

Community VOICE

AUTUMN 2026

Your Autumn Update!

DARLEY DALE YOUTH CLUB

See page 3

THERE'S A NEW MOBILE LIBRARY BUS IN TOWN! SEE PG 11 >>>



WELCOME...

What an incredible summer it's been - officially the hottest on record in the UK, according to the Met Office. Even though the weather didn't quite play ball for Gig in the Park, the day still drew a strong turnout despite the threat of rain. Thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy the music, activities, and food and drink. Every penny raised supports The Whitworth, a registered charity that relies on community fundraising to help maintain both the building and the park.

Over the summer, the Town Council Planning Committee, chaired by Cllr David Chapman, worked hard to ensure residents had clear, accessible information about the Local Plan Review 2026. A special issue of Community Voice was delivered to households at the beginning of August, explaining what the review involves, how it affects Darley Dale, and how residents could share their views. The public consultation closed on 14th September and the Planning Inspectorate will now carry out its assessment. You can find everything you need to know on our website: www.darleydale.gov.uk/local-plan-2026

We are also pleased to share that Community Voice now has a new distributor, allowing us to reach more households across a wider area. Additional copies are available at The Whitworth for anyone who would like to pick one up and of course can be found on our website.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE

To keep up-to-date with local news and updates via our website at www.darleydale.gov.uk or by following us on Facebook.



Facebook:
darleydaletc



Instagram:
darleydaltowncouncil

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS ARE:

Jason Farmer (Chair/Mayor)
Carol Taylor
Dave Chapman
David Hood

Dave Oakley
David Wheeler
Ian Adkin

James Wilson
John Mordue

Town Clerk Team: Jason Hedley & Sarah Rivett
T: 01629 735248 **E:** townclerk@darleydale.gov.uk

A FEW QUESTIONS COULD MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Derbyshire Dales Primary Care Network is reaching out to patients aged 30 to 65 with a short questionnaire about family history and cancer risk. If you receive one please take a few minutes to complete it.

Cancer that runs in families can sometimes be linked to inherited genes. By understanding your family history, your GP surgery can identify whether you might benefit from additional health checks or genetic testing.

The questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete online using your mobile phone. Receiving it does not mean there is any concern about your health, it simply a routine proactive check being offered to patients across the Derbyshire Dales.

Together, a few answers today could make a big difference tomorrow.

Co-op Donation Helps Boosts Fundraising for Scouts and Ashgate Hospice

Darley Dale Co-op presented Darley Dale Scout Group with a grant of £150 in Co-op gift cards to help fund refreshments for their 80th Anniversary Family Fun Day which was held on Saturday 15th August. The donation was used for providing cream teas, allowing every penny raised from their sale to support both the Scouts and Ashgate Hospice.



You're invited to a **DANCE & FITNESS** fundraising day

Saturday 7th November | 9.30 - 5pm

Sessions include Zumba, Zumba Gold,
Chair-based dance and Pilates, Yoga,
Modern Dance and Line Dancing.

To book, please message
Anna on: **07891 899872**

This event is in aid of



Please donate as
little or as much
as you can here:



Registered charity no. 1031192

www.blythehousehospice.org.uk

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- Fully inclusive for all levels and abilities.
- Physical and social activity to improve your health and well-being.
- Award winning programme.
- Bring a friend or family member.



Watch our classes
in action here



EVERY MONDAY 11.00am - 12.00pm

The Whitworth Centre, Station Rd, Darley Dale, DE4 2EQ

EVERY TUESDAY 2.00pm - 3.00pm

The Imperial Rooms, Imperial Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3NL

TO BOOK CALL ANNA - 07891 899872

www.dancingforhealth.org.uk

DARLEY DALE YOUTH CLUB

**ACTIVE
DALES**
Derbyshire Dales District Council



**Free weekly activities for young people
ages 11 to 16**



- The Whitworth, Darley Dale
Meet by the café (sports hall from 7th October)
- Wednesdays, 5pm to 6pm
- Starts 23rd September
- Ages 11 to 16



Meet friends, listen to music, play games and try new activities.

