SUNDERLAND MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
July 2026

Compiled from stories published online in July 2026



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

On the cover: South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Nurse Honoured With Prestigious Cavell Star Award, page 7. Photo supplied by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust.

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

sunderlandmagazine.com

Your turn

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Photo supplied by RICS North East Awards

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland HICSA Named Project Of The Year At RICS North East Awards

The winners of the RICS Awards 2026 in the North East have been announced, with some of the region's most impressive recent building projects recognised.

The projects went head-to-head at a ceremony in Newcastle where Sunderland's Housing Innovation & Construction Skills Academy (HICSA) was named project of the year, whilst also winning in the refurbishment/revitalisation project, and public sector project categories.

Conceived to transform the way we think about, design, and construct buildings using modern methods, HICSA leads the way in positioning Sunderland at the forefront of the region's construction industry.

Based in the Sheepfolds area of Sunderland, the Academy is part retrofit of an existing 130-year-old railway engine shed and part new build, featuring a glulam structure with a high insulation and airtight fabric.

It hosts classrooms and large-scale workshops to promote collaboration and synergy of knowledge amongst its pupils.

HICSA is one of 10 Construction Technical Excellence Colleges (CTEC) in England named by the Department of Education.

Commenting on the winning project the judges said:

"The Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy (HICSA) in Sunderland is a high-performance, net-zero "learning factory"

"The Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy (HICSA) in Sunderland is a high-performance, net-zero "learning factory" combining a Heritage retrofit of a 1896 goods shed, modern low-carbon extension (MMC-led design), education and industry integration (CTEC status). It stands out as a hybrid project: part regeneration, part infrastructure, part education asset, positioned as a national exemplar for skills and net zero delivery.

"An outstanding, nationally significant project with exceptional measurable outcomes, innovation in both design and education model, and best-in-class sustainability performance. Strong leadership and clear third-party endorsements reinforce its credibility and impact."

The RICS UK Awards showcase the most inspirational initiatives and developments in land, real estate, construction and infrastructure, recognising outstanding achievement, teamwork and companies. The winning projects at each of the regional awards ceremonies will go on to represent their region at the UK Grand Final on Thursday 22nd October.

The full list of winning projects in the North East are:

HICSA (Housing Innovation & Construction Skills Academy): Project of the year, Refurbishment/Revitalisation project and public sector project

Blyth Market Pavilion: Community Benefit project

Cosin's Almshouses and Pemberton Building: Heritage project

Prospect Place, Gateshead: Residential Development

There were also two highly commended awards; Middlesborough Central Library in the community benefit project category and Digital Life, Teesside University in the Public Sector Project.

The event was held at the Crowne Plaza Newcastle in Stephenson Quarter, Newcastle on Thursday 2nd July.

Commenting on the awards, UK National Awards Chair, Kerry Gibbs MRICS, said:

"These Awards shine a spotlight on the most inspiring people, projects and innovations shaping the built and natural environment. creating a powerful platform that elevates the profile of chartered surveying and celebrates its impact on communities nationwide.

"This year we received over 300 entries across all twelve of the RICS regions.

"The Awards are hugely important. They help demonstrate the positive impact that surveyors, as well as buildings, have on individuals and communities. They promote the role of surveying in making those projects a reality."

For further information on the RICS UK Awards please visit the RICS website.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 5 July 2026
Read more: **sunderlandmagazine.com**

SUNDERLAND

Three13 Expands Hospitality and Carpentry Training With £10,000 Bernicia Foundation Grant



Photo supplied by Three13, via Karol Marketing

A £10,000 grant from The Bernicia Foundation is helping Sunderland charity Three13 expand its practical hospitality and carpentry training, giving more people facing barriers to employment the chance to develop valuable workplace skills and rebuild their confidence.

The funding is supporting the charity's Hendon training hub, where learners gain hands-on experience in realistic workplace environments. While the latest investment focuses on Sunderland, Three13 also delivers programmes across Teesside and Tyne and Wear.

The expansion comes at a time when demand for skilled workers continues to grow across the North East, particularly within the construction sector, with the charity aiming to help local residents access long-term employment through practical, accredited training.

Practical Learning That Changes Lives

Over the past year, Three13 supported 200 learners, who collectively achieved 276 recognised trade-specific vocational qualifications through its tailored training programmes. At the Sunderland hub alone, 60 people took part in specialist practical workshops.

Located in Hendon, one of Sunderland's most economically disadvantaged communities, the centre provides opportunities for residents who may have struggled with traditional education or employment pathways.

Funding from The Bernicia Foundation enabled Three13 to run additional advanced multi-skills courses throughout May and June, creating 11 extra places for learners.

Each ten-day programme combines classroom learning with real community projects, allowing participants to develop practical skills while giving something back to the local area.

Recent projects have included painting and decorating work at Hope Vineyard Church and building benches for a park in Hendon. The next group of learners will help refurbish a double-decker bus for a community project based in nearby Washington.

