



Record Numbers Attend Trust's Annual Conference



Award Winning Actor and 'I, Daniel Blake' star Dave Johns

It was 'standing room only' at the Trust's Annual Conference on October 5th with almost 200 delegates enjoying passionate keynote speakers, lively debate and local entertainment.

Added bonuses included the appearance of Dave Johns, star of the hit movie "I, Daniel Blake" and the Launch of three exciting new projects.

The day commenced with introductions from our Chair Alan Miller and CEO Malcolm Fallow, followed by a beautiful rendition of Cyndi Lauper's *Time After Time* by sensational East Durham College student Mollie and her band to accompany a look back at the work done by East Durham

Trust over the last 10 years. This was followed by a rousing speech around justice in mining communities by Ian Lavery, MP for Wansbeck and Chair of the Labour Party UK and an informative presentation from Durham Universities Tony Chapman around trends in the voluntary and third sector.

The second half of the conference was opened by the fantastic Durham Voices of Recovery and Middlesbrough's Notes for Hopes, projects that support the recovery of those affected by drug and alcohol problems.

Dave Johns was welcomed to the stage to be asked questions by Brodie and Nadene, local aspiring actors who had recently had the fortune to meet Dave in Edinburgh after seeing his show I, Fillum Star at the Fringe Festival thanks to the East Durham Creates project. The questions explored the effects of the film, changes to political climate and the rise of a now 62 year old to Hollywood stardom.



Ian Lavery MP and Chair of UK Labour Party



Local student Mollie wows with her rendition of *Time After Time*

Following Dave Johns we launched our Run East Durham Project, funded by County Durham Community Foundation with our running volunteer Albert Ellis (see page 2). The Conference was closed by the two choirs. Feedback was hugely positive from those that attended.



SPIED and East Durham Solutions gear up for Universal Credit Roll Out

East Durham Trust runs a range of projects designed to offer support to local people suffering from the effects of Poverty. The launch of Universal Credit, which rolled out in Peterlee and Seaham from mid-October has been an ongoing concern for everyone involved in these projects.

SPIED is our Stop Poverty in East Durham project. Funded by the Big Lottery Fund, SPIED hosts a range of interventions for local people including:

- Debt Advice and Support out of our accredited Debt Centre
- Benefit Support including benefit checks and support for completing forms like PIP and ESA
- Community Job Clubs which sees local drop ins run by volunteers to support people in searching and applying for jobs
- Transport to work which provides bus passes or volunteer drivers for the first week of new jobs
- Holiday Activities that offer food and activities to children during the school holidays to tackle Holiday Hunger



Volunteer George gives people lifts to work



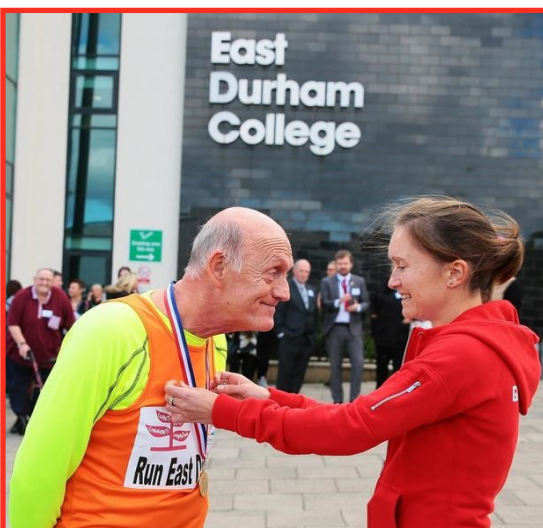
Community Coaches at the official launch

SPIED is also expecting lots of new users to it's Community Job Clubs to access IT facilities due to the governments 'digital by default' stance on Universal Credit.

East Durham Solutions, funded by East Durham AAP works closely with Durham County Council Housing Solutions to provide support particularly for those living in private rented accommodation. Utilising trained volunteer Community Coaches the project supports people to attend new activities and appointments as well as signposting to a huge range of support services.

For more information on SPIED contact Helen (helen.waller@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk) and for East Durham Solutions contact Judith (Judith.turnbull@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk). Both can be reached on 0191 5693511

Albert Becomes the Face of Run East Durham



Former Miner Albert Ellis with Olympian Aly Dixon

A former miner from Horden has become the public face of East Durham Trust's brand new health initiative Run East Durham. Albert Ellis who is 62 and a veteran of over 20 Great North Runs and countless other events launched the project by running to East Durham College at our Annual Conference and was presented with a medal by Olympic marathon runner Aly Dixon.

The project will see over 500 people improve their levels of physical activity by training and taking part in a series of local Fun Runs.

Want to know more about Run East Durham? Contact Rachael on 0191 5693511 or Rachael.roberts@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk

Mentioned in House of Commons (two days in a row!)

Thanks to support from our local MP Grahame Morris the Trust has been held up as an example of good practice in Parliament. On Wednesday 18th October the Trust was cited by the opposition as having to fight the consequences of the Universal Credit roll-out and the following day Grahame championed the cause of the People's Takeaway (see below)—challenging the Minister to explain why such initiatives are necessary.



Grahame Morris MP in House of Commons 19th October



Our Universal Credit Quotes of the Week

"I had nothing, no food, no gas, no electric and no money to get any. I was desperate so I sold the bairn's pushchair just to get a few quid so I could put my heating on."

"We didn't have anything. It was our kids 3rd Birthday last week and we sat around in the dark sharing a tin of cold soup. It broke my heart I couldn't give him anything better."



Trust Launch Major Crowdfunding Appeal

The Annual Conference provided the ideal platform to Launch the Crowdfunding Appeal for "The People's Takeaway". This project is supported by Comic Relief who, if we reach our £10,000 target, will match our donations pound for pound potentially bringing an extra £10,000 of funding into the local area.



The People's Takeaway will support individuals and families in crisis as an addition to our food parcel service. Led by volunteers it will deliver hot food to local people just like a normal takeaway but free. With the rollout of Universal Credit commencing from October already our FEED project is under pressure and this will help give people in dire need even more support.

To date we have raised over £1,100 but we still need more support! Our crowdfunding deadline is 16th November and only you can make this project happen. Follow us on social media, share our posts and watch the front page of the website for more details.

To donate visit our website: www.eastdurhamtrust.org.uk

FEED Reaches out for Extra Donations Ahead of Universal Credit

FEED (Food Emergency East Durham) has been really busy putting measures into place to deal with the increase in food parcel referrals in light of ongoing Welfare Reform like the roll out of Universal Credit in our area. Our food parcel service has seen an increase of almost 50% for food parcel referrals and because we rely solely on donations made by our local community and the hard work of volunteers this continues to put our FEED service under strain.

Harvest Festival has seen an amazing increase in these kind donations from all kinds of organisations including local schools, businesses and organisations.

Every donation we receive makes a difference and goes into feeding people who are going hungry every day in East Durham.

There are too many to name so if you made a donation for our FEED project then THANK YOU. You are the ones that make it possible for us to help families and individuals in crisis every day.

Want to make a donation? Visit the FEED page on our website (www.eastdurhamtrust.org.uk) to see all the local donation points, drop food into our office on Yoden Road or alternatively donate to our new appeal, the People's Takeaway (more info on Page 2).



GT Group's kind donation of food



Seaview Primary School and their kind donation.



Volunteer Drivers Wanted!

We desperately need more volunteer drivers to support our FEED project. FEED relies on volunteer drivers to collect donations and sometimes take food parcels to individuals/centres.

Drivers must have access to their own car and a full, clean driving licence. We will provide expenses at 45p a mile. This is a great opportunity to get out and about in the local community and to support a fantastic worthwhile project.

For more information or to apply contact Lindsey on lindsey.wood@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk or 0191 5693511