

DARLEY 2017/18

A year in the life of our community

Christ Church Community Centre

Over CCCC's ten years it has aimed to ensure that it is a centre that everyone can use at a price that can be afforded. Darley Pre-School played a leading role in the success of CCCC giving a regular income which helped to ensure that the running costs could be covered. It was a huge blow when Pre-School vacated CCCC. However, the move was encouraged and the void is being filled by new groups. On Tuesday mornings we now have Little Fishes, a toddler group which is proving to be very popular. Our luncheon groups are well attended and exercise classes are flourishing, there are now three new classes. The pop-up restaurants have proved very popular, and we mustn't forget the regular coffee mornings which have continued with different groups running and benefitting from the funds raised. There are many volunteer led groups in CCCC whose contribution to the wellbeing of the village cannot be underestimated, special mention must go to the uniformed groups who have always been a central part of the CCCC community. Next year will be a little daunting without pre-school but no more than it was ten years ago when CCCC was transformed from a church hall into a community centre.

Darley Playing Fields Association

After the frenetic work of the previous year, this last year has been one of steady growth and consolidation. The Village Shop and Post Office continues to thrive and during the last year we extended the terrace. This allows more villagers, visitors and football supporters to enjoy the beautiful scenery whilst having their morning coffee, bacon sandwich or afternoon tea.

On the football side, we are happy to have Mowbray FC continue to play at Darley on Saturdays and we have a new team, New Park Bulldogs FC, who have taken over the Sunday slot from Nidd United and now play some of their home fixtures at Darley.

The November 5th bonfire night broke all records with the support from the attendees together with sponsorship provided by a number of local businesses. The major sponsor being Crimble Valley who provided the food for the evening.

The trustees' plans for the coming year are to revamp the changing rooms with the installation of new showers. This work is planned to happen as soon as the football season is over.

Darley in Bloom

DIB has both a direct and an indirect impact upon how the village of Darley is perceived not only by residents of the village, but also by people passing through or visiting functions or friends.

The direct one is the obvious one of the 44 display planters throughout Main Street, and the village signs on the approaches. The contents of these are changed twice each year (spring and summer planting), and the colour schemes, type of plants and the wholesale

suppliers for the displays, are determined by a group of ladies within DIB.

The indirect impact is through the variety and nature of the fund-raising events that DIB hold each year, by bringing visitors to our village and creating work and income for our local 'businesses'-The Memorial Hall, CCCC and the Village Shop for example. These events are well researched and thought out, and over the past 12 months have included an antiques evening (Treasure Trove in the Attic), hosted by a TV antiques expert from Leeds, and an evening with Kippax Dramatic Society, (Murder in the Village Hall). Additionally DIB hold very successful coffee mornings in CCCC.

The group will host a major event for the village in July this year, an Open Gardens and Craft Fair Day, and DIB would like to thank garden owners and stall holders for their commitment and support for this major event.

Darley Community Primary School

Darley Community Primary School has had another great year! Not only have we successfully federated with Summerbridge Community Primary School but both schools are now the host venues for Dacre Banks Pre-School. Our next step is that by the end of the academic year, the governors of the federation intend to take over the leadership of the pre-school so that we become one larger more sustainable organisation.

Staffing continues to remain consistent in the schools and all staff fully buy into the continued drive for improvement. Last year both schools performed very well in the end of Year 6 SATs which is testament to the efforts of the pupils and staff alike. Our numbers on roll are also relatively healthy; 47 pupils at Darley and 55 at Summerbridge with the additional 40+ registered pre-school children attending the pre-school, we look to be in good shape! Both schools achieved the Gold Award for involvement in school sport this year and both schools are judged by Ofsted to be "Good". To find out more about these cracking local schools or to arrange a visit please contact us on 01423 780234 (Darley) or 01423 780446 (Summerbridge) or visit our websites.

Christ Church Darley

The pattern of services has remained as in previous years with good attendances. We have had a variety of activities during family services and some interesting variations to Communion Services. Harvest Breakfast was again well attended with excellent support from the uniformed groups. The church was full for the Crib Service and also for a number of funerals during the year.

The Fabric of the church has not required any significant work during the year. The major change during the year was the removal of the trees which were shielding the Garden of Rest from daylight and where the roots were invading the surface. The whole area was then turfed providing a much more attractive and appropriate surrounding.

