

this is **Redcar & Cleveland**

the council magazine for the local community

Issue 61 | Summer 2026

Ready for take off!

Kite festival set
to soar, page 4



To contact the council visit
www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

 facebook.com/redcarcleveland or on  [@RedcarCleveland](https://twitter.com/RedcarCleveland)

Food waste recycling service rolled out to residents

OUR waste teams have been busy delivering food waste caddies and collecting residents' food waste across the area throughout April and May as part of government plans to improve recycling and lower greenhouse gases. We really appreciate your support in rolling out this new service and would like to thank residents for helping to increase the amount of recycled waste in Redcar and Cleveland. If you haven't tried food waste recycling yet, it's easy to get started. Simply place your food waste, such as plate scrapings, peelings and teabags into your kitchen caddy. Once it's full, empty it into your outside food waste container ready for collection. Food waste is collected weekly, on the same day as we collect your other waste and recycling.

What foods can I recycle?

✓ Yes please

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| ✓ All uneaten food and plate scrapings | ✓ Dairy products | ✓ Bread |
| ✓ Raw meat | ✓ Cheese | ✓ Cakes |
| ✓ Cooked meat | ✓ Eggs | ✓ Pastries |
| ✓ Bones | ✓ Cooked vegetables | ✓ Rice |
| ✓ Fish | ✓ Raw vegetables | ✓ Pasta |
| ✓ Cooked fish | ✓ Whole fruit | ✓ Beans |
| | ✓ Peelings | ✓ Tea bags |
| | | ✓ Coffee grounds |

✗ No thanks

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| ✗ Cooking oil | ✗ Clothes | ✗ Crisp and sweet packets |
| ✗ Liquid fat | ✗ Nappies | ✗ Ready meal packaging |
| ✗ Milk | ✗ Pet waste | ✗ Plastic bags |
| ✗ Juice | ✗ Garden waste | |

For further information please visit www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/food-waste or scan the QR code:



or call: 01642 774774
email: contactus@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Welcome...

...to the summer edition of the **this is Redcar & Cleveland** magazine



We are very much looking forward to the summer months and there are some fantastic things to do for families in our borough.

The council's events team is working hard to put on fantastic events which will attract thousands of people to appreciate what a great place we live in.

The Kite Festival, which was enjoyed by around 30,000 people last year, is returning this month.

This year's event promises to be even better and, once again, will be a fabulous showpiece for our beautiful coastline.

This will be followed by the

return of the Festival of Thrift. We have worked hard to bring such a popular nationally renowned event back, and I hope as many people as possible visit Kirkleatham to experience its unique atmosphere.

There is also the return of our Between the Tides festival in August. It has grown in popularity and we are delighted that our staff have secured the funding to bring it back again.

There are lots of other events to enjoy and I hope you get the chance to enjoy them with your family and friends.

This edition of our magazine also highlights the great work

of people across Redcar and Cleveland to make where they live a better place.

They make a real difference to people's lives and although they don't seek the limelight for the selfless dedication, it is right and proper that their considerable efforts are recognised.

I would like to extend my thanks for everything they do.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer and our beautiful borough.

Cllr Alec Brown
Leader of the Council

WORK OF HEARTS: Meet the volunteers making a difference **p24&25**

TOWNS TRANSFORMED: Find out what investment is happening in your town **p20**

HEROES: Big awards night for community heroes **p16&17**

SUMMER FESTIVALS: Your guide to Redcar Kite Festival and summer events **p4**

this is Redcar & Cleveland is free to residents and if you, or someone you know, doesn't receive a copy please email communications@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk. Also contact the team if you are visually impaired and want the magazine in a different type size. The magazine is printed by Continuous Data Print UK on part-recycled paper and is recyclable. ♻️

Summer fun is here again

IT'S going to be one of the best summers ever with major festivals expected to attract thousands from across the region. Read more below and also discover a packed programme of exciting, privately-organised events at enjoyredcarcleveland.gov.uk/enjoy



Let's go, fly a kite!

Sat 6 and Sun 7 June, 12pm to 6pm each day, Majuba beach, Redcar

THOUSANDS of fun-seekers are once again expected at the free Redcar Kite Festival on Majuba Beach this weekend. And this year there will be even more kites, live entertainment and activities.

The weekend will kick off on Friday 5 June with the return of Majuba Street Food Market on the seafront between 4pm and 9pm where there will be street food and music. On Saturday and Sunday, tide times mean the kites will be in the sky from 12pm.

Look out for giant inflatable kites, kite 'ballet' set to music, stunt kites, free workshops including kite-making, fossils, rock pool schools and printmaking and storytelling with Lady Lemon Top, Captain Plim and his fishy first mate Sole. There will also be street entertainment, face-painting, glitzy festival makeovers and vintage fairground rides. The main BBC Tees music stage will feature a fantastic line-up of talent and acoustic performers will also be performing on the bandstand. There will be dozens of street food and drink stalls serving up everything from pamos to Vietnamese and Korean food.



Armed Forces Day

Sat June 27, 10.30am to 3.30pm, Redcar High Street

A CHANCE to show your appreciation of our Armed Forces. There will be a military parade, entertainment and displays and a military aircraft fly-past.

Organised by the Redcar branches of The Royal British Legion and Rotary Club in partnership with the council, there will be a moving opening ceremony before live music, children's activities, stalls and cadet drill displays. See details - and many more events - at www.redcarcleveland.gov.uk/enjoy



It's back! Festival of Thrift returns

Sat July 4 and Sun 5 July, Kirkleatham Museum and Grounds

THE free, family, thrifty festival is returning to the borough after a three-year absence and is once again expected to attract up to 40,000 visitors from across the country.

Visitors can roam the grounds and enjoy outdoor performances, hands-on workshops, interactive installations, pre-loved fashion and market stalls from independent makers. Expect a mix of thrifty favourites (including the beloved Best In Show) and new surprises.

Entry is free and you are welcome to bring a picnic or enjoy delicious food and drink onsite. Find out more here festivalofthrift.co.uk



MARCHING ON: A marching band at a previous Festival of Thrift

Between the Tides Festival

Sat 22 August and Sun 23 August, Kirkleatham Museum and Grounds and village, 11am - 5pm (also a quiet hour from 10am to 11am for families with special needs)

A FREE weekend of adventure and exploration for children and their grown-ups, this year's festival will once again take place at Kirkleatham Village with the added bonus of an extra day in Redcar High Street for teens (on Wednesday 18 August)

Now in its fourth year, the festival won the prestigious

Best Event of the Year at last year's North East Culture Awards, after transforming the grounds of the village into a spectacle of theatre, puppetry, circus, dance, storytelling and live music.

This year the festival will be extended over a larger area to accommodate some magical woodland experiences. Expect



all the best bits of last year - Big Bubble Bash foam party finale; party animal woodland disco; interactive chalk walk; walkabout characters - along with some spectacular shows, including the much-loved Luminarium light show. Suitable for all ages.

Listings



THERE's a packed range of events and activities across the summer this year. Full listings including private events at redcarcleveland.co.uk/enjoy



Open now

Dinosaurs, Monsters and Lost Worlds exhibition

Kirkleatham Museum INTERACTIVE exhibition bringing the ancient past to life. Also, Dino Discovery Days (included in museum admission) on Wednesdays and Fridays from 31 July to 19 Aug with an extra day on Fri 28 Aug. Mr Bones is calling all fearless dino spotters to join him. Also, a dinosaur trail in Dinosaur and Fossil Week, Tues 3 Aug to Sun 9 Aug. Extra, free parking for museum visitors at the adjoining Kirkleatham Walled Garden site.



Majuba markets

Fri 5 June and Fri 3 July, 4pm to 9pm, Majuba beach, Redcar LOVERS of street food, good music and cocktails are expected to flock to the sunset markets

on Redcar seafront. A laid-back, chilled experience with live music and busy food stalls this summer. Also, a market on Friday 5 June in the build up to Redcar Kite Festival.



Teddy Bears Picnic

Wed 22 July and Wed 12 Aug, 10.30am to 12pm both days, Kirkleatham Museum and Grounds. Tickets £5 (includes museum teddy). Go to ticketsource.com or contact museum. Take a picnic - but don't forget your Teddy Bear! Includes Magic Show, music, balloon modelling and woodland trail.



Redcar Dessert Festival

Sat 18 July and Sun 19 July ENJOY this delicious festival celebrating puddings from around the world on Redcar High Street.



Pirate Week

Thur 23 July to Sun 2 August, Kirkleatham Museum PIRATE treasure trail around the museum and grounds.



Saltburn Food Festival

Town Centre, Sun 26 July HUGELY popular food festival with more than 120 stalls offering street food, sweet treats, local produce and international cuisine.



Family Crafts

Every Tues and Thurs from 28 July to 27 Aug, Kirkleatham Museum, 10.30am to 3pm

each day Charges: £1.50 to £3.50 (museum admission still applies, £3 adult, £2.50 children, under fours free) DROP-IN sessions. Get crafty with a pirate or dinosaur themes (theme days vary).



Flatts Lane Family Fun Day

Sat 1 August, Flatts Lane Country Park ENJOY nature, activities and entertainment at the park in this special day for all the family.



Saltburn Folk Festival

Various venues including bandstand, Fri 7 to Sun 9 Aug ENJOY ceilidhs, dance displays and some of the country's finest musicians. Find out more at SaltburnFolkFestival.com



Saxon Week & Saxon Camp

Saxon Week - Tues 11 Aug to Sun 16 Aug and Saxon Camp - Sat 14 and Sun 15 Aug, Kirkleatham Museum and Grounds (Free but museum admission still applies, £3 adults £2.50 children) ALL-WEEK Saxon Treasure hunt in the museum and Saxon Princess exhibition. Acle reenactment group's interactive living history camp 10am to 4pm on Sat and Sun.



Redcar Running Festival

Sun Sept 27, from 9am FEATURING a 3km, 10km and half-marathons. Go to the running.life website to sign up.

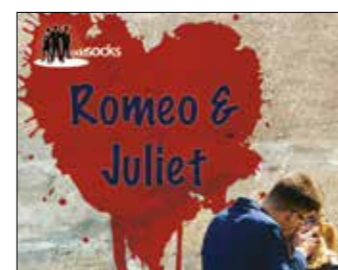


Book it! Reading challenge

Sat 11 July to Sat 5 Sept, all libraries EACH time a child borrows a book he or she may enter a prize draw with prizes including a Nintendo Switch Bundle, a Tonies 2 Bundle, a JellyCat and book bundles.

Outdoor Theatre, Kirkleatham Museum and Grounds

To purchase tickets go to: www.ticketsource.com



Romeo & Juliet

Thur 9 July and Fri 10 July, 6.30pm. Tickets £19.50 (£16.50 children, under fives free).

ODDSOCKS presentation of the William Shakespeare play a family feud and fated young lovers.



Treasure Island

Fri 24 July, 3pm. Tickets £15 (£10 child). QUANTUM theatre tell the story of young Jim Hawkins who stumbles upon a treasure map at the Admiral Benbow Inn. He finds himself embroiled in the murky underworld of pirates.



As You Like It, Outdoor Theatre

Sun 26 July, 6pm. Tickets £19.50 (child £16.50 under 5's free). ILLYRIA present the William Shakespeare play about young lovers, intrigue and romance.



The Tale of Peter Rabbit

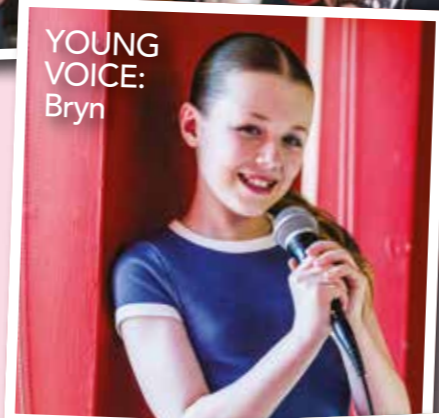
Sat 29 August, matinee 11am, afternoon 2.30pm. AN enchanting adaptation of two of Beatrix Potter's best-loved tales, The Tales of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny.



SERIOUS FUN: Schoolchildren enjoy dress-up, sport and creativity at Caedmon Primary.



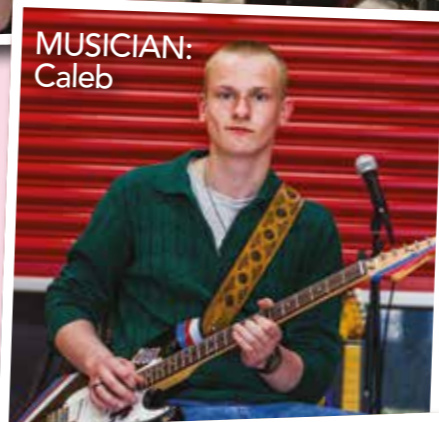
MAKING MUSIC: Crystal, Caleb, Bryn and Lily



YOUNG VOICE: Bryn



STUDIO SESSION: Lily and Lauren recording



MUSICIAN: Caleb



RECORDING: Gabby at the studio

Youngsters hit the right note

YOUNG musicians are to have their own, original song featured on a special album.

The group of young people taking part in the council youth service's Music Programme spent six weeks working with professionals at the Skimstone Arts charity to write and record a song.

Now that song is going to feature on the charity's album – called Reality Boots - and the young people are going to perform it.

The seven young people, Caleb, Bryn, Lauren, Lily, Rose, Crystal, and Gabby (aged 12 to 17) travelled up to Blank Studios in Newcastle to record the song as part of a 'last hurrah' for Skimstone Arts who will be closing after 15 years.

