

Derbyshire now



Sharing is caring

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Welcome

Times continue to be very difficult across the county as the high cost of living continues to affect many residents.



The county council isn't immune either, with high inflation impacting on every area of spending, creating budget pressures like never before.

We're doing everything we can to balance the books but there's no doubt painful decisions will have to be made. See page 5.

Despite the pressures, we remain ambitious for the county and I'm pleased to let you know that the journey toward a new devolution deal for Derbyshire is forging ahead.

An extra £18m in funding for housing, broadband, roads and green skills has already been announced and we're currently waiting for Parliament to create the legislation necessary for the

proposed East Midlands Combined Authority (EMCCA) to come into existence which is expected by the end of year.

Detailed devolution proposals would then be sent to the Government for approval and, subject to agreement of the four councils, this would mean that EMCCA could be a reality from spring 2024, with the first ever election for a regional mayor – covering Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby, and Nottingham – due in May 2024.

The £1.14bn deal will bring substantial investment as well as the transfer of specific powers in areas like transport, bus services, housing and skills.

We're looking forward to getting the deal finalised which I'm confident will benefit businesses, residents and communities across the county.



Councillor Barry Lewis
Leader, Derbyshire County Council

Get in touch

derbyshire.gov.uk

Write to us at County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG or:

Email contactcentre@derbyshire.gov.uk

[@derbyshirecc](https://twitter.com/derbyshirecc)

facebook.com/derbyshirecc

[Derbyshire County Council](https://www.instagram.com/derbyshirecc)

Call Derbyshire on **01629 533190**

Text us on **86555**

On request we can provide Derbyshire Now in Braille, large print or recorded onto CD.

All details in Derbyshire Now are correct at time of going to press.

Family support



Happy Birthday Trusted Trader



Help with the cost of living



Sign up to the Derbyshire Now eNewsletter for the chance to win afternoon tea and bed & breakfast for two at Makeney Hall Hotel

Join thousands of local residents who receive regular news direct to their inbox. Sign up by **Friday, 24 November 2023** and you could win **afternoon tea plus bed and breakfast for two at Makeney Hall Hotel, Milford, Belper**. An historic countryside hotel offering calm and comfort, with elegant rooms and carefully manicured gardens. Enjoy a traditional Derbyshire afternoon tea, an overnight stay and breakfast the following morning.

To sign up for Derbyshire Now eNewsletter go to derbyshire.gov.uk/derbyshirennow and click on the Sign Up button*

COMPETITION WINNER (from previous edition): Dinner, bed & breakfast at Horse & Jockey, Wessington: H Moon, Whaley Bridge.



*Existing newsletter subscribers will be included in the prize draw. We will never release your email address to anyone else. Usual prize draw terms and conditions apply: derbyshire.gov.uk/prizedraws. Terms & conditions: Subject to availability, bedroom type: Executive Room. Upgrades available at a fee. Check in 3pm, check out 11am. Winner must call the hotel to confirm dietary requirements, time and date for afternoon tea and accommodation. No afternoon tea on Monday or Saturday (for Saturday or Sunday night stays, afternoon tea is on the Sunday). Afternoon tea is served 12pm – 4pm. Valid until Thursday, 29 February 2024.



Cabinet Member for Education Councillor Alex Dale joins headteacher Katie Forster and head pupils Jonah Hart and Aimee Butterfield at the official opening of the new Breadsall Primary School

Building success at Breadsall

It's been a busy year for new school developments and this summer saw the opening of a new building for Breadsall Primary School.

The new 112-space primary school near Derby consists of two new classrooms for the juniors as well as classrooms for reception and infants. The project

also included a larger hard play area, resurfaced games courts, a playing field and a forest schools' area to ensure pupils have access to high quality outdoor facilities.

The new building replaces the original Moor Road site which had been used as a school for 186 years.

Supporting Derbyshire residents

A new online information finder is available to Derbyshire residents who need a bit of extra support to remain living independently at home.

It provides free, impartial information and guidance for anyone over 18 – including older people, their families or carers, people with physical or learning disabilities, long-term or mental ill health or anyone having difficulties with day-to-

day living. Simply answer a few questions about how you – or a family member or friend – can manage tasks like getting dressed, cooking or going out, to find out about a wide range of services, activities, resources and guidance to help make life easier.

Discover the online information finder at derbyshire.gov.uk/informationfinder

Staveley Waterside gets the go-ahead

Plans for the first phase of a new waterside development at Staveley Basin have been given the green light.

The county council was granted planning permission for the Staveley Waterside Development as part of the Staveley Town Deal – a £25m Government-funded regeneration programme for the area.

The development will include a two-storey building offering flexible space for new and existing small businesses, some retail use and a food and beverage outlet with indoor and outdoor dining space, along with an access road, and mooring



Artist's impression of how the Staveley Waterside Development would look

space. Building work is expected to start in the new year.

For more information visit chesterfield.gov.uk/staveley-town-deal

Have your say

There are lots of ways you can find out more about the work of the county council, give your views and get involved.

