

# EAST DURHAM TRUST NEWSLETTER



THE LATEST NEWSLETTER FROM THE FLAGSHIP CHARITY  
SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN EAST DURHAM

East Durham Trust  
*Moving our community forward*

## CHRISTMAS 2020 ISSUE

This Christmas was different for everyone with Covid-19 restrictions and the pandemic having a huge impact on the communities of East Durham. East Durham Trust, our community partners and volunteers worked tirelessly to provide hope this Christmas. This was only made possible thanks to all of your support.

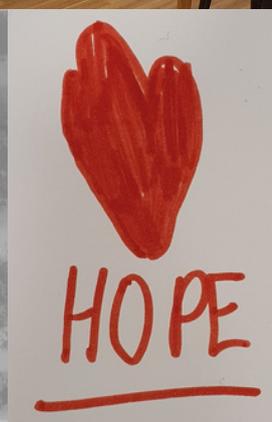
In December 2020 East Durham Trust helped....

just under **1000** people supported to access emergency food including crisis food parcels

**128** older and isolated adults received Gifts of Hope

**98** people received Christmas dinners

**1250** people provided with arts & crafts activities



# HOPE & UNITY

## WINTER WALLS

County Durham Animator Sheryl Jenkins was chosen to create a brand new piece of animation after her hugely successful commission in the first lockdown working with our partners The Youth Hub at Dawdon YCC. The work was inspired by collected responses from local people about what hope meant to them and designed to be projected onto the side of community venues. In late December the work toured four community venues (Blackhall, Eastlea, Dawdon and Community House) and was safely seen by over 1,600 local people at the pop up installations around the community.



## WINDOWS OF HOPE

County Durham artist Alison Curry was chosen by East Durham Creates Community Panel to transform the windows of Community House with a new work. Alison was inspired by the helping hands that had gotten local people through Covid-19 so far.

She created vinyl artwork giving recognition to everyone from volunteers to the NHS which took over the windows of East Durham Trust's community building and were backlit especially for the launch on 18th December. Almost 550 people saw the work that evening and it will remain in place on Community House for the next few months.

Alison also designed a brand new Arty Pack to encourage local families to decorate their windows with lanterns and doves of hope – more than 200 of these packs were distributed to local families by the Trust and their community partners in Blackhall, Eastlea, Dawdon and Shotton.



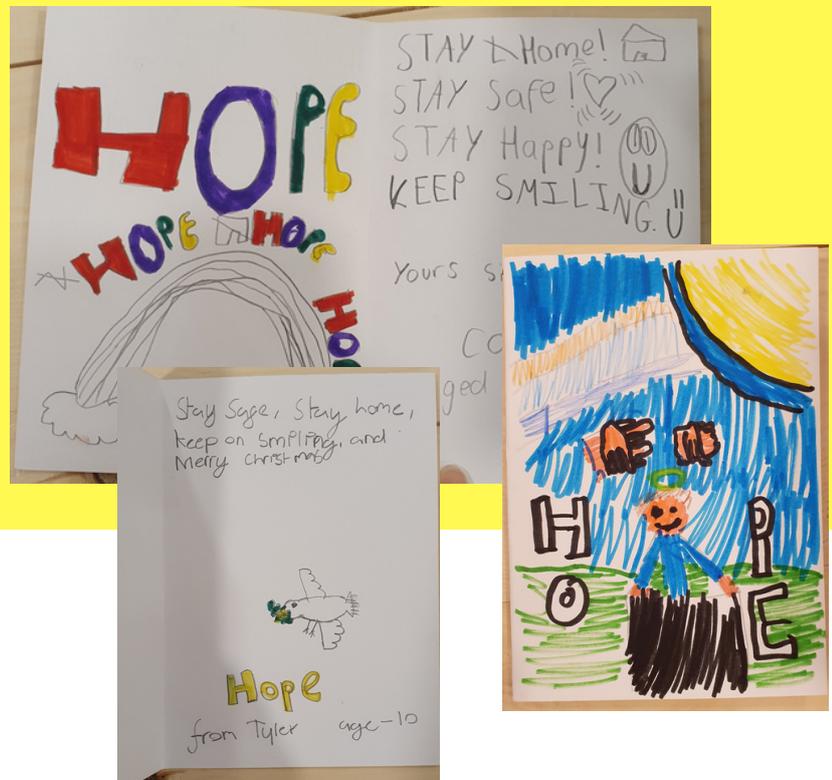
# GIFTS OF HOPE

Working together with it's art project East Durham Creates and community partners Gifts of Hope were created and distributed to **128 isolated older adults**.



These packages included festive treats, handmade decoration created by our social prescribing shabby chic group, cards, messages and artwork from local children, a new poem by artist Kirsten Luckins, an art pack with an simple lantern activity and knitted items from charity Knit for Peace.

The recipients were also invited to join our Choir for Hope online singing session. (see page 4)



The gifts were then safely hand delivered by staff and volunteers. Recipients said it had made their year, helped them believe that somebody was thinking of them and given them hope for the future.



Hi. I would like a say a big thank you to all involved putting together the Gift of Hope package which I received from you. It was very much appreciated and I particularly like the blanket and the hand made card from a youngster. We really can have hope in our future with such people. Merry Christmas.

# CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING



Alongside our Gifts of Hope initiative we invited local older adults to join in with a Christmas carol singing session on Zoom together with Bethany Elen Coyle and members of the East Durham Dementia Friendly Choir.

It was lovely to connect and sing our favourite Christmas carols (albeit digitally!). We even had singers from as far away as Wales join the singalong!

## FESTIVE PEOPLE'S TAKEAWAY

The People's Takeaway has been distributing food for over a year supporting people in financial crisis. This year as part of our Hope and Unity campaign, we sent out Christmas dinners spreading hope in these difficult time. The dinners were delivered along with Christmas goodies. Local business Spread From The Med helped our campaign donating a number of Christmas lunches for local residents living in financial hardship.



## 98 people received Christmas dinners

- 78 people received Christmas dinners freshly prepared here at the Trust
- 10 dinners were kindly provided by the Spread from the Med Taverna
- 10 people were given the items to make Christmas dinner themselves, kindly donated by Edenhill Peoples Centre.

## Donation of Equipment

Our Christmas dinner provision was made possible thanks to support from **IG Group** who donated a wide range of new kitchen equipment, allowing us to move away from delivering just pizzas from our People's Takeaway to doing a full Christmas roast!





# THANK YOU!!

We have been overwhelmed by the support of our generous community throughout the year, and in particular in the run up to Christmas. The Trust has received donation from individuals, schools, colleges, community groups, local businesses and faith establishments. We couldn't do the work we do without the invaluable support from all corners of the community and every day we see that by coming together in unity we can all make a difference.



# CASE STUDIES



\*Stephanie was a victim of domestic violence so her and her daughter had to move out of their home very quickly leaving everything they owned behind, to start a new life.

\*Stephanie contacted the Trust to ask for support. She explained that she had suffered horrific domestic violence so the Police moved her out of the area she lived immediately. Stephanie was given support with furnishings for her new home but what little money she had, she had to use on the new house.

She didn't receive her new Universal Credit payment for another few weeks and was worried sick as she had no food in the house or a Christmas present for her daughter. The Trust supplied Stephanie with a food parcel and a Christmas lunch delivery. We also referred her to Santa's Wish so her daughter would receive a Christmas Present.

*"East Durham Trust are life savers. I don't know what I would have done without them. They were so kind and helpful. I will be forever grateful."*



The Trust's Advice and Support project supported Gwen\* who had just received full custody of her grandchildren before Christmas.

With help from the Trust Gwen\* secured a settlement grant which enabled her to buy essential items needed like beds for the children along with white goods like a fridge freezer and washing machine.

*"I don't know where me and my grandchildren would be if it wasn't for the Trust."*

## WE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY

