HULL MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
June 2026

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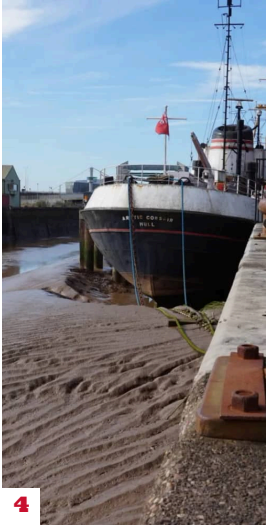

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Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: Amy Johnson: The Hull Schoolgirl Who Conquered the Skies, page 6. Photo: Ted Hood (Public domain), via Wikimedia Commons.

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

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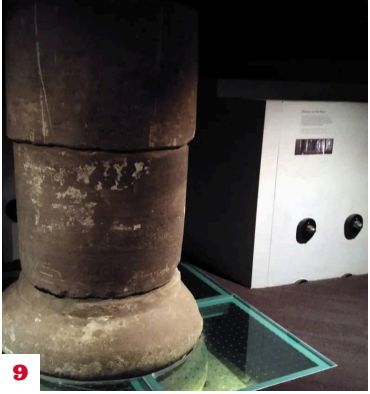

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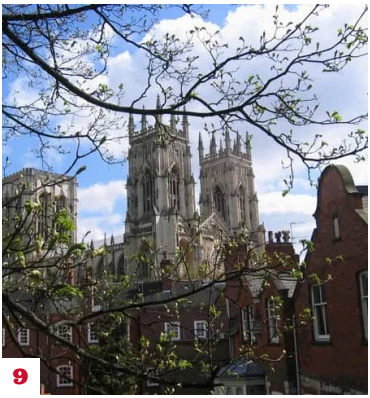

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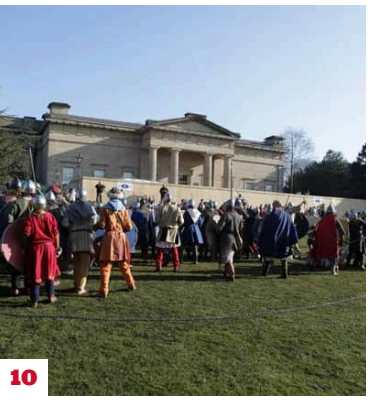

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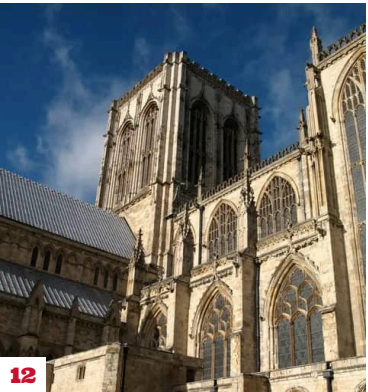

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HULL

The Last Sidewinder: Arctic Corsair and the Triple Trawler Tragedy That Changed Hull Forever

The Arctic Corsair, moored on the River Hull, is the last surviving sidewinder trawler in the United Kingdom. The vessel stands as a memorial to the 58 men who perished in the triple trawler tragedy of 1968 and to the more than 6,000 Hull fishermen lost at sea between 1835 and 1980.

The Vessel

Built by Cook, Welton and Gemmell of Beverley, the Arctic Corsair was launched on 29 February 1960. The 187-foot vessel, powered by a 1,800 brake horsepower Mirrlees Monarch diesel engine, was designed for the punishing conditions of the Icelandic fishing grounds.

Unlike later welded vessels, her hull was riveted, a construction method chosen for its strength in heavy seas.

The trawler was built for Boyd Line of Hull and operated as a side-fishing vessel, with her trawl winch and gear mounted on the side rather than astern. This design earned her the designation "sidewinder," a type that once formed the backbone of Hull's deep-sea fishing fleet.

Throughout her working life, the Arctic Corsair experienced both triumph and near-disaster. In September 1967, she collided with the Irish

collier Olive in thick fog off Scotland. Holed on her starboard side, she was beached in Sinclair Bay but later repaired and returned to service. In 1973, she broke the world record for the landing of cod and haddock from the White Sea.