By Sunderland Editing Team Online 16 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/three13-expands-training-bernicia-foundation-grant**

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Nurse Honoured With Prestigious Cavell Star Award



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Photo supplied by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Registered nurse Emmanuel Ndubuisi, from South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, has been awarded the prestigious Cavell Star Award, recognising nurses, midwives, nursing associates and healthcare assistants who go above and beyond to deliver exceptional care and support.

The award recognises Emmanuel's actions during a serious fire incident at a patient's bedside at Sunderland Royal Hospital last August. His swift response, alongside colleagues, prevented what could have become a far more serious situation by quickly bringing the fire under control and turning off the oxygen supply, protecting the patient from further harm.

The patient sustained burns to her head in the incident, which required hospital treatment. It is believed the fire started after the patient had been vaping while receiving oxygen therapy.

Reflecting on receiving the award, Emmanuel said:

"On the day it was a really scary moment, and you never know how you're going to initially react. It was all about teamwork. Everyone acted so quickly. I was covered in smoke and terrified. I had to do one thing, either run off or turn that oxygen off.

"I'm incredibly grateful to receive this award. It's a real honour and motivates me to keep doing my best for our patients and colleagues every day."

Ward staff acted immediately by turning off the oxygen supply and using a fire extinguisher to put out the flames before they could spread. The heat and fumes from the fire also activated the ward's fire alarm system.

In what could have been a highly distressing and dangerous situation, Emmanuel remained calm under pressure and helped protect both the patient and his colleagues by acting quickly in the moments after the fire broke out.

Karen Sheard, the Trust's Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals, said:

"This is a powerful example of our Trust's values in action.

By Otto Sinclair Online 16 July 2026

Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/emmanuel-ndubuisi-cavell-star-award**

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland To Host Free England World Cup Semi-Final Fan Zone



8

Football fans of all ages are invited to gather in Keel Square on Wednesday 15 July as Sunderland hosts a free fan zone for England's World Cup semi-final against Argentina.

The free event will give supporters the chance to watch the match on a big screen in the heart of the city, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere for families, friends and football fans.

Visitors are encouraged to arrive early, with pre-match build-up beginning from 7pm ahead of the 8pm kick-off.

Limited seating will be available in the square, and a range of food and refreshments can be purchased from nearby businesses around Keel Square.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 13 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-to-host-free-england-world-cup-semi-final-fan-zone**

SUNDERLAND

Outstanding Sunderland Care Home Celebrated for Meaningful Engagement



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A Sunderland care home known for its busy activities programme has been praised as "a fantastic example" by a leading care sector organisation.

Bede House in Ryhope was visited earlier this week, Monday 20 July, by NAPA, the national UK charity that supports care providers to promote meaningful engagement, wellbeing and quality of life for people receiving care and support.

And the CEO praised the 66-bedroom home for its "creative, person-centred activities" and "warm, inclusive atmosphere."

Bede House (rated outstanding by the Care Quality Commission) offers a wide programme of arts, crafts, therapies and activities to its residents, tailored to their varying interests and abilities.

By Zoe Online 27 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/outstanding-sunderland-care-home-celebrated-for-meaningful-engagement**

SUNDERLAND

Five Sunderland Parks Celebrate Green Flag Award Success



9

Five parks across Sunderland are proudly raising prestigious Green Flags after receiving international quality marks.

Sunderland City Council will raise the flags at Barnes Park, Herrington Country Park, Hetton Lyons Country Park, Mowbray Park and Roker Park.

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under contract from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces.

The awards are the internationally recognised standard for parks and green spaces.

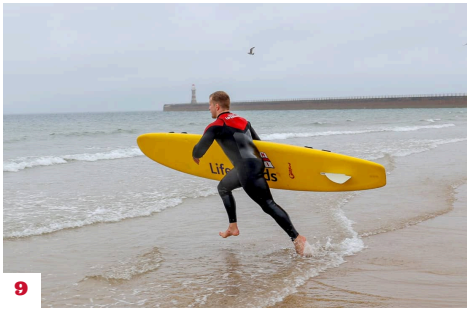
Councillor Bill Blackett, Sunderland City Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Enforcement, said:

"It is fantastic to see five of Sunderland's parks recognised with Green Flag awards once again.

By Zoe Online 17 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/five-sunderland-parks-celebrate-green-flag-award-success**

SUNDERLAND

World Drowning Prevention Day Highlights Cold Water Shock Risks in Sunderland



9

Sunderland residents are being reminded to take care around water as the city marks World Drowning Prevention Day on 25 July.

Sunderland City Council is working with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) to raise awareness of the risks linked to open water and cold water shock, while sharing advice on what to do if you get into difficulty.

People planning to swim in Sunderland are being encouraged to choose a swimming pool where lifeguards are on duty, or between the red and yellow flags on an RNLI lifeguarded beach.

