NEWCASTLE MAGAZINE



DIGITAL EDITION
October 2026

Compiled from stories published online in October 2026

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The People's Kitchen

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: Determined Runner Tackles 100km Ultra Marathon for Newcastle Charity The People's Kitchen, page 9. Photo supplied by The People's Kitchen.

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

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Photo: Mark Savage Photography

NEWCASTLE

Restart a Heart Day Highlights Importance of CPR Training Across the North East

More than 200 Newcastle College students are learning life-saving CPR skills as part of Restart a Heart Day, while the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) reunites with a woman whose life was saved by CPR after she suffered a cardiac arrest at work.

For health lecturer Karen Pyle, 53, knowing CPR isn't just a lesson for her students; it saved her life. Earlier this year, her colleague and friend Jessica Beni put her training into practice when Karen suddenly collapsed and went into cardiac arrest at work. Now, Karen is sharing her story with students learning the very skills that helped save her life, in the hope that they will one day be ready to do the same for someone else.

Restart a Heart Day, on Friday 16 October, encourages people to learn CPR and how to use a defibrillator, helping give someone experiencing a cardiac arrest the best possible chance of survival before an ambulance arrives. In the lead-up to the day, NEAS colleagues have also been equipping young people with the skills and confidence to successfully deliver CPR by hosting lifesaving training at:

Argyle House School, Sunderland

Ponteland High School, Ponteland

Darlington College, Darlington

Redcar and Cleveland College, Redcar

Bede Sixth Form College, Billingham

Stockton Riverside College, Stockton-on-Tees

William Leech Primary School, Lynemouth

Whittingham Scouts and Senior Scouts, Whittingham

Newcastle College (Rye Hill Campus), Newcastle upon Tyne

Bellingham Middle School, Bellingham

Newcastle Drayton School, Newcastle upon Tyne

By the end of October, the service's volunteer development team and volunteer community first responders will have delivered training sessions to 1,475 children in years 5 through 12 across the region.

In 2025/26, North East Ambulance Service crews attended over 6,200 cardiac arrests across the region, with health advisors supporting thousands of callers to perform CPR over the phone and dispatching the use of more than 4,600 community defibrillators.

Paul Brolly, community resuscitation officer at NEAS, said:

"When someone suffers a cardiac arrest, every second counts. Knowing what to do in those first few minutes can make the difference between life and death, which is why it is so important that people of all ages have the confidence to act. If someone collapses and is not breathing normally, call 999 immediately. Our health advisors will talk you through performing CPR while our crews are on their way, and a defibrillator can help give that person the best possible chance of survival.

"You do not need to be a healthcare professional to save a life. You could be a student, a colleague, a friend or a complete stranger. What matters is being ready to act when someone needs you."

On 25 March, Karen was at work at Newcastle College, meeting with Jessica and a student. Everything seemed normal until Karen suddenly tilted her head and her breathing changed.

Jessica, 39, an assistant head of curriculum, quickly realised something was wrong. When Karen did not respond to her name, she asked the student to leave the room and tried to wake her. Initially unsure whether Karen was having a stroke or another medical emergency, Jessica called for help. A colleague contacted 999 while Jessica stayed with Karen, and another colleague went to get a defibrillator.

As Karen's condition deteriorated, Jessica laid her on the floor and began chest compressions, drawing on her CPR training while her colleague encouraged her to keep going. It was an experience unlike anything she had expected. Jessica could feel Karen's ribs breaking beneath her hands and remembers tears rolling down her face as she continued the compressions, determined to do everything she could until the ambulance crew arrived.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 20 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/restart-a-heart-day-highlights-importance-of-cpr-training-across-the-north-east**

Nick Atkinson Appointed Chair of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne



Photo: Steve Brock Photography

Nick Atkinson has stepped into the role of Chair of the Freemen of Newcastle upon Tyne, pledging to uphold the organisation's rich heritage while driving new opportunities for engagement, participation, and growth.

Resident in the Tyne Valley and a long-standing member of the Freemen, Nick succeeds David Wilson following a planned transition aimed at securing the organisation's future.