NO BOOKING REQUIRED - JUST TURN UP

Contact Us

Email: sportsdevelopment@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Facebook: ACTIVE DALES

ZUMBA gold

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**GET ACTIVE WITH GREAT PEOPLE
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THAT MOVES AT YOUR PACE.**

FOR CLASS DETAILS
CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA® INSTRUCTOR:

ANNA STORM
07891 899872

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS 9.30am AT THE WHITWORTH

Walk Confident

The Whitworth, Darley Dale
Every week, 11.15am to 12.30pm
Free to attend

Every Thursday, Derbyshire Dales District Council run a free class at The Whitworth aimed at anyone who is wanting to improve their walking.

The Walk Confident class is run by Sam and Katie and is designed to help people get moving and to improve their strength and balance whilst walking.

Each session includes:

- **Strength and balance exercises to help improve stability and reduce the risk of falls.**
- **Indoor walking activities that allow participants to build fitness and confidence at their own pace.**
- **Outdoor walking opportunities (weather dependent) to put new skills into practice and enjoy the benefits of walking in Whitworth Park.**

The class started in June and it's great to see that participants are already making fantastic progress and noticing improvements.

The class is perfect for anyone who would like to feel steadier on their feet, improve their fitness and enjoy walking with others in a safe, supportive environment. Or it could be for someone who is recovering from an illness or injury and would like to build up their strength and stamina.

Alongside the class, we are also looking for local people who would be interested in training as a Walk Leader or Walk Buddy.

These volunteer roles would help support a low-level, accessible community walk in Whitworth Park, encouraging people who may need a little extra confidence or support to enjoy walking outdoors. No previous experience is necessary, and full training and support will be provided.

Whether you would like to improve your own confidence with walking or are interested in supporting others as a volunteer, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Sam Barton - sam.barton@derbyshiredales.gov.uk - 01629 761 194



Run Forest has relocated to Darley Dale

Run Forest Run Shop has operated out of Matlock for just over 9 years and has recently relocated to Molyneux Business park.

The shop sells specialist running shoes and gear, but has a lot of clients that visit for comfort and walking too.

They are well known for their shoe fitting services, which can be booked online at www.runforestrunshop.co.uk and they stock brands such as Hoka, On and Adidas amongst others.

Owner, Mike Blair, says moving to Darley Dale has given us a better space to work from and the addition of parking outside our door is fantastic.

DARLEY DALE IN BLOOM

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness by Christine Goldsack

John Keats' wonderful poem 'To Autumn' marks the moment when summer draws to a close, as it certainly has quite suddenly this year. We will soon be cutting back and planning planting for the winter and spring, for we believe in trying to provide our community with interest and colour throughout the year. A major project is to replace the flowerbeds on the grass verges by the pedestrian crossing near the Co-op, destroyed when National Grid dug deep holes and trenches across the area to fit a new deeper junction box and cabling.

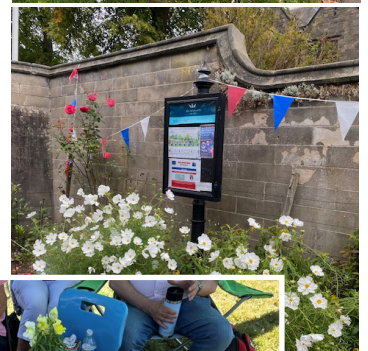
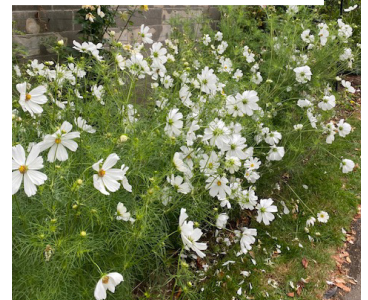
We have our AGM and Celebration Evening in October to look forward to when we thank all those who have helped us with donations and practical help such as watering, litter picking, etc. Our biggest problem has been the issue of getting water to the flowerbeds in Whitworth Park. Two successful local businessmen, Rob Barrington of Barrington's and Lee Silcock of Chatsworth Plumbing, intervened when 18 months of fruitless endeavour failed to locate any source of water in the Park. Rob persuaded a friend to donate a bowser and locate it above the new Onzain bed. Two of Lee's team spent a whole day extending a water source from within Rob's garage so that Rob can fill up the bowser for us (which he was doing weekly over the summer at no charge to us). Given the droughts and intense heat this year and last, we would have lost many of our perennials and thanks to Lee and Robs' generosity, all it cost us was a 30 metre hosepipe.

