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DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Business in Darlington Newsletter

Issue 79

March 2022



Welcome to the new look Business in Darlington newsletter!

'Business in Darlington' is produced by the Business Investment Team at Darlington Borough Council. We aim to provide you with relevant news and information on issues that could affect your business, along with business support initiatives, events and stories from within the Darlington business community.

Darlington Business News



Almost 200 jobs coming to Darlington as another Government department announces move

Almost 200 more Government staff will be based from Darlington as the move of another department to the North East has been announced.

Staff at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will join the Government teams which are relocating out of London and will be based at the Darlington Economic Campus.

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said: "The days of London-centric decision making belong in the past. It's an exciting time for DCMS as we expand our regional offices and tap into a more diverse talent pool.

Click [Here](#) for more Information.



Exciting addition to Cygnet Law, A new office in Darlington

We are delighted to be able to announce that Cygnet Law is continuing to expand.

After building an excellent reputation from our base in Redcar over the past 20 years, and successfully opening a second office in the town in 2021, we are pleased to share the exciting addition of our new office in Darlington.

Here at Cygnet Law, we have always had close ties with the community and supported various local charities, and we are looking forward to building these relationships in Darlington.

Click [Here](#) for more information.



Darlington marketing agency toasts growth after a year

Staff at a North-East web developer and digital marketing agency are supporting the region's thriving digital sector as they say cheers after a year of growth and an office move.

In the past 12 months, White Digital, which is based in Darlington, has taken on nearly 100 new North-East clients and five members of staff from the region, with turnover increasing by 50 per cent.

Click [Here](#) for more information.



Plans for new major 24-acre industrial park next to Amazon Darlington

A major industrial estate could be built next to Amazon Darlington as plans for the huge site have been submitted.

Plans reveal how a 24-acre industrial and distribution park could transform the currently unoccupied land to the front of the retailer's warehouse in Symmetry Park.

Expected to hold a "range" of occupiers, the land is set to be redeveloped to include a number of units from 10,000 to 250,000 sq ft.

Click [Here](#) for more information



Phoenix Gas Services announces North East expansion with new Darlington office

Gas company Phoenix Gas Services has opened a new office in the North East.

The Stoke-on-Trent business – which employs in excess of 130 staff – has launched a new base in Darlington after seeing a surge in demand for renewable energy installations in the region.

It also comes after Phoenix successfully secured a number of new contracts in the area over the last 12 months.

The new Darlington branch joins the company's satellite offices in Oldbury and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Click [Here](#) for more information



Taste of success for County Durham dairy

A North East dairy has the best butter in the UK, according to a consumer organisation.

Acorn Dairy creates its own products from its low-carbon, organic farm in Archdeacon Newton, near Darlington.

The family business, run by directors Caroline Bell and her brother Graham Tweddle, has been farming since 1928 and converted to organic status in 1998.

Its own brand butter was recently named the 'Best Dairy Butter' option in the UK by Ethical Consumer Magazine, a publication which ranks consumer products based on factors including environmental impact, animals, politics, product sustainability and company ethos.

Click [Here](#) for more information.



Cummins plant hits 1.5 million mid-range engines

Cummins has announced that its factory in Darlington, England, manufactured its 1.5 millionth mid-range engine last month. The site produced 66,000 engines in 2021, and employs around 1,500 people working in engine assembly, exhaust aftertreatment manufacture, technical operations, and business support functions.

The Darlington factory opened in 1965, originally building the Small Vee family of V6 and V8 diesel engines. In 1985 production switched to the Mid-Range engines following an upgrade costing £13.5 million. The Mid-Range engines are the B and C Series products, the forerunners of the ultra-clean low emission products manufactured today. Spanning a range of 75 to 430 hp, they power a wide range truck, bus, construction, agriculture, material handling, military, marine and power generation applications around the world.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Business Support Update



Growth Funding

Are you looking to invest in, and grow your business?

Tees Valley Business is here to help local SMEs with expert advice, support and access to finance and funding. Support is impartial and fully funded, which means there is no cost to your business.

If you are an SME based in the Tees Valley, which includes Darlington, with plans to grow or take on more employees, then you may be eligible to access grant funding through the Tees Valley Business Growth Fund.

You could access up to 55% funding for business improvement projects, up to a maximum grant of £20,000.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Using Digital to make your business more efficient and competitive



Digital City offer support to businesses in all sectors that are using or looking to implement digital processes from improving back-office systems to developing new ways of working. They have experts on hand to offer tailored advice and can provide information on grant support that is available to carry out the work.

Click [Here](#) for more information.



Skills for Growth

Are you an SME employer looking to upskill your team and grow your business?

Skills for Growth is a FREE resource for Tees Valley SMEs, offering impartial advice to help you access training and support to upskill your current workforce and turn your

business plans into reality.

It is here to help you fill any skills gaps within your team – now, or in the future – to boost productivity, and improve your competitive position. Find out if you could access funded support from an expert skills development officer.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Free Information, Advice and Guidance course with learning & Skills Darlington



Learning & Skills
“Learning for Life”

Are you working, or looking to work, in a range of roles where the provision of information, advice or guidance (IAG) is a requirement? This free Level 2 accredited course will develop your knowledge and understanding of IAG and the application of these within their own context and relevant to the role. This qualification also prepares you for further training in a variety of other sectors including Administration, Customer Service and more.

IAG falls under our Distance Learning offer, meaning you can study where and when you want, subject to set deadlines for each unit of the course. The course is accessed and completed online and you will receive dedicated tutor support each step of the way. As long as you're aged 19+ and have the right to live and work in the UK, we're ready to welcome you to Learning & Skills Darlington.

Call 01325 405601 or email l&s@darlington.gov.uk

Click [Here](#) for more information.



Save money through energy efficiencies

Do you want to find out how your business could reduce its energy use, cut carbon emissions and save money?

If you are an SME based in Tees Valley, the SME Energy Efficiency Scheme can support you with a fully funded energy efficiency audit and expert advice. You could also be eligible for a SMEES grant to help you with the upfront costs of your energy saving project.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Government backs UK entrepreneurs with tech support and software to help them grow



The government's Help to Grow: Digital scheme – designed to support smaller businesses in adopting digital technologies so they can grow – has opened for applications today (20 January).

Under the scheme, eligible businesses can now receive discounts of up to £5,000 off the retail price of approved Digital Accounting and CRM software from leading technology suppliers. This software will help them to effectively manage their finances and build customer relationships, ultimately levelling up the way businesses are run and helping them to scale up.

From today, businesses can also access practical, specialised support and advice on how to choose the right digital technologies to boost their growth and productivity

through a new online platform <https://helptogrow.campaign.gov.uk/>

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Other News



Amazon recruiting for apprentices to work at its Darlington, Durham and Gateshead sites

The recruitment of the next round of Amazon apprentices in the North-east has officially started - with roles paying at least £10 an hour.

The online retailer has launched its annual recruitment drive with more than 1,500 full-time apprenticeships across the UK and dozens in the region.

The firm, which has 'Fulfilment Centres' in Durham, Darlington, Gateshead - and soon, Stockton, has said more than 40 types of apprenticeships have now gone live.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

SLC marks National Apprenticeship Week with Darlington Programme Announcement



The Student Loans Company (SLC) is recruiting 20 new apprentices in Darlington as it continues to grow its Emerging Talent programmes.

The recruitment drive is being launched during National Apprenticeship Week and the first cohort of successful applicants will start their 18-month apprenticeship in April.

The Apprenticeship Programme, which will be delivered in conjunction with Darlington College, will offer applicants Administrative Assistant roles in the Pre-Assessment department, which is central to the application process for almost two million new and returning students each year.

Click [Here](#) for more information.



Paying it Forward with Double Opportunity for Twin Apprentices

Twins have spotted a double opportunity as they follow in the footsteps of brothers running a successful company as it embarks on the next stage of its development.

Darlington College apprentices Jacob and Ben Harle have been taken on to learn their respective trades of electrician and plumbing by brothers Davis and Drew Closecooper who are currently expanding their business in the town.

The Closecoopers were themselves apprentices around eight years ago after leaving Haughton Academy.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Employers - Do you have staff with young children? Please share and make them aware of the support that could be available to them



New face in Clive Owen LLP marketing team

Clive Owen LLP, chartered accountants and business advisers, has appointed Sophie Palleschi as senior marketing executive.

Sophie joins the firm, which has offices in Darlington, Durham, York, and Middlesbrough, from Archers Law.

An experienced marketing and event management professional, Sophie is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and has recently graduated with a Level 6 Diploma in Professional Marketing. She is currently studying for the Level 7 qualification.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Care company Home Instead Darlington, creates jobs to meet rising demand



A home care company is creating new jobs to meet rising demand.

Home Instead Darlington aims to fill 30 posts following a 20 per cent seasonal uplift in client enquiries.

Diane Chandler, owner at Home Instead Darlington, said: "When we see more of our elderly relatives over the festive season, any problems with health and wellbeing that exist become more apparent.

She adds: "We recruit people from a whole range of backgrounds, but one thing they have in common is that they have a genuine desire to make a difference"

Click [Here](#) for more information.



Tees Valley Minority Ethnic Businesses Survey – Help Shape Local Business Support

If you are from a minority ethnic background and you own or lead a business in the Tees Valley, Tees Valley Business need to hear your views about business support, advice, finance and funding.

This research will help to shape local business support – to help more people from minority ethnic backgrounds build successful businesses in the Tees Valley.

Take the survey here: www.marketwisestrategies.com/business-survey Survey ends at 8pm on 14th March 2022.

Tees Valley Business is the Local Growth Hub for the Tees Valley, established by the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and Tees Valley Mayor. TVCA will not know who has taken part. Responses are anonymous and will not be able to be linked to you or your business.

The survey is being conducted by Marketwise Strategies Limited, an independent market research company commissioned by Tees Valley Combined Authority to carry out this research. Marketwise Strategies works within the Market Research Society Code of Conduct.

Win the recognition you deserve



The North East Business Awards toast success, celebrate achievement and highlight successful and innovative businesses doing fantastic things right here in the North East. We celebrate businesses that boost the economy, enrich local areas, and make the North East region a more exciting and fulfilling place to live. And what's more, the Awards are COMPLETELY FREE TO ENTER!

ENTER NOW! <https://www.nebusinessawards.co.uk/live/en/page/home>



Council sets target of a million charity meals across Darlington

A North East council is hoping a pioneering charity initiative to redistribute surplus food to local communities will hit a milestone of a million meals by the end of the year.

The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT), which was first launched in Manchester, expanded into Darlington just as the first national lockdown was beginning in March, 2020.

The charity's move to the North-East was made possible thanks to major financial contributions by Darlington Building Society, Cummins, and Darlington Borough Council.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Darlington committee has a ball raising funds for Great North Air Ambulance



The Great North Air Ambulance was celebrating, as it was presented with a cheque for more than £23,000 by a committee of businesswomen focused on a positive future.

New Beginnings, a group created by Nicky Jolley, founder and managing director of HR2day, Alice Maguire and Amanda Marsden held a ball for local business people at Hardwick Hall and took donations on the night for the charity.

More than 200 people attended the event, and enjoyed a three-course meal, dancing and an auction.

Click [Here](#) for more information.



Darlington launches mortgage platform powered by Iress

Darlington Building Society has continued its digital investment with Iress by launching a mortgage platform with the aim of enhancing intermediaries' experience.

Darlington Mortgage Hub is powered by [Iress technology](#), MSO, and streamlines straightforward elements of more complex mortgage applications to speed up the overall process.

A team of underwriters will manually review complicated aspects to ensure that applications are not dismissed simply for being too complex.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events



Creating Sustainable Sales Growth – 4th March 9.00am-12.00pm

Delivered through the Grow Tees Valley programme, this workshop is aimed at small and medium sized businesses looking to grow. Growing means winning new customers and making the most of the customers you already have. Efficient and effective lead generation and conversion processes can really help. We will take you through the theory but more importantly first-hand experience of growing through improving sales processes.

Click [Here](#) for more information.

Have your say

How to feature in a future newsletter

If you have any interesting news or business successes you would like to feature, then we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us via email at business.support@darlington.gov.uk

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