Having served on the Stewards' Committee for 13 years and as vice-chairman for six years, Nick brings considerable experience of the organisation's work and its relationships with local authorities and other strategic partners.

He described his appointment as a proud moment, while acknowledging the responsibility that comes with leading an organisation with such a long history.

"I'm hugely proud, privileged, and it's a massive responsibility, but one that I'm really looking forward to doing," he said.

Nick, who became a Freeman around the age of 20, said the transition had been planned for some time and represented an important opportunity to build on the work already underway.

One of his main priorities is to strengthen engagement with new generations of Freemen and challenge outdated perceptions of an organisation that continues to play an important role in Newcastle.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 14 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/nick-atkinson-appointed-chair-of-the-freemen-of-newcastle-upon-tyne**

Newcastle Chef Scott John-Hodgson Named Runner-Up in National Chef of the Year 2026



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Scott John-Hodgson, Executive Chef at Newcastle's Michelin-starred Solstice and House of Tides, has been named runner-up in the prestigious National Chef of the Year 2026 competition.

The top three places were announced on Tuesday 6 October at a VIP awards ceremony, following a tense live cook-off at Le Cordon Bleu in London. Scott oversees culinary operations for both restaurants alongside chef-owner Kenny Atkinson.

Organised by the Craft Guild of Chefs since 1972, NCOTY is widely regarded as the UK's most career-defining culinary competition. Past winners include Gordon Ramsay, Alyn Williams and Mark Sargeant, and reaching the later stages brings significant industry and consumer recognition.

This year's brief was set by new chair of judges Mark Birchall around the theme 'Our Sustainable Future'. Online entries opened in February and were judged blind on innovation, sustainability and seasonality. Forty chefs were selected for live semi-finals at Sheffield College on 24 June and Capital City College on 1 July. Scott was one of just ten chefs invited to the final, after attending the finalists' Mentor Experience on 8 September.

In the final, chefs cooked side by side to a three-course brief:

Starter: Isle of Mull scallops with seasonal autumn ingredients, including foraged and farmed mushrooms, vegetables and herbs

By Newcastle Magazine Online 9 October 2026

Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-chef-scott-john-hodgson-named-runner-up-in-national-chef-of-the-year-2026**

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Cathedral Secures £305,000 for Vital Repairs and Improvements



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Photo supplied by Newcastle Cathedral

Newcastle Cathedral, one of the city's most iconic landmarks, has secured £305,463 in funding to carry out essential repairs and improve accessibility. The investment will help fund vital roof and floor repairs, upgraded accessible toilets and a replacement lift, ensuring the historic building remains welcoming and accessible to all.

The work will help preserve the historic building and improve facilities for people attending services and events or visiting the Cathedral. Dedicated to St Nicholas, the Cathedral welcomes local people and visitors of all faiths and none.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 22 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-cathedral-secures-305000-for-vital-repairs-and-improvements**

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Cathedral Organ Powers New Recording of The Blaydon Races



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Newcastle Cathedral's historic organ features in a new recording of Geordie football anthem 'The Blaydon Races', released this month by Newcastle United to celebrate the region's musical heritage and bring its much-loved song to a new generation.

The track combines the Cathedral's organ with vocals from North Shields band Hector Gannet and Northumbrian pipes played by Chris Ormston. Shaped with the help of supporters, it draws on the song's folk roots to create a new sound for St. James' Park.

Developed by Newcastle United in partnership with music development organisation Generator and Interval Records, the track was produced and engineered by Alex Blamire.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 22 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-cathedral-organ-powers-new-recording-of-the-blaydon-races**

NEWCASTLE

Peter Rabbit™ Art Trail Raises Record £300,000 for St Oswald's Hospice



A free public art trail featuring Peter Rabbit™ has raised a record-breaking £300,000 for a North East hospice following an exciting auction on 13 October.

For nine weeks throughout the summer, individually painted Peter Rabbit™ sculptures brought colour and creativity to streets and parks across Newcastle and North Tyneside.

And the Peter Rabbit™ Tales on the Tyne event culminated with a glittering auction at Newcastle Civic Centre with one aim in mind: to raise much needed funds for St Oswald's Hospice.