We will also be presenting prizes at our Celebration Evening to the winning entries in our Hanging Basket and Planter competition, and to the amusing examples of entries in our "Planting in an Unusual Container" competition for children, all from Darley Churchtown Primary School.

However, we need your support and encouraging comments more than ever this year, as our resilience has been severely tested. We have had more plants than ever before taken out of our planters at the Broadwalk. Our beautiful magnolia stellata we planted last year in our display garden in the Park was also destroyed.

We have been working with the lively teenagers and their leaders from the Matlock Boys Brigade who spent one damp November evening planting several hundred narcissi bulbs in Whitworth Park by torchlight, and the pupils in our two local primary schools. Thanks to a Better Derbyshire Dales grant we have been able to buy tools for our own volunteers to use. We decided to use some of the grant to offer the schools the opportunity for us to organise every pupil planting their own sunflower seed in a flowerpot labelled with their name, water it at school then take it home as the end of term approached some of the children told us they were used to gardening but for others this was a novelty.

If there were more of us, we would love to do more similar activities at the schools as the children clearly enjoyed 'having a go'. Please get in touch if you'd like to join us. Call Christine Goldsack on 07908 736 116.



Christmas wreath-making workshop
will be held at the Methodist Church Hall
on **November 25th, 2 - 4pm**
£35 including refreshments.

Book with Caroline Dale-Leach on 01629 733583.

Darley Dale Cricket Club



As the Cricket season nears its end it is good to have the opportunity to report back on a season played almost in its entirety in beautiful weather. In the spring the Town Council made a donation to the club to enable the purchase of a bowling machine for use with our Junior groups. Well used it was!

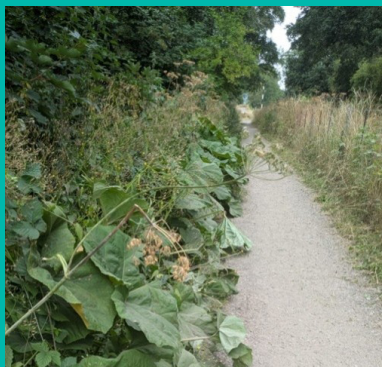
Every Friday night from April to July the ground was packed with young people learning to play the game and the bowling machine helped with that. Sometimes over a 100 children and young people were on the ground with the Women and Girls group also practicing. Our Junior Teams did well this year with good results coming, particularly from the younger groups. Engagement in the youngest All Stars and Dynamos groups was really positive.

For our 3 senior teams numbers of players available to play was excellent but results have been more variable. As we also run a Development Team for youngsters finding their way in the game and Midweek Friendlies of varying standards there is always cricket available at Darley.

We are a friendly and hospitable club always ready to welcome players of all ages to play. Please call in; there is always Cricket on a Saturday and there are refreshments available. You will be made very welcome.

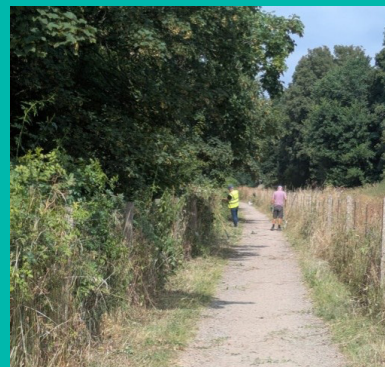
Chris Hartley Darley Dale CC.

