NEWCASTLE MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
July 2026

Compiled from stories published online in July 2026



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Cancer Recovery Inspires Newcastle Entrepreneur to Launch Charity-Focused Fintech 9

NEWCASTLE MAGAZINE

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

On the cover: Cancer Recovery Inspires Newcastle Entrepreneur to Launch Charity-Focused Fintech, page 9. Photo: Simon Williams, Crest Photography.

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

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Your turn

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NEWCASTLE

Charity Cyclists Honour Sir Bobby Robson and Kevin Keegan

An annual charity cycle ride in support of The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, part of Newcastle Hospitals Charity, has taken on added poignancy following the sad news about Kevin Keegan.

Today, 22 July, the 15th Three Days for Bobby ride set off from Sir Bobby's statue at St James' Park, with fundraisers beginning their journey surrounded by tributes to another football legend lost to cancer.

Organiser Stephen Hay, a Northumbrian Water project manager from Sunniside, explained:

"This is our 15th Three Days for Bobby bike ride and it just becomes more meaningful every year.

"We're all football fans, mostly Newcastle fans, and we began the ride because of Sir Bobby. Along the way though we've all lost loved ones to cancer and there are people who should be on the ride with us now who are no longer here.

"It's especially meaningful that we're able to start the ride from St James' Park surrounded by tributes to Kevin Keegan. We're all feeling his loss.

"We began this fundraising for Sir Bobby and now it's also in memory of King Kev and everyone we've lost in the intervening years to cancer too.

"We know the money raised is doing

something incredibly important and, when the Sir Bobby Robson Institute is completed, all the riders and everyone who has supported us will be proud to know we've played even a small part in funding the work there."

The route of the annual Three Days for Bobby bike varies and this year's ride is 160miles long and ends at the home of PSV Eindhoven, another team managed by Sir Bobby.

In total 21 cyclists, as well as support drivers, have come together from across Tyneside and Teesside for the ride, with all funds raised going towards construction of the £30m Sir Bobby Robson Institute.

Fully funded by The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, construction of the new institute has just begun on the site of the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle.

When completed, it will enable ground-breaking cancer treatment that will directly benefit around 3.5 million people living in the North East, North Cumbria and North Yorkshire, as well as making a global impact.

Anisa Rahim, Campaign Officer for The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, waved the riders off and said:

"Fundraising like this is the bedrock of our Foundation and we're always grateful for that support.

"Anyone who sponsors the Three Days for Bobby cyclists will be supporting fundraising for the new Sir Bobby Robson Institute and enabling even more cancer drug trials in our region.

"It's a disease that affects everyone in some way and Stephen and his fellow cyclists have all been impacted by it. Thankfully, we are making progress and improving treatments, and we're thankful for anyone who contributes to help us continue our work."

An initial £20m to complete the Sir Bobby Robson Institute has been raised by long-standing supporters and fundraisers and a group of generous founding donors, including The Barbour Foundation, has brought the total raised for the institute to £26.5m.

To sponsor the Three Days for Bobby cyclists, please visit:
https://www.justgiving.com/page/3dfb2026

For Sir Bobby Robson Institute fundraising enquiries please contact Kate Bradley Kate.bradley14@nhs.net or call 0191 213 7235.

For more information about the Sir Bobby Robson Institute, please visit:
www.sirbobbysgreatestteam.co.uk.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 23 July 2026
Read more: **newcastlemagazine.com**

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Killingworth Zumbathon® To Raise Funds For Maggie's Newcastle



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The 16-year-old will host Party In Orange: A Zumbathon® Charity Event for Maggie's Newcastle on Saturday 4 July at the White Swan Centre in Killingworth, bringing together 10 fellow Zumba® instructors for two hours of energetic dance, fitness and fundraising.

The event, which runs from 10am until 12pm, is expected to attract participants from across the North East, with dancers of all abilities invited to join the celebration while raising money for the cancer support charity.

This is the second consecutive year that Will has organised the large-scale fundraiser. His inaugural Zumbathon® in June 2025 proved to be a huge success, raising an impressive £3,595.81 for Maggie's Newcastle and establishing the event as one of the area's standout community fitness fundraisers.

Looking ahead to this year's event, Will hopes to make it bigger and better than ever, with more participants, more instructors and an even greater fundraising total.

Despite being just 16 years old, Will has already become a familiar face within the North East fitness community. After becoming one of Europe's youngest licensed Zumba® instructors in October 2024, he has used his passion for dance and exercise to inspire people of all ages to get active while supporting worthwhile causes.