During the recording sessions, the group brainstormed ideas around environment, identity and their connection to their hometowns in Redcar and East Cleveland. The idea behind the song One Road Back came from Caleb and the lyrics reference Redcar High Street and includes the phrases 'one road back' from the seafront, 'dancing on the morning dunes' and 'with a bucket and spade, trying to find shade'.

Caleb said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity I had to work with such inspirational and talented people and I am thrilled to have been mentioned in the credits. Thank you to everyone who made this happen for me."

Fellow young musician, Bryn added: "I have never experienced anything so enjoyable, it was unbelievable."

Grass Roots Music leaders Kenn, Kaitlyn, Maddie and Si worked alongside Skimstone Arts to mentor and support the young musicians.

The youth group runs every Friday during term time, 6pm – 8pm, Skelton Youth and Community Centre, Marske Lane, TS12 2HA and is a perfect opportunity for young people to meet new people and establish incredible friendships.

Find out more at:
www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/youth-services.

Playtime's class!

WITH a 'mud kitchen,' dress up stage area and a wheeled-play zone, playtime has never been more fun for the children at Caedmon Primary in Grangetown.

But amid their joyous shrieks and laughter, the children might not always realise their play has become a serious business. The school has restructured playtime as an innovative way to aid the pupils' development.

It's been such a success that the school has won a Silver Play Award from the national Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) organization.

Headteacher Rachel Bergamino explained the mud kitchen encourages sensory exploration,

the stage with dress-up clothes develops confidence and performance skills and the wheeled-play zone supports balance and coordination. A Multi-Use Games Area has also been installed so the children can learn new sports.

"The impact on our children has been remarkable," she said. "They now enjoy a richer, more imaginative play experience with opportunities that help them grow socially, emotionally, and physically."

Less than 0.5% of schools in the UK have the same quality of playtimes as Caedmon, according to OPAL.



Serving you on

the frontline...

The next three pages celebrate workers serving on the frontline every day



A Day in the Life Lisa Wilson, Museum Ambassador

"I LOVE my job – I love people, I love children, I love making people happy...I love this museum!," says Lisa Wilson, a museum worker of ten years.

Early morning

If our caretaker isn't here, I'll open up. I make sure the shop is full, vacuum and clean the glass cases. You always have to think about what's coming up that day, because that day can be very different from the one before. When we have a new exhibition, we often create a new display in the shop based on that. It's something creative which I really enjoy.

Late morning

Doors open at 10am. Sometimes there's a big queue – especially in the school holidays and we get more than 80,000 visitors a year. I'll often replenish the craft materials in the ever-popular child craft area and make regular patrols to make sure everything is okay.

Early afternoon

If it's busy, I'll usually be at the till in the shop – and there can be no let-up. If it's quieter, you can really take time to engage with visitors - my favourite part of the job. I love helping the children in the craft area. With adults, you often hear people say they thought museums



were too 'clever' for them. It's a joy to see them slowly realise that this is really a fun, interactive, joyful place.

Late afternoon

We're all proud to work together and support with planning ahead. This is the best job I've ever had. I often say that if Carlsberg had museums, this would be one of them.



A Day in the Life Louise Vickers, Assistant Librarian

LOUISE Vickers, 37, says no day is the same at Saltburn Library... "except they are all very busy!"

Early morning

I'm at work for 9.15am at the latest, and the first task is making sure everything is ready on the floor and behind the scenes. Doors open at 9.30am. Most days there is a queue and I love it when the moment comes. We have a lot of regulars at this time

but they're not all here for books. They could be here to use our Barclays Banking Hub or for advice about council services. Modern libraries are community bases and only about 30% of what we do here is book-based. We are a long way from that stern librarian saying 'sshhhh'.

Late morning

We have a lot of community groups and activities. We cater for everyone in the

community right through the age spectrum, from Baby Yoga to Crochet Club.

Early afternoon

We get a lot of school visits and special events which take a lot of planning. We're trying to engage with older teenagers and young people and a big success recently was our World Book Day evening. This year, we had a 'Comic-Con', or comic book and video game theme. I also make social media reels about our service - our page is @RCBCLibraries on Instagram and Facebook - which is also helping change the perceptions of our libraries.

Late afternoon

There's always a rush towards the end of the day including teenagers coming in to do their homework. At the same time, we have to cash-up and complete safety checks before closing at 5pm. Driving home to my partner and our cat, Bea, I genuinely find myself often reflecting on how proud I am to be a librarian.

A Day in the Life

Stephen Housam, Highways Inspector

FOR nearly 44 years, Stephen, 60, has worked with the council's Highways Team, with 28 of those as a dedicated Highways Inspector covering Guisborough and East Cleveland.

Early morning

Before I set off, I prioritise the jobs after checking public reports and councillor queries because some things can't wait. I'm in the van at 7.30am heading to the most urgent jobs which can range from flooding to traffic accident damage, potholes, broken kerbs and leaks. Wherever I can, I call any member of the public back straight away.

Late morning

Once the urgent jobs are under control, I move on to my routine inspections. These can include checks of busy shopping areas and inspections of the main roads and estates. I measure every safety defect, record it, and mark it with spray paint so the repair crews can find it easily. I see myself as a highways policeman, only I'm not looking for criminals but for defects on our highways.



Early afternoon

When inspections are done, I usually hot-desk at places like the library and log all the defects onto my computer and issue the correct work 'tickets'. Response times vary. It's two-hour or 24-hour responses for anything dangerous. If I'm first on scene,



I make it safe with cones or tape until the crew arrives. We have six-day and 30-day tickets for issues like potholes and damaged flags and 99-day tickets for non-urgent tasks.

Late afternoon

It's often a race to squeeze everything in before the end of the day. I enjoy every part of this job. It gives you a real sense of purpose.

Keeping our roads safe



THE council's 17-person strong Highways Team is out making roads and paths safe every day. In the last year, they filled in more than 9,535 potholes, with nearly 45,000 being repaired since 2020.

But there's a lot more to their work than potholes as they maintain more than 700km of highways and 500km of footpath. They use gully suckers to ensure drains are clear, cordon-off areas that are unsafe and clear hazards.

If you spot serious damage to roads or paths, report it by scanning the QR code:



"I can honestly say, hand on heart, that I feel 100% better since quitting."

Andrew Pearson



How Andrew decided enough was enough

ANDREW Pearson, from Lazenby, had been smoking cigars for more than 30 years and was spending nearly £800 a month on his habit when he decided enough was enough.

"It just couldn't go on," Andrew said. "As well as the financial cost, my health was starting to suffer. I was regularly at the doctors with high blood pressure caused by smoking. My dentist also warned me that my teeth could fall out due to gum problems linked to smoking."

Daily life was also becoming more difficult: "I was struggling to climb a flight of stairs without gasping for breath, so I had to do something about it."

After speaking to his GP, Andrew was referred to the stop smoking service — a decision he credits with turning his life around.

"I would have found it very difficult to quit without their support," he said. "They gave me a vape and gradually reduced the nicotine dosage, which really worked for me."