Community Volunteer Group



Once the birds had safely finished nesting we were able to resume general maintenance duties along the multi-user trail. We hope you noticed the difference in the worst places where prolific vegetation growth was creating difficult pinch points, with brambles, nettles and weeds rubbing against users from both sides. Because of our limited resources we have to prioritise the areas we can manage, but always welcome suggestions about where else may need attention, from those who use the trail regularly. The worst places are the sections to the north and south of the rail crossing near to the Arc, the section south of the rail crossing near to the Red House and the area to the north of the rail crossing near to the Church Inn.

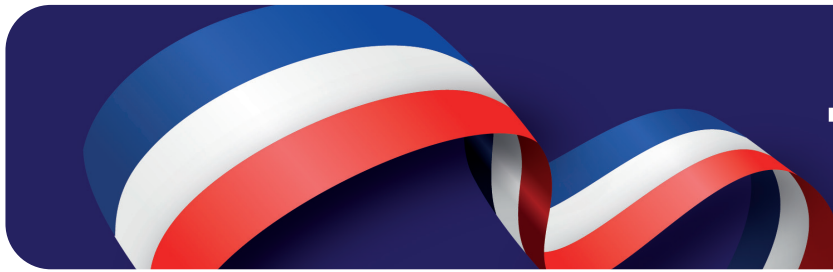
We understand that Derbyshire County Council are looking to engage a contractor to mow the verges along the entire length of the trail at some point, but no dates as yet on when this will be done. We have a full programme of work days through the Autumn for the group, mostly overseen by our managing agent at "Groundwork". On those mornings we will look at chopping back the foliage which has grown this year at higher levels above the ground. We are also



going to experiment with starting wild flower areas. We have a couple of sites earmarked for trialling and, with help from the experts at "Groundwork", we will be sowing seeds which not only produce a colourful addition to the verges, but which will also attack weeds and nettles and hopefully restrict their ability to survive where they are not wanted. We have mown a few access paths through the spinney wood on Willow/Onzain Way, but are very "open" to ideas from people living in that area about how we might manage it further. As far as we could tell, none of the bird boxes we erected last year had residents in 2026, but we live in hope for next year.

We are also very pleased to have created recently links with Ahri Weeks, who is the new head of the Climate Change and Biodiversity team within Derbyshire Dales District Council; they who own the land along which the trail runs. She is showing a lot of interest in the work this group does and we are hoping we may be able to work on other projects with her in the future.

Anyone wishing to know more about the group, or how to get involved in work days, please contact David Gray on d.gray811@btinternet.com



Darley Dale TWINNING

Twinned with Onzain, France

It's been a busy summer for the committee with most of our energies going into developing closer links with the dynamic scouting movement in Darley Dale. As well as providing the cub pack with an outdoor, oven cooked pizza night in early June, we also had a stall at the scouts' fun day in August. One of the aims of both events was to help raise awareness with the younger community of the links between Darley Dale and our "twinned" town of Onzain in France.

The selection of outdoor games went down really well with the youngsters, even if their European geographical knowledge was often put under pressure in completing the maps of France & Europe jigsaws. We'll just have to go back next year and have another go!!

We are currently looking at the possibility of supporting a scouting trip to the Onzain region in 2028, but thoughts are still at a very preliminary stage at the moment.

Patrick Hall, a local student, was Darley Dale's sole participator in the recent international "Roulons pour sauver des vies" event, which was organised by the Onzain twinning committee. There were 22 participants, including 13 young people aged 11 to 21, travelled from Onzain, France, to Flein, Germany, by bike and minibus. Behind the 800 or so kilometres travelled, the "Riding to Save Lives" project's main ambition was to raise awareness of blood donation, while bringing European citizenship to life in a really practical way. It was undoubtedly a sporting and solidarity adventure, but above all a story of commitment, encounters and the creation of many new friendships. We hope more young people from Darley Dale will be interested in taking part in a similar event next year.