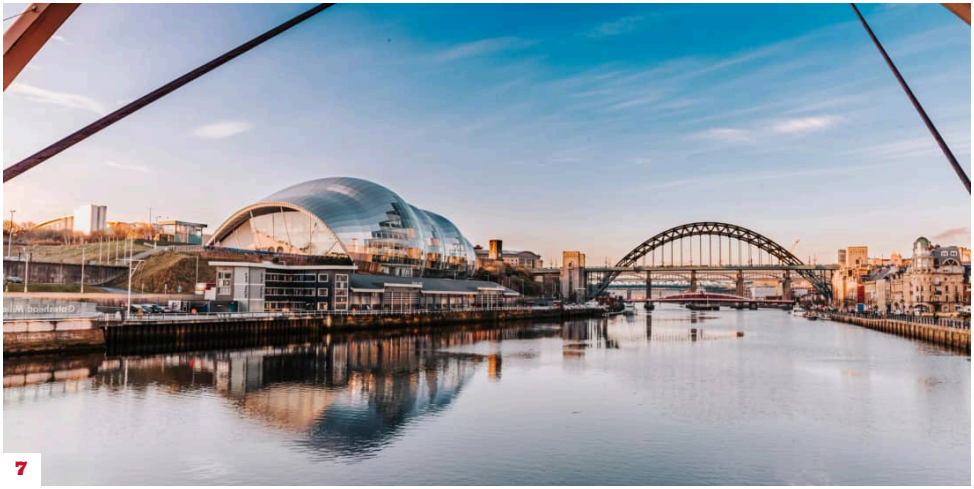
His fundraising journey began following his family's experience with cancer after his mum, Belinda Lamb, was diagnosed with Stage 2 ovarian cancer in late 2024. During her treatment, the family received support from Maggie's Newcastle, giving Will first-hand insight into the vital role the charity plays in helping people affected by cancer.

By Zoe Eastman Online 1 July 2026

Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/killingworth-zumbathon-to-raise-funds-for-maggies-newcastle**

NEWCASTLE

The Sliding Sash Windows That Shaped Newcastle



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From Grainger Town's Georgian terraces to the bay windows of the Tyneside flat, Newcastle carries its history in glass. A short walk through the city, told by its windows.

Stand on Grey Street and look up. Above the shopfronts, rows of tall sliding sash windows follow the curve of the street down towards the Tyne, each one divided into small panes by slim wooden bars. Grainger Town went up with astonishing speed in the 1830s and those windows are a big part of why people have admired it ever since. The small panes were not a stylistic flourish. Glassmakers at the time could not supply anything larger, so builders worked with what existed and happened to get the proportions right.

Windows also cost money in a way we would find odd today. The window tax arrived in 1696 and charged householders by the number of openings in their home, so plenty of owners bricked windows up rather than pay. You can still find the blocked openings on older buildings around the North East. Few other tax dodges have lasted three hundred years in plain sight.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 21 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/the-sliding-sash-windows-that-shaped-newcastle**

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NEWCASTLE

Red Sky Foundation Donates £30,000 to Support Families at Scott House



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The Sick Children's Trust is celebrating its long-standing partnership with Red Sky Foundation after receiving a generous £30,000 donation to support families staying at Scott House, its Newcastle 'Home from Home' located just minutes from the renowned Children's Heart Unit at the Freeman Hospital.

The gift will help provide hundreds of nights of support for families with a seriously ill child in hospital, ensuring parents and carers can remain by their child's side during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Scott House eases the emotional and financial strain on families who must relocate to Newcastle, sometimes for many months or even over a year, while their child waits for a heart transplant or recovers from major surgery.

By Zoe Eastman Online 21 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/red-sky-foundation-donates-30000-to-support-families-at-scott-house**

NEWCASTLE

North Tyneside Business Forum Empowers Young Talent Through Innovative Enterprise Day



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Some of North Tyneside's brightest young minds explored the world of business at an innovative enterprise event organised by the North Tyneside Business Forum CIC.

The Future Founders event, devised by Forum Vice Chair Christopher Wilson and Chair Angela Tuplin, brought together 24 young people aged between 15 and 21 at Salt Market Social in North Shields for a day of inspiration, mentoring and hands-on business challenges.

Supported by Working Well North Tyneside, the event was designed to build confidence, develop employability skills and encourage young people to consider entrepreneurship as a future career option.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 22 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/north-tyneside-business-forum-empowers-young-talent-through-innovative-enterprise-day**

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Teacher To Mark Retirement With Final A To Z Marathon



9

A long-serving language teacher is preparing to mark his retirement by completing a unique running challenge that has taken him across the UK and Europe, an ‘A to Z’ of marathons.

Jon Strong, 60, will retire from Dame Allan’s Schools, in Newcastle, this summer after nearly three decades and will turn his attention to his 26th and final race: the Jersey Marathon on October 4.