Council meetings

These meetings will be taking place in person. If you're interested in attending or would like further information, please email democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk or call **01629 535550**. The meeting dates are:

- **19 October** Cabinet 2pm
- **16 November** Cabinet 2pm
- **29 November** Full Council 2pm
- **7 December** Cabinet 2pm
- **11 January** Cabinet 2pm
- **1 February** Cabinet 2pm
- **14 February** Full Council 2pm
- **22 February** Cabinet 2pm
- **14 March** Cabinet 2pm
- **27 March** Full Council 2pm

Council papers

Read the agenda and minutes for all cabinet, full council and committee meetings at democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk

Consultations

When the council plans to make changes to services you will have the opportunity to give your opinion. You can find out about consultations at derbyshire.gov.uk/haveyoursay or visit any library.

Your Councillor

Find out who represents you at derbyshire.gov.uk/councillors

Museum closed for investigation work

Work continues at the temporarily closed Buxton Museum and Art Gallery to clear space across the building for structural investigation work to begin. The county council-run museum closed to visitors in June after dry rot was found in structural timbers and floor joists. Alternative ways to deliver the service are being explored. Find out more about the museum's collections and read the latest blogs here derbyshire.gov.uk/buxtonmuseum

Keep up-to-date on planned roadworks

If you'd like to find out when roadworks are scheduled to take place in your area, visit the One Network website which lists roadworks across the whole country.

By putting in your address, you can find roadworks near you. You can even sign up for alerts to receive emails when new roadworks are planned.

Information includes when roads are going to be closed, the planned diversion route and which organisation is doing the work.

Visit **one.network** to find out more.



An artist's impression of County Hall's possible future use

Changing times at County Hall

The county council is seeking ideas for alternative uses for County Hall to make the most of the historic building and potentially breathe new life into the area.

A team of advisors have been asked to seek expressions of interest from developers, hotel operators and others for their ideas for the future of the historic buildings in Matlock.

The vision for County Hall involves transforming the current buildings and its beautiful setting into a world class hotel and venue with spaces for local businesses, new homes for local people, a revitalised Winter Garden and opportunities for the community to hold events, while maintaining office space for colleagues on the site.



Neil and Sarah Green, who took in a Ukrainian family in need of support

Helping Ukrainian families

As the war in Ukraine continues, a Derbyshire couple have spoken of their experience of hosting a refugee family to encourage more people to help.

Sarah and Neil Green, along with son James, from Matlock, took in a young mum and her 11-year-old son fleeing Ternopil city in Ukraine. She was later joined by her husband following his medical discharge from active service.

Sarah said: "It's been a really positive experience for us as a family. We've all learned about sharing, being tolerant,

and helping each other.

"I couldn't imagine what it must be like in their shoes. We had the space and we wanted to help."

Encouraging others to step forward, Sarah added: "We'd say to anyone, if you have a spare room we would definitely recommend it."

Visit **derbyshire.gov.uk/supportforukraine** for details about support for hosts including financial assistance. If you think you could commit to hosting email **UkraineHosts@derbyshire.gov.uk**

Supporting disabled people to find work

Did you know the council offers free support to Derbyshire residents with a disability to help them into training and work?

The council's disability employment service helps people throughout the employment process – from help with applying for a job and preparing for interview to offering in-work support with assistance equipment or training. It can also help with access to work placements and apprenticeships.

If you'd like to find out if this free of charge service can help you or someone you know, care for or support, visit the council's website at **derbyshire.gov.uk/disabilityemployment** or email **disabilityemploymentservice@derbyshire.gov.uk**

Recycling centre consultation

Would you like to have your say on the future of household waste recycling centres? The county council wants to know what local people think about a number of proposals including:

- Allowing businesses to use the sites for a fee
- Changing opening days and times
- Charging to accept tyres and asbestos, or no longer accepting them.

You can also comment on plans to ask residents to register their vehicles to ensure only Derbyshire residents can use them.

To take part in the consultation visit **derbyshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentreviews**

Tough decisions ahead as demand and costs continue to rise

You may have seen in the news that, like many other local authorities, the council is facing continuing budget pressures and is having to take urgent action to balance the books.

High inflation is affecting all areas of council expenditure, including fuel, energy and the cost of materials. The higher than expected level of Inflation has also led to an increase in demand for services – particularly for vital adult care and children’s services.

A report to the council’s Cabinet in September laid out the council’s budget position, detailing a potential shortfall of £46m and the urgent action being taken to reduce the overspend in the current financial year, including:

- Stopping all non-essential spending
- A vacancy freeze
- Lobbying the Government for extra funding.

Council leader Councillor Barry Lewis said: “We’re taking immediate action to control our spending and to be clear, this is not a bankruptcy situation. We’ve spotted an issue early in the current financial year and we are acting now to avoid more serious consequences.

“As a responsible council, we have

always been well-managed, efficient and financially stable, maintaining a robust level of reserves and have been able to support vital, high quality, value-for-money services for residents across Derbyshire.