We have a number of exciting projects in development for 2027, and beyond, but if the (almost) 40 year old links with Onzain are to be maintained we need more people in this community with the desire and enthusiasm to help us look at how new sustainable relationships can be developed. The opportunities and benefits are well worth the effort for everyone.

If you would like to learn more about our activities, or the links we have with Onzain in the Loire region of France, please contact our Secretary Nadine at: nadinesnowsill@gmail.com



COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

We have three vacancies

Becoming a Councillor can be a hugely rewarding role and offers you the chance to make a visible and lasting contribution to the town, community groups, local businesses and residents.

Contact: townclerk@darleydale.gov.uk

**Darley
Dale**
Town Council

Friendly match played against Bakewell Croquet Club



Darley Dale Croquet Club 2026 Season

The extremely hot weather this season has not been ideal for playing croquet but many games have still been played and enjoyed by all.

We have two league teams in different leagues; our 'A' Team have had a poor season this year but we have been introducing new players who are settling down well and making good progress. Unfortunately, this means they sit at the bottom of League 3 but have drawn the last two matches so things are looking up. The 'B' Team after playing 4 games are lying in 2nd position in their League with two more matches to play in early September to conclude the League schedule.

Our Hosting sessions have proved successful this year with us having the opportunity to welcome five local groups to play croquet as part of their programme of social events. Matlock and Alferton 41 Clubs, Ashbourne Trefoil Guild, The Lions and NARF (retired fire fighters) attended for a couple of hours of competitive fun. We charge £5 a head which includes all equipment and tuition - no experience is necessary. If your group would like us to host a croquet session, please get in touch via the details below.

In addition to the League matches and the hosting sessions, the Club has arranged friendly games with other clubs. We play each team twice in the season, both home and away. This season we have played with Buxton, Bakewell, Sheffield Parkhead and St Elphins Croquet Clubs. We play doubles, with each player in turn paired with a member of the other Club. It is not competitive, just a friendly game. It is a chance, particularly for new players, to learn and practise new skills and also to meet other players. Refreshments are provided by the home team and the day is enjoyed by all.

Our courts are in Whitworth Park, Darley Dale and we're usually open for play on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons (weather permitting) from 2pm onwards. If you fancy a go do come along during these times and any member will be willing to "show you how it's done". All equipment is supplied. It's a game which needs very little physical effort but certainly taxes the mind.

Just pop into the Park before the end of October. To learn more please go to www.darleydalecroquetclub.org.uk or contact our Chair, Ann Bradley on 07855970061

Hope to see you there.

DARLEY DALE METHODIST CHURCH INVITES YOU TO...

Harvest Service

Sunday 4th October
10.30am

Family worship, all welcome. Please bring packet and tinned food, toiletry and cleaning products for Jigsaw Foodbank.

Darley Hillside Choir Autumn Concert

Saturday 10th October
7.00pm

Featuring Hilary Drinkallcellist. Tickets £10, proceeds to Ashgate Hospice.

Autumn Fair

Saturday 24th October
10.00am - 2.30pm

Stalls including pictures, pottery, glassware, jewellery, candles, cakes, preserves etc. Proceeds for church funds. We are raising money to replace the hall roof.

GOOD NEWS FOR REGULAR WALKERS!



We've now replaced the bench on Hallmoor Road at the bottom of Halldale Woods. The old one had reached the end of its life and was well overdue a refresh.

We hope the new bench offers a much nicer spot to pause and catch your breath on the walk up Hallmoor Road. We've already had some lovely feedback from residents saying it's greatly appreciated.



Darley Dale Horticultural Society

The May meeting of Darley Dale Horticultural Society was not as advertised in the programme, instead we had a talk and demonstration by Clare Peat of Stile and Bloom which is a British flower farm at Denby. Forty members and guests learned about Clare's passion for traditional cottage garden plants which help bees and butterflies.