The Channel Island event has remained out of reach for years as it falls during term time, and Mr Strong, from Fenham, is a committed environmental campaigner who avoids flying wherever possible.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 14 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-teacher-to-mark-retirement-with-final-a-to-z-marathon**

NEWCASTLE

Cancer Recovery Inspires Newcastle Entrepreneur to Launch Charity-Focused Fintech



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Photo: Simon Williams, Crest Photography

Newcastle-based technology entrepreneur Ozan Demir is developing a new fintech venture designed to generate funding for charities through everyday spending.

Ozan, the founder of the upcoming Torch platform, said his experience of undergoing treatment for parathyroid cancer in 2024 strengthened his determination to use his technology background to support charitable organisations.

After recovering, he relocated to the North East rather than developing the business in London, citing the region’s strong community identity and culture of supporting local causes.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 28 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/cancer-recovery-inspires-newcastle-entrepreneur-to-launch-charity-focused-fintech**

In brief



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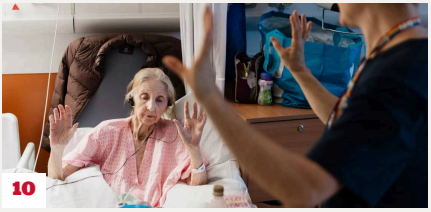
NEWCASTLE

Newcastle NSPCC Fundraiser Marks 30 Years Of Charity Support

A Newcastle NSPCC fundraiser welcomed the charity's Chief Executive and Childline's Deputy President to mark its 30th anniversary.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 1 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-nspcc-fundraiser-marks-30-years-of-charity-support**



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NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Hospitals Charity And Dance City Partner To Support Patient Recovery

A pioneering partnership between Newcastle Hospitals Charity 's arts programme and Dance City, the North East's leading dance organisation, is bringing movement and creativity into clinical settings through Dance Moves.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 12 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-hospitals-charity-and-dance-city-partner-to-support-patient-recovery**



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NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Magician to Attempt Daring 80ft Escape from Castle Keep

Newcastle magician Chris Cross will take to the city skyline this month as he attempts to escape from a straitjacket while hanging upside down, 80 feet above the ground.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 13 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-magician-to-attempt-daring-80ft-escape-from-castle-keep**



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NEWCASTLE

Commonwealth Games-Inspired Open Weekend Offers Free Activities Across Newcastle

Better has partnered with Team England to host a Commonwealth Games-inspired Open Weekend, giving people of all ages and abilities the chance to try a wide range of sports and fitness activities for free.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 14 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/commonwealth-games-inspired-open-weekend-offers-free-activities-across-newcastle**

In brief



Photo: TWFRS

NEWCASTLE

Tyne and Wear Firefighter Recruits Graduate After Intensive Training Course

Well done to our fabulous trainee firefighters who this week proudly passed out from course 61/26 during an emotional ceremony at Service Headquarters in Washington, Tyne and Wear.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 18 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/tyne-and-wear-firefighter-recruits-graduate-after-intensive-training-course**



NEWCASTLE

North Shields Language Event Brings BBCET Students Together

The Translation Bee was hosted by St Thomas More Catholic High School in North Shields, where Year 7 French Modern Foreign Language students were joined by peers from fellow BBCET high schools, Sacred Heart and St Mary's.

By Zoe Eastman Online 19 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/north-shields-language-event-brings-bbcet-students-together**



NEWCASTLE

'King Kev Brought Joy to So Many': North East Mayor Leads Tributes to Kevin Keegan

North East Mayor Kim McGuinness has paid tribute to Newcastle United icon Kevin Keegan following his death at the age of 75, describing the former player and manager as a man whose energy, passion and achievements brought happiness to people across the region and around the world.

By Barry Kirkham Online 20 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/king-kev-brought-joy-to-so-many-north-east-mayor-leads-tributes-to-kevin-keegan**



Photo: School Food Matters

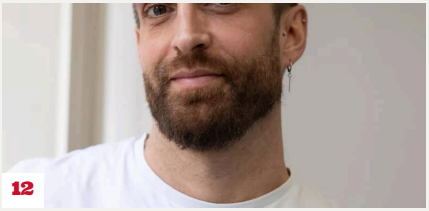
NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Young Marketeers Raise £329 For FareShare North East At Grainger Market

On Friday 10 July, Grainger Market was filled with the voices of some very young traders.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 22 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-young-marketeers-raise-329-for-fareshare-north-east-at-grainger-market**

In brief



NEWCASTLE

Dance City Appoints New Lead to Support Independent Artists Across the North East

Newcastle-based Dance City has appointed Andy Gardiner to lead efforts to create stronger career pathways, networks and professional opportunities for independent dance artists across the North East.

By Zoe Eastman Online 31 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/dance-city-appoints-new-lead-to-support-independent-artists-across-the-north-east**



Photo: Kate Buckingham Photography

NEWCASTLE

New Outdoor Spaces Mark Jubilee Year Of St Francis At English Martyrs' Catholic Primary

The Peace Garden and St Francis Cabin at English Martyrs' Catholic Primary were created to celebrate the Jubilee Year of St Francis, which was designated by Pope Leo XIV to mark the 800th anniversary of the saint's death in 1226.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 1 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/new-outdoor-spaces-mark-jubilee-year-of-st-francis-at-english-martyrs-catholic-primary**



Photo: Kate Buckingham Photography

NEWCASTLE

Bishop Bewick Schools Come Together For Celebration Of Performance

The 15 pupils from St Bede's Catholic Primary performed as part of a Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust showcase event, joining pupils from fellow Trust primaries St Aidan's, St Paul's, Ss Peter and Paul's, St Robert's and St Wilfrid's, as well as students from St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy, which organised the evening.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 6 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/bishop-bewick-schools-come-together-for-celebration-of-performance**



Photo: Kate Buckingham Photography

NEWCASTLE

Speech And Language Programme Supports Early Years Learning Across BBCET

BBCET Speech and Language Therapist Emma East has been delivering the Narrating Play programme with support from writer-facilitators Susan Mulholland and Danielle Slade.

By Zoe Eastman Online 6 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/speech-and-language-programme-supports-early-years-learning-across-bbcet**

In brief



Photo: Kate Buckingham Photography

NEWCASTLE

Colour Run Brings Fun and Fundraising to St Bede's Catholic Primary

The event at St Bede 's Catholic Primary saw pupils of all ages from Nursery to Year 6 have different coloured powder paints thrown at them while they ran around the school field.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 16 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/colour-run-brings-fun-and-fundraising-to-st-bedes-catholic-primary**



NEWCASTLE

North East Hospice Joins National Scheme To Boost Diversity In Data Science

St Oswald's Hospice in North East England is the first hospice in the UK to take part in Health Data Research UK's (HDR UK) Black Internship Programme (BIP), helping to drive diversity and innovation in health data science.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 5 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/north-east-hospice-joins-national-scheme-to-boost-diversity-in-data-science**



NEWCASTLE

Percy Hedley Foundation Golf Day Raises Funds For Life-Changing Support

A total of 21 teams from businesses across the region teed off at Close House's Lee Westwood Filly Course, raising funds to help the charity support people with complex disabilities and communication needs.

By Zoe Eastman Online 5 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/percy-hedley-foundation-golf-day-raises-funds-for-life-changing-support**



NEWCASTLE

Northern Mayors Unite for Historic India Trade and Investment Mission

Senior leaders from across the North of England will travel to India together this October for the first time under The Great North banner, with the aim of strengthening links in trade, investment, innovation, culture and the visitor economy.

By Zoe Eastman Online 15 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/northern-mayors-unite-for-historic-india-trade-and-investment-mission**

In brief



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Photo: Helen Smith Photography

NEWCASTLE

Safe Sleep Project to Support North East Families in Hardship

With around one in three children in the North East living in poverty, Karbon Homes and RE:GEN North East are funding a project that will help ensure safe sleeping for babies and young children in their communities.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 30 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/safe-sleep-project-to-support-north-east-families-in-hardship**



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CONSETT

A Lifetime on the Land: Keith Harrison's Life in Farming

A lifetime on the land.

For Keith Harrison, farming is not simply a job. It is a way of life shaped by early mornings, changing seasons, family responsibility and a deep connection to the land.

Words and photographs by Juan Fitzgerald, Communities in Focus Online 8 July 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/a-lifetime-on-the-land-keith-harrisons-life-in-farming**



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CONSETT

New Accessible Sailing Dinghy Makes Maiden Voyage at Derwent Reservoir

Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club celebrated an important step forward for inclusive sailing with the official launch of its new adapted dinghy, New Venture.

By Consett Magazine Online 11 July 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/new-accessible-sailing-dinghy-makes-maiden-voyage-at-derwent-reservoir**



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DURHAM

Seaham Food Festival Set to Welcome Thousands This Weekend

Traders are getting ready to serve up delicious food, celebrity chefs are preparing to showcase their skills, and Seaham is set to welcome thousands of visitors as one of the region's biggest seaside events approaches.

Online 29 July 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/seaham-food-festival-set-to-welcome-thousands-this-weekend**

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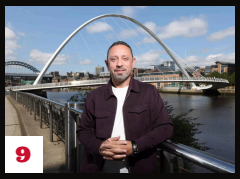









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