“However, the reality is that the financial pressures we’re facing, along with other councils and households, are now greater than ever experienced before, with most of these pressures being outside our control.”

Councillor Lewis added: “Despite these intense pressures on our budget, we are ambitious for Derbyshire and committed to supporting people through the cost-of-living rises.”

- Planning for next year’s budget is already underway and the council is running a survey to give residents the opportunity to have their say on how the council spends its budget in 2024/25.

The six-week online survey will detail savings proposals and give you chance to say where you think savings should be made. Due to launch towards the end of October, paper copies will be available on request.

For more information visit derbyshire.gov.uk/consultations

Could you help us change the life of a local child?

We’re looking for people to provide stable and loving homes for children and young people in your area. Find out more about the benefits, training and financial support you’ll get by fostering for Derbyshire.

Visit derbyshire.gov.uk/fostering or call us on 0800 083 77 44.



Shine a Light – coming to Elvaston Castle and Cromford Mills

Still time to catch the light

Watch Derbyshire’s history unfold in magical night-time shows projected on to the county’s heritage venues as part of Shine A Light which returns again this year.

Providing an after-dark experience for the whole family, Shine A Light brings together awe-inspiring animations and live musical performances in stunning audio-visual displays, with food,

drink and other attractions available throughout each evening. Tickets are on sale for events at Cromford Mills on 26 and 27 October 2023 and Elvaston Castle on 8-10 December 2023. Tickets are £10 for adults, £6 per child (aged 4-12 inclusive, free for 3 and under) and £28 for family tickets (two adults and up to three children) plus booking fee. To book go to visitpeakdistrict.com/shine-a-light





Rob Smith and Jo Needham-Smith from Matlock with their five-year-old daughter Reya

Essential guide for families

The council's Families Information Service (FIS) offers practical information to parents and carers in Derbyshire.

Everyone knows that family life can be so busy that there's not always time to keep up with the latest news.

That's why the council has developed a Families Information Service (FIS) which provides free, impartial guidance and support for parents and carers.

Parents Rob Smith and Jo Needham-Smith, who live in Matlock with their five-year-old daughter Reya, said they found the improved FIS website and new Facebook page a useful source of support to help them manage family life.

Jo, 48, said: "The great thing about the website is that you can find lots of relevant information all in one place which is great when you're busy and need to know something quickly.

"If you Google a subject it can be a

minefield – this website guides you to the right place for information you can trust."

Rob, 48, said: "I really like the service's new Facebook page which offers news,

"I find getting posts direct to my phone really convenient"

ideas and tips relevant to family life every day with links to further information.

"This is useful if it's the school holidays and you're looking for ideas for family activities.

"Like every family we're busy managing work and home life and I find getting posts direct to my phone really convenient."

What is the FIS?

FIS provides free, impartial guidance for parents and carers with children aged up to 19 (up to 25 with special educational needs and or disabilities).

It promotes a wide range of services, activities and events available in Derbyshire and is also designed to support childcare and family practitioners and other relevant professionals. The service hosts an online directory of information and can also support users by email and phone. There's also a new Facebook page providing users with regular updates on the latest news and issues relevant to family life.

The council is continually developing FIS which currently includes:

- Support with how to pay for childcare, including tax free and funded childcare eligibility
- Tips to help improve children's speech and language, help to manage exam stress and fun activities to do at home
- Health and wellbeing guidance

Find the Family Information Service at derbyshire.gov.uk/FIS and like and follow the council's FIS Facebook page for daily updates [@DerbyshireFIS](https://www.facebook.com/DerbyshireFIS)

The service is also available by email at info.fis@derbyshire.gov.uk or by phone on **01629 535793** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

Extra support with childcare costs

The Government is to expand existing support with the cost of childcare for working parents over the next two years. This means that:

- From April 2024: eligible working parents of two-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of childcare support a week
- From September 2024: eligible working parents of children aged from nine months to three years will be able to access 15 hours of childcare support a week
- From September 2025: eligible working parents of children aged from nine months to school age will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week

For more information visit:

derbyshire.gov.uk/FIS



Free holiday activities back for winter

More than 5,000 children and young people from across Derbyshire enjoyed free summer holiday activities organised by Street Games through the It's About Me programme.

The holiday programme, which is funded by Derbyshire County Council and the Department of Education, is free for children aged 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals and will be back for the winter holidays.

With everything from BMX to performing arts, there are sessions to suit all interests and ages. You'll need your It's About Me (IAM) code, sometimes called a Free School Meal (FSM) code or Holiday Activity & Food (HAF) code from your child's school to book.

Information on the activities and how to book can be found on our providers website. Booking for winter holiday activities will open on 4 December 2023.

itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk



Hub advisor Sandra Currey is helping young people in Derbyshire get into training and work

Young people take their first career steps at youth hub

A Youth Employment Support (YES) hub is proving so successful it's being expanded countywide. First set up by the county council at the Hunloke Centre in Chesterfield in 2022, the YES hub has so far helped almost 500 young people explore career and training opportunities.