RNLI Lifeguards are on duty every day from 10am to 6pm at Roker, Seaburn, and Cat and Dogs beaches throughout the summer, from late May until 6 September.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 25 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/world-drowning-prevention-day-highlights-cold-water-shock-risks-in-sunderland**

In brief



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SUNDERLAND

Swimming, Skiing and More Added to Sunderland Gift Card Offer

The popular Sunderland Gift Card is proving its versatility with the addition of a leading activity provider.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 18 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/swimming-skiing-and-more-added-to-sunderland-gift-card-offer**



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SUNDERLAND

South Tyneside And Sunderland Care Homes Praised For Safe, High-Quality Care

Two North East care homes have been recognised for their outstanding cleanliness and safety standards after winning top honours in an NHS infection control award.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 12 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/south-tyneside-and-sunderland-care-homes-praised-for-safe-high-quality-care**



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SUNDERLAND

TT2 Community Fund Helps Keep Sunderland Beachgoers Safe

The operator of the Tyne Tunnels, TT2, has donated a new rescue watercraft to the RNLI to help keep beachgoers safe at one of the busiest beaches in the North East.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 29 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/tt2-community-fund-helps-keep-sunderland-beachgoers-safe**



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SUNDERLAND

Free Sunderland Street Party to Showcase Blandford Street Businesses

A free one-day event will celebrate sustainability, creativity and community spirit on one of Sunderland's best-loved city centre streets.

By Zoe Online 19 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/free-sunderland-street-party-to-showcase-blandford-street-businesses**

In brief



SUNDERLAND

First Washington Pride in Place Grants Awarded to Local Organisations

The first three organisations to receive funding through the Washington Pride in Place programme have been awarded a total of £12,816 to support projects helping families, young people and people affected by cancer.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 22 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/first-washington-pride-in-place-grants-awarded-to-local-organisations**



SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Editor Publishes Crime Fiction Anthology for ME Research

Sunderland-based editor Abbie Rutherford publishes crime fiction anthology, Thirteen Deadly Intentions, under imprint Pilcrow Books to raise money for Invest in ME Research after suffering with ME/CFS herself.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 31 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-editor-publishes-crime-fiction-anthology-for-me-research**

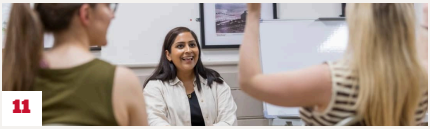


SUNDERLAND

New Sunderland Project Supports Students Through Move To Secondary School

The 'Brilliant Beginnings' project, led by the Aspire North East Multi Academy Trust, will initially work with students at Southmoor Academy and Sandhill View Academy, helping young people navigate one of the most significant moments in their education journey.

By Zoe Online 3 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/new-sunderland-project-supports-students-through-move-to-secondary-school**



SUNDERLAND

Local Mum Launches Doula and Hypnobirthing Business to Support Expectant Families

Founded by Manpreet Khaira, Mind and Birth provides education, guidance and compassionate support for expectant and new parents. Drawing on lived experience and professional training as a qualified doula and hypnobirthing practitioner, Manpreet helps women and families navigate the life-changing journey into parenthood with confidence and a 'village of support'.

By Barbara Parker Online 20 July 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/local-mum-launches-doula-and-hypnobirthing-business-to-support-expectant-families**

In brief



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NEWCASTLE

Killingworth Zumbathon® To Raise Funds For Maggie's Newcastle

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.

By Zoe Eastman Online 1 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/killingworth-zumbathon-to-raise-funds-for-maggies-newcastle**



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NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Teacher To Mark Retirement With Final A To Z Marathon

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.

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



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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.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 23 July 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/charity-cyclists-honour-sir-bobby-robson-and-kevin-keegan**



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NEWCASTLE

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

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.

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

In brief



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**



DURHAM

Durham Brass Festival Celebrates 20 Years with Countywide Performances

Durham Brass Festival has come to a close after a packed programme of events across the county.

Online 20 July 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/durham-brass-festival-celebrates-20-years-with-countywide-performances**



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**



DURHAM

Residents Invited to Witness Bishop Auckland Freedom Procession

Residents are warmly invited to witness a landmark moment in Bishop Auckland's history on Tuesday 4 August at 5.30pm, as Bishop Auckland Town Council hosts its first-ever Freedom of the Town Ceremony.

By Durham Magazine Online 30 July 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/residents-invited-to-witness-bishop-auckland-freedom-procession**

In brief



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STANLEY

Stanley Housing Scheme Received Life-Saving Defibrillator In £62,000 Rollout

A publicly accessible defibrillator was installed at Oakwood Court in Annfield Plain as part of a £62,000 project designed to save lives across the North East.

By Stanley Magazine Online 18 July 2026
Continued at **stanleymagazine.com/stanley-housing-scheme-received-life-saving-defibrillator-in-62000-rollout**

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