DURHAM MAGAZINE



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DIGITAL EDITION
June 2026

Compiled from stories published online in June 2026

DURHAM MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION

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Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: County Durham's Wartime History Brought to Life in New Exhibition at The Story, page 9. Photo supplied by Durham County Council, The Story.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in June 2026. Durham Magazine's first digital edition was published in November 2026.

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DURHAM

Brassed On Returns to Durham with Unique Collaborations Between Rising Stars and Brass Bands

Emerging artists and acclaimed brass musicians will share the stage this summer as one of the North East's most distinctive music festivals returns to Durham.

Brassed On will take over Gala Durham on Saturday 18 July, bringing together an exciting mix of rising talent and live brass ensembles for a series of unique collaborations and memorable performances that blend contemporary music with the rich tradition of brass banding.

The show is a key event in Durham County Council's Durham Brass Festival, which will deliver a week of unmissable gigs, street bands and free outdoor parties from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 July.

This year's Brassed On line-up includes Vice Killer, a four-piece indie band from Peterlee whose debut album A Miners' Capital was named in BBC Introducing's Best of the Year in 2025. Vice Killer will perform with Easington Colliery Band, creating fresh new music especially for the festival.

Manchester-based Dilettante, the brainchild of multi-instrumentalist Francesa Pidgeon, will also take to the stage with a new trio headed by Faye MacCalman, a composer-songwriter

"Previous Brassed On collaborations have resulted in some truly magical performances, and I am sure this year's line-up will be just as memorable."

and improviser on the saxophone, clarinet, vocals and electronics.

Completing the line-up will be singer-songwriter and pianist Isabel Maria, from Sunderland, who was named a BBC Introducing One to Watch for 2025. Isabel will be accompanied by Brazen, a collective of some of the UK's finest brass and percussion players.

Thomas Low Gilling, lead singer of Vice Killer, said:

"It's an absolute honour for us to be a part of Durham Brass Festival. As a band that has written about the area's past and present, being able to perform these songs with Easington Colliery Brass Band feels extremely special. It'll definitely feel quite emotional for us to hear our songs performed with a brass section."

Cllr Karen Allison, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for leisure, tourism, high street and regeneration, said:

"Since the first Brassed On concert, back in 2023, the show has become a defining feature of Durham Brass Festival.

"Not only do these unique collaborations demonstrate the versality of brass music, but by blending different genres, they broaden the festival's appeal and attract new audiences. Brassed On also provides a platform for emerging artists to experience what it is like to perform alongside brass ensembles, while raising their profile at an established music festival.

"Previous Brassed On collaborations have resulted in some truly magical performances, and I am sure this year's line-up will be just as memorable."

Tickets for Brassed On are available now priced at £12.50. To book, visit www.brassfestival.co.uk

Other festival highlights include:

Viva Brass Vegas, a dynamic collaboration between rock 'n' rollers Oompah Brass XXL and Elvana, a crossover tribute band who perform the music of the American Grunge Band Nirvana in the style of Elvis Presley. Gala Durham, Sunday 12 July.

Myth Magic and More, a celebration of some of the most iconic scores from film and television. Performed by EverReady Band, enjoy unforgettable music from Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Star Wars and many more. Durham Cathedral, Saturday 18 July.

Grimethorpe Colliery Band, stars of the hit film Brassed Off and widely recognised as one of the UK's finest brassed bands. Gala Durham, Sunday 19 July.

An Evening of Swing and Jive with The Revolutionaires and Tyne Valley Big Band. Pelton Community Centre, Saturday 18 July.

By Zoe Online 12 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/brassed-on-returns-to-durham-with-unique-collaborations-between-rising-stars-and-brass-bands**

DURHAM

City of Durham Show Returns After 25 Years to Celebrate Local Talent and Community Spirit



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Photo supplied by City of Durham Show organisers

Gardeners, bakers, crafters and community groups from across Durham are being invited to take part in the long-awaited return of the City of Durham Show this September, as a team of local residents brings the cherished event back to life.