A second hub has now opened in Ilkeston at the Cotmanhay and Ilkeston Adult Community Education Centre on Bennerley Avenue, with a satellite hub at Ilkeston library.

And young people living anywhere in Derbyshire can access the support hub services online, wherever they are. The support hubs aim to help young people aged 16-24 take their first steps toward employment, apprenticeships, volunteering or other training.

They offer one-to-one appointments and drop-ins, plus online sessions for young people living across Derbyshire.

One of the hub's success stories is 20-year-old Leanne Webster* who, with the help of staff at the Chesterfield hub, landed herself a Business Administration apprenticeship at The Royal Hospital in Calow.

Leanne found out about the youth hub from a friend and liked the idea

of looking for work in a small, friendly environment with approachable staff.

Hub Worker Sandra Currey helped her prepare for the world of work, helping Leanne create a CV and research jobs and apprenticeships.

Leanne, from Brampton, said: "It was brilliant to have someone helping me as choosing what to do, and finding a job, can be pretty daunting. With Sandra's help things became clearer and I decided that I would like to work in business administration. We found a 10-day Business Administration course so I could learn the skills needed in an office environment. The course enabled me to improve my communication skills and feel more confident about entering the world of work."

She added: "When the apprenticeship at the hospital came up Sandra gave me tips to help me stand out from the crowd on my application form. She was there again to help me prepare for interview and we spent time looking at questions and doing a mock interview.

"I was so pleased when I was offered the position and want to thank the team at the youth hub. I would definitely encourage other people to use it!"

(*name has been changed)

Aged 16-24 and need help with accessing careers advice and training?

Visit derbyshire.gov.uk/YES



An inspector calls

Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport, Councillor Charlotte Cupit, right, joins highways inspector Sophie Green in Codnor where a damaged pedestrian guard rail needed to be replaced

Making sure Derbyshire's roads are in good repair is a year-round job for the county council which relies on a team of trained inspectors to identify what needs to be done. Derbyshire Now focuses on one of the council's newest inspectors helping to keep the county moving.

No two days are the same for Sophie Green, who became a highways inspector for the county council six months ago.

As one of the council's 24 highways inspectors, one day she'll be touring the county inspecting the condition of the roads, pavements and street furniture and on another she'll be looking at issues reported by the public.

Sophie, 27, from Chesterfield, said she always wanted a job with a difference and 18 months ago left her job in catering to become an assistant highways inspector.

After really enjoying it and learning on the job, Sophie jumped at the chance of promotion.

"Getting out and about is something I really enjoy and this job helps me do that," she said. "No two days are ever the same.

"I wasn't cut out for an office job although I do spend some time in the office updating our records and

responding to customer enquiries."

The county's thousands of miles of roads are inspected on a rota, with the busiest roads inspected more frequently.

Inspectors like Sophie check for issues such as potholes, faded road markings, overgrown vegetation or any other defects.

Sophie said: "Keeping on top of Derbyshire's roads is a challenge. We're out there in all weathers all year round to keep Derbyshire moving. I enjoy contributing to the area and helping customers with their queries. It's a great job and I'm always learning something new."

Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport, Councillor Charlotte Cupit, added: "Our inspectors do a vital job for the highways team. They're the ones who are out helping ensure our network is safe."

Roads update

The council is prioritising investment in local roads and pavements as part of its three-year, £120m highways repair programme.

During the summer, the council spent £2.6m surface dressing 34.5 miles of carriageway at 60 sites across the county. In the spring, the council fixed more than 49,000 potholes following the severe wintry and very wet weather at the start of the year.

The annual pavement resurfacing programme is well underway at 77 sites, at a total cost of £2.5m.

And the council's £1m residential road repair programme has recently started, targeting 124 streets using micro-asphalt to seal and smooth the road surface before the arrival of the colder weather.

You can help the council keep Derbyshire roads safe. If you spot a problem please report it at [derbyshire.gov.uk/reportit](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/reportit)

On the buses

A £47m government cash injection has seen major improvements to bus services across Derbyshire. With single fares capped at £2 until the end of 2024, why not give the bus go?

Five of the best places to visit by bus in Derbyshire



Belper

With a wealth of independent local shops, bakeries, delis, cafés and restaurants, Belper is at the heart of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

The Transpeak service runs through Belper from Derby and Buxton, the Sixes take you from Bakewell and Derby, the 113 from Ashbourne, the 138 from Heanor and the 71 from Little Eaton.



Buxton

Also on the Transpeak route, the attractive spa town of Buxton is a great place for a wander.

Surrounded on three sides by the Peak District National Park – the UK’s first national park – its crowning glory is the recently refurbished Georgian crescent – now the Buxton Crescent Spa Hotel. Get there from Sheffield on the 65 or 442 from Ashbourne, 58 from Macclesfield side, 61 from Glossop or the 199 from Stockport.