To start, Clare and her partner did lots of research followed by hard work which has now paid off as the flowers have started to bloom and grow. They started with 200 varieties and now grow around 1000. At the start it was trial and error as they had to cope with the British weather. The farm is fully organic and the no dig method is used through out.

Clare went on to explain why we should grow a cutting garden as British flowers are best. It also helps reduce our carbon

footprint instead of flowers from the supermarket, which are mostly imported. On average 84% of flowers sold are grown abroad. The retail market is a very powerful body, in 1984 we spent £8 on average per head per annum on imported flowers it now stands at £28 per head per annum. Have you ever wondered why supermarket flowers have no scent? This has been bred out as scented flowers are weaker and have a shorter shelf life. So if you want scented flowers grow and buy British.

Clare is passionate to share with others the joy of seasonal flowers, she gave tips on how to prolong your cherished blooms, this can be extended by drying flowers which in itself produces less waste, saves money and takes less time and also helps to prolong the heady days of summer. An information sheet was given to help identify which flowers could be dried,

this was used as a basis for a light hearted quiz and several examples of dried flowers were shown. Clare wound up the evening with a demonstration by making a bouquet of dried flowers which was raffled off.

Forthcoming events:

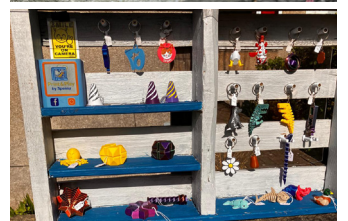
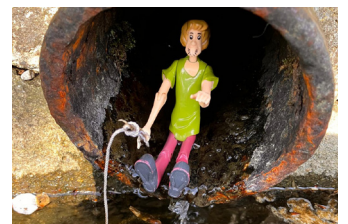
- 30 OCTOBER
Plant propagation
- 27 NOVEMBER
The Potty Plotters

All meetings start at 7.30 in Darley Dale Methodist Church's Hall. Darley Dale Horticultural Society meet approximately eight times a year with a programme of talks with guest speakers on various garden themes, plus outings and trips. More information is available on www.ddhs.org.uk

PAVEMENT JOY!

The idea of 'Sidewalk Joy' came over from the USA; it's about bringing a smile to pedestrians as they walk by little stalls outside residents' property. We need something to make us smile at the moment! So check out these two in Darley Dale for starters. The first is on John St, a little stall selling jewellery and special things. The second is in the trough on Old Hackney Lane. This 'dinosaur diorama' (a little scene) has gradually been added to over the past month or so. The dinosaurs have been joined by a frog, added by a young child walking past, and now Shaggy, a character from Scooby Doo, who is fishing! It's caused a lot of smiles and chats, so here's hoping we can find a few more! Children on their way to school make little changes every day.

The dinosaurs have now been joined by a lion and by Scooby Doo characters, thanks to a person called Sally who occasionally leaves little gifts. Thank You Sally, whoever you are!



PEAK RAIL

Halloween TRAINS

Climb aboard Peak Rail this Halloween for a spooktacular steam train journey through the beautiful Derwent Valley. Enjoy a family day out with decorated heritage carriages and a festive Halloween atmosphere.

Free sweets for those in Halloween fancy dress

31st October 2026

Departing Rowsley South at 11:00, 13:00 & 15:00

Departing Matlock at 11:40, 13:40 & 15:40

Rowsley South Station, Harrison Way, Darley Dale, DE4 2LF

Dress Code

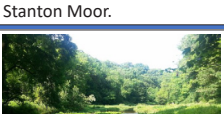
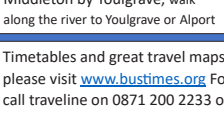
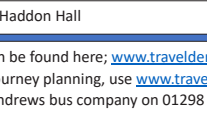
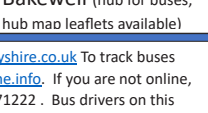
Halloween fancy dress welcome!

Pre-Booking not required, tickets available from the booking office and ticket inspector on the day

Adults £15, kids go FREE

Rest your car, relax and enjoy the views.... from Andrews bus service 172

Matlock – Bakewell via A6, Station Rd, (Darley Dale), Darley Bridge, Wensley, Winster, Elton, Birchover, Stanton in Peak, Yowlgrave, Middleton by Yowlgrave, Yowlgrave, Alport & Haddon Hall.

 Matlock (hub for buses and trains, hub map leaflets available)	 Winster , explore this historic village & walk the Limestone way
 Elton , alight here for a walk to Gratton Dale and Long Dale.	 Alight in Birchover or Elton for Robins Hood's stride
 Stanton Moor lies between the villages of Stanton in Peak and Birchover. Using O/S map OL 24 walk from Barn Farm camp site, Birchover to explore the beautiful heather moorland where our ancestors lived 4,000 yrs ago.	 Rowtor Rocks , alight at the Druid Inn, Birchover.
 Nine Ladies stone circle , Stanton Moor.	 Yowlgrave for Lathkill Dale and Bradford Dale.
 Middleton by Yowlgrave , walk along the river to Yowlgrave or Alport	 Haddon Hall
 Bakewell (hub for buses, hub map leaflets available)	

Timetables and great travel maps can be found here; www.travelderbyshire.co.uk To track buses please visit www.bustimes.org For journey planning, use www.traveline.info. If you are not online, call traveline on 0871 200 2233 or Andrews bus company on 01298 871222. Bus drivers on this route are generally happy to stop anywhere in the villages providing they can do so safely; carefully put your arm out to alert the driver. For a travel map of the Peak District visit <https://travelderbyshire.co.uk/app/uploads/2026/01/Peak-District-Extract.pdf> Use O/S map OL24 to explore footpaths. Email matlockbususers@outlook.com for hub map leaflets.

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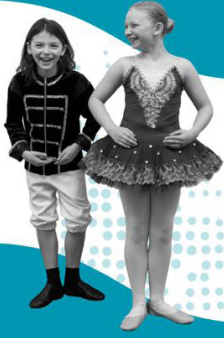
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GIG in the PARK

Sun 30 Aug 2026
WHITWORTH PARK, DARLEY DALE



Well, what an amazing day we had. Our nerves were certainly through the roof as we watched the forecast and worried about rain, but despite the unpredictable weather, our third Gig in the Park went fantastically well and brought a brilliant turnout to The Whitworth.

Thanks to an incredible line up of local talent, a huge thank you to Cassiopeia, Mark Knight, 3:Second:Fuse, Yeah Ducks and Rivers each band brought something special to the stage and helped make the day one to remember.

We were also lucky to have Kelly from Peaky Liners compering throughout the event. Her energy kept everyone's spirits high, and her fun line dancing session had people of all ages joining in.

Kelly also treated us to some fantastic singing, which went down a storm with the crowd. Lots of people asked how they could take part in her sessions - these run in Darley Dale on Wednesday afternoons at The Whitworth and Tuesday evenings at Darley Dale Primary School. More details can be found at www.peaky-liners.com.

A huge shout out goes to the AFC Olympians, who covered the BBQ and did an amazing job serving belly busters, burgers, hotdogs and chips throughout the day. If you have children in Year 1 who are keen to get into football, don't forget to touch base with them - their FREE soccer school at Highfields School is a fantastic opportunity for young players to get started and progress into a team the

following year.

Alongside the music and food, families enjoyed free festival face painting, subsidised bouncy castles and fun family crafting activities run by the brilliant volunteers of Friends of Matlock Forest. All this and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere makes Gig in the Park such a highlight of the Darley Dale calendar. As always, every penny raised supports The Whitworth, helping to maintain both the building and the park for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

Gig in the Park continues to be a day where local talent, shared enjoyment and the spirit of Darley Dale come together. We're already looking forward to doing it all again next year, put it in your diary for Sunday 29th August!