Social activities during the year have been quizzes and coffee mornings and the Christmas Fair all of which were well supported. The church continues to be used for community activities. We hope that these will also encourage more people to see Christ Church as their church and to explore what else the church has to offer. The invitation is open to all to join us for worship or ask questions about our faith.

Darley Community Library

Darley Community Library is situated in CCCC; with opening times displayed on the doors. We are supported by North Yorkshire County Council in the supply and exchange of books; which takes place about every 3 to 4 months. I believe that we have an astonishingly good range of literature available covering as many topics as possible, from those for tiny tots seeing their first book through all types of fiction up to more serious works.

We have a trolley laden with volumes on hobbies, biographies, travel, local interest, and many other subjects. We have recently acquired ten copies of Audio Books on CDs which should appeal to some parishioners. Sadly there has been no take up of any of those; which I personally find disappointing.

Indeed, the residents of Darley need to be mindful that the old adage of "use it or lose it" has a particular relevance to our Library. Local Authorities throughout the UK are constantly closing Libraries as a cost-saving measure; whilst the service nationwide suffers from the competition of e-books and other material readily available online.

I take the opportunity to remind everyone that not only is our service free – merely requiring any user to register with us – but also that it is entirely manned by a great team of volunteers, who cheerfully give of their own time

Darley Methodist Church

The Church and Schoolroom have both been decorated and looks really good. Our membership remains good. We have decided that we will do a lunch after church service every 4/6 weeks and all are welcome. We would like to know numbers so that we know how many to cater for. Saturday 26 May will be our next coffee morning and the proceeds will be in aid of Caring for Life. Sunday 15 July is our Chapel Anniversary. Sunday 30 September will be our Harvest Festival and Saturday 24 November is a coffee morning. We are also hoping to start in late May a Singing Together session for people in the village who are lonely or have memory problems. This will be held once a month to start with to see how the interest is.

Hookstone Memorial Hall

Last year's successful brunch days raised most of our funds. Hall hire has increased by 34% on the previous year. Events included a film night 'Across the Water', Dacre & Summerbridge Silver Band Christmas evening. We intend to host this special event again next December.

From grants and money raised many window frames and glazing have been replaced. A retaining wall in the car park has been repaired and heightened. Upgrades to electrics (complying with insurance) decorating, and upgrading toilets. With help of Nidderdale Museum and a Knabbs Ridge grant we have acquired a quality copy of a World War 1 Memorial; the original is displayed at the museum. It lists 22 men from the Thornthwaite and Darley area. This is now displayed in readiness of centenary commemorations later this year.

If you are interested in joining the Billiard & Snooker Club please contact Martin Smith (01423780519) or Alex Houseman (01423780789). Coaching lessons are available for those new to the game.

Finally if anyone has an occasional Saturday morning or afternoon free and would like to help at our brunch day please email Miranda on pyemiranda@gmail.com for more details.

Darley Village Website

The site www.darleyvillage.info is managed by the Parish Council as the source of information for all groups in the village. It has sections for the various local organisations and facilities, as well as pages for local news, roadworks, and current proposed large housing developments. All local events are shown on the site, with details of how to join in / buy tickets, and all are also included in the Village Diary. Information on all regular activities is also included. The site is currently being upgraded, and you will see it in its new format very soon. Each organisation has its own access to its section on the site, but if you need an event publicising, please contact sue@darleyvillage.info

Focus on Darley

The subscribers who finance the bimonthly publication of "Focus on Darley" are: Darley with Menwith Parish Council, Darley in Bloom, Darley Playing Fields Association, Darley Primary School, Darley WI, Darley Methodist Chapel, Darley Memorial Hall, Darley Uniformed Groups, Darley Lunch Club, Dacre Top Chapel, Christ Church Darley, Christ Church Community Centre and Hookstone Hall. The newsletter is distributed by 20+ volunteers to every home in the Parish of Darley with Menwith and Dacre Top. Their help is essential to the success of "FOD" along with that of Helen Flynn who edits the newsletter.

The newsletter is a valuable channel for advertising social and fund raising events in the village. As well as updating villagers about proposed housing.

Darley Memorial Hall, Darley Playing Field Association, Christ Church and Christ Church Community Centre shared the fund of £3235 raised at the successful Village New Year's Eve Celebration held in the memorial hall. These groups along with Darley in Bloom also shared the £500 raised by the raffle on the evening.