- Turn to page 15 for a 20% discount voucher for the Buxton Crescent Experience bringing the story of the town’s Victorian and Georgian spa heritage to life.



Chesterfield

Famous for its crooked spire and renowned market, did you know Chesterfield also has a connection with railway pioneer George Stephenson? Spot his blue plaque at the train station.

Take the X17 from Sheffield, or Wirksworth, the Comet from Alfreton, the 50 from Eckington, the 77 from Clowne or the 15/16 from Dronfield.



Matlock Bath

Fancy a trip to the seaside, but don’t like long car journeys – or sand? Matlock Bath could be the place for you. With arcades and fish and chip shops galore – as well as its own cable car ride – the tourist honeypot can be reached by bus from lots of places in the county.

The Sixes run from Derby to Bakewell via Matlock Bath, while the Transpeak between Derby and Buxton can whisk you there along the A6. The luxurious Gold X17 now runs from Sheffield, Chesterfield, Matlock, Matlock Bath then onto Wirksworth, and the 110/111 service runs from Ashbourne.

- * Show your bus ticket to get 20% off your admission price at the Heights of Abraham.



Melbourne

Recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, the pretty Georgian town of Melbourne has a good range of independent shops, pubs and restaurants and was also the birthplace of travel pioneer Thomas Cook.

The 2 takes you from Derby to Swadlincote to the town, so why not get a bus into Derby and then change. Or the 9 goes from Swadlincote.

Improvements to 19 services across the county

Government cash has paid for improvements to many bus routes. Some have had extra services at evenings, others in the early mornings or weekends. For more information about each individual service visit the council’s website at derbyshire.gov.uk/buses

- **55** – Alfreton to Chesterfield via Tibshelf
- **170** – Chesterfield to Bakewell
- **401** – Burton, Hatton, Doveridge, Uttoxeter
- **X17** – Sheffield to Matlock via Chesterfield
- **Ilkeston Flyer** – Cotmanhay, Ilkeston, Derby
- **My15** – Ilkeston, Long Eaton, Old Sawley, East Midlands Airport
- **Rainbow 1** – Nottingham Eastwood Heanor Ripley/Alfreton
- **Transpeak** – Derby to Belper, Matlock, Bakewell and Buxton
- **218** – Bakewell to Sheffield
- **Comet** – Derby, Little Eaton, Ripley, Alfreton, Clay Cross, Chesterfield
- **Sixes 6.1** – Derby, Belper, Wirksworth, Matlock, Bakewell
- **Villager 1** – Derby, Royal Derby Hospital, Etwell, Hatton, Burton-on-Trent
- **185/186 Buxton Buzz** – Harpur Hill to Fairfield – Buxton town service
- **4/8/9** – Burton, Swadlincote, Melbourne, East Midlands Airport
- **1/1A** – Chesterfield, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Markham Vale Environment Centre & Industrial Estate, Bolsover, Shirebrook, Langwith
- **74/74A** – Chesterfield, Brimington, Staveley, Duckmanton/Mastin Moor
- **90/90a** – Yew Tree area, Chesterfield, Barrow Hill, Staveley
- **65** – Sheffield to Buxton via Grindleford and Eyam
- **M1/M4** – Matlock town service (now called the 157+159)
- **61** – Glossop to Buxton via New Mills and Whaley Bridge
- **272** – Sheffield to Castleton via Hathersage and Hope

For more info visit derbyshire.gov.uk/buses

WIN... WIN... WIN... a ride on an open-top bus

For your chance to win one of five pairs of tickets for a tour on the open-top double decker the Peak Sightseer, go to page 15.



Jackie Howe – one of Derbyshire’s Trusted Traders – with her doggy clients

Celebrating 15 years of Trusted Trader

Derbyshire’s Trusted Trader scheme launched 15 years ago to help residents find trustworthy tradespeople and services.

To mark the anniversary, traders signed up to the county council-run scheme have been talking about the benefits of being a member.

Jackie Howe, who runs Hooves and Paws Pet and Equine Services in Newbold, Chesterfield, is one of nearly 1,000 registered Trusted Traders.

Jackie, whose business includes dog walking, horse care and pet visit services, said: “Customers trust me to take care of their pets, which are part of their family. Knowing that the person they choose has been checked by the council’s trading standards gives peace of mind.

“I want my customers to know I don’t cut corners and take risks with their pets. I feel proud to display the Trusted Trader logo on my van, advertising and paperwork.”

John Murray, who trades as John the Handyman and covers the Chesterfield area, said: “My customers know they’re getting a reliable, honest person that they can trust visiting their home.

“They can feel confident when they use me and can read reviews. They know I’ve been vetted by the council and they’re not going to be exploited or ripped off.”

‘This scheme gives me peace of mind’

Neil Mutch, who’s used Trusted Trader several times to get jobs done, most recently found Dronfield plasterer Nick Davy through the scheme.

“I’m a big fan of Trusted Trader as it’s reassuring to know that traders have gone through a process to ensure they are reliable and reputable, said Neil, of Coal Aston. “The fact it’s a county council initiative adds to that for me.

“There are so many horror stories of ‘rogue traders’ and scam dealers that this scheme gives me a lot of peace of mind. When we’ve needed big jobs doing Trusted Trader is our go-to place. We’ve used the scheme several times and have always been very impressed.”

Neil added: “I’d definitely recommend using Trusted Trader, it’s great to be able to read the reviews.



Satisfied customer Neil Mutch, right, and Cabinet Member for Health and Communities Councillor Carol Hart with plasterer and Trusted Trader Nick Davy

“I think we had a great job done at a very fair price and, equally as important, when we needed it doing. Nick was great!”

An annual survey carried out with Trusted Trader members shows 94% said they felt being a member gave customers more confidence when using them and 84% said being a member benefited their business as a whole.

To find traders and services, ranging from plumbers, electricians, gardeners, joiners and decorators to electric vehicle charger installers, accountants, dog walkers and will writers, and to read verified reviews, go to derbyshire.gov.uk/tt

Read more Trusted Trader case studies and find out more at derbyshire.gov.uk/tt



Home from Hospital support

Following a knee injury, Jackie found the home support service invaluable

Returning home from hospital with no help can be daunting. Derbyshire's Home from Hospital service could be the support you need.

If you're leaving hospital and need some practical support when you return home, the Derbyshire Home from Hospital Support Service could help.

The service is designed to help people with limited support from family and friends with practical tasks such as shopping, collecting prescriptions and making sure the home environment is safe and comfortable.

When Jackie, age 61, from Etwell, had an accident injuring her leg and knee, it was the free service that gave her a helping hand.

She said: "The Derbyshire Home from Hospital Support Service has been a

lifeline. I literally couldn't have managed without them. The service helped me with lots of tasks including getting credit on my mobile so I could stay in touch with family and friends and collecting my shopping."

Funded by the county council and the NHS and managed by South Derbyshire CVS, Home from Hospital offers support for up to six weeks. It can also help if you've had a setback in health, helping prevent you going in to hospital or a care home.

For more information visit derbyshire.gov.uk/leavinghospital email the team at home@dhfh.org.uk or call them on **01283 817 417**.

When it snows make sure you're in the know

For info about:

- ▶ Latest weather
- ▶ What's happening on the roads
- ▶ Gritting routes and latest gritting activity
- ▶ How to stay safe and warm in winter

Go to:

derbyshire.gov.uk/snow
or find us on Facebook or Twitter

SNOW INFO



Top tips to stay well:

If you're eligible for free winter vaccinations including flu and Covid then it's important to take them up.

Flu can make some people very poorly and need hospital admission. Sometimes it can be life threatening. If you get flu and Covid-19 infection at the same time, you're more likely to become seriously ill.

There are lots of other ways to help you and others stay safe and well this winter:

- Try to have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day
- Keep active in the home if you can

- Wash your hands regularly
- Keep your home well ventilated if you have visitors
- Use disposable tissues and put them straight in the bin to limit the spread of germs
- Stay at home if you're not well
- Make sure you have enough food and medication in case you're unable to get out in icy or cold weather and over the Christmas holiday period
- Look out for older neighbours or relatives.

Find out more: derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellinwinter

Could you be missing out?

Thousands of Derbyshire pensioners are eligible for Pension Credit and could be missing out on hundreds of pounds a month.

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. It can also unlock other benefits, such as housing benefits, help with NHS dental treatment as well as help with your heating costs.

Find out more at derbyshire.gov.uk/pensioncredit

Universal Credit and Tax Credits

If you receive Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or both you will receive a letter (migration notice) telling you to make a claim for Universal Credit.

If you don't claim in time, then your Tax Credits will stop – so it's important to act when you receive your letter.

If you receive Child Tax Credit, and your child currently receives free school meals, then you will need to check you still qualify for this help. You can do this by visiting derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

For more information about the move to Universal Credit visit derbyshire.gov.uk/benefitnews

Support with debt, borrowing and savings

Thousands of people are classed as financially excluded meaning that they are unable to access mainstream banking services.

If you struggle to access mainstream bank services including savings accounts and loans, then community banks (previously known as credit unions) could be an option.

Find out more derbyshire.gov.uk/savingsandcredit



Photo posed by model.

The legacy of the rising cost of living is still being felt by many people. And while some pressures are easing, there are still ongoing issues for many Derbyshire households.

The council's cost-of-living campaign has so far helped bring in over a million pounds in extra benefits for Derbyshire residents, including pension credit, carers allowance, housing support and more. But there's still more to do.

Among those who've benefited is pensioner Joseph Porter* who was struggling to cope with his increasing debts which was beginning to seriously affect his mental health.

The county council's welfare rights, affordable credit and Derbyshire Discretionary Fund teams all worked together to help the 71-year-old who has numerous health issues and lives alone.

He received state pension, housing benefit and was also entitled to a full council tax reduction but had no savings and was living in fear of how to pay his bills.

Having previously tried, and failed, to claim several benefits by himself, Joseph was beginning to feel suicidal due to his growing debts.

He said: "I was having to constantly take

out loans to pay my bills. After paying everything out I was left with only a few pounds from my pension to last me a fortnight.

"I was having to think about taking out a payday loan to buy myself food."

As a result of the joint effort by the council's teams, Joseph, from Swadlincote, was awarded higher-rate Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit and two emergency cash payments from the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund to help pay for food.

Some of the benefits have also been backdated and he is now better off by more than £8,000 a year.

Joseph said: "The help and support provided has saved my life. I am now almost completely out of debt, and I no longer need to use my overdraft."

To see if you're missing out on benefits, visit derbyshire.gov.uk/welfarebenefits or call **01629 531535** from 11am to 4pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

*Name has been changed



One in a million

Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Clean Growth and Regeneration, Councillor Tony King, right, planting a cherry tree at Elvaston Castle and Country Park with landscape gardeners Dan Winter, left, and Andrew Cosgrove

Derbyshire Now takes a look at some of the work being done as part of the Million Trees project to help tackle the effects of climate change.

An oak planted in memory of a loved one in Belper, 450 native trees planted by St John Houghton School in Ilkeston and 15 birch trees planted at a golf club at Chapel-en-le-Frith – the tales behind the trees you've planted in Derbyshire keep on coming.

The county council is collating them all on an online map as part of a project to plant a million trees across Derbyshire by 2030.

Throughout the summer, residents, landowners, businesses and community groups have pinned more than 10,000 trees planted since June 2021 to the interactive online map, taking the total number of trees planted across the county since that date to more than 384,000.

Councillor Barry Lewis, Leader of Derbyshire County Council, said: "We really have seen a phenomenal effort so far by people who live or work in



Derbyshire recording trees planted in the county – and it's great that so many people have shared the personal and often touching stories behind them.

"Trees are such an important feature in our communities. They improve our landscapes and our health and wellbeing as well as absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, they improve soil quality, provide natural flood management and increase wildlife habitats and biodiversity.

"With the new planting season upon us, we look forward to seeing more trees added to the map – so if you're planting this winter head to milliontrees.co.uk/submit-your-tree and record your trees."

Plant a tree in 2023

Planting trees has never been more important to help tackle the effects of climate change and if you're thinking of planting a tree at home, work or in your community, it's the perfect time to do it. The best time is when they're dormant and have dropped their leaves, usually between September and March.

It's important that you have the appropriate space and use the correct technique for the type of tree you're planting. Young trees come in various sizes such as whips (50-125cm), feathers (150-175) and standards (1.8m and up), each requiring a different planting technique.

Head over to the Million Trees website at milliontrees.co.uk for lots of advice and guidance.

Young People's Forest tree planting boost

Nestled into the landscape alongside county council-run Shipley Country Park and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Woodside Farm, a former open cast mining site near Heanor is being turned into a thriving new woodland shaped by young people.

Launched in 2019, the Young People's Forest is being developed by The Woodland Trust to promote youth social action and has seen more than 250,000 trees added to the landscape to date.

Since June 2021, young people have helped to plant around 194,000 trees

on the site including birch, oak, rowan, aspen, alder, and hazel, among others, all counting towards the target of planting a Million Trees in Derbyshire.

Visitors are already enjoying the forest which can be accessed by the public from Shipley Country Park or through paths from neighbouring communities.



Do you care for someone who couldn't cope without your help?

If you do, there's information, support and advice to help you in your role as a carer.

Three in five people will provide unpaid care at some point in their life. This could be to a family member or friend.

Find out more at derbyshire.gov.uk/carers or call **01773 833 833**.



SCAN ME



Shared Lives carers Jim and Carol, with Dave, who they support at their home in Chesterfield

Sharing is caring

Could you become a Shared Lives carer?

Could you open up your home to an adult who needs extra support to lead an ordinary life?

If you could, the county council would like to hear from you.

Shared Lives offers over 18s who need support with day-to-day living the chance to move in to a family home for a long-term arrangement, short break or day support.

The council wants more people to consider sharing their lives with an older person, an adult with learning or physical disabilities or a younger person leaving children's support services.

And Carol Culley, who with her husband Jim has been caring for more than 25 years, encourages others to give it a go.

Former school lunchtime supervisor Carol said: "There are so many ways it's enhanced our lives. From the very beginning we feel it was good for our children. We feel proud of the caring,

non-judgmental adults they've become. "Our grandchildren don't see disabilities or differences – just new friends and family. Sharing our home gives us so much."

Carol and ex-miner Jim share their home with Dave, who they met while volunteering at a day centre before they even became carers. Over the years they've cared for more than 20 adults at their home in Chesterfield.

And it's a family affair – their son Karl is a Shared Lives carer with their daughter Emma and grandchildren Tiegan and Maddie all caring and supporting people with learning disabilities too.

Carol added: "I would say to anyone thinking of going into Shared Lives: 'Do it!' Go into it with an open mind and heart and a sense of humour because we have had lots of laughter along the way."

For more information about Shared Lives visit derbyshire.gov.uk/sharedlives

Calling all carers

Derbyshire Carers Association is gearing up for this year's Carers' Rights Day 2023 with a flagship information event already in the calendar.

Carers will be able to find out more about their rights and speak to legal, financial and employment advisors at the event at the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton, on Thursday, 23 November from 10am to 1pm.

For more information and to book a place, please contact Katie Matkin on **07773 173416** or email katie.matkin@derbyshirecarers.co.uk

Carers' Rights Day aims to make sure carers are aware of their rights as well as highlighting help and support available. For more information visit derbyshire.gov.uk/carers

Money-saving offers on days out

We've teamed up with three popular Derbyshire visitor attractions to bring you fantastic discounts on days out this autumn and winter. Simply show the voucher on your mobile device along with proof of Derbyshire residency, or cut out a voucher if you have a printed copy and show it when you visit. Check vouchers for when they're valid or any other restrictions and don't forget to check the venue's website for opening times. Enjoy!

Buxton Crescent Experience

20% OFF PREMIUM OR GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS

Journey through nine imaginative exhibition rooms inside the Grade I Listed building which bring to life the history of Buxton and its world-renowned mineral springs. Rub shoulders with Georgian nobility in virtual reality, discover what makes the beautifully restored Crescent so special, and learn the secret of the water cure... Great fun for all ages.

buxtoncrescentexperience.com

The Pump Room, The Crescent, Buxton SK17 6BH



Terms and conditions: Use online discount code dnm20, show the voucher on your mobile device along with proof of Derbyshire residency or present voucher from the magazine on the day of visit – photocopies not accepted. Subject to availability, please see our website for opening times and admission prices. Not valid for special events. Discount not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Expires Friday, 1 March 2024.

Creswell Crags

20% DISCOUNT ON A CAVE TOUR OR MUSEUM VISIT

Walk in the footsteps of the Ice Age hunter and enter a world of fire and flint. Discover a legacy etched in stone with some of the oldest cave art in Britain. Explore life on the edge of the Ice Age world. Our rocks have tales to tell. What will you discover today?

creswell-crags.org.uk

Creswell Crags Museum & Heritage Centre, Crags Road, Welbeck, Worksop S80 3LH



Terms and conditions: Voucher valid for a single booking of up to 2 people on any one cave tour (entry to the museum included) OR entry to the museum for up to 2 adults (free entry to the museum for children). To apply the discount, cave tour bookings must be made in person or by phoning 01909 720378. Not valid for online bookings. No booking required for museum visits. Please show the voucher on your mobile device along with proof of Derbyshire residency or present voucher from the printed magazine on the day of your visit – photocopies not accepted. Not valid on Bank Holidays. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Expires Sunday, 4 February 2024.

Conkers

KIDS GO FOR £5 WITH EVERY FULL-PAYING ADULT

Enter a world of adventure at the heart of the National Forest with NEW Splash Park! Take a trip on the Conkachoo Train to explore 120 acres with adventure playground and Chelsea Flower Show's gold winning garden. Enjoy Barefoot Walk, Activity Trail and zip below ground with The Warrens. A 4D cinema and Enchanted Forest are also family favourites.

visitconkers.com

Conkers, Rawdon Road, Moira, nr Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Derbyshire DE12 6GA



Terms and conditions: One child goes for £5 with a full-paying adult. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer/discounts. Please show the voucher on your mobile device along with proof of Derbyshire residency or present voucher from the printed magazine to reception – photocopies not accepted. Valid up to and including Sunday, 4 February 2024. Full child admission fee applies to further children visiting with one adult. For example, a group of 2 adults and 3 children would only pay full admission for the 3rd child.



WIN... WIN...WIN... A ride on an open-top bus

You may have seen an unusual sight this summer – an open-top double decker bus touring the Derbyshire Dales.

Called the Peak Sightseer, the hop-on hop-off service runs every weekend until the end of the year, stopping at lots of lovely places including Chatsworth, Bakewell and Ashford in the Water. Tickets cost £6 but we have five pairs of tickets to give away.

For the chance to win:

Visit derbyshire.gov.uk/publictransport But hurry as the competition closes on Sunday, 5 November and the tickets need to be used by the end of 2023.

* Vouchers are for Derbyshire residents only (excluding Derby City). Simply show the voucher on your mobile device along with proof of Derbyshire residency (for example, your council tax or a utility bill). There are a small number of magazines being printed, if using these vouchers please present original vouchers only – photocopies not accepted.



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TAKE IN THE VIEWS...

OR CATCH UP ON THE LATEST
GOSSIP FROM GEOFF...



WE DON'T MIND.

FOR SCENIC ADVENTURES OR LIVING
EVERYDAY LIFE, WHY NOT GIVE THE BUS A GO?

TURN TO PAGE 9 TO FIND SOME OF THE BEST PLACES TO VISIT ON THE BUS.