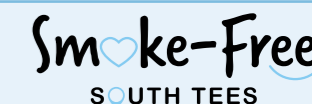
You're well supported, but you also have to be in the right frame of mind. You need to be determined to stop smoking from controlling you."

Andrew's message for anyone thinking about quitting is simple, give it a go and ask for support.

"Just go to your doctors and give it a try. They want to help you, but you have to want to help yourself as well. I can honestly say, hand on heart, that I feel 100% better since quitting."



Be part of a smoke-free Teesside, visit: publichealthsouthtees.co.uk/stop-smoking





LADY OF THE RINGS:
Nicola Langtry-Lynas

Say 'I do' to Redcar

THERE'S a fresh look and a new team to help celebrate life's biggest moments at Redcar Civic Centre's Ceremony Rooms. And the team is offering far more than traditional register office weddings.

Nicola Langtry-Lynas, recently-appointed Registration Services Manager and Superintendent Registrar, said creativity is positively encouraged for weddings as well as naming ceremonies and vow renewals.

"We can do everything an independent celebrant can do except we have the added bonus of also being able to take care of the legal side at the same time," said Nicola, who also explained the ceremony room has been given a fresh look.

Nicola's newly-appointed Deputy, Anita Smith, smiled recalling an Only Fools and Horses themed wedding. She said: "The groom and best man arrived in a yellow Reliant dressed up as Del Boy and

Rodney and the groom turned to the bride as she walked down the aisle and said, "you look lovely jubbly!"

The ceremony room at Redcar Civic Centre can accommodate eight to sixty guests and there is a smaller room for four people.

The registration team is also looking to license new venues. Contact the Registration Service at registeroffice@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk or telephone 01642 44440.



WEDDING DAY: Tami and Adam Fawcett. Photo by Stuart Bratley.



Game on for Tami and Adam!

NEWLY wedded couple Tami and Adam Fawcett praised the Registration Team and venue.

Tami, from St Louis in Missouri, said she met Adam, a Redcar firefighter, playing the Apex Legends video game in an online tournament. "Adam won and I came last!" laughed Tami, "but I would say we both won as it led to us finding each other."

"The staff helped us navigate the process and were very easy to contact. The registrar went out of her way to make our day feel special and the ceremony room was beautiful."

Meet the couple giving youngsters a stable start

FOSTER carers Martyn and Lauren Nelson, from Brotton, share how they help local children feel safe, supported and settled with family life, with their family pets, including pony, Troy, playing a key role in their fostering journey.

Lauren explains that everyday routines and shared activities can make a significant difference to a child's wellbeing.

"At the heart of fostering is making sure children feel safe, secure and happy," she said. "Often, it's the simplest things that help children settle. Spending time outdoors, caring for Troy or going for a walk with the dogs can help children feel calmer and more confident."

The couple recall fostering a young girl who loved horses but had never had the opportunity to ride. With a pony of their own she was able to spend time grooming and riding during her stay.

"She's moved on now and has her own horse and competes in shows," Lauren added. "It's incredibly rewarding to see how far she's come and know we were able to support her at an important time in her life."

Martyn and Lauren began fostering around ten years ago,



STABLE START:
Foster couple, Lauren and Martyn Nelson with Troy the Foster pony

after speaking to a friend who was already a foster carer. "We were only in our twenties when we made our first call to the fostering team and assumed we would be too young but there is no type of foster carer. You can be younger or older, single or married, working or not."

While foster caring can be challenging, the couple say the positive impact outweighs the difficult times. They have since adopted a little boy they fostered,

who has become a much loved member of their family.

Martyn and Lauren were also approached to support the launch of a Mockingbird fostering scheme, with their home becoming a 'hub' for other local foster families. The scheme aims to mirror the support of an extended family network by offering practical and emotional help.

When asked what advice he would give to anyone considering fostering, Martyn encourages people to find out more.

"Making that first call is the most important step," he said. "Fostering can fit around busy lives. We both work, have children of our own and Lauren is studying at university. Support is available throughout, and the difference you can make to a child's life is huge."

Get in touch

If you think you can make a difference to the life of a young person please contact the fostering team:

Phone: 0800 917 7771 or contact@fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Find out more: www.fosterwithnortheast.org.uk

Foster with
NORTH EAST

Big night for our community heroes



Photo credit: Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council/Stuart Boulton

COMMUNITY HEROES: Volunteers and community groups on the big night

VOLUNTEERS have received much deserved recognition at the Mayor's Community Achievement Awards.

A total of 27 individuals nominated by councillors were given certificates for their incredible service to our community at a special ceremony at Redcar Civic Centre.

Speaking at the event, the Cllr Ian Hart, the former Mayor of Redcar and Cleveland, said: "The true winners are the residents of Redcar and Cleveland, who benefit every day from the generosity, friendship and commitment shown by those who volunteer their time to support others."

Guests also enjoyed music on the night from one of the nominees, The Local Vocals Choir from Eston, who performed two songs as part of the celebrations.

Nominations were made by councillors and council officers.

1 Milda Vadeikiene of Normanby is a volunteer who works tirelessly litter picking in the area and is always looking at how she can contribute to the community.

2 South Bank United Football Club was founded by a group of friends from the South Bank area, brought together by a dream to restore pride, opportunity and great footballing days to the community. The club, run entirely by volunteers, has had a successful season and the aim

is to create a lasting community hub where football is accessible to everyone.

3 Grangetown Memorial Tree and Events Group was set up by residents Lisa, Tracey, Rob and Aimee who every year purchase a Christmas Tree and invite the local community to place a bauble on the tree in memory of a loved one. Over the years it has grown into a special event with the community and the group is now also planning a summer event.

4 Jenny Tyrrie of Guisborough is an unsung hero always rushing around. If she isn't helping the Methodist Church to serve soup and rolls to the community, or supporting Guisborough Uniform Nank, she is seen litter picking and supporting endless charities.

5 The Morgan Family Sam Morgan was a young vibrant man who served his country in the armed forces but sadly took his life due to PTSD. Instead of his family lying in their grief they have

fought and campaigned for a better life for veterans and soldiers, through supporting healthier heroes' charity Morgan House at Boosbeck.

6 Guisborough Museum Volunteers. The museum is run completely by volunteers on a small budget preserving, archiving and presenting the history of the town. More than a thousand people a year visit during the open season.

7 Bill Cook of Saltburn has for more than four decades demonstrated exceptional

commitment to community sport through his voluntary service with Saltburn and Marske Amateur Swimming Club. Serving as Head Coach during the 1980s he has continued his work poolside in 2026 and dedicated thousands of hours to developing swimmers of all ages.

8 Michael and Jackie Carling of Redcar have led a community group of volunteers in the Borough Park Rose Garden, planting many rose trees and bushes and cultivating the garden. They have raised funds by applying and obtaining grants as well as running a weekly coffee morning in the Bowls Club.