The Community Christmas card plus the funds raised by refreshments served at the launch of Darley Memorial Hall's 70th Anniversary Week, enabled FOD to donate £530 to McMillan Nursing. Thanks to Matthew Bottomley and Mel Welch for their help creating the card.

Darley Heritage Group

The Group was very active this year, researching and producing a book and organising activities to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Darley Memorial Hall in its location in Darley, helped with a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and assistance from Harrogate Spring Water. The book was launched at a Heritage Day Exhibition in November by Rt Hon Julian Smith MP, and this was the start of a week of events, covering all aspects of the Hall's activities over the past 70 years. The Exhibition was on display all week, moving from the Hall to the Billiard Room when necessary. The celebrations ended with a Village Party on Friday 17th November when 170 guests enjoyed a magnificent hog roast and danced through the decades to the music of Chequers Band. The exhibition materials and other documents are now stored in cabinets in Darley Memorial Hall and can be viewed on request to Sue Welch. The project will conclude with the installation of information boards at the back of the Hall in early summer 2018.

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.

Over the last year, Beaver Colony activities have included an adventure trail through Valley Gardens, orienteering at Brimham Rocks, a bike track at Pateley Bridge and competing at District Sports Day. The Beavers have completed their Space, Communicator and Experiment badges, cracked codes, visited Coldstones Cut and had a campfire at Thornthwaite as well as learning about Vikings and Chinese New Year.

Cub Pack activities have included tent pitching, camp gadget making, kite construction, tracking, crate stacking at Thornthwaite and camping at Wike. The Cubs have baked cakes, decorated the harvest church windows, night hiked, domino-ed, climbed and found out about parts of the body and how to stay healthy. They have completed their Disability Awareness badge, made tin can pancakes, celebrated Chinese New Year, had a visit from a Guide Dog and worked towards their Environmental Conservation badge.

The Scouts took part in the County Teko Teko Tohunga Challenge, practised their knotting and fire lighting skills, hiked around Thruscross Reservoir, learned how to do route cards and street orienteering, made pizzas and pancakes and cooked Christmas dinner in less than 2 hours! They have built rafts, made items out of paracord, done a pine car derby and completed several camps.

All of the above is organised by a dedicated team of volunteers who signed up as Scout Leaders on the understanding it would only be for a couple of hours a week!! We must love it!

Darley Debs Women's Institute

Darley Debs Women's Institute meets on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm in every month at Darley's Christ Church Community Centre to meet up with friends, listen to speakers, watch demonstrations and have a go at all kinds of crafts. We also attend WI events with other groups and have great trips out. Our membership is predominantly from Darley, but we also have members from the surrounding villages as well.

In 2017-18 we enjoyed an excellent and varied programme of events and activities including '*Getting Down Dirty – Photography*' by local artist Paula Beaumont, a World Heritage Walk in Saltaire, *First Aid* by DDWI Secretary, Tracey Dawson and Plants and Me by well-known Darley resident, Pat Brockway.

During 2018 we are looking forward to 'The Allure of Shoes' with Eleanor McRobert, trips out to the Nidderdale Museum and a pub supper and a visit to 'Cooking Fantastic' at Spruisty Hall Farm, Killinghall in addition to Zumba and craft events at CCCC

Contact Tracey Dawson on 07719 181078 or e-mail traceyadawson62@gmail.com for further info.

Darley Cricket Club

This year Darley Cricket Club is operating 2 Saturday teams in the Nidderdale League.

Unfortunately due to a shortage of players we have pulled out of the Wednesday evening league.

As always, we ran a matchball sponsorship for businesses and supporters. We are very grateful for all our sponsors without whom we couldn't exist. Emsley Crane Hire and The Wellington Inn will be our main Sponsors for this year. The cover we bought last year improved the pitch. This year plans are a-foot for an extension for the cricket pavilion.

Darley Memorial Hall

Darley Memorial Hall has had another busy year, hosting various events including Cycle Races, Birthday Parties, Young Farmer Events, Film Nights, Darley in Bloom Events and Focus on Darley Events.

The Hall celebrated its 70th Anniversary in November 2017. We had an exciting week, starting with the Exhibition and Book Launch, followed by a week of celebrations including the Remembrance Concert, a Dance, Domino Drive, Afternoon Tea Party for 120, Indoor Bowls and a Country and Western Evening. The celebrations ended with a Village Party on Friday 17th November. 170 guests enjoyed a magnificent hog roast and danced through the decades to the music of Chequers Band and Lainey Fox.