Online bidders from across the world joined buyers from closer to home to compete for 40 of the 5ft sculptures from the trail along with a smaller number of pieces created specifically for the auction.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 19 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/peter-rabbit-art-trail-raises-record-300000-for-st-oswalds-hospice**

NEWCASTLE

Determined Runner Tackles 100km Ultra Marathon for Newcastle Charity The People's Kitchen



Photo supplied by The People's Kitchen

A determined runner has completed a gruelling 100km ultra marathon to raise essential funds for Newcastle charity The People's Kitchen.

Sean Waller (41) from North Shields completed the St Cuthbert's Way Ultra: The Race Against the Tide, raising more than £750 for The People's Kitchen, with Gift Aid taking the total raised to more than £900.

The challenge saw Sean tackle the full 100km route along St Cuthbert's Way, crossing the border between Scotland and England before finishing on Holy Island in Northumberland.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 23 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/determined-runner-tackles-100km-ultra-marathon-for-newcastle-charity-the-peoples-kitchen**

In brief



NEWCASTLE

Bake Off-Loving Crafters Work with Lady Gaga Designer on Stage Gown

The Knitters, Movers & Shakers group, based in Newcastle's west end, are creating a gown for a dance show.

The Bake Off-loving crafters have worked with a Lady Gaga designer to bring the ultimate confection-coated dress to life.

By Zoe Eastman Online 2 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/bake-off-loving-crafters-work-with-lady-gaga-designer-on-stage-gown**



Photo: Mark Savage Photography

NEWCASTLE

Theatre Charity Cap-a-Pie Launches North East School Tour for World Space Week

Newcastle-based theatre charity Cap-a-Pie is taking its brand-new interactive show and workshop, Mission Outer Space, directly into primary schools across the North East to inspire young minds aged 4–7.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 7 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/theatre-charity-cap-a-pie-launches-north-east-school-tour-for-world-space-week**



NEWCASTLE

Gateshead Charity Ball Raises £102,745 for Cancer Research UK and Variety

Bellway's North East division has raised £102,745 at a charity ball in aid of Cancer Research UK and Variety, the Children's Charity.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 8 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/gateshead-charity-ball-raises-102745-for-cancer-research-uk-and-variety**



NEWCASTLE

Football Legends Gather in Newcastle as Sir Bobby Robson Institute Enters Final £500k Stretch

Fundraising for the Sir Bobby Robson Institute a world-leading regional cancer drug trials centre has reached its final milestone. Last night, footballing stars gathered at Newcastle's Tyneside Cinema for a special screening of the acclaimed documentary Bobby Robson: More Than a Manager.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 9 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/football-legends-gather-in-newcastle-as-sir-bobby-robson-institute-enters-final-500k-stretch**

In brief



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NEWCASTLE

Pupils and Families Enjoy Reading Cafes for Macmillan Fundraiser

It was time for coffee, biscuits and a good read when a school in Kenton took part in this year's Macmillan Coffee Morning fundraiser.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 12 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/pupils-and-families-enjoy-reading-cafes-for-macmillan-fundraiser**



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NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Catholic Primary Schools Step Back in Time for Charles Dickens Celebration Day

There were 'great expectations' when children from two Newcastle schools came together to celebrate one of Britain's most famous writers.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 16 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-catholic-primary-schools-step-back-in-time-for-charles-dickens-celebration-day**



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NEWCASTLE

Percy Hedley Foundation Brings Inclusive Dining Experience to Gateshead

People living with swallowing difficulties (dysphagia) across the North East enjoyed a special opportunity to dine out with loved ones thanks to a restaurant takeover organised by The Percy Hedley Foundation.

By Albert Nelson Online 25 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/percy-hedley-foundation-brings-inclusive-dining-experience-to-gateshead**



11

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Comedy Writer Holly Johnson Wins Prestigious Sketch for Sammy Award

Newcastle comedy writer Holly Johnson has won one of the North East's most prestigious awards for emerging talent, with her winning sketch potentially set to entertain thousands at the next Sunday for Sammy arena show.

By Catherine Wilson Online 27 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-comedy-writer-holly-johnson-wins-prestigious-sketch-for-sammy-award**

In brief



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NEWCASTLE

‘Coastal Walks with Kim’ Showcases North East Voices and Ambitions

A new docuseries is putting North East voices, places and ambitions in the spotlight, as Mayor Kim McGuinness travels along the region’s spectacular 140-mile coastline, meeting people who are helping shape the North East’s future.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 5 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/coastal-walks-with-kim-showcases-north-east-voices-and-ambitions**



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NEWCASTLE

Great North Air Ambulance Service Appeal Passes £1 Million Milestone

The Great North Air Ambulance Service has reached a significant milestone in its Operation SOS: Secure Our Service appeal, raising more than £1 million.

By Barbara Parker Online 13 October 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/great-north-air-ambulance-service-appeal-passes-1-million-milestone**



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DURHAM

County Durham Man Living with Parkinson’s Inspires Others Through the Power of Rowing

A County Durham man who has discovered the benefits of rowing in managing the physical and mental challenges of Parkinson’s disease is sharing his inspiring story to encourage other men to take positive steps towards better health and wellbeing.

By Albert Nelson Online 31 October 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/county-durham-man-living-with-parkinsons-inspires-others-through-the-power-of-rowing**



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CONSETT

From astrophysics to wind turbines

Chris Smith studied the stars, spent ten years in finance, and now keeps the renewable energy running at Greencroft.

By Consett Magazine Online 19 October 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/chris-smith-lanchester-wines-energy-renewables-manager**

In brief



Photo: Mark Wilkinson, Communities in Focus

CONSETT

More than 300 blankets, and an angel on every one

Born in Palestine, raised in South Africa and settled in Lanchester, Pat Christie is 86 and still making things for other people.

By Consett Magazine Online 5 October 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/pat-christie-lanchester-300-blankets**



CONSETT

Three senior teams, five junior, one village

Lanchester Cricket Club has been going since 1973, and it has never been only about the cricket.

Words and photographs by George Ledger, Communities in Focus Online 7 October 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/lanchester-cricket-club-three-senior-five-junior-teams**



DURHAM

Miss Durham GB Nicole Hanson Wins Public Choice Award at National Final

From the racetrack to the runway, Miss Durham GB 2026 is challenging stereotypes and showing that there is more to pageantry than meets the eye.

By Barbara Parker Online 22 October 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/miss-durham-gb-nicole-hanson-wins-public-choice-award-at-national-final**



SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Announces Huge New Year's Eve Party with Two Fireworks Displays

Sunderland is getting ready to welcome 2027 in style with a free New Year's Eve celebration at Keel Square, featuring live entertainment and two spectacular fireworks displays.

By Zoe Walker Online 25 October 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-announces-huge-new-years-eve-party-with-two-fireworks-displays**

In brief



SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Little Libraries Scheme Continues with Coastal Book Hunt

Visitors to Sunderland's coastline will be able to enjoy the next chapter of a scheme encouraging people to read this October.

By Zoe Walker Online 8 October 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-little-libraries-scheme-continues-with-coastal-book-hunt**



CONSETT

Ground broken in Consett for new hospital

Land remediation began on Monday 7 September, after the Trust completed its final contractual arrangements with the developer.

Work has started on the site of the new Shotley Bridge Hospital in Consett. Preparing the ground for construction is expected to take up to twelve months.

By Consett Magazine Online 1 October 2026
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/ground-broken-in-consett-for-new-shotley-bridge-hospital**



DURHAM

Bishop Auckland Celebrates Volunteers at Greener Together Awards

Bishop Auckland celebrated the people and partnerships behind its environmental success at the first Greener Together Celebration Awards, organised by the Town Council to recognise the volunteers, community groups, schools and organisations helping to make the town greener, cleaner and more sustainable.

By Yvonne Hawkey Online 29 October 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/bishop-auckland-celebrates-volunteers-at-greener-together-awards**



SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Launches 2026 Poppy Appeal to Support Veterans and Their Families

The Royal British Legion's 2026 Poppy Appeal has officially launched in Sunderland, encouraging residents to show their support and honour those who have served and sacrificed for their country.

By Catherine Wilson Online 26 October 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-launches-2026-poppy-appeal-to-support-veterans-and-their-families**

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