9 Stardust Dance Academy opened 18 yrs ago with only six children attending. Today, Jenna, with support from her amazing team, teach up to 70 children four nights a week. It's a real community dance school with active parent, grandparent and carer volunteers who help with fundraising.

10 Man Cave in Saltburn provides an informal meeting place for men of all backgrounds in the town and surrounding areas who are over 50.

11 Nathan Mortimer of Redcar is a 22-year-old who came to the Community Stepping Stones Charity three years ago, working in the cafe. Nathan, who is autistic, has slowly built his confidence to deal with customers. He has expanded his days as a volunteer and helps run the Library at Redcar East.

12 East Cleveland Good Neighbours were formed during Covid as a community response and evolved into a



Photo credit: Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council/Stuart Boulton

COMMUNITY CHOIR: Eston's Local Vocal Choir singers who were also award winners

Food Bank. It has a team of volunteers who undertake a variety of roles including a phone helpline seven days a week.

13 Park Court Ladies Group in Dormanstown is led by Jennifer Robinson, 84, Violet Johnson, 88, and Elaine McQuillian, 66, who have spent a combined 48 years volunteering in their local community. They run bingo sessions, social nights, Christmas parties, day trips, etc on a weekly basis.

14 Janet Danks and Lesley Tart have provided great support to the St Cuthbert's Church, Ormesby. Janet is a church warden and has raised money to keep the church going and Lesley, Church Council Secretary, was instrumental in getting the church recognised as dementia-friendly.

15 The Brotton Over 60s Friendly Club, founded more than 40 years ago, provides a warm, welcoming space where older residents can enjoy weekly bingo sessions, a cuppa and the chance to meet new people. The group plays a vital role in reducing loneliness.

16 The Local Vocals Choir in Eston dedicate their time to bringing the community together through voice and talent, while also raising money for local causes, helping to fund the local food bank and the work of Whale Hill Community Centre.

17 Friends of Skelton Library together with librarian Michelle King have transformed a piece of derelict, waste ground at the back of the library into a lovely garden especially for children

and parents/carers to enjoy. They fundraised for equipment and got a local business to provide fencing and topsoil, and the local children involved with planting.

18 Guisborough Eco Group - Repair Café Volunteers meet on the last Saturday morning of each month at the Methodist Church Hall where they repair items such as broken furniture, wooden objects, mend clothing, fix toys and bikes and support with computer software issues. The café offers a friendly social space where volunteers meet and offer free repairs.

19 Liverton Mines Community Hall Committee took over the running of the hall two years ago and have transformed the space, decorating and improving the building for the

community to use and enjoy. There are now regular activities taking place.

20 Jade Cotton - The Last Hope Group. Jade helps vulnerable adults who suffer from homelessness and addictions. She has come through similar experiences herself and with the help of other volunteers, shows humanity to those who need it most, with food and entertainment.

21 Grangetown Generations are made up entirely of volunteers based across two community facilities. They deliver a wide range of community-led activities and services, providing safe, welcoming and inclusive spaces for residents of all ages.

22 John Whitehead of Lockwood is an enthusiastic all-rounder. In addition to community and environmental work in his own village of Stanghow, John is an enthusiastic Chair of Governors at Lingdale Primary School, where he fully relates to both staff and pupils and is also a committed member of St Mary's Church, Moorsholm, playing the organ.

23 Michael "Mick" Barclay of Redcar set up the Ray Barclay Foundation as a tribute to his dad, Ray, who sadly passed away on a cancer ward at The James Cook Hospital. He puts on fundraisers for the hospital and has raised over £10,000, which has helped to build a pergola with wheelchair access in the cancer ward garden.

24 David Dipple of Kirkleatham runs the Little Seeds Toddler group from St Hilda's Church and Rhyme Time

Group at Zetland Methodist Church. He also hands out selection boxes as Santa for families who struggle at Christmas, leads the Redcar Community Choir and is involved in a Dementia Choir.

25 Sam Jackson of Coatham, Redcar, has transformed the alley gated area between Muriel and Alfred Street into a vibrant, welcoming community space.

26 All Our Futures Young Rangers are passionate young people have worked incredibly hard over the last two years across the borough developing knowledge and skills and enabling themselves to be our future environmental champions. Supported by The Junction Foundation and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, the group has worked with partners, local communities, groups and the council to steer the development and transformation of neglected green spaces across the borough.

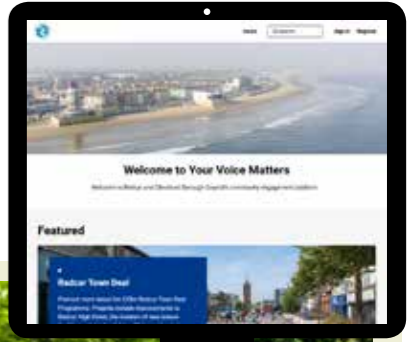


Tom Cave, Dormanstown Tom is one of the volunteers at the Chris Cave foundation, based in Locke Park, Redcar. He helps to educate young people about knife crime through sharing his story about his brother's horrific murder, helping to make a change and difference for young people to choose to put down the knife.

The big changes to your towns

Find out about big projects rejuvenating our area

Find out more here:
redcarcleveland.uk.engagementhq.com



Eston

GOOD progress is being made at **Eston Precinct**, where the first clear outline of the new development is now visible. The steel frame and metal roof decking are in place, marking an important milestone in the £11 million regeneration project. Work will now move into the next phase, with new brickwork beginning to shape the final appearance of the precinct.

Once complete, the redevelopment will transform the **heart of Eston** creating a highly attractive place for shopping and visiting. The scheme will deliver seven new retail units and a high-quality outdoor space designed to encourage people to enjoy the area for longer while supporting businesses (contact property agent Portland Dodds Brown on 01642 616616 if you're interested in taking a unit).



PRECINCT: Children help launch work at the new development

The works are being delivered by Esh Construction on behalf of the council and are funded by the Tees Valley Combined Authority and the UK Government. Alongside the physical improvements, the project is also delivering social value locally. As part of this commitment, the contractor has been working with Year 6 pupils at Normanby Primary School through workshops and site visits, helping young people learn more about construction and regeneration in their community.



SHOPPING: Construction work at Eston Precinct

Guisborough

WORK is continuing on the Government funded regeneration programme in **Guisborough town centre**, with residents set to see steady progress throughout the summer. These projects are focused on making the town centre more accessible, more welcoming and better connected, while supporting day to day use by residents and visitors.

One of the most visible changes is now underway on **Chaloner Street**, which has closed to through traffic to allow essential improvement works to be carried out safely. Access to homes and businesses is being maintained throughout the works, and shops remain open as usual. Temporary arrangements are in place



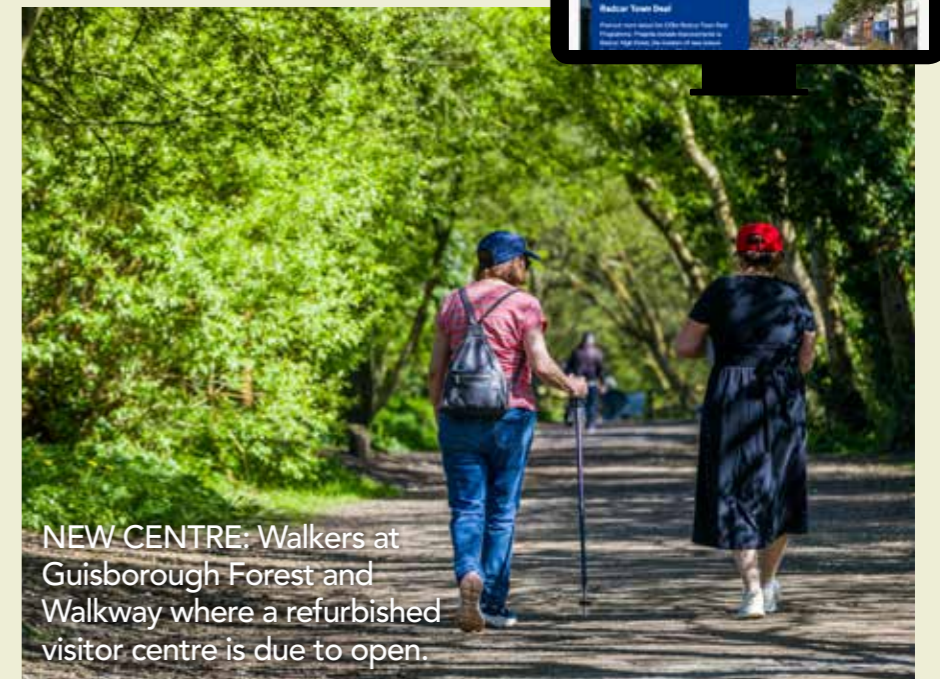
IMPROVEMENTS: Guisborough town centre

to help people move around the area while construction continues, and signage will be updated as work progresses.

Alongside the town centre works, a new walking and cycling route linking **Guisborough Town Centre** with the **Forest and Visitor Centre** is taking shape. The route has been designed to be safe and accessible for walking, cycling, scooting and wheelchair use, making it easier for people of all ages and abilities to get around. In time, the route will extend onwards towards **Nunthorpe**, helping to improve connections and support more sustainable travel across the area.

Residents should soon be able to enjoy the newly extended **Guisborough Forest and Walkway Visitor Centre**. The improvements include a larger, enhanced café experience, modernised toilet facilities and eco-friendly features such as air source heat pumps and solar panels. The project is focused on improving the visitor experience, supporting the local economy and ensuring **Guisborough's valued green spaces** are welcoming and accessible to everyone.

Across the wider town centre, further enhancements are planned including upgraded



NEW CENTRE: Walkers at Guisborough Forest and Walkway where a refurbished visitor centre is due to open.

pavements, new street furniture and feature lighting designed to create a brighter and more welcoming atmosphere, particularly during the evening. A new pedestrian crossing near **New Road** will also improve safety and accessibility for people moving through the town.

Looking ahead, **Guisborough Library** will close temporarily from June 2026 for a major redevelopment. When it reopens in October 2026, it will provide improved facilities in a modern, energy efficient space designed for residents of all ages. During the closure, pop up library services and activities are

planned locally to maintain access.

Residents can find out more by visiting the **Guisborough Public Drop In Hub at Sunnyfield House on Westgate**, open Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 4pm.



NEW LOOK: Guisborough Forest & Walkway Visitor Centre

Continued on next page ►

The big changes to your towns

Find out about big projects rejuvenating our area



Redcar PROGRESS is being made on major regeneration projects across **Redcar**, helping to transform key gateways into the town centre and create new opportunities for local businesses, residents and visitors.

Redcar Central Station has been brought back to life following a significant restoration, with the transformed building already attracting strong interest. The works have carefully restored the station's historic architecture while creating flexible commercial units within a bright, modern interior. As one of the main gateways into the borough, the station is set to become a new hub of activity and a welcome first impression for people arriving in **Redcar**.

Interest in the new units has been encouraging, with enquiries coming in from both within and beyond the local area. The council's priority is to support local independent

businesses, entrepreneurs and those who want to invest in **Redcar's future**. Businesses interested in taking space at the station can discuss opportunities or submit an offer by emailing harland.deer@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.

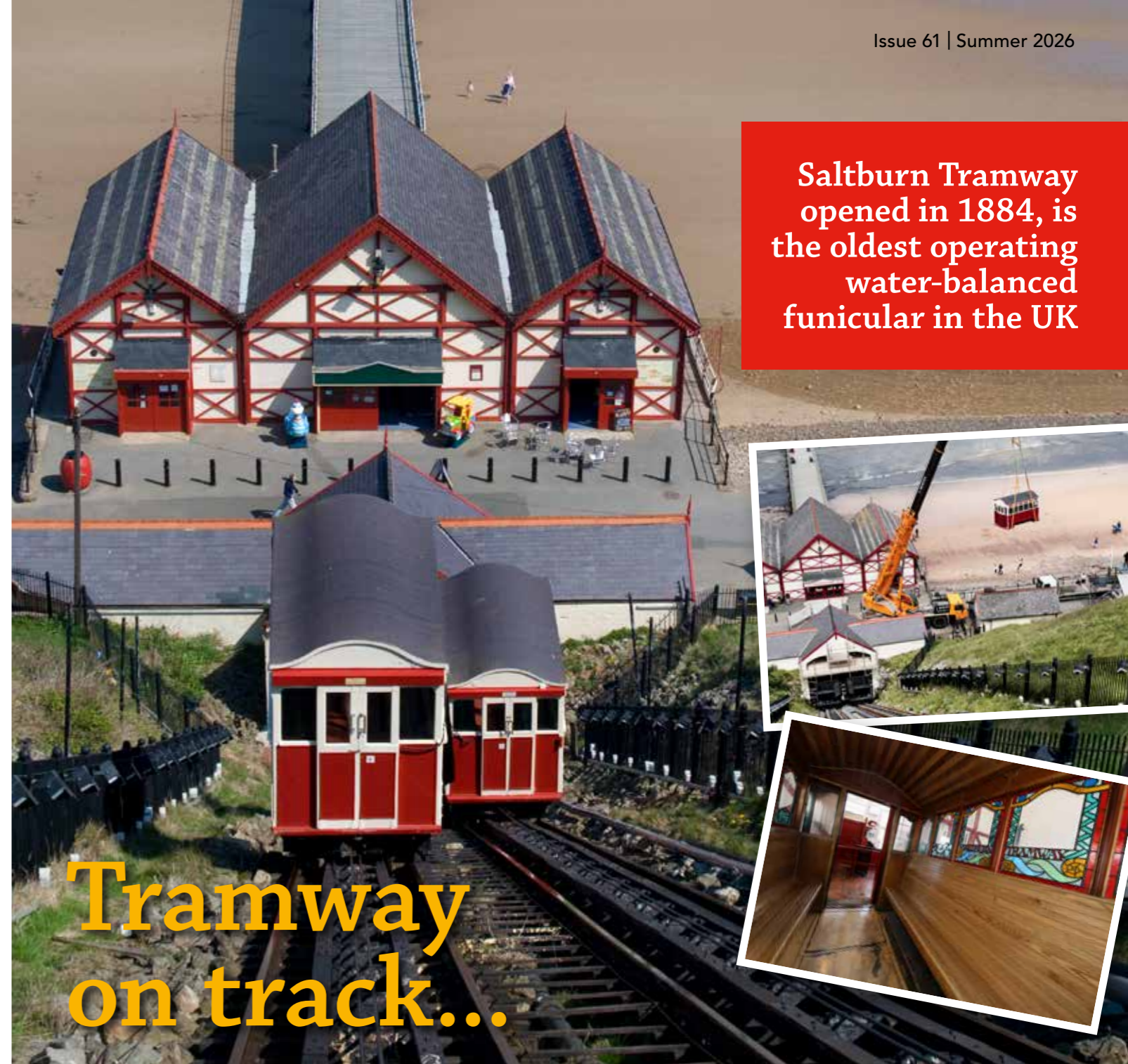
Elsewhere in the town centre, work is continuing on **The Lookout building**, another major investment being delivered through the Redcar Town Deal which is due to open in 2027. This development, alongside improvements to the **High Street**, is helping to create a more vibrant centre that supports jobs, businesses and the visitor economy.

