LEEDS MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
June 2026

Compiled from stories published online in June 2026



Inside this month

Leeds Entrepreneur Opens Boutique to Champion Independent Black-Owned Brands 6

Read Easy Leeds Helping Adults Unlock New Opportunities Through Reading Support 4

Jane Tomlinson Appeal Awards £58,626 to Leeds Charities Through Big Charity Giveaway 7

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IN THIS ISSUE

Your people, your pages

4 Read Easy Leeds Helping Adults Unlock New Opportunities Through Reading Support

6 Leeds Entrepreneur Opens Boutique to Champion Independent Black-Owned Brands

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

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

8 Transplant Recipients 'Takeover' Leeds Parkrun in Active Celebration of Organ Donation

9 New Collaboration To Enhance Community Support and Tenant Experience

9 Leeds Schools To Attend Action Day Tackling Misogyny Among Young People

10 In brief: Leeds

11 In brief: Leeds, Bradford, Harrogate

12 In brief: Huddersfield, York, Halifax

13 In brief: Harrogate, York, Bradford

14 Your story here

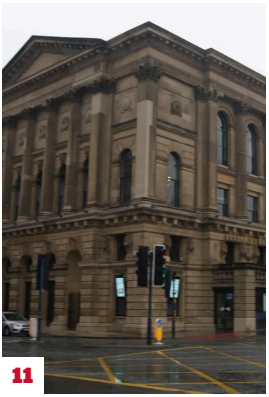
16 Your story could be next















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

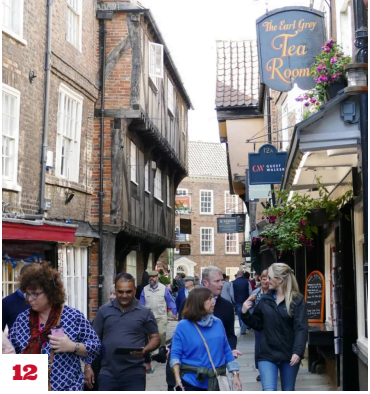
On the cover: Leeds Entrepreneur Opens Boutique to Champion Independent Black-Owned Brands, page 6. Photo supplied by SANYAN Collective.

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

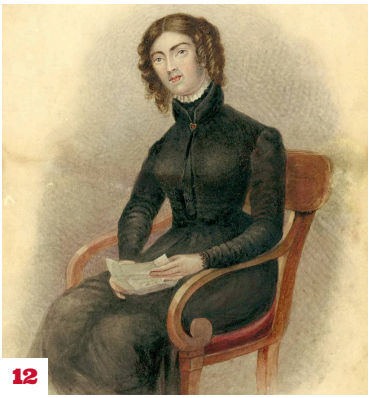
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12



12



12



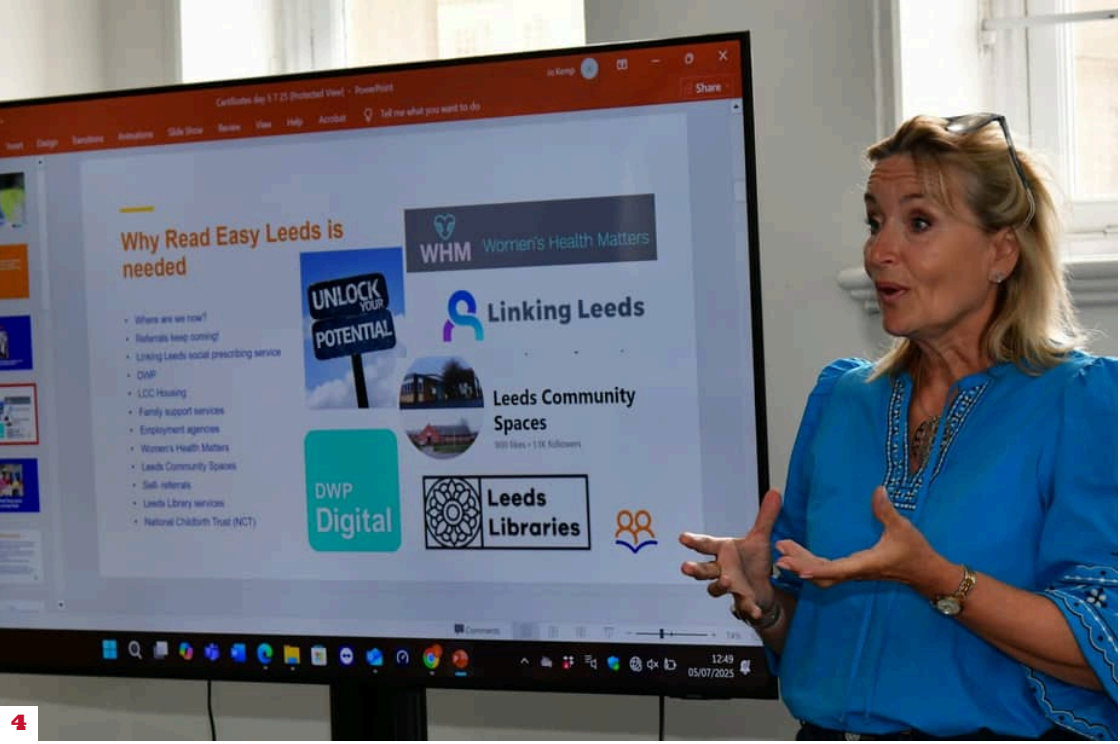
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13