The Snooker and Bowls Club continue to thrive. The snooker room has been decorated and new LED lights installed over the snooker tables. Dances continue throughout the year. We are looking forward to next year, and hoping to sort the car park out.

Darley Memorial Hall would like to thank the community for supporting the hall throughout the year, Special thanks to Sue Welch for producing the 70th Anniversary Book.

Forest Moor School

The school has developed significantly and now has three primary classes as well as the classes in the secondary part of the school. The school currently has forty seven pupils and is expected to grow to a school for 60 pupils by early 2019.

We are leading the way across North Yorkshire with Thrive. A programme based on neural pathway development for supporting young people's mental health. We are the first school in the authority to be working with this programme and it is proving to have a really positive impact on the pupils.

Staff are working really hard with Governors to ensure that the school continues to develop with pace and that we continue to support young people with a range of complex needs.

RAF Menwith Hill

RAF Menwith Hill is now at a steady personnel state. A small contingent of US military personnel remain and we currently have approximately 1200 personnel, a mix of British and American. Our population is supplemented by around 600 U.S. family members. All our children now attend a range of State and Private schools in the local area. This summer will see changeover in our Base Director as Ms Mim Garratt leaves us.

The on-site demolition plan continues. About 60 houses have been demolished and the remaining 21 houses are also scheduled for demolition in the near future. The chapel has now also been knocked down, although the church bell has been rescued and will form the centre-point of a memorial garden currently in planning. Other office accommodation buildings are now being prepared for demolition. Current plans are to return the land to green space.

The water tower, which bears the base emergency communications equipment, will soon be redundant and is planned for demolition. Plans have been submitted to HBC for erection of a telecomms mast next to the existing water tower to carry this equipment. Plans are also well under way for a re-design of the main gate area, to incorporate better protective measures. Integral to this project, the base is currently liaising with North Yorkshire Highways dept.

Community Relations activity continued including invitations to 4th July Picnic, Halloween and a Thanksgiving Dinner for our Friends and Neighbours. Each welcomed guests from communities across the district. Formal hosting at our Spring Reception this March also celebrated 100 years of the RAF and was attended by Civic and Community partners.

We hosted 9 Thursday evening community briefings as well as visits for school children, Scouts, Brownies and community groups for base visits and Fire Prevention Week. We participated in Birstwith and Nidderdale Shows and supported Battle of Britain and Remembrance ceremonies across the locality through our Civilian Town Partnership Programme.

We undertook an Earth Day project working with Nidderdale AONB to rebuild a section of dry stone wall. Small numbers continue to gather for the weekly Tuesday CAAB protest and the bi-monthly Quaker vigil. The safety of both protestors and employees remains of paramount concern to the MOD Police and North Yorkshire Police. Safety barriers are in place outside the main gates during protests to offer protestors a safe environment. About 100 protestors turned up on July 4th, about the same as the previous year.

Organisation	Contact	Phone	E-mail
Christ Church Community Centre	Sue Runham	780317	suerunham@hotmail.co.uk
Christ Church, Darley	Bryan Dexter	781535	bdxldx@gmail.com
CC Darley Scout Group	Erica Spencer	780905	akelaccd76@gmail.com
Darley Primary School	Headteacher	780234	
Darley Memorial Hall	Jane Wardman	07443 477359	janeandcatrina@gmail.com
Darley Methodist Church	Sandra Bradley		smbradley6@icloud.com
Darley Playing Fields Association	Nigel Nicholas	781387	nn520712@googlemail.com
Darley Village Website	Sue Welch	780970	sue@darleyvillage.info
Focus on Darley	Angela Houseman	780056	angela@e.houseman.co.uk
Darley Community Library	Richard Vaughan	780130	ravaughan6@gmail.com
Darley Cricket Club	Tim Marriner	780318	marrinja@aol.com
Darley Heritage Group	Sue Welch	780970	swelch@darleygreenacres.net
Darley in Bloom	Peter Dransfield	780054	valdransfield@tesco.net
Darley Debs WI	Gillian Knox	01943 880362	traceyadawson62@gmail.com
Hookstone Memorial Hall	Suzie Field	07843 058110	field.bents@btinternet.com
Forest Moor School	Headteacher	779232	
Darley & Menwith Parish Council	Parish Clerk	07541 518456	clerk@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk