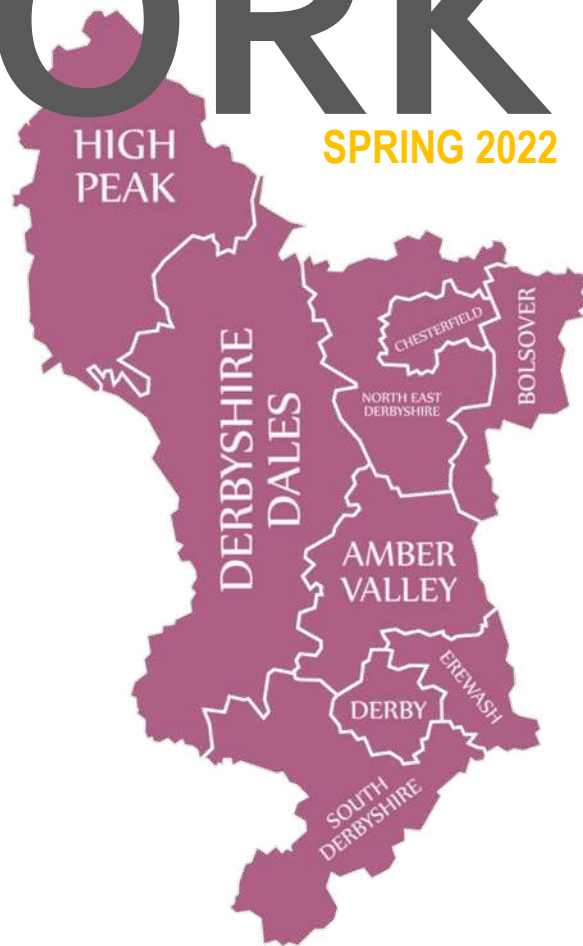


NETWORK

SPRING 2022



Hub at Low Pavement hosts pop-up vaccination clinics

Recently, we have seen the lifting of what's left of the Covid restrictions in England.

It's fabulous news for many of us, but a cause of anxiety for others. The pandemic has definitely been a marathon not a sprint, and 'getting back to normal' – whatever that is – is something that each of us needs to take at our own pace. Reflecting back on the last few weeks, it's been rewarding to help out in the push to protect more of our local population from the virus.

Our Hub at Low Pavement has hosted eight pop-up vaccination clinics in recent weeks. It's been a great experience to meet people who've taken the decision to get their first vaccine or snapped up the opportunity to pop in to get a second dose or booster whilst out and about in the town centre. More than 180 people had a jab in the first two days of opening. It's been fantastic to work with local medical professionals and public health to show the value of bringing clinical services to an accessible, community-led setting. People are our best asset in coping with the virus and in learning to live with it in the future.

Across Derbyshire, through the Covid Community Champions project, a huge amount of work has gone into sharing information and messaging within communities about staying safe, stopping the spread and protecting loved ones.

Everyone can continue to play a part in supporting the people around them to keep themselves and others safe. It's also largely down to people – be it family, friends, neighbours or community groups – that we found personal resilience to cope with the impact of Covid.



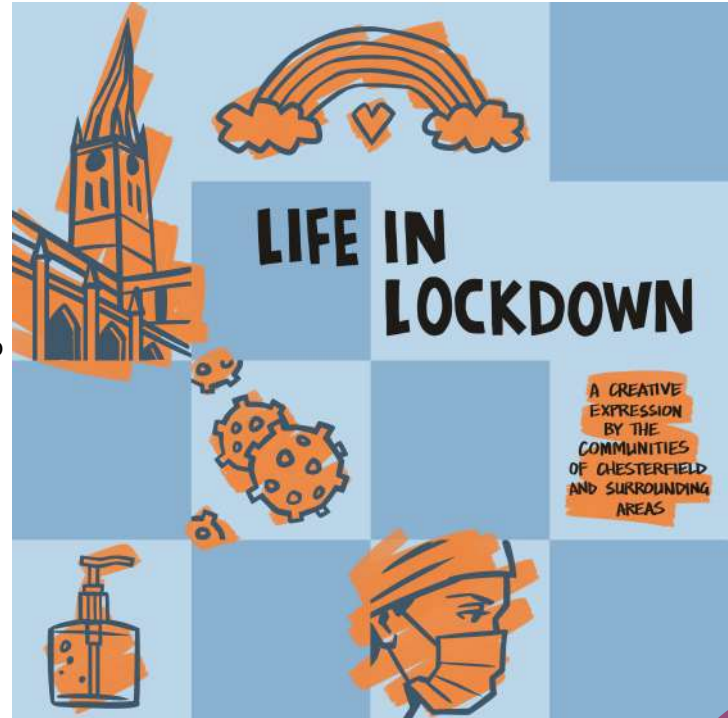
Book captures local people's experiences during pandemic

Two years ago, community spirit came to the fore as we navigated the first months of lockdown.

Charlotte Higgins at Derbyshire Voluntary Action had the idea of creating a permanent record of life in lockdown and worked on producing a book with the help of Rachel Bounds that captures local people's feelings and experiences during the first year of the pandemic. It proved a great way for us to connect with local people, bringing them together. The book contains contributions of words, art and photography from 120 locals of all ages. Please support us by calling in at The Hub at Low Pavement in Chesterfield and buying a copy.

All proceeds will go to our local community groups. It really is a unique piece of history.

Jacqui Willis, Chief Executive at Derbyshire Voluntary Action.



Life in Lockdown's book cover by artist Wynn Ryder

Be Involved

Social Media

We have made a Facebook page, where we are sharing positive and creative information and activities. If you don't already follow us you can find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/covid19connect>

If Facebook isn't your thing, you can still receive plenty of information from our e-bulletin and Twitter pages. Which can be found at:

- * @dva_info
- * @dvamentalhealth
- * @ComChesterfield
- * @Connect2_



If there is anything you would like to share through our media and marketing channels or anything you would like more information on, please just get in touch at: info@dva.org.uk.



Connect



Derbyshire Conference



Rescheduled date

30th June 2022

9.00am - 15.00pm

Still welcoming bookings!

A celebration event to showcase the progress made across Derbyshire to reduce loneliness and isolation

A chance to highlight and raise awareness

A call to action to make Derbyshire more connected

Where:

Chesterfield Football Club, Technique Stadium, 866 Sheffield Road,
Chesterfield S41 8NZ

How to request a place:

Email Jodie.hart@derbyshire.gov.uk

Please note:

Due to the anticipated high demand, we are monitoring the amount of bookings and places are not guaranteed.

Clay Cross Community Book Club

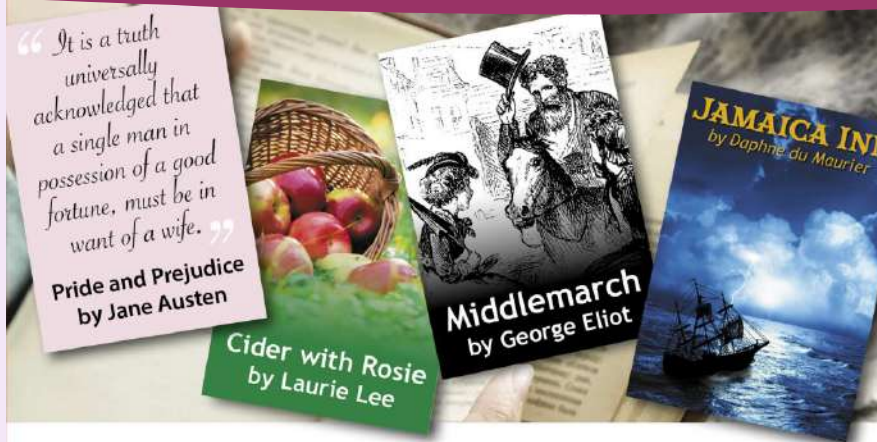
is looking for a few new members to join their group. This book club is a little bit different to traditional book clubs as they meet more frequently, discuss the books in sections and there is more of an emphasis on social time.

Conversations are light, although the group do take on some quite challenging reads. Current members have said that the group has encouraged them to read books they wouldn't have otherwise chosen.

They are a very friendly group and currently meet online on Monday evenings to discuss the books. Support can be provided to help new members access the sessions online. The group are considering transitioning to a day time meet up in person group (within Clay Cross). For the next book though, they will be continuing online.

Anytime over the next couple of weeks would be a good time for any potential new members to try out or join the group as the group are just about to start reading their next chosen book "Jamaica Inn by Daphne du Maurier". The group also have a community meet up planned on Friday the 4th March which anybody interested in the group would be welcome to join in with if they would like to meet the group in person before participating online.

Please contact Debbie Saint, Walking Into Communities Officer for more information on this (07773 201 033 or Deborah.Saint@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk)



Book Buddies

Be Inspired



in North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield

Congratulations go to Pam Owen of Compass Crescent, Old Whittington who has been presented with the Beacon of Hope Award by the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire for her voluntary work in support of the community.

Pam works extremely hard for the benefit of her street and the wider community of Whittington. She has also instilled her values on her family who support her with her ventures especially her daughter Vicki who also lives on

Compass Crescent. Vicki said, 'Mum comes up with the ideas and presents them to the family and we help her make them happen'

Over the years the family and their friends have been instrumental in organising various events and generally supporting their neighbours in whatever way they can but especially during the pandemic

Pam told Debbie Fennell, Social Connectedness Development Worker on the Feeling connected Project,

'We've lived here for over 40 years. All my children have grown up on this street'

Pam has also fostered many children over the years, some of which had special needs.

'I've always had an open door policy so COVID hit us and our neighbours hard'.

Pam had to be particularly careful as she had to shield because of her own health conditions. She said it was very difficult trying to explain to some of the older neighbours that impromptu visits for a friendly chat and a cuppa were no longer safe or permitted. This didn't stop Pam from supporting them though. She bakes for her friends and neighbours and she regularly organised for a local entertainer to come and sing to the street.

Pam continued to support her neighbours despite suffering the loss of her husband Dick of 52 years just days before the pandemic began. The restrictions imposed had an impact on the funeral arrangements.

Pam said 'The whole street came out and paid tribute to Dick and that means more to me than anything. It has been hard grieving through the pandemic. At least I have had the support of my family and friends. I feel so much for those who have lost someone and haven't had that support'. This is just typical of Pam – thinking more of others than herself even in her darkest hours.

Debbie Fennell said:

'I had the great honour of meeting Pam and her daughter Vicki on the same day that she was being awarded the Beacon of Hope. We discussed what other things Pam had in mind and would like to develop with my support through the Feeling Connected Project.'

Pam said 'I would love to organise a great big street party for everyone and maybe a day out on a coach for some of the older residents who haven't been able to go anywhere for so long'.

Debbie Fennell said 'I'm really looking forward to working with the Owen family and wider members of the Whittington community by supporting them to develop their ideas. Huge congratulations to Pam for her selfless efforts. Keep up the good work.'



For more information, contact Debbie Fennell; debbiefennell@dva.org.uk

Be Inspired

Sowing for the Future


In autumn 2021 Darley Dale Town Councillor, Dave Oakley felt that a redundant area of land on the Town Council's Church Road Allotment site could be developed for wider community use. After working with Asst Town Clerk, Ian Adkin, consulting with the Head Teacher at the nearby Churchtown C/E primary

School, some of the existing Church Road Allotment holders, the Secretary of the former First Taste Charity who had undertaken intergenerational work with young people in local care / nursing homes and with local district & county councillors work began on the Darley Dale Community Garden Project.

Whilst funds were sought to underwrite the costs for the running of the actual work with the children & those with special needs, Councillor Oakley began the massive task of clearing the site, preparing raised beds, constructing pathways & seats and built a wildlife pond.

By the end of February 2021, the Project Manager, Cecilia Harris, with Specialist Tutor, Lesley Allan had developed schemes for the work with the children. This was to involve two-year groups – one for the smallest children & one for the juniors both for when the weather was inclement and on the site. It also included a massive amount of detail involving risk assessments and awareness of health & safety needs & protocols etc. All this was achieved when most community projects as well as mandatory services were limited or had closed down because of the Covid Pandemic. The Project Manager was totally committed, undaunted and never fazed by any problems / issues that inevitably cropped up.





The children absolutely adored the opportunity to be outside & loved the processes of learning about seeds and plants & of course thoroughly enjoyed the chance to pond dip. And of course, on the days when the older people from either Ivonbrook or Darley Hall Care Homes came along the older people relished the chance to share their memories and experiences with the children of gardening and especially of producing food when times were difficult during the war and the subsequent ongoing rationing afterwards.

It had been hoped to hold a Celebratory Event in early July with the Duke of Devonshire as the official guest, with representatives from DCC & Derbyshire Dales District Council & Darley Dale Town Council members, to showcase what had been achieved during the project and plans for the future. Sadly, the Covid restrictions on gatherings of people prevented this. Certificates of involvement for all the children involved were produced and as they couldn't be presented at the proposed Celebratory Event it had been hoped that this could be done at the children's last sessions to be made special with delicately prepared new potato dishes from the garden plus chocolate cupcakes, but this plan was de-railed as the School got closed down because of Covid contacts having to isolate.

There is much goodwill for the Project to continue but that is dependent on raising approximately £11,500 to cover the academic year September 2021 to July 2022. This Project isn't just about having a good time working on the Community Garden, important as that is, but we have to recognize we are sowing seeds of understanding of the environment, healthy eating & good nutrition in future generations with that an important part of a rounded and holistic education. How sad when one reads in the national press that many children have no understanding of where their food comes from other than the local supermarket or takeaway. In Darley Dale at least the Churchtown children will be able to look back on their exposure to the natural world and the wonders it holds and have developed some understanding of food and its origins. We are truly sowing for the future.

(For further information or to make a donation please contact Iris Wagstaffe, Darley Dale Community Garden Volunteer, Tel 01629 732785)



Be Inspired

Kind Stephen gives a gift to thank the “guardian angel” who turned his life around

A man who faced being homeless because he struggled with the paperwork necessary to get himself a new place to live has said thank you to Derventio Housing Trust for “saving his life” – and donated money to help people just like him.

Stephen, who at one stage last year was bedding down in a horsebox and taking Class A drugs after his life fell apart, says that he owes everything to project worker Julie after she turned his life around.

Julie is Head of Employability at Derventio and manages the Opportunity and Change project which is part of the Building Better Opportunities programme funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund. The project’s aim is to support people facing severe and multiple disadvantage to reintroduce them back into training and employment opportunities.

Stephen had always lived with his mum but after she passed away the house was put up for sale and he was given six months to find an alternative place to live.

However, Stephen slipped into drug addiction and spent nights on end sleeping in a horse box or at friends’ houses.



He was referred to Derventio and Julie started the process of finding him a new home, which included getting a bank account set-up, hiring a removal firm, sorting out housing benefit and registering for council tax and utilities. She also helped him to deal with criminal proceedings after he was arrested for possessing a Class A drug. Eventually Stephen moved into a flat and is now facing a brighter future, with his drug-taking days behind him and all his paperwork intact.

As a result, he has now donated £50 to Derventio's Empowerment Fund, which helps people buy essential items such as furniture, birth certificates or equipment for hobbies.

Stephen donated to the Empowerment Fund, which buys small items that have a big impact, helping people to make positive changes. To support the Fund, please donate at localgiving.org/Derventio

To refer yourself or someone else to Opportunity and Change, please ring Julie on 07985 555 067 or at <https://>

www.opportunityandchange.org/



Be Involved

SCAMWhere? is a project recently created to help raise awareness of scams that are targeting communities across Derbyshire. During the COVID-19 pandemic, communities have witnessed scams rapidly increase, targeting a much broader range of age groups including elderly and vulnerable groups in our communities who are at a greater risk of being targeted due to unprecedented times of isolation and loneliness. Scammers recognise that many individual's and businesses' have had to quickly adapt in a relatively short space of time to using technology for work, schooling, banking and communicating with friends and family. Scammers often use times of crisis and uncertainty to trick, deceive and catch a person off guard in which to steal our most valuable personal and financial information, often leading to detrimental financial losses, identity theft and long term mental health impacts. As scams become much more prevalent, sophisticated and continually evolve, it is important to be aware of them and how to implement positive measures and reporting procedures that will help keep our personal and financial information secure from falling into the wrong hands. Previous experience of researching scams and talking to victims of scams, has enabled an understanding of some of the negative impact scams can have on an individual and the harm scams can cause to families, businesses and communities. SCAMWhere? is focussed on helping communities increase their awareness of scams, how to implement preventative measures in which to protect personal details and to actively encourage communities to talk, share and to report their own experiences of scams to help aid and improve long term outcomes for people being targeted by scams. Anyone can be scammed and scams are not only confined to text messages, email or phone calls, they can be on our very own doorsteps that can result in equally devastating outcomes. SCAMWhere? aims to take a positive role in helping communities of Derbyshire become scam aware and able to actively take steps to better protect themselves from becoming a victim to a scam.

You can find SCAMWhere?

Facebook @Scmwhre Or Twitter @ScamWhere



Do you:

- ✦ Want to **feel more confident** with using technology, e.g. **emails, social media, zoom?**
- ✦ Like to **meet/connect with other deaf women?**
- ✦ **Learn new skills** e.g. cooking, crafts, DIY, sports etc?

*If so, our Social Connectors
can support and empower you!*



Deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing women have told us they can feel isolated and lonely all or some of the time – even if they have lots of people around them.

Our Social Connectors:

- ✦ can work with you to help you develop skills, meet new people and connect socially with others.
- ✦ are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing themselves and you will be matched with someone who uses your preferred communication method (e.g. BSL, speech etc.)

Please contact Becky at
becky@deafinitelywomen.org.uk,
or telephone the office on
01773 828233 or
text: 07579 809 766
to find out more or
make a referral.



Be Involved



CAN YOU BE A BEFRIENDER IN DERBYSHIRE

Do you have an hour a week for a cuppa & a chat?

More than half of over-70s in the UK say that the TV is their main form of company & over 30,000 older neighbours in our region are at risk of isolation.

We all now know what it feels like to feel isolated at home.

Can you visit an isolated neighbour in Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire or Bolsover?



WE'RE ALL NEIGHBOURS,
LET'S B:FRIEND

letsbfriend.org.uk

Call for more info:
07523 698530



Be Involved

Local Charities join forces to launch the Anti-Racist Alliance

Twenty charities across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire have joined together to form the Anti Racist Alliance being launched today.

Led by Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS), Community Action Derby (CAD) and Voluntary Action Doncaster (VAD) the Anti Racist Alliance, made of Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure organisations, will support it's wider membership of over 6000 organisations to go beyond a zero tolerance approach to racism and to commit to positive action to become and remain a proactive anti-racist organisation.

Infrastructure organisations work across the country to support other charities to develop as new groups, support groups to grow through funding or governance advice and training, provide volunteer brokerage services and provide a voice for groups into policy decisions.

BCVS, CAD and VAD have been active members of the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) national Anti-Racist Working group which has developed a set of Anti Racist principles and call to action also being launched today.

BCVS, CAD and VAD along with the wider infrastructure alliance members are able to provide support for voluntary and community sector organisations to develop their capacity to adopt and most critically to implement anti-racist principles. This will include diagnostics, action planning, training and referral to specialist support as needed.

Andria Birch, CEO of BCVS today said "We would love to live in a world where racism doesn't exist, however there is still much work to be done. BCVS is actively committed to anti-racism and is pleased to be able to join forces with like-minded charities to learn, develop our practice and share our learning and resources with our wider membership to create a better world for everyone. You can find this here - www.bcvs.org/ukantiracism

We are always stronger working together and look forward to this next stage in the journey to become and remain anti-racist in all that we do.

Kim Harper, CEO of CAD added “We have been active for many years and are proud to have a diverse board which actively champions anti-racist practice. The voluntary and community sector has a key role to play in supporting our workforce and wider membership to remain or become anti-racist and we look forward to supporting our networks to develop their practice further”.



Be Involved

Cath Witherington, COI of VAD, also said, “We are keen to raise the profile of this important campaign across South Yorkshire and have been working with the Black Leadership Group to connect and learn across sectors to bring this added dimension and experience into the campaign”.

Infrastructure organisations signed up to the Anti-Racist Alliance to date in alphabetical order:

Amber Valley CVS

Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS) and Bolsover Together

Community Action Derby (CAD)

Community Accounts Plus

Connex

Derbyshire Dales CVS

Derbyshire Voluntary Action (DVA)

Erewash Voluntary Action

High Peak CVS

Links: The Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Service and Action (LinksCVS)

Mansfield Community and Voluntary Service (MCVS)

Multi Faith Centre (Derby)

Newark and Sherwood CVS

Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service (NCVS)

Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD)

Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN)

South Derbyshire Community and Voluntary Service (SDCVS)

The Church of England (Derbyshire)

The Volunteer Centre Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire

Voluntary Action Doncaster (VAD)

You can find out more about the future plans of the alliance, support available and how to pledge your support by visiting www.bcv.org.uk/antiracism and www.navca.org.uk/anti-racism-work

Connex Community Support and Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport are registered charities, both of which have provided community transport for more than three decades, across the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak.



Juliet Short, Operations and Development Manager for Connex says; ‘ Our organisations work together to provide transport for those who are unable to use public transport because of their age, disability or rural exclusion: enabling them to get to medical appointments or to social activities. Our services are a lifeline to many – but we know that not everyone knows about us or that volunteers lie at the heart of our work.

We wanted to take the opportunity to spread the word at this time! Community Transport takes many forms: we operate car schemes, minibuses and wheelchair accessible vehicles. What they all offer is a safe, supportive means of getting from ‘a to b’.

If you, your neighbour or your group are struggling with transport needs, please call or email us for further information. There is a charge for our transport, but we try to keep our costs to the minimum through the work of our amazing volunteer teams.

Moreover, we always need more volunteers. In particular, we are calling out for drivers in the Bakewell, Cromford, Hulland and Matlock areas: so please give us a shout if you have a little bit of free time to spare!”

Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport
01629 641920 / info@bect.org.uk

Connex Community Support
01335 344700 / dales@connex.org.uk

Be Involved

Empowering Parents and Carers



Working alongside Bolsover District Council to provide an empowering course for parents and carers of teenagers to equip you with strategies to build on communication skills and foster supportive connections.

Wednesday 30th March 10:00am-2:00pm
Bainbridge Hall, Chapel Rd, Bolsover, S44 6PX

For more information contact
admin@relatechesterfield.org.uk

relate
the relationship people

SPACE
Supporting Parents & Carers

Are you over 55?

Then come along and meet some of the community groups that operate in Chesterfield – come along and talk to some of the health and wellbeing providers in Chesterfield – come along and find out what's happening in your local area – or simply just come along for a free tea, coffee and cake!

Fun, friendly and FREE!

The Great Chesterfield get 2gether

NO NEED TO BOOK

5 April

10am to 3pm

At The Winding Wheel Theatre, Chesterfield

- Over 50 stalls with information on Chesterfield groups, activities, events and advice agencies
- At 10am in the Function Room we will show the brilliant on-line variety show made last year by Chesterfield residents
- There will be complimentary refreshments, home-made cakes and fruit.
- Activity taster sessions.
- From 1pm in the Ballroom - dance sessions for all!

Contact Wendy Blunt, health and wellbeing officer for more information.

Email: wendy.blunt@chesterfield.gov.uk

Telephone: 01246 959 657

 **CHESTERFIELD**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire

Volunteer Recruitment

At Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire we are pleased to share that during the last year we have retained almost all of our volunteers. Some continued to volunteer during the lockdown working from home and others had a break to return to volunteering now that restrictions have relaxed.

"We are very fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers, many of which stay long-term. They have a range of skills and experience between them and so retaining their services is extremely valuable and essential to operate the Citizens Advice network." Leanne Smith, Operations Manager.

We are now looking to expand our team of volunteers to help manage demand for the increase in Telephone Advice. We are now currently recruiting for Volunteer Telephone Advisers to be based at Clay Cross with the opportunity for flexible home work when appropriate. See our website for further details of the Volunteer opportunity or contact lsmith@nedcab.org.uk.

Return to face to face

Like many organisations, Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire switched to working from home providing a Telephone Advice service during the pandemic. Now that restrictions are lifting we are gradually returning to providing face to face advice across North East Derbyshire and Bolsover Districts.

We are already providing face to face at our office in Clay Cross and are making arrangements to return to our outreaches across the two districts.

Follow us on Twitter, facebook or Instagram for updates or contact our Adviceline on 0808 250 5702.



Be Involved

Annual Health Checks



With an aim to improve the health of people with a learning disability, the NHS offer an Annual Health Check. Annual health checks are offered by GPs for people over 14 with a learning disability.

Annual health checks help people with a learning disability to stay well by talking about their health and finding any problems early, so they get the right care.

Some of our volunteers at Healthwatch Derbyshire are helping the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to promote these checks.

They have been sharing their stories of attending for their health checks to encourage others to attend.

Additionally, two of our volunteers have also been filming a promotional video being produced by the CCG designed to promote the checks and encourage a greater take-up.

Great work by Denise and Stephen, we are looking forward to sharing the video!

For more information visit: <https://healthwatchderbyshire.co.uk/>



HELP FAIRPLAY CELEBRATE OUR 30th YEAR!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED VOLUNTEERING?

Fairplay has been very fortunate to receive funding from 'National Lottery Awards for All'. The grant will be used towards recruiting 30 new Fairplay volunteers.

If you are looking for a new opportunity after the difficult last few years, volunteering is a proven way of increasing self-esteem and lifting people's mood. If you would like to support a local children's charity in a variety of ways, please get in touch.

We are looking for 30 volunteers to give a few hours of their time each month to help support;

- Fairplay's activity sessions
- Working on the Fairplay garden
- Volunteering in the Fairplay Gift Emporium

For more information, please contact Tom Boden on 01246 203963 or office@fair-play.co.uk

Derbyshire Grants Scheme

Derbyshire grants – applications now open

We've launched the Derbyshire Grants scheme with £1.5million to be allocated over the next 2 years to community groups, clubs, local charities and non-profit organisations. Please spread the word if you belong to or work with any groups which could benefit.

Projects need to support one or more of our 5 main priorities and help local communities to thrive. These priorities are:

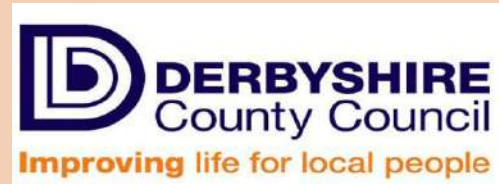
- helping residents feel safe
- supporting young people
- encouraging residents to be more active
- supporting 'green' issues and sustainability
- encouraging people to get involved in their communities.

Grants in the new scheme are divided into four main types:

- small grants – supporting activity or projects up to £1,000
- medium grants – supporting activity or projects between £1,001 - £20,000
- large grants – supporting projects and programmes between £20,001 - £50,000
- exceptional – supporting projects which are over £50,000.

For more information see link below

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news-events/news-updates/news/our-new-15million-grant-scheme.aspx>



Your Derbyshire Voluntary Action Team

Jacqui Willis	Chief Executive
Julia Cook	Business & Operations Manager
Rachel Bounds	Community Engagement Worker
Bryony White	Senior Administrator
Kim Grant	Finance Administrator
Debbie Fennell	Social Connectedness Development Worker
Jenny Raschbauer	Community Project Manager
Alison Gibson	Community Development Worker
Kate Burns	Community Skills Coordinator
Viv Lisewski-Hobson	Project Support Officer
Hannah Johnson	Marketing & Communications Officer
Charlotte Higgins	Connect to... Community Coordinator
Natalie Evans	Connect to... Support & Outcomes Officer
Mollie Ward	Specialist Young People's Physical Activity Link Worker
Cassy Fitzharris	MSK Community Link Worker



**Feeling
CONNECTED**

DERBYSHIRE
County Council



Our Board of Directors

Julie Dixon (Chair)	Ann Sullivan
Bev Crighton (Vice Chair)	Tony Hedley
Wendy Munro	Dom Rees Jones
Julian Smith	

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