Her most dramatic encounter came during the Cod Wars of 1976. On 30 April that year, after the Icelandic offshore patrol vessel ICGV Óðinn made three attempts to cut her trawl warps, the Arctic Corsair rammed the Óðinn in the stern. Skipper Charles Pitts later told reporters that Icelandic seamen were becoming "more ambitious and dangerous in their tactics." The collision holed the Corsair below the waterline. Royal Navy personnel patched the damage, but she was out of action for several months.

The vessel was converted for midwater trawling in 1978 and laid up in Hull from 1981. She was briefly brought out of retirement in 1985, renamed Arctic Cavalier in 1988, and finally retired from fishing in 1993.

The Triple Trawler Tragedy

The winter of 1968 brought catastrophe to Hull's fishing community. Between 11 January and 4 February, three trawlers from the port were lost with nearly all hands. The disaster would claim 58 lives and leave only one survivor.

The St Romanus sailed from Hull on 10 January 1968. The vessel was carrying 20 men when she vanished 110 miles off Spurn Point. Her final radio telephone call came on the evening of 10 January. A Mayday call heard by another ship on 11 January was never passed on. A liferaft was found on 13 January, but alarm was not raised until 26 January. The inquiry could not determine the cause of her loss.

The Kingston Peridot also sailed on 10 January, bound for fishing grounds off north-east Iceland. She carried 20 men. Her final radio message reported difficulties with ice build-up on the ship. She was lost on 26 or 27 January, probably capsized due to instability in extreme weather. Debris was found subsequently.

The Ross Cleveland sailed on 20 January with 19 men. One crew member, Colin Ireland, had been put ashore for medical treatment before the vessel reached Iceland. On 4 February, while attempting to move to a safer position outside Skutulsfjörður fjord during hurricane-force winds and blizzards, the trawler was overwhelmed. Ice had built up on her superstructure, rendering her insufficiently stable for the conditions.

Captain Phil Gay's final radio transmission was heard in Hull:

"I am going over. We are laying over. Help me. I am going over. Give my love and the crew's love to the wives and families."

Mate Harry Eddom survived. He was washed ashore in a liferaft on 6 February, two days after the sinking. Two other men had been in the raft with him, but both died of exposure before reaching land. Eddom was the sole survivor of the triple tragedy.

The Headscarf Revolutionaries

The disaster ignited a campaign that would transform maritime safety in Britain. Led by fish-filleting worker Lillian Bilocca, a group of Hull women who became known as the "Headscarf Revolutionaries" demanded action.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **hullmagazine.co.uk/the-last-sidewinder-arctic-corsair-and-the-triple-trawler-tragedy-that-changed-hull-forever**

Amy Johnson: The Hull Schoolgirl Who Conquered the Skies



Photo: Ted Hood (Public domain), via Wikimedia Commons

Early Years in Kingston upon Hull

Amy Johnson was born on 1 July 1903 in Kingston upon Hull, the eldest of three sisters. Her mother, Amy Hodge, was the granddaughter of William Hodge, who served as Mayor of Hull. Her father, John William Johnson, was a partner in Andrew Johnson Knudtzon Fish Merchants, a firm that traded in the city's thriving maritime industry.

Johnson grew up in Hull and attended Boulevard Municipal Secondary School, which later became Kingston High School and is now the site of Sirius Academy West on Anlaby Park Road South. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Sheffield before moving to London to work as a secretary to a solicitor.

Learning to Fly

Johnson discovered flying as a hobby at the London Aeroplane Club. She gained her aviator's certificate on 28 January 1929 and her pilot's "A" licence on 6 July 1929. That same year, she became the first British woman to obtain a ground engineer's "C" licence, demonstrating both her technical knowledge and her determination to succeed in a male-dominated field.

The Historic Flight to Australia

On 5 May 1930, Johnson left Croydon Airport in Surrey aboard a de Havilland DH.60 Gipsy Moth biplane. She had purchased the aircraft, registration G-AAAH, with financial assistance from her father and Lord Wakefield. Johnson named the plane Jason, after her father's business trademark.

Nineteen days later, on 24 May 1930, she landed at Darwin in the Northern Territory. She had covered approximately 11,000 miles (18,000 km) and became the first woman to fly solo from London to Australia. The achievement brought her international fame, the Harmon Trophy, and a CBE in King George V's 1930 Birthday Honours. The aircraft, Jason, is now on permanent display in the Flight Gallery at the Science Museum in London.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 26 June 2026

Continued at **hullmagazine.co.uk/amy-johnson-the-hull-schoolgirl-who-conquered-the-skies**

Philip Larkin's Hull: How Britain's Reluctant Poet Laureate Found His Voice in Yorkshire

When Philip Larkin arrived in Hull in 1955, he came not as a celebrated poet but as a 33-year-old librarian seeking steady employment. What he found instead was a city that would shape three decades of his life and some of the finest poetry written in post-war Britain.

Arrival at the Edge

Larkin had never considered Hull before applying for the post of University Librarian at the University of Hull. "I never thought about Hull until I was here," he later remarked. "I rather like being on the edge of things." That sentiment, captured in his poem "Here" as "this isolate city spread alongside water," would prove prophetic. The city he once described as "chilly and smells of fish" became his home for thirty years, until his death in 1985.

His first year brought a succession of temporary lodgings: bedsits, Holtby House in Cottingham, brief stays on Hallgate. Then in 1956, he moved into the top-floor flat at 32 Pearson Park, a Queen Anne building overlooking the park that would be his home for the next eighteen years.

The Librarian's Craft

Larkin's role at the Brynmor Jones Library was no sinecure. Over three decades, he transformed the institution from a modest collection into a modern research library. When he arrived, the library's budget stood at £4,500; by the time he left, it had grown to £448,500 in real terms, a twelvefold increase. The stock sextupled under his stewardship.

His most significant achievement was overseeing the planning and construction of the new Brynmor Jones Library, which opened in 1967 and was named after Vice-Chancellor Sir Brynmor Jones. Larkin made major structural suggestions that were adopted by the University Grants Committee. In 1977, he introduced computerised records using the Geac computer system, making Hull the first library in Europe to do so.

The library became more than his workplace; it was his study. Colleagues noted his habit of arriving early and leaving late, using his office as a space for both administration and poetry. His secretary, Betty Mackereth, who served from 1957 until his death, controlled all access to him. The arrangement suited Larkin's temperament perfectly: he could engage with the world on his own terms.

Pearson Park and the Poetry of Looking Outward

The flat at 32 Pearson Park provided Larkin with what he called a "green-fringed eyrie." From its windows, he could observe the park and the city beyond without being observed himself. The view inspired his 1974 poem "High Windows," with its image of "sun-comprehending glass" and "deep blue air."

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **hullmagazine.co.uk/philip-larkins-hull-how-britains-reluctant-poet-laureate-found-his-voice-in-yorkshire**

HULL

Hull's Forgotten Powerhouse: The Victorian Hydraulic Station That Put the City on the Engineering Map



Photo: Hullian111 (CC BY-SA 4.0), via Wikimedia Commons

Tucked away on a quiet corner in Bankside stands a weathered brick building that once represented the cutting edge of Victorian engineering. The former Hull Hydraulic Power Station, now operating as a modest car workshop, harbours a remarkable claim to fame: it was the first hydraulic power system laid by Act of Parliament in England and Hull's very first public utility.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **hullmagazine.co.uk/hulls-forgotten-powerhouse-the-victorian-hydraulic-station-that-put-the-city-on-the-engineering-map**

HULL

The Deep: How a 'Submarium' Changed Hull's Relationship With the Sea

The Deep opened its doors on the Hull waterfront in March 2002, transforming a derelict industrial site into what would become one of the UK's most successful Millennium projects. The £52.285 million attraction, funded largely through a £19 million grant from the National Lottery's Millennium Commission, now welcomes around 450,000 visitors annually and has drawn more than eight million people through its doors since opening.

The Building and the "Submarium" Concept

The Deep sits at Sammy's Point, where the River Hull meets the Humber Estuary. The site had been a buoy depot for the Humber Conservancy Board, though its history stretches back further to the Martin Samuelson shipyard, established in 1857. By the 1980s, the site lay abandoned.

Sir Terry Farrell, the architect behind London's MI6 headquarters and the redevelopment of Charing Cross station, designed the building. His brief was to create something that acknowledged Hull's maritime heritage while looking firmly forward. The result is a striking angular structure that rises from the waterfront like a ship's prow.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **hullmagazine.co.uk/the-deep-how-a-submarium-changed-hulls-relationship-with-the-sea**

In brief



Photo: Malcolmxl5 (CC BY-SA 4.0), via Wikimedia Commons

YORK

The Retreat: How York's Quakers Revolutionised Mental Health Care in 1796

In June 1796, a revolutionary institution opened on the outskirts of York that would transform how society treated those suffering from mental illness. The Retreat, founded by local Quaker tea merchant William Tuke, pioneered what became known as "moral treatment," replacing chains and brutality with kindness and dignity.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 26 June 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/the-retreat-how-yorks-quakers-revolutionised-mental-health-care-in-1796**



Photo: Myself (Adrian Pingstone) (Public domain), via Wikimedia Commons

YORK

The Shambles: From Blood Street to Diagon Alley

York's most famous thoroughfare traces its origins to the Domesday Book and has transformed from a medieval meat market to a global tourist destination.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/the-shambles-from-blood-street-to-diagon-alley**



Photo: Phil Champion (CC BY-SA 2.0), via Wikimedia Commons

YORK

Beneath the Minster: The Roman Fortress Under York Cathedral

The foundations of York Minster rest upon nearly two millennia of continuous occupation. Long before the present cathedral rose above the city, the site was dominated by the Roman fortress of Eboracum, one of the most significant military installations in northern Britain.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/beneath-the-minster-the-roman-fortress-under-york-cathedral**



Photo: Neil Theasby (CC BY-SA 2.0), via Wikimedia Commons

YORK

Walking York's Medieval Walls: England's Longest Town Defences

York's medieval city walls extend 3.4 kilometres around the historic centre, making them the longest town defences in England. The elevated walkway offers visitors a unique perspective on the city, tracing a circuit that has protected York for nearly two millennia.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/walking-yorks-medieval-walls-englands-longest-town-defences**

In brief



Photo: Michael Jagger (CC BY-SA 2.0), via Wikimedia Commons

YORK

Jorvik: The Viking Capital That Rivalled London

In 866, the Great Heathen Army captured the city of York and established Jorvik, a Scandinavian kingdom that transformed the settlement into one of the most important trading centres in the British Isles.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/jorvik-the-viking-capital-that-rivalled-london**



Photo: Michael Jagger (CC BY-SA 2.0), via Wikimedia Commons

YORK

Rowntree's, Terry's and the Chocolate City: York's Confectionery Legacy

York's reputation as a centre of chocolate manufacturing rests largely on two family names that grew from modest shop beginnings into global brands. For more than a century, Rowntree's and Terry's shaped the city's economy and identity, leaving a legacy that survives today in museum exhibitions and familiar sweet-shop shelves.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/rowntrees-terrys-and-the-chocolate-city-yorks-confectionery-legacy**



LEEDS

Jane Tomlinson Appeal Awards £58,626 to Leeds Charities Through Big Charity Giveaway

The remarkable legacy of Jane Tomlinson continues to make a difference across her home city, with the Jane Tomlinson Appeal awarding £58,626 to local charities through its latest Big Charity Giveaway.

By Leeds Magazine Online 7 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/jane-tomlinson-appeal-awards-58626-to-leeds-charities-through-big-charity-giveaway**



LEEDS

Leeds Entrepreneur Opens Boutique to Champion Independent Black-Owned Brands

A Leeds entrepreneur has launched a new boutique at Chapeltown Enterprise Centre, creating a space to showcase her clothing and jewellery collections while also helping fellow local business owners bring their products to a wider audience.

By Leeds Magazine Online 17 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/leeds-entrepreneur-opens-boutique-to-champion-independent-black-owned-brands**

In brief

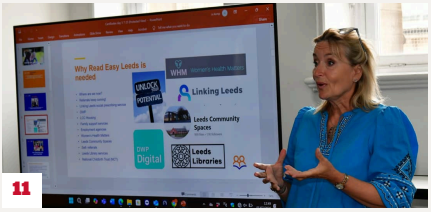


LEEDS

Soirée & Stories Brings Women's Voices to the Heart of Leeds' Literary Scene

A fresh addition to Leeds' literary scene is set to launch this summer with the debut of Soirée & Stories, an intimate salon created for women writers and readers.

By Leeds Magazine Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/soiree-stories-brings-womens-voices-to-the-heart-of-leeds-literary-scene**



LEEDS

Read Easy Leeds Helping Adults Unlock New Opportunities Through Reading Support

Read Easy Leeds offers free, confidential, one-to-one reading support for adults who would like to improve their reading skills or learn to read for the first time.

By Leeds Magazine Online 4 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/read-easy-leeds-helping-adults-unlock-new-opportunities-through-reading-support**



LEEDS

New Collaboration To Enhance Community Support and Tenant Experience

Two Leeds Jewish community organisations have announced a new collaboration designed to strengthen community connections, improve tenant experiences and create more meaningful opportunities for volunteers.

By Graham Atkinson Online 23 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/new-collaboration-to-enhance-community-support-and-tenant-experience**



LEEDS

Leeds Schools To Attend Action Day Tackling Misogyny Among Young People

Staff from primary, secondary and post-16 settings will gather at Leeds Civic Hall on July 2 for the half-day event organised by Leeds City Council's children and families service in partnership with West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (WYCRP).

By Leeds Magazine Online 30 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/leeds-schools-to-attend-action-day-tackling-misogyny-among-young-people**

In brief



Photo: Gordon Hatton (CC BY-SA 2.0), via Wikimedia Commons

YORK

The Mystery Plays: York's Medieval Drama on Wheels

The York Mystery Plays represent one of England's most remarkable theatrical traditions: a cycle of 48 biblical dramas performed on wheeled pageants that once paraded through the city's streets. First recorded in 1376, these plays emerged from the Corpus Christi festival and were suppressed in 1569, only to be revived in the 20th century as a cornerstone of York's cultural identity.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **yorkmagazine.co.uk/the-mystery-plays-yorks-medieval-drama-on-wheels**



LEEDS

Unity appoints new Director of Housing Operations

Leeds-based housing association Unity Homes and Enterprise has appointed Sarfraz Hussain as Director of Housing Operations.

He joins the organisation with more than 20 years of experience in senior housing leadership roles across housing associations, local government and consultancy.

Online 1 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/unity-appoints-new-director-of-housing-operations**



LEEDS

James Mason Encourages Guiseley Students To Show Up And Work Hard

Guiseley School students were given an inspiring lesson in resilience, attendance and work ethic when former Yorkshire sports executive and broadcaster James Mason shared his career journey.

By Leeds Magazine Online 25 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/james-mason-encourages-guiseley-students-to-show-up-and-work-hard**



LEEDS

Chapeltown Community Shares Food, Friendship And Fun At Unity Big Lunch

Leeds-based BME housing association Unity Homes and Enterprise has brought together more than 120 local residents and businesses in Chapeltown for a celebratory event held as part of the Eden Project's Big Lunch initiative.

By Leeds Magazine Online 23 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/chapeltown-community-shares-food-friendship-and-fun-at-unity-big-lunch**



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Your turn

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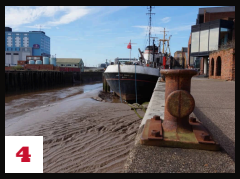













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