NEWCASTLE MAGAZINE



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DIGITAL EDITION
September 2026
Compiled from stories published online in September 2026

NEWCASTLE MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION

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

On the cover: Landmarks Across North of England and Isle of Man to Support GNAAS, page 11. Photo: Stuart Walker Photography.

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

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NEWCASTLE

Sir Bobby Robson Institute Fundraising Enters Final £1m Phase

Fundraising for the Sir Bobby Robson Institute, a world-leading cancer drug trials centre for the region, has entered a crucial final phase, with the public being asked to help raise the final £1 million needed.

Funded by the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, part of Newcastle Hospitals Charity, construction of the £30 million institute began earlier this year 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.

On Sunday (13 September), more people than ever before, almost 150, joined 'Sir Bobby's Team' and undertook the Great North Run to raise funds for the foundation.

The runners, including former Sunderland manager Peter Reid, each have their own personal reasons for fundraising to help construct the new drug trials institute.

Peter, who played for Sir Bobby's England team 40 years ago at the Mexico '86 World Cup, visited the site of the institute to celebrate the fundraising milestone and to take part in a very special time capsule ceremony.

He was joined by Sir Bobby's family, community fundraisers, patients, Professor Ruth

> *"It was only recently that we lost my friend Kevin Keegan to the disease, so anything that can help change those outcomes is something we should all be backing."*

Plummer, Sir Paul Ennals and representatives of Robertson Group and Newcastle University.

Items within the time capsule, which will be hidden until at least 2076, include a pair of Peter's World Cup shorts, an Italia '90 keyring and an England blazer badge donated by the Robson family and photographs and messages from current clinical trials patients and staff.

Peter says:

"It's amazing that £29m has already been raised to build this institute and I'm really proud to be playing even a small part in raising the last £1m needed.

"Like most people, I've had loved ones affected by cancer. Thankfully my daughter Louise's cervical cancer treatment was successful but that's why investing in the future of cancer research is so important. We need to make sure we're always improving.

"It was only recently that we lost my friend Kevin Keegan to the disease, so anything that can help change those outcomes is something we should all be backing."

Built by Newcastle Hospitals and funded by The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, the Sir Bobby Robson Institute will be completed next year.

The building will increase the number of cancer clinical trials taking place in Newcastle and will bring together world-leading researchers, clinicians and cutting-edge technology under one roof, accelerating breakthroughs in cancer treatment, increasing access to clinical trials and ensuring more patients across the region and beyond can benefit from pioneering treatments.

Mark Robson says:

"This final phase of fundraising is absolutely vital to us and we're asking anyone who has been affected by cancer to join what my Dad called his "last and greatest team," and help us get us over the line by raising the final £1m we need.

"Whether you've had a family member, friend, partner or colleague with cancer, or lost someone dear to you, this is an opportunity to really change the game in terms of research into the disease.

"I know many people who fundraise for us are inspired by my Dad's life and his determination to succeed. Whatever the motivation, we're looking for even more people to join 'Sir Bobby's Team' and help us get over the line.

"There are so many ways to get involved with community fundraising and every contribution helps us fund pioneering cancer research that will give hope to patients and families affected by cancer now and in the future."

Full list of items contained within the Sir Bobby Robson Institute time capsule:

• Keyring memento of 'Ciao', the Italia '90 World Cup mascot and one of Sir Bobby's England blazer badges from the Robson family

By Albert Nelson Online 17 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/sir-bobby-robson-institute-fundraising-enters-final-1m-phase**

NEWCASTLE

Tyne and Wear Firefighters Inspire Next Generation Through Silver Axe Success



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Photo: TWFRS

When Natalie Mortimer stepped onto the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service podium to receive the prestigious Silver Axe Award more than two decades ago, she had no idea where her career would take her.

At the time, she was one of only two female firefighters in the North East to have received the award, marking a significant milestone when women firefighters were still rare within the service.

Now, 24 years later, recently retired Natalie of North Tyneside sees that legacy continuing through firefighters like Daisy Hunter, the latest Silver Axe recipient, who is embarking on her own fledgling operational career with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

For mother-of-two Natalie, the journey began long before she joined the Service. Determined from a young age to become a firefighter, she initially faced a barrier beyond her control: a height restriction that prevented her from applying.

Undeterred, she joined the Royal Air Force, fulfilling her desire to serve and work as part of a dedicated team. When the fire service's height restriction was eventually removed, she seized the opportunity to pursue the career that she had always aspired to. Natalie, aged 50, dreamed of an occupation that offered purpose, teamwork, daily challenges and the opportunity to help others when they need it the most.

"I have always wanted to serve my country and my community, be part of a close-knit team and make a positive difference to people's lives," Natalie said.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 4 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/tyne-and-wear-firefighters-inspire-next-generation-through-silver-axe-success**

Tyne Rivers Trust Secures £249,579 National Lottery Funding



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A £249,579 award from The National Lottery Heritage Fund will help North East environmental charity Tyne Rivers Trust invest in new staff, stronger systems and long-term resilience as it prepares for the next phase of its work.

Tyne Rivers Trust has secured the funding to strengthen the organisation behind its efforts to protect and restore rivers across the Tyne catchment.

The funding will support The Tyne Rivers Trust: Foundations for the Future, an 18-month programme focused on building the people, systems and organisational infrastructure needed to increase the Trust's long-term impact.

Rivers across the Tyne catchment are facing growing and interconnected pressures, from pollution and habitat loss to invasive species, declining wildlife and the impacts of climate change.

Recent events have also demonstrated how quickly additional pressures can emerge. Following the plastic pellet spill in the River Tyne this summer, concerns around pollution and the potential impact on wildlife have brought renewed attention to the vulnerability of rivers and estuaries, and the importance of protecting the waterways that people, wildlife and local communities depend upon.

Against that backdrop, Tyne Rivers Trust is investing now in the foundations that will allow it to respond more effectively to both immediate challenges and the longer-term pressures facing rivers.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 25 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/tyne-rivers-trust-secures-249579-national-lottery-funding**

NEWCASTLE

balletLORENT to Premiere Hansel & Gretel and the Witch at Northern Stage



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Following the success of its touring trilogy, Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin and Snow White, Newcastle's balletLORENT returns to Northern Stage this autumn with the world premiere of a magical new fairytale production.

Hansel & Gretel and the Witch offers a fresh take on the classic tale. Suitable for ages 5 and over, it features a brand new ending designed to surprise and delight story lovers of all generations.

From an alluring sugar glass house in the woods, to an "all you can eat" merry-go-round, a regenerating witch and a supporting cast including two giant chickens, expect the unexpected as balletLORENT's creative team add spellbinding new flourishes to this well-loved bedtime story.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 20 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/balletlorent-to-premiere-hansel-gretel-and-the-witch-at-northern-stage**

NEWCASTLE

Wor Peter Sculpture Set for Charity Auction at St James' Park



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Football fans will have the chance to snap up the latest signing at Newcastle's St James' Park during a very special transfer window next month.

Since July, 96 sculptures have been on display as part of the nine-week Peter Rabbit™: Tales on the Tyne public art trail across Newcastle and North Tyneside, raising awareness of St Oswald's Hospice.

The trail, to mark the Hospice's 40th anniversary celebrations and the 160th anniversary of his creator Beatrix Potter's birth, will draw to a close on Monday 14 September.

And one of the most popular sculptures with fans of the beautiful game has been Wor Peter, a black and white-themed homage to Newcastle United FC outside the St James' Park stadium.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 11 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/wor-peter-sculpture-set-for-charity-auction-at-st-james-park**

NEWCASTLE

Birtley Swimmer Takes on Four Lakes Challenge for Community Pool



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A Birtley swimmer is preparing to take on an extraordinary 11.5-mile open water swim this month to raise vital funds for Birtley Community Pool.

Paul Snaith, from Birtley, will take to the water at Windermere on Saturday 12 September for the final and longest stage of his Four Lakes Challenge.

The fundraising challenge has seen Paul swim almost 30 miles across four of the Lake District's most iconic lakes (Derwentwater, Coniston, Ullswater and, finally, Windermere), all in aid of the community-run Birtley Community Pool.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 7 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/birtley-swimmer-takes-on-four-lakes-challenge-for-community-pool**

NEWCASTLE

Walk 343 Tribute to Mark 25th Anniversary of 9/11



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Photo: TWFRS

Fallen firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice while helping others will be remembered by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service colleagues during a powerful tribute marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11.

The Walk 343 event will honour each of the 343 firefighters from the Fire Department of the City of New York who lost their lives while responding to the terrorist attacks in 2001.

To mark the solemn anniversary on 11th September, TWFRS colleagues will collectively walk 343 miles by completing one-mile loops around Newcastle city centre.

Both firefighters and support staff will take part in the remembrance event, some donning their fire kit and breathing apparatus as part of the challenge.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 7 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/walk-343-tribute-to-mark-25th-anniversary-of-9-11**

In brief



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NEWCASTLE

Sara Davies Shares Career Insights at Smart Works North East Fundraiser

Smart Works North East welcomed the return of one of its most anticipated events, In Conversation With Sara Davies.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 22 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/sara-davies-shares-career-insights-at-smart-works-north-east-fundraiser**



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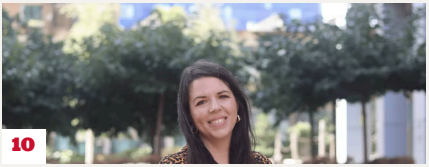
NEWCASTLE

Peter Rabbit™ Sculptures to Reunite for Farewell Event in Newcastle

Families, art lovers and fans of Beatrix Potter are being invited to a special event marking the end of a spectacular free public art trail.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 23 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/peter-rabbit-sculptures-to-reunite-for-farewell-event-in-newcastle**



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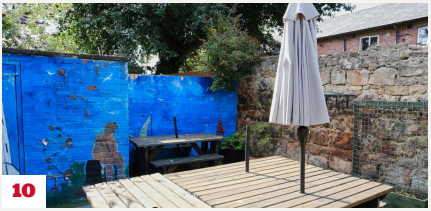
NEWCASTLE

Citizens Advice Newcastle highlights growing financial struggles among working households

Citizens Advice Newcastle is seeing an increase in working people struggling to afford basic necessities such as food, energy, and housing. This trend reflects findings from a recent report by the Living Wage Foundation, which highlights the growing financial insecurity among low-paid workers across the UK.

By Zoe Eastman Online 25 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/citizens-advice-newcastle-highlights-growing-financial-struggles-among-working-households**



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NEWCASTLE

North Shields Cancer Charity Wins £15,000 for Accessible Therapy Room

A North Shields charity supporting people affected by cancer has been awarded £15,000 from Certas Energy's Community Bloom Fund to create an accessible therapy room in the back garden of its Nile Street base.

By Albert Nelson Online 26 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/north-shields-cancer-charity-wins-15000-for-accessible-therapy-room**

In brief



NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Care Home Residents Welcome Sixth Form Companions

A Newcastle care home resident enjoyed a trip down memory lane when he met sixth formers from his former school and shared stories from his time there.

By Barbara Parker Online 28 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-care-home-residents-welcome-sixth-form-companions**



NEWCASTLE

Hand-Painted Sycamore Gap Sculpture Among St Oswald's Auction Lots

A hand-painted sculpture depicting the famous Sycamore Gap tree at Hadrian's Wall is set to go up for auction, three years after the tree was felled.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 16 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/hand-painted-sycamore-gap-sculpture-among-st-oswalds-auction-lots**



Photo: Stuart Walker Photography

NEWCASTLE

Landmarks Across North of England and Isle of Man to Support GNAAS

Landmarks across the North of England and the Isle of Man will be illuminated green to celebrate Air Ambulance Week and honour the work of the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 3 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/landmarks-across-north-of-england-and-isle-of-man-to-support-gnaas**



NEWCASTLE

North East Mayor Plans Major Boost for Education and Training Places

North East Mayor Kim McGuinness is set to invest £8.1 million to create more than 1,600 additional education and training places for young people across the region.

By Zoe Eastman Online 23 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/north-east-mayor-plans-major-boost-for-education-and-training-places**

In brief



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NEWCASTLE

Newbiggin Woman and Loyal Dog Take on 100-Mile Cancer Challenge

A Newbiggin-by-the-Sea woman is taking on a 100-mile walking challenge with her loyal dog Teddy after seeing first-hand the devastating impact cancer can have on a family.

By Zoe Eastman Online 3 September 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newbiggin-woman-and-loyal-dog-take-on-100-mile-cancer-challenge**



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BLAYDON

Liz Twist MP Visits Blaydon Leisure Centre to See How the Centre Brings the Community Together

Last week (16 September), to coincide with National Fitness Day, GLL welcomed MP for Blaydon and Consett, Liz Twist, to Blaydon Leisure Centre.

By Jo Leatham Online 28 September 2026
Continued at **blaydonmagazine.co.uk/liz-twist-mp-visits-blaydon-leisure-centre-to-see-how-the-centre-brings-the-community-together**



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CONSETT

Three Generations of Dairy Farming, and Counting

For almost 60 years the Bradley family has farmed the land around Lanchester, although their dairy farming story began even earlier in Langley Park.

Words and photographs by George Ledger, Communities in Focus Online 1 September 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/three-generations-of-dairy-farming-and-counting**



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Photo: Mark Wilkinson, Communities in Focus

CONSETT

Thirty Plots, and a Waiting List

You'd never know it, but just across the road from All Saints Parish Church is a hidden world of green fingers, fresh produce and community spirit.

By Consett Magazine Online 4 September 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/thirty-plots-and-a-waiting-list**

In brief



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CONSETT

Twenty Years of Teaching People to Breathe

For almost 20 years, Laura Ridgeon has been helping people improve their physical and mental wellbeing through gentle, accessible Hatha Yoga.

Words and photographs by George Ledger, Communities in Focus Online 9 September 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/twenty-years-of-teaching-people-to-breathe**



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CONSETT

At 18, He Speaks for 46,000 Young People

By 18, Lanchester's Lucas Wainwright has already achieved more than many do in a lifetime.

Words and photographs by George Ledger, Communities in Focus Online 9 September 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/at-18-he-speaks-for-46000-young-people**



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DURHAM

Bishop Auckland Heritage Festival returns with free talks, classic cars and local history displays

Bishop Auckland Town Council will host the fourth annual Heritage Festival on Saturday 26 September, from 10am to 3pm, offering a full programme of free talks, heritage displays, exhibitions and interactive activities. The event celebrates the town's rich industrial and cultural heritage and is open to all.

By Durham Magazine Online 15 September 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/bishop-auckland-heritage-festival-returns-with-free-talks-classic-cars-and-local-history-displays**



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CONSETT

What a Postcard Revealed: the Story of Joseph Thompson Maddison

In May, browsing online, I bought a postcard of Muggleswick Church. I did not know it would uncover the story of a young Weardale man who never came home.

By Paul Heatherington Online 13 September 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/what-a-postcard-revealed-joseph-thompson-maddison**

In brief



DURHAM

Bishop Auckland Wins Gold at Northumbria in Bloom Awards

Bishop Auckland has been recognised for its commitment to environmental improvement and civic pride after winning Gold in the Large Town category at the annual Northumbria in Bloom Awards.

By Barbara Parker Online 22 September 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/bishop-auckland-wins-gold-at-northumbria-in-bloom-awards**



SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Restaurant Week Attracts Almost 15,000 Diners

Sunderland's recent Restaurant Week brought thousands of diners into the city and highlighted the growing popularity of the Healthy Plates initiative.

The latest Sunderland Restaurant Week began on 5 September, with almost 15,000 diners enjoying special deals at more than 60 eateries.

By Zoe Walker Online 26 September 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-restaurant-week-attracts-almost-15000-diners**



Photo: Clean Strength Media

SUNDERLAND

University of Sunderland Athlete Crowned Commonwealth Powerlifting Champion

An elite athlete from the University of Sunderland has been crowned 2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Champion following an outstanding performance in Canada.

By Catherine Wilson Online 30 September 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/university-of-sunderland-athlete-crowned-commonwealth-powerlifting-champion**

Your turn

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