NEW MOBILE LIBRARY BUS IN TOWN!

The brand new mobile library bus is up and running, so it's a great chance to come along, have a look, and make use of all the services on offer.

Customers can use their library card at any Derbyshire Library, at any mobile library stop, and for online services including free eLending - eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers - plus reserving books through the online catalogue.

The next mobile library visit will be in the car park at the Methodist Church in Darley Dale, on Friday 23rd October from 1:00pm - 2:50pm



LOOKING BACK..

Severn Trent Water supply all the water and sewage services in most of Derbyshire with the notable exception of the village of Youlgrave which has had its own water supply since 1829. But there was a time when most local authorities provided their own water service from local resources and Darley Dale was no exception. As the population of the dale grew in the nineteenth century it became important from the area to have its own source of regular, pure water and by the end of the Victorian era the town had found its own source.

The moors above the Derwent Valley feed the many small streams which run down into the Derwent but as the gritstone rock below is porous, water also soaks through the rock, cleaning and filtering on its journey downwards until it reaches layers of shale which prevent it going any lower causing it instead to find its way towards the surface. This can be seen along the Eastern side of the Derwent Valley above Darley Dale with springs and water troughs where the water it emerges along Hallmoor Road and Holt Road amongst

other places. The springs and troughs have always provided enough water for houses immediately nearby but a larger, more reliable source was needed to provide for the wider neighbourhood.

As a result of the growing need, Darley Dale, like many other local authorities, established its own water supply, Darley Dale Water Works, obtaining its supplies from a number of sources in the area before feeding it downhill to the town in the valley below.

One of the sources was Beeley Moor where three springs - Shining Spring, Woodbrook Quarry Spring and Whitespring - all feed into Halldale Brook. Water from these springs was collected into a specially built underground reservoir which was built on land owned by Whitesprings Farm. The whole farm, worked by Jonathon Barker in the 1899 local directory, was compulsorily purchased in 1904 when farming ceased and the buildings slowly decayed, being swallowed up by the woodland which the Forestry Commission planted in the area. The



remains of the farm can still just be seen, now hidden under silver birch trees which have grown since the Forestry Commission conifers were felled around ten years ago. The water was piped from the reservoir down through Halldale where the exposed pipe can still be seen in the stream below the footbridge in Halldale Woods.

Even though the town ceased to operate its own local water works in the 1930s, visible evidence of its past can still be spotted locally today. Cast iron markers were erected to identify key features such as valves which were hidden below ground, marked with the initials DDWW or DWW. Several markers can be seen along the route of the pipeline in the lane along Halldale as well as along roads such as Greenaway Lane.

BY KEITH DOWNING


Derbyshire Federation
for Mental Health
RESET
Part of the
Community Lives Framework
Wellbeing Package

A tailored employability and wellbeing programme that supports individuals across Derbyshire who have mild to moderate mental health needs. The aim is to reintroduce purpose and structure that supports people back into work, activities, education, volunteering, and into leading a healthier and fulfilling life.



The programme will include:
1-1 sessions and groups, supported course attendance, practical life skills sessions, buddying and social skills.

If you are receiving support from Derbyshire County Council social care services, your support worker can refer you, or you can also self-refer and self-fund.

Contact us for more information
email: mainoffice@dfmh.co.uk
T: 01629 733915
www.dfmh.co.uk

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New Pathway at the Methodist Church

Derbyshire Dales District Council has now completed improvement works at Darley Dale Cemetery. There's a brand new tarmac path linking the cemetery to Whitworth Park, and the uneven section of the main path leading down from the church has also been resurfaced. In addition, a new path has been installed at the top of the site for the forthcoming garden of rest.

This is great news for anyone who uses the Whitworth Park route to Darley Dale Methodist Church - no more slipping around or getting caked in mud during the wetter months. A much cleaner, safer and easier walk for everyone.