has shed all pandemic restrictions, most recently mask wearing on our base buses.

Visits for members of the local community are now being run and we have hosted four groups and two local cadet troops. There is a full calendar of base visits for the coming year. We hosted a Civic Leaders Briefing morning in June 2022 and held our Thanksgiving event at Darley Memorial Hall for the very first time. It was a huge success with over 100 people attending and we are pleased the Hall committee is happy to host us once again in 2023.

We continued our outreach work spending three days with Darley Playing Fields Association on the Petanque court and playground. We are in the process of constructing an outdoor stage for Darley Primary School and will continue to work in Pateley and at Ripon Walled Garden. We hosted Harrogate and District Young Carers to a day out at a local Farm Park, and our 2022 Toy Drive collected gifts and vouchers for over 600 children in need in our local area.

Demolition on the base has now finished, although clear up of the spoil continues. The water tower has also been dismantled. Work on reconfiguring the main gate is well under way and is likely to continue into next year. At some point during the works, Menwith Hill road will need to be closed for a short period. We don't have final details at this point but will keep you informed as information becomes available. A planning application will soon be submitted for a new single storey administration facility on the site of the recently demolished Child Development Centre. If approved, construction will most likely commence next Spring (2024).

## **Darley Memorial Hall**

During the past year, the Charity that owns and runs the 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 Nidderdale Gymnastics Club, which had been using the Hall several times a week since Covid, decided that they needed to find another facility, now that pressure from many other bookings often coincided with their usual times. This has meant that the Hall is now able to accommodate bookings at short notice, and has been able to host events for a wide range of organisations.

Events have included the Thanksgiving Day dinner for RAF Menwith Hill, attended by many local Mayors and civic dignitaries, meetings of the Nidderdale AONB, conferences of the regional association of Women's Institutes, Darley Open Gardens, Cycle races and many private parties and celebrations.

## **Christ Church Community Centre (CCCC)**

With Covid hopefully behind us CCCC has enjoyed a much happier year. Our clubs and gatherings are back in full swing. The coffee mornings on the second Saturday of the month are proving as popular as ever and the Pop-Up Curry evening in February was a resounding success.

Sadly, we had to cancel our village day planned for September out of respect for the late Queen but we shall have another one this coming summer.

Initially off to a quiet start Meet and Eat is now attracting a healthy number of diners.

As always, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts bring such fun to the hall as do the dance classes, In Harmony, Little Fishes and all the other happy groups who use CCCC.

We are so grateful to all those who give of their time to make our Community Centre the wonderful place that it is.

## **Hookstone Memorial Hall**

Last year saw a considerable increase in bookings demonstrating life is getting back to some sort of normality following several years of disruption due to Covid.

We hosted a soup and pudding lunch in February 2022 and in August a Platinum Jubilee afternoon tea plus our annual coffee and cake half day in December.

In May 2023 we are hosting two events celebrating Charles III Coronation and planning a gardening event in

July, and a 'theatre night' in the autumn. The annual Christmas coffee and cake will be held on 2nd December. See our website for further details: [www.h-m-h-co.uk](http://www.h-m-h-co.uk).

The hall is in a good state of repair however, like any building there is always ongoing maintenance and updating. On our 'to do list' this year is to refurbish one of the toilet areas and repair a persistent leak from the hall's roof.

The hall would welcome new Trustees and Committee Members so if being part of this unique hall appeals to you please get in touch!

The Billiards and Snooker Club welcome new members: Contact Martin Smith on 01423 780519.

Enquiries regarding bookings or becoming a Trustee and/or Committee Member contact Alastair Procter on 01423 780115 / email [aprocter321@btinternet.com](mailto:aprocter321@btinternet.com).

## **Darley in Bloom**

Darley in Bloom has been able to resume its fund-raising events after the Covid lockdowns, so can now confidently order plants. In 2022 it held its popular Open Gardens event, attracting more than 200 visitors to a variety of 12 gardens around the village. There was also a Musical Bouquet, when 120 people were entertained to an evening of song and music in Darley Memorial Hall, as well as two coffee mornings in Christ Church Community Centre.

Many thanks to those of you who attend these events and also donate to our cause, as well as the large number of you buying Local Lotto tickets every week. This regular weekly income is really valuable to us. Look up "thelocalotto" on the internet and select Darley in Bloom as your good cause. We then receive 50p from every £1 ticket you purchase. Supporters have won several cash prizes during the year.

Members of the Darley in Bloom group continue to work hard at keeping the flowerboxes throughout the village in good repair and full of plants, even though the group is currently not competing in the national In Bloom competition. If you can spare a few hours a month to help, then please contact Peter Dransfield, the Chairman. More helpers really are needed if you want to keep the village looking good.

## **Darley Playing Fields Association**

The past 12 months have once again been busy for the DPFA. The Boules Court and accompanying benches were finished & are being used. The Trustees are planning an open Boules competition (and Trophies) for villagers. Entries are now closed and matches scheduled to start in May with finals before the end of August.

We also held another successful firework display in November without the need to restrict numbers & fully host the community once again as well as raise some much-needed funds.

The football field continues to be well used for matches & training including junior and ladies teams with potential for a local Darley junior team in the future. A defibrillator was added and commissioned at the pavilion.

The children's playground has been our focus in the last year & we have removed some of the unused adult equipment for safety reasons and have added new under 6 age group play equipment. Further to this we have also installed a Mirage swing seat to ensure suitability for all needs & abilities. New additions for 2023 are in planning & we continue to carry out regular maintenance.

Steve Willis and his team at the shop continue to provide an excellent service and to help improve further there is a questionnaire available at the shop to provide feedback. The Meals on Wheels service continues with help from many local volunteers.

## **Christ Church**

Our church activities have gradually returned to normal after the trauma of Covid. Services continue in their previous pattern on three Sundays per month. Social activities have resumed and community use of the church has built up again with pilates, tai chi and yoga each week

Attendances at services has not yet returned to previous levels, with some regular attendees moving away, but we have been pleased to welcome new worshippers. Family services have been well supported in general and the evening Quiet Communion continues to appeal.

We resumed our fundraising during the year, with a successful Coffee Morning at Easter supporting Ukraine and the church. This year we have the same slot for earthquake victims and the church. The Christmas Fair and Quiz have also returned.

We are grateful to Revd Alastair for all he does and thank all those who continue to support the work of the church and also the community activities which started with the church over the years. Meet and Eat/Lunch Club, Stitching together, Library, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Book Exchange and Cosy Cuppa were all started by church members and continue to thrive thanks to CCCC.

## **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. The Parish Council makes a contribution to the newsletter cost.

A core group organise events and it is hoped that this can be enlarged in the coming years, so that events can continue.

A Jubilee Ball was held in May 2023 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and an afternoon tea celebration brought over 100 villagers together during the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend.

Once again, Focus on Darley will be helping the village to celebrate a national event - the Coronation of King Charles III - by organising a Ceilidh on Saturday 6 May and a Cream Tea on Monday 8 May, involving some newly recruited organisers. Ceilidh tickets are available at Darley Shop or call 07740 951046 to reserve. Attendance at the Cream Tea is free of charge, but please let us know you are coming so we have enough scones and cakes. (07850 248454)

## **The Charity of Isabel Day**

This small charity owns and manages a few small parcels of land in Darley and Thornthwaite that have been bequeathed over the years, in order to help local people. These are often let to local farmers for grazing, and the income is then used to support projects within Darley or Thornthwaite.

If your organisation has something for which it needs a small amount of support, then please contact Sue Welch, one of the Trustees.

## Organisation contact details

<b><u>Organisation</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>	<b><u>Email</u></b>
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 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	Sue Welch	01423 780970	chairman@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk