DALSTON PARISH COUNCIL

EMERGENCY INFORMATION (FEBRUARY 2026)

Dalston (OS grid reference NY 395555) is a large parish of 11,900 acres and 2590 residents (2011), with small hamlets and isolated farms around the village which contains two of the three schools in the parish, the main industries and the transport hub. It lies 5 miles south of Carlisle on the B5299 and 5 miles from J42 on M6 and there are several roads into the village, a railway line, footpaths, and a cycleway. Mobile phone reception is not good, but there are medical facilities (a GP practice with a dispensary, a pharmacy, and a dentist); hospitality (hotel, a pub, a café, sandwich shop and fish and chip shop); and retail (large Co-op convenience store and butchers).

There is a good community spirit with many groups and activities including several for elderly / very young (i.e., vulnerable).
Wendy from the Country Kitchen Café (01228 711431) delivers meals to many elderly/vulnerable people. The Caldew Club (Julia Higgins 01228 711347), Dalston W.I. (Janet Wright 01228 711098), Cumdivock W.I. (Mandy Henderson 01228 710282) and Raughton Head W.I. (Jackie Collinson 016974 76590) have many older members. There is a Dementia friendly café once a month (Janet Wright 01228 711098). Caldew School (01228 710044) has Secondary age students; St Michaels, Dalston (01228 711544) and Raughton Head (016974 76291) have Primary pupils; and Pre-School children attend Buggy Brigade at Dalston Methodist Church (Margery Little 01228 711548), St Michael's Pre-School Nursery at Recreation Centre (Jo Short 01228 712000), Abacus Day Nursery on Barras Lane Industrial Estate (Samantha or Laura 01228 712888), Gaitsgill Playgroup, Primrose Hall, Gaitsgill (Alexandra 07923 378547 or Joanna 07746 846837), Raughton Head Nursery Pre-School (016974 76291).

All major emergencies are dealt with by the Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Health Agencies, Utility Companies and Voluntary Agencies in a combined response listed at https://cumbriaprepared.org.uk. There is no statutory responsibility for community groups, such as Parish Councils, to plan for, or respond to, an emergency in their locality. However, it is good practice for communities to identify hazards and make simple plans to assist these agencies.

It should be recognized that community groups are not an emergency service. They will not be trained, equipped, empowered, resourced, or insured to carry out the functions of an emergency service. Any volunteers who are off-duty members of an emergency service should report to that service rather than acting independently and be aware that injured volunteers are the last thing wanted. Community groups should be informing and caring for parishioners and helping to maintain the infrastructure.

People will naturally turn to elected members and community organisations for information, i.e.
Cumberland Councillor Trevor Allison (01228 523923 / trevor.allison@cumberland.gov.uk).
Parish Council Chair Ann McKerrell (07386045831 / annvmckerrell@gmail.com).
Parish Council Vice Chair Craig Melrose (07764535209 /craigmelrose@yahoo.co.uk).
Parish Clerks Sue Milburn / Margaret Watling (01228 712766 / clerk@dalston.org.uk).

Parish Councillors:-
Trevor Baxter (01228 710602).
Ann Byers (01228 712846 / m).
James Clarkson Webb (07710930627 / jamescw@filmresearch.co.uk)
Bryan Craig (01228 710020 / bryancraig@btinternet.com).
Alan Dinning (01228 710879 / alandinning@outlook.com).
Christopher Drouet (01228 712281 / chris.drouet@gmail.com).
Peter Ebbatson (07990010086 / ebbyblackdish@yahoo.com).
Ruth Irving (07709741474/ ruth.irving@hotmail.co.uk)..
Dougal Kyle (01228 711807 / dougalkay@btconnect.com).
Ian Newton (07821743786 /iannewty@hotmail.co.uk).
Robert Potter (01228 710470 / robertpotter1943@gmail.com).

MEDIA
Radio Cumbria 95.6 FM
Greatest Hits Radio 96.4FM
CRFM 102.7 FM

SOCIAL MEDIA
Dalston Crack

PARISH WEBSITE
https://www.dalston.org.uk

POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES

War; Sellafield nuclear accident / terrorist attack.
Major transport accident: rail or road carrying hazardous materials; coach containing school children; air crash.
Industrial accident: BP oil storage depot; Nestle; Barras Lane Industrial Estate.
Health: Food poisoning; pandemics.
Fire: especially one producing noxious fumes.
Weather: storm, snow, ice, rain and flooding.
Communication failure: (no landline, mobile, internet; possibly caused by cyber attack).*
Civil unrest
Catastrophic loss of supplied, distributed, and delivered public utilities, medium to long term, i.e Electricity, Potable Water, Gas, Kerosine (heating oil) Petrol/Diesel (fuel for agricultural and personal use. These elements could be as a result of any of the above risks but in themselves could be considered catastrophic to The Parish as a whole.

*One Parish Councillor is a licenced radio amateur and could be vital in this circumstance, giving access to RAYNET.