13



4

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.

Despite the importance of literacy in everyday life, Government figures from the Skills for Life Survey indicate that around 2.4 million adults across England struggle with reading or are unable to read, highlighting the ongoing need for accessible support services.

The role of Coordinator is vital. Coordinators support volunteer Coaches and Readers throughout their coaching journey. They are the first point of contact for an adult seeking help with their reading.

To provide an insight into the role, Joanne Kemp, who pioneered Read Easy Leeds and has served as a Coordinator since its inception, shares some of her experiences and reflections on what makes the role so rewarding.

“Read Easy Leeds opened in 2021 and since then I have been one of our Coordinators. As an ex secondary school teacher, I knew there was a huge need for adult reading support, and I wanted to keep working towards improving literacy within my local community. As a

Coordinator, I have made connections with so many organisations, networking with service providers to support adults from all over Leeds.

"I remember clearly the first phone call I took from a lady asking if we could help her. Hearing an adult asking for help having spent most of her adult life feeling excluded and often ashamed about her inability to read made a huge impact. Since then, my fellow Coordinator and I have offered help to over 78 readers, visiting reading pairs across 14 Leeds reading venues to share in successes and deliver resources. Many of these adults have gone on to gain employment, places at college and those with children are now able to support children's reading at home.

"It is a role which has given me such satisfaction over the years, supporting our reading pairs as they work together for months or even years. I see our Readers grow in confidence, unlocking their potential to take part more fully in their own communities. Often the reading session is the highlight of the week for Readers who have become isolated and it is wonderful to see Readers such as Ted who is 60 and lives alone, beaming at me as he finishes reading a page out loud. The role has also given me the opportunity to meet and interview new Coaches who come from a huge range of careers, and I'm always struck by what a positive experience this provides.

"When we meet up for regular get togethers we share our experiences and top tips for coaching. As Readers progress through the programme, we hold certificate days where friends and family can celebrate the hard-won successes. The transformation in self-esteem is wonderful to witness as one-by-one Readers collect their certificates and stand up in front of Coaches, friends and family to speak about how Read Easy has changed their lives."

If you would like to learn more about the Read Easy Coordinator role or arrange an informal chat about volunteering with Read Easy Leeds, please email leedsrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk.

About Read Easy UK

Read Easy is a growing movement of trained and dedicated volunteers who provide free, personalised, and confidential one-to-one coaching to help adults learn to read. Our unique approach is delivered through a nationwide network of affiliated Read Easy Groups across England. These Groups are run by volunteers who offer tailored support that transforms the lives of the adults they coach. Read Easy UK provides the infrastructure, resources, training, safeguarding, and governance guidance that enables local Groups to operate effectively and offers ongoing guidance and support so volunteers can deliver high-quality, one-to-one reading coaching and learn from each other. There are currently 80 Read Easy Groups across England.

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

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LEEDS

Leeds Entrepreneur Opens Boutique to Champion Independent Black-Owned Brands



6

Photo supplied by SANYAN Collective

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.

SANYAN Collective is a Leeds-based creative retail and community hub founded by award-winning fashion designer and creative entrepreneur Karen Williams, whose contemporary African-inspired fashion brand, SANYAN, offers elegant women's clothing shaped by her adaptable fluid-fit philosophy.

After years of selling at events and pop-ups across the UK, Karen recognised how important physical retail space was for independent brands seeking to build credibility and visibility.

After seeing Black-owned pop-up spaces in London close as costs rose, she set out to build a more sustainable model after relocating to Leeds three years ago.

What began as a home for her own fashion brand at Chapeltown Enterprise Centre has evolved into a shared creative hub that supports Black-owned businesses and brands connected to communities across Africa and the Caribbean.

SANYAN Collective is now a base for 10 independent brands, alongside SANYAN itself.

They include 9 Ether Touch, producers of organic skincare, and King Bro Empire, a tailor producing innovative menswear. Also, Lumiere by Marva Kelly, who creates luxury candles and diffuser oils, and Proud 2 Be African Woman which sources African jewellery from Togo, Cameroon and Kenya.

Together with retail, SANYAN Collective hosts community-led events such as a recent Sip & Shop experience, with more events planned throughout the year.

By Leeds Magazine Online 17 June 2026

Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/leeds-entrepreneur-opens-boutique-to-champion-independent-black-owned-brands**

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



7

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.

The funding will support a range of community projects across Leeds, ensuring Jane's enduring spirit of generosity and dedication to helping others continues to benefit the people and places closest to her heart.

The Leeds allocation forms part of a wider £297,000 programme launched on 8 January, inviting charities across Yorkshire, the Midlands and the Liverpool City Region to apply for grants of up to £15,000. Demand was exceptionally high, with more than 300 organisations applying for over £3 million in funding, highlighting both the scale of need and the essential role charities play in supporting communities.

In Leeds, Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme, Children's Heart Surgery Fund, Flourishing Families, Kidz Klub Leeds and Zarach will each receive funding to strengthen and expand their work across the city.

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

Your turn
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LEEDS

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



8

Photo supplied by Soirée & Stories

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.

Taking place on Sunday 28 June 2025 at 4pm at The New Conservatory in Leeds city centre, the inaugural event will feature a carefully selected line-up of women sharing original works of nonfiction, short fiction and poetry. Designed to foster connection, creativity and conversation, the gathering promises an afternoon of thought-provoking storytelling that aims to inspire, surprise and resonate with audiences.

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

LEEDS

Transplant Recipients 'Takeover' Leeds Parkrun in Active Celebration of Organ Donation



8

Members of the Leeds Children's and Adults Transplant Sport teams, which are based at Leeds Children's Hospital and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, respectively, took part in a 'Leeds Transplant Team Takeover' at a Parkrun at Roundhay Park.

Max Keenan, 13 and from Leeds, entered the Parkrun to celebrate his second transplant anniversary and to raise awareness of organ donation and the Westfield Health British Transplant Games, which he will participate in when it takes place in Sheffield this August.

By Leeds Magazine Online 19 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/transplant-recipients-takeover-leeds-parkrun-in-active-celebration-of-organ-donation**

LEEDS

New Collaboration To Enhance Community Support and Tenant Experience



9

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.

Leeds Jewish Welfare Board and Leeds Jewish Housing Association are working more closely together to build on their long-standing partnership, which has been shaped by close relationships between staff, service users, tenants and volunteers.

The collaboration will place LJWB's established volunteer service at the centre of the initiative. The service is widely recognised within the Leeds Jewish community for its approach to volunteer recruitment, training and development.

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



9

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).

The session is being held in response to growing national concerns over misogyny among young people, an issue driven largely by online social media influencers and highlighted in recent prominent TV shows.

Misogyny reflects a prejudice against women which can manifest in various forms, from the use of sexist language and gender stereotyping to more severe harassment, abuse or violence.

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 supplied by Unity Homes and Enterprise

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.

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**



LEEDS

Leeds Pupils To Sell School-Grown Produce At Kirkgate Market

Children from schools across Leeds will trade the classroom for market stalls this summer, selling fresh fruit and vegetables they have grown themselves in support of a good cause.

By Leeds Magazine Online 26 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/leeds-pupils-to-sell-school-grown-produce-at-kirkgate-market**

In brief



11

LEEDS

Leeds Council Works With Universities To Support Student Move-Out Period

Leeds City Council is once again working with universities, students and landlords to support the summer accommodation changeover period as the student year comes to an end.

By Leeds Magazine Online 28 June 2026
Continued at **leedsmagazine.com/leeds-council-works-with-universities-to-support-student-move-out-period**



11

Photo: Tim Green (CC BY 2.0), via Wikimedia Commons

BRADFORD

Inside Saltaire: The Victorian Model Village That Made Bradford a UNESCO Landmark

Saltaire, the Victorian model village four miles north of Bradford, stands as one of the most complete examples of 19th-century industrial philanthropy in the world. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in December 2001, it remains a defining part of Bradford's heritage and a testament to the vision of one man: Sir Titus Salt.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **bradfordmagazine.com/inside-saltaire-the-victorian-model-village-that-made-bradford-a-unesco-landmark**



11

Photo: Mtaylor848 (CC BY-SA 4.0), via Wikimedia Commons

BRADFORD

From Dickens to Bowie: The Remarkable 170-Year Stage History of St George's Hall

St George's Hall has hosted everyone from Charles Dickens to David Bowie across more than 170 years of continuous performance history.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **bradfordmagazine.com/from-dickens-to-bowie-the-remarkable-170-year-stage-history-of-st-georges-hall**



11

Photo: Anthony Parkes (CC BY-SA 2.0), via Wikimedia Commons

HARROGATE

Why Bettys Refuses to Leave Yorkshire: Inside the Family Business That Put Harrogate on the Culinary Map

Harrogate's Parliament Street has been home to Bettys since 1976, but the story began half a century earlier, just around the corner on Cambridge Crescent.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **harrogate-magazine.com/why-bettys-refuses-to-leave-yorkshire-inside-the-family-business-that-put-harrogate-on-the-culinary-map**

In brief



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

HUDDERSFIELD

Castle Hill: Four Millennia of History Beneath Huddersfield's Iconic Tower

Rising above the town like a sentinel, Castle Hill stands as the most conspicuous landmark in Huddersfield. The hilltop, crowned by the Victoria Tower, has witnessed continuous human activity for at least 4,000 years, making it one of West Yorkshire's most significant archaeological sites.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **huddersfieldmagazine.com/castle-hill-four-millennia-of-history-beneath-huddersfields-iconic-tower**



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**

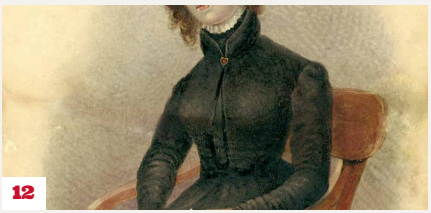


Photo: Probably Mrs Taylor of Halifax (Public domain), via Wikimedia Commons

HALIFAX

Gentleman Jack's Halifax: How Anne Lister's Coded Diaries Put a Yorkshire Town on the Global Cultural Map

Anne Lister's five-million-word diaries, written in a complex code she devised herself, remained hidden for decades after her death.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **halifaxmagazine.co.uk/gentleman-jacks-halifax-how-anne-listers-coded-diaries-put-a-yorkshire-town-on-the-global-cultural-map**

In brief



Photo: Oliver Mills (CC BY-SA 2.0), via Wikimedia Commons

HARROGATE

Betty Lupton: The Original Queen of Harrogate's Healing Waters

For more than sixty years, Elizabeth "Betty" Lupton stood beside the Old Sulphur Well in Harrogate, dispensing what was reputed to be the strongest sulphur water in Britain. Her dedication to visitors seeking the "Harrogate cure" earned her the title "Queen of the Wells," making her one of the most recognised figures in the town's spa history.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 10 June 2026
Continued at **harrogate-magazine.com/betty-lupton-the-original-queen-of-harrogates-healing-waters**

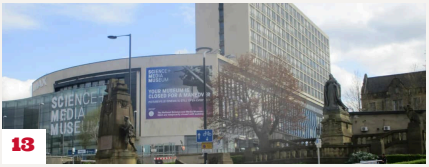


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BRADFORD

Europe's First IMAX and the World's First Colour Film: Inside Bradford's National Science and Media Museum

The National Science and Media Museum has stood at the heart of Bradford's cultural quarter for more than four decades. It holds a collection of pioneering film technology and remains one of the most visited museums in the north of England.

By Barrington Kirkham Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **bradfordmagazine.com/europes-first-imax-and-the-worlds-first-colour-film-inside-bradfords-national-science-and-media-museum**



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**

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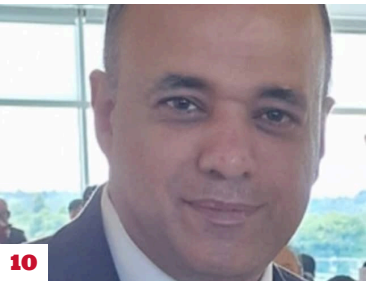


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Your turn

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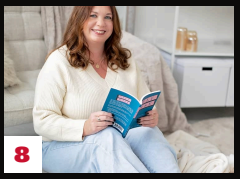
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