Once complete, **The Lookout** will provide a modern library with digital technology and learning spaces, family friendly entertainment areas, food and drink options and a year-round programme of events. The building will also include an internal street linking the **Esplanade** to a new public square designed for small events, popup stalls, workshops and outdoor performances.

Together, these projects represent a significant step forward in revitalising Redcar and creating spaces for the community to enjoy now and in the future.



REVITALISED REDCAR:
Work continues at
The Lookout



Saltburn Tramway opened in 1884, is the oldest operating water-balanced funicular in the UK

Tramway on track...

THE Grade II-listed Saltburn Cliff Tramway is on track to reopen this summer as work continues on a major upgrade.

Craftsmen from Middlesbrough's Readman Joinery are working on new outer carriages which needed replacing after transporting 2.5 million passengers over 15 years.

Each piece of the historic outer carriage is being created individually and the carriages' much-loved existing stained-glass windows, originally designed in 1991 by local artist Chloe Buck, are being modified for greater depth to give passengers better views.

Safety always comes first and a new hydraulic braking system and a new buffer system are also being installed. The existing steel undercarriages

have been modified to increase their water capacity and the original water valves have been repaired and restored.

Saltburn Tramway opened in 1884, is the oldest operating water-balanced funicular in the UK and is adjacent to England's most northerly pier.



MUCH-LOVED: Stained-glass window in the carriage



Could you volunteer with the council? Email: volunteer@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

CARING YOUTH: Nature-loving youngsters in the All Our Futures programme



Another youngster said: "Thank you for everything. I loved the practical activities. It's really helped me be social again and make friends too. It's made my mental health a lot better and I'm deeply grateful for it."

You might have seen the Youth Rangers being honoured with The Mayor's Community Achievement Award earlier this year, recognising their outstanding commitment to improving local green spaces, championing biodiversity, and inspiring others to care for the environment.

Their volunteering programme made a huge difference for local green spaces like Red Lion Street Park in Redcar and Rosecroft Middle Field in Loftus. Led by the local community, work is still ongoing to create welcoming, nature rich spaces for people to enjoy for years to come.

All this is due to a strong partnership between The Junction Foundation, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, and funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.

To find out more or express interest in taking part in their summer programme, please email: info@thejunctionfoundation.com

proud," said one of the young volunteers.

After-school clubs full of fun, hands-on activities, an established Youth Forum, two Youth Climate Conferences and Youth Rangers Groups are some of the activities which created a platform for young people to share their views and lead on community projects.



CHILDREN, young people, and families across Redcar and Cleveland are connecting with nature and looking after our planet thanks to the All Our Futures programme.

In the two years after its launch in 2024, the project has delivered a wide range of activities giving young people and families the chance to spend time outdoors, learn new skills, and do their bit to help with the climate emergency.

"It was fun to get the experience of planting trees and hedgerow, and to know they will be there for a long time because of me, it makes me



CENTRE STAGE: Volunteers and young people dance at The Imaginarium

Giving youngsters the stage

TO walk through the door of the Imaginarium is to enter a world of dance, song, a lot of noise... and joy.

It could hardly be any other way at this special performing arts centre in Redcar bursting with up to 75 enthusiastic youngsters ranging from severely disabled children to teenagers simply having fun.

Run largely by volunteers – with advanced plans to become a fully-fledged, all-volunteer charity – the Imaginarium is the brainchild of Marske mum Helen Weekley.

Helen, 43, established Imaginarium Creative Studios in 2019 and, with partner Gary Mackay, 41, and their team, work with children and young people aged four to 24, offering courses in dancing, singing, acting, musical theatre, music and fashion.

As well as offering BTEC qualifications in the future as an alternative provision, the volunteers put on dance theatre shows and offer fun activities.



However, much of their most important work involves supporting children on school Education, Health and Care Plans. It all gets even busier in the summer holidays when about 250 schoolchildren take advantage of the free Holidays, Activities and Food programme to enjoy courses.

"The performances our young people produce are really a bonus," explains Helen. "We believe in the power of the arts to transform lives. I know it works, because it's saved me many times."

The Imaginarium has big plans for the future including opening a community arts centre complete with youth theatre, boutique charity and café at venues on Coatham Road and Redcar High Street.

Helen's second act

HELEN has overcome serious problems to achieve the success of the Imaginarium following a career which included working with Cheryl Cole and Will.i.am as part of the Prince's Trust.

The mother-of-three, who has recently become a foster carer with her partner Gary, enjoyed huge success before suffering a breakdown and later physical health issues.

Singing professionally from age 16, she left Marske as a teenager to study for degree level qualifications in music before establishing her own famous performing arts school based in Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Cambridge.

In that role, she became a Prince's Trust Ambassador and worked on music with Will.i.am, performing with Cheryl Cole in a prestigious charity ball.

Helen, who suffers from endometriosis and adenomyosis, gave it all up to nurse her mother through cancer and is candid about having a breakdown when her mum died - before bravely starting again back in Marske. Helen is now "much happier" and is encouraging others to foster. Could you foster? Email contact@fosterwithnortheast.org.uk



IMAGINING SUCCESS: Helen Weekley and Gary

Volunteers bring pride to Skelton

Application forms to sponsor a barrel are available at Skelton library or Skelton Civic Hall. Visit their Facebook page to find out more.



SKELTON Civic Pride began with the desire to brighten up their village and have bloomed into so much more.

"At the time there wasn't much in terms of flower baskets or even seating," says Pam Batts, 75, the group's Secretary. "But more people joined, we secured grants and we're now making a real difference."

Today, Skelton is known for its colourful flower barrels and baskets and the group have also played a key role in revitalizing the High Street, replacing old shopfront display windows and attracting businesses.

The group's Monday Coffee Mornings offer a place to socialise. "Some people came along on their own and later ended up getting married to someone they met here," smiled Pam.

Skelton Pride has helped volunteers through tough times. Chairman Marjorie Mathews, 83, said: "Three of us have lost our husbands and being part of this group has been a great help."

From Christmas lights to Daffodil Sunday at Skelton Castle, the volunteers continue to bring pride to the village and are grateful for funding from the Tees Valley Rural Community Council, Skelton Parish Council, ward councillors and Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as the help from four volunteers known as the Four Spades.



VOLUNTEERS: Janice Wilson, Marjorie Matthews, Janice Stephenson, Anthea Johnson, Liz Mietelski, Pam Batts, Beryl Richardson and Julia Hedges



VOLUNTEERS: Jan Shaw, Olwyn Gray-Peters, Graham Lloyd, Eileen Lloyd, Madge Allen and Carole Willerton

Generations of love

"FROM the day the doors opened, the volunteers were there to help," says Olwyn Gray-Peters, 67, volunteer at the Whale Hill Community Centre.

That first day was 43 years ago and since then generations have helped the centre grow into a place, "where magic happens."

The volunteers offer support without judgement, from warm spaces and food to friendship and a listening ear. They run events throughout the year, a community choir and a £1 charity shop.

People who used to come to the centre as toddlers are now offering their services to the community.

Olywn explains that volunteering has run through her family for decades. She said: "My late mother, Audrey Lloyd, received a BEM for her voluntary services and we can only hope that our fourth generation can carry things on. The centre feels like home and runs on love. For us, this is where the magic happens."



FOOD BANK
Madge Allen and Graham Lloyd

Mamazing Lauren

MEET Lauren who somehow manages to be a single mum, work in a highly stressful frontline job, Chair a Tees Valley union body...and still takes her role as a Breastfeeding Ambassador to a national level.

"TO BE honest, I don't really know how I do find the time," laughs Lauren, "but my most important job is mam to Ben. Whatever else is going on, he comes first."

It's that love which has made Lauren so committed to her role as Breastfeeding Ambassador as part of a major South Tees campaign to promote natural feeding.

And it's a cause which pre-dates that campaign. "I'm very proud to say there was a group of strong women before me who formed a women's network, where I work, who created breastfeeding rooms in the workplace," said the Redcar mam.

"I've been with my organisation serving the public on the frontline for 17 years so felt confident to ask if anything is needed in terms of breastfeeding. Since I returned from maternity leave, I've had

a new union role where I'm fortunate enough to now be able to speak up for what my colleagues need. It means I attend national meetings and I'm really pleased to say that I've managed to have impact with colleagues across the country asking for advice about supporting breastfeeding mothers. It's important that new mothers have their needs catered for at work. It's good

for mum and good for baby but also good for all us."

Lauren talks about the benefits of breastfeeding. "It's one of the great things you can do for your baby, as I've said, you're pouring love into them - but only if it's possible for you, of course. Support is there. Best Start Family Hubs are brilliant and were a lifeline for me, especially in the beginning."



Find out more about breastfeeding and support at your Best Start Family Hubs.

redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/family-hubs/infant-feeding-services or emailing breastfeedingwelcome@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk or calling 01642 444011

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Middlesbrough College Group



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GET INVOLVED: Residents and volunteers in the TS6 area discussing investment

Help spend £20m

PEOPLE in the TS6 postcode area have the chance to help shape how £20 million will be invested in their area. The Pride in Place programme funding has come from the Government. Residents are urged to take the survey to help shape how the money will be spent. It's available at redcarcleland.uk/engagementhq.com/hub-page/ts6-together - or find out more by emailing estontowndeal@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Help our feathered friends

NATURE lovers are being urged to enjoy our wonderful coast but remember to give nesting birds space so they can feed and breed.

Dogs can also sometimes disturb our coastal birds, including terns and sanderlings, in the dunes and other areas and owners are asked to keep a close watch.

The council has recently joined the Tees Estuary Nature Recovery Partnership and is also bidding for some

of our coastal walk to become a nature trail.



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“ Studying at UCM gave me the confidence and knowledge to progress in my aviation career and beyond.

The support from my tutors and the friendships I've made have been incredible.

I'm proud to now be teaching travel and tourism alongside my role as a cabin manager with Ryanair – it's exciting to be inspiring others while continuing to grow in a field I love. ”

Wiktorja Sosnowska
Travel & Tourism Lecturer and Cabin Manager with Ryanair
BA (Hons) Airport & Passenger Airline Management



Apply now for Sep '26!



Renter's rights

MAJOR changes to the private rented housing sector are now in force under the new Renters' Rights Act. Among a number of changes, the new law is designed to end so-called 'no fault' tenant evictions, limit rent rises to once a year and requires landlords to pass on information to tenants.

More information and an information sheet that must be provided to tenants is available at housinghub.campaign.gov.uk

COUNCIL DIARY

Times of meetings may change from time to time. Please check at www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

June

- Monday 1, 10am
Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny and Improvement
- Monday 1, 5pm
Climate & Environment Scrutiny and Improvement
- Tuesday 2, 9.30am
Children & Families Scrutiny & Improvement
- Wednesday 3, 6pm
Corporate Resources & Governance & Improvement
- Thursday 4, 5pm
Growth Scrutiny & Improvement
- Tuesday 9, 10am
Cabinet
- Thursday 11, 10am
Regulatory Committee
- Wednesday 17, 9am
Employment, Health & Safety
- Thursday 25, 2pm
Borough Council

July

- Monday 6, 10am
Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Monday 6, 5pm
Climate & Environment Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Tuesday 7, 9.30am
Children & Families Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Wednesday 8, 6pm
Corporate Resources & Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Thursday 9, 9am
Regulatory Committee
- Thursday 9, 5pm
Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Monday 13, 9.30am
Corporate Parenting Board
- Tuesday 14, 10am
Cabinet
- Monday 20, 10am
Governance Committee
- Thursday 30, 2pm
Borough Council

August

No meetings this month

September

- Friday 4, 9am
Regulatory Committee
- Monday 14, 10am
Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Monday 14, 5pm
Climate & Environment Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
- Wednesday 16, 6pm
Corporate Resources Scrutiny
- Thursday 17, 5pm
Growth Scrutiny Committee
- Friday 18, 10am
Climate & Environment Scrutiny Committee

The 59 men and women representing 24 wards

Find details about your councillor at:
rcbc.moderngov.co.uk/mgFindMember

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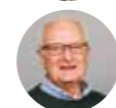
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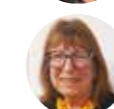
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