A popular fixture in the city's calendar for more than six decades, the City of Durham Show came to an end in 2000. Now, organisers are reviving the event on Sunday 13 September, with plans to celebrate local talent, showcase community organisations and support charities and businesses from across the Durham area.

The show will take place at Durham Town Hall, with additional activities in the Market Square outside. Local residents are encouraged to submit their best efforts in categories including flower arranging, vegetable growing, preserves, baking, knitting and photography.

There will also be a Young Exhibitor's class, with categories including miniature gardens, a floral or vegetable crown, and arts and crafts on the theme Durham of the Future. Entry is free, with certificates provided for the winners. The full set of categories is published at https://durhamshow.org.uk/, along with entry instructions.

The Show is supported by Durham Parish Council, Durham University, the Durham Rotary Club and Councillor David Freeman's Neighbourhood Budget.

Benedict Douglas, a Claypath resident who leads the Show's organising committee, said:

By Durham Magazine Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/city-of-durham-show-returns-after-25-years-to-celebrate-local-talent-and-community-spirit**

Durham Energy Council Launches Citizens' Manifesto for a Fair Renewable Energy Future



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A new citizens' manifesto setting out a vision for a fair and community-focused energy future has been launched today (11 June) by the Durham Energy Council.

Durham Energy Council consists of local volunteers aged 18 to 85 from former mining communities. Its goal is to ensure working-class voices have a meaningful voice in the UK's renewable energy transition, and help ensure economic benefits of the shift to renewables stay local.

It is expected that 25,000 new energy jobs will be created by 2035 with as many as 460 new turbines created just off the North East coast.

The Durham Energy Manifesto, sealed with coaldust, is being sent to the North East's 100 Top Energy Influencers, the people currently shaping our energy transition.

Inspired by Durham's historic Pitman's Parliament, the Council took part in workshops and field-trips to learn about energy systems to inform and develop the manifesto.

Key demands of the manifesto ensure the move to cleaner energy benefits communities, creates good jobs, and leaves no one behind.

Guided by the principles of "being good ancestors" and learning from the region's industrial heritage, the manifesto calls for:

By Durham Magazine Online 11 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/durham-energy-council-launches-citizens-manifesto-for-a-fair-renewable-energy-future**

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DURHAM

Durham Brass Festival Adds Walking, Cycling and Dance Events for 20th Anniversary



8

Music fans can prepare to dance, walk and even cycle to the rhythm this summer as a brand-new feature joins the line-up for Durham Brass Festival.

The region's biggest celebration of brass music returns to County Durham from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 July, bringing a packed programme of performances, ticketed shows, world premieres and free live concerts across the county.

As the Durham County Council-run festival celebrates its 20th anniversary, audiences will be encouraged to move, keep active and enjoy the sounds of brass in a series of events new for 2026.

By Durham Magazine Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/durham-brass-festival-adds-walking-cycling-and-dance-events-for-20th-anniversary**

DURHAM

Armed Forces Week Marked With Commemorative Event At The Story In Durham



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Durham County Council has reaffirmed its commitment to the Armed Forces during a national week of recognition.

The council held a commemorative event at The Story in Durham to mark Armed Forces Week, which runs from 22 to 28 June.

The event was hosted by Cllr Robbie Rodiss, Chairman of Durham County Council, Cllr Dawn Bellingham, Cabinet member for communities and civic resilience, and the council's Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Robert Potts, and guests were given a tour of The Story's exhibition spaces. This included its new temporary exhibition, A Debt Beyond Words.

By Durham Magazine Online 25 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/armed-forces-week-marked-with-commemorative-event-at-the-story-in-durham**

DURHAM

Amanda Hopgood Begins Term as Mayor of Durham for 2026/27



Photo: Silverbird Photography

A long-serving councillor who has spent two decades in local politics has taken on a new civic role.

Cllr Amanda Hopgood, who became the first woman to lead Durham County Council, now begins her term as Mayor of Durham for 2026/27.

Cllr Hopgood has served as a parish councillor since 2017 and was a district councillor from 2005 to 2009, before becoming a county councillor when Durham County Council unitary authority was formed in 2009.

Over the next year, she hopes to use her civic role to help raise money for Point North, which works with local communities to fight poverty and enrich residents' lives, and the Durham-based St Cuthbert's Hospice.

Online 13 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/amanda-hopgood-begins-term-as-mayor-of-durham-for-2026-27**

DURHAM

County Durham's Wartime History Brought to Life in New Exhibition at The Story



Photo supplied by Durham County Council, The Story

A thought-provoking new exhibition examining the lasting impact of conflict on County Durham's communities has opened to the public.

A Debt Beyond Words explores the stories of those connected to the Durham Light Infantry (DLI), while also reflecting on the broader human experience of war and its profound effects on families, communities and life on the home front.

It is the latest temporary exhibition to be staged at The Story, Durham County Council's culture and registration venue on the outskirts of Durham City.

By Durham Magazine Online 14 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/county-durhams-wartime-history-brought-to-life-in-new-exhibition-at-the-story**

In brief



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Photo: barbara king

DURHAM

Red Sky Foundation Donates £60,000 Heart Scan Machine for Children at Darlington Memorial Hospital

Children and families across County Durham and Darlington are set to receive quicker access to vital heart assessments following the donation of a new specialist echocardiography machine by the Red Sky Foundation.

Online 11 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/red-sky-foundation-donates-60000-heart-scan-machine-for-children-at-darlington-memorial-hospital**



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DURHAM

North Durham NHS Staff Swap Scrubs for Swimsuits in Fundraising Effort

A stroke specialist and a physiotherapist traded their hospital roles for open water this month as they took on a fundraising challenge to support patients and their families.

Online 18 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/north-durham-nhs-staff-swap-scrubs-for-swimsuits-in-fundraising-effort**



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DURHAM

Pupils Help Design New Outdoor Learning Garden at Pelton Primary School

As part of its ongoing STEM programme, Avove invited pupils to share their ideas for redesigning the school's garden, with the winning entry helping shape the final project.

By Zoe Online 16 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/pupils-help-design-new-outdoor-learning-garden-at-pelton-primary-school**



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DURHAM

County Durham Pupils Take To The Pitch With Marylebone Cricket Club

Young cricketers from a North East education trust were bowled over after being given the chance to play alongside members of the UK's premier cricket club.

Online 30 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/county-durham-pupils-take-to-the-pitch-with-marylebone-cricket-club**

In brief



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DURHAM

Durham Explorer Bus Service: Ticket to County Durham's Key Attractions

New Durham Explorer Bus Services Launch To Connect County Durham Attractions

Three new bus services are launching across County Durham this summer, making it easier for visitors and residents to explore some of the county's best-loved attractions.

By Barbara Parker Online 24 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/durham-explorer-bus-service-ticket-to-county-durhams-key-attractions**



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DURHAM

Young Leaders Unite for First North East and Cumbria Youth Political Summit

Young people from across the North East and Cumbria came together for the region's first-ever youth political summit.

Online 20 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/young-leaders-unite-for-first-north-east-and-cumbria-youth-political-summit**



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DURHAM

Bishop Auckland Town Youth Awards Celebrate Outstanding Young People

Bishop Auckland Town Hall was filled with pride and celebration on Monday 22 June 2026, as the community came together for the Bishop Auckland Town Youth Awards to recognise the outstanding achievements of young people from across the town.

By Durham Magazine Online 29 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/bishop-auckland-town-youth-awards-celebrate-outstanding-young-people**



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DURHAM

Dalton Park Set For Major Bus And Active Travel Upgrades

County Durham residents will soon have easier access to a popular shopping centre thanks to major funding for a range of transport improvements.

Online 28 June 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/dalton-park-set-for-major-bus-and-active-travel-upgrades**

In brief



NEWCASTLE

Blyth Tall Ship Launches Hands-On Woodworking Courses in Unique Maritime Setting

From creating handcrafted keepsakes to building traditional paddles and wooden bodyboards, Blyth Tall Ship is giving people the opportunity to learn practical woodworking skills in a distinctive maritime setting.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 9 June 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/blyth-tall-ship-launches-hands-on-woodworking-courses-in-unique-maritime-setting**



NEWCASTLE

Tilly Raper to Run Great North Run Four Years After Life-Changing Road Collision

A young woman whose life was saved following a serious road traffic collision is taking on the Great North Run to raise funds for the air ambulance charity that came to her aid.

By Zoe Eastman Online 5 June 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/tilly-raper-to-run-great-north-run-four-years-after-life-changing-road-collision**



NEWCASTLE

North East Grassroots Sporting Heroes Honoured at Unsung Hero Awards

GLL, the charitable social enterprise and worker-owned co-operative behind Better leisure centres across the North East, has once again played a key role in recognising and celebrating the individuals who make grassroots sport thrive throughout the region.

By Zoe Eastman Online 16 June 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/north-east-grassroots-sporting-heroes-honoured-at-unsung-hero-awards**



SUNDERLAND

Yarn Bombing Celebration Marks Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens Redevelopment Programme

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens has launched an ambitious four-year redevelopment and activity programme, running from 2026 to 2030.

By Zoe Online 24 June 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/yarn-bombing-celebration-marks-sunderland-museum-winter-gardens-redevelopment-programme**

In brief



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SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Foster Carers Honoured For Life-Changing Support

Sunderland's foster carers have been honoured for the life-changing support they provide to children and young people across the city.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 23 June 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-foster-carers-honoured-for-life-changing-support**



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CONSETT

County Durham Vet Receptionist Takes on Ally Pally Roof Challenge

Kieran Mennell, who works at Prince Bishop Vets in Leadgate, near Consett, will take on the challenging rooftop climb on June 19th, reaching the Angel of Plenty statue at the summit of the landmark building, which stands 130 metres above sea level. Kieran hopes the feat will help him raise hundreds of pounds for Vetlife, a charity that provides support to members of the veterinary community and is a cause close to his heart.

Online 16 June 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/county-durham-vet-receptionist-takes-on-ally-pally-roof-challenge**



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CONSETT

Family Tractor Push Honours Mary Ann Suddes and Raises Funds for Willow Burn Hospice

When Mary Ann Suddes passed away, her family agreed they wanted to do something special to commemorate her life, though at the time no one was quite sure what that would be. Then COVID arrived, and any plans were put on hold.

By Chris Bruce Online 23 June 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/family-tractor-push-honours-mary-ann-suddes-and-raises-funds-for-willow-burn-hospice**



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Photo: "HMS Trincomalee at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Hartlepool" by Anthony Foster, geograph.org.uk (geograph.org.uk/photo/8306735), CC BY-SA 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0), cropped

HARTLEPOOL

HMS Trincomalee: The 19th Century Warship That Found a Home in Hartlepool

HMS Trincomalee holds a unique place in British maritime history as the oldest warship still afloat. Built in India in 1817, the vessel has called Hartlepool home since 1987 and serves as the centrepiece of the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **hartlepoolmagazine.co.uk/hms-trincomalee-the-19th-century-warship-that-found-a-home-in-hartlepool**

In brief

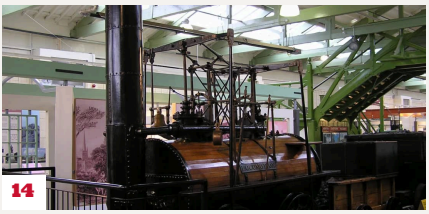

Photo: "Stockton & Darlington Railway 0-4-0 No. 1 'Locomotion' (1825) Head of Steam, Darlington 30.06.2009 P6300119 (10192855826).jpg" by Gillett's Crossing from Bristol, United Kingdom (CC BY 2.0) via Wikimedia Commons

DARLINGTON

Hopetown Darlington: How a £37 Million Railway Heritage Site Is Reviving a Town's Identity

Hopetown Darlington opened to the public on 16 July 2024 following a £37 million redevelopment that transformed a 7.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **darlingtonmagazine.com/hopetown-darlington-how-a-37-million-railway-heritage-site-is-reviving-a-towns-identity**

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