DURHAM MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
November 2026



Inside this month

Jörd brings fine dining to Bishop Auckland market place 9

Durham Christmas Festival 2026 returns with over 200 stalls and festive family fun 4

Four Days of Snow Forecast for Bishop Auckland's Christmas Town 6

DURHAM MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION

IN THIS ISSUE

Your people, your pages

4 Durham Christmas Festival 2026 returns with over 200 stalls and festive family fun

6 Four Days of Snow Forecast for Bishop Auckland's Christmas Town

7 Durham Students Reach National Final With Platform to Beat AI Job Screening

8 Durham woman who was homeless at 22 wins top award

8 Brandon Boxer captures the Northern Area Super-Middleweight Championship

9 Tanfield Railway Volunteers Receive County Durham's Highest Civic Honour

9 Jörd brings fine dining to Bishop Auckland market place

10 In brief: Durham

11 In brief: Durham

12 In brief: Newcastle, Sunderland

13 In brief: Darlington, Hartlepool, Consett

14 In brief: Consett

16 Your story could be next

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

On the cover: Jörd brings fine dining to Bishop Auckland market place, page 9. Photo: Y Hawkey.

durhammagazine.co.uk



6


4


7



8



8


9



9



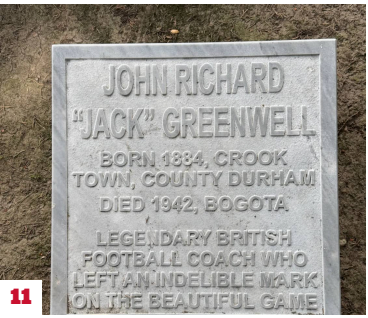
10



10



11



11



12



12



12



13



13



Photo supplied by Durham Christmas Festival

DURHAM

Durham Christmas Festival 2026 returns with over 200 stalls and festive family fun

Durham Christmas Festival opens at 9am on Friday 4th December, with more than 200 stalls in three festival markets on Palace Green and in Durham Market Place.

Durham is preparing to welcome the festive season in style as Durham Christmas Festival 2026 returns on Friday 4 December, opening at 9 am for three days of Christmas shopping, seasonal celebrations and community spirit.

The popular annual event will bring together more than 200 stalls across three festive markets on Palace Green and in Durham Market Place. With a strong focus on supporting small independent businesses, the festival offers visitors the chance to discover unique gifts, shop locally and enjoy the Christmas atmosphere in the heart of the historic city.

The Markets

The main shopping markets will be the Craft & Producers' Marquee on Palace Green, with stalls featuring gifts, decorations, hand-crafted items, artwork, and food and drink, and also the Festive Outdoor Market in Durham Market Place which provides more gift shopping opportunities, as well as take-away food and

drink.

On Palace Green, between the Craft & Producers' Marquee and Durham Cathedral, there will be a Streetfood Market with a wide variety of menus on offer. This area will have seating giving festival visitors a chance to take a break, and refresh.

Opening Times and Entry

The Festival runs for three days, from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th December with the markets open from 9 am each morning, until 5.30 pm on Friday and Saturday, and until 4.30 pm on Sunday. There is an entrance fee of £5 per person for the Craft & Producers' Marquee on Palace Green. However, on Friday, carers attending the festival with the person they can for can enter free (2 for 1 offer) and college and university students can enter half price on provision of a valid student ID.

Family Activities

During the weekend, there are special activities for children and families. These include, on Saturday and Sunday, free Christmas arts and crafts and seasonal storytelling in the Pemberton Rooms on Palace Green and circus-style performers entertaining on Palace Green and in the Marquee. The highlight of the festival for many families is the Children's Lantern Parade which takes place on the Sunday afternoon, with children departing from Durham Market Place carrying their lanterns at 3 pm, following the Mayor of Durham, Cllr Amanda Hopgood, and the Chester-le-Street Salvation Army Band to Durham Cathedral for the St Nicholas Service at 3.30 pm.

Organisers' View

Andrea Cairns, of Durham Christmas Festival, commented:

Our market stall holders are all busy preparing for the festival, and we've worked hard to provide the best variety of shopping we can in the festival markets.

We know the setting makes the festival special for many. Where else does a Christmas Festival have such a beautiful backdrop? The great thing is visitors come to enjoy the city and its attractions as well as to visit the festival markets. Additionally, Durham becomes truly Christmassy, with carolling in Durham Cathedral and musical performances in the Market Place and on Palace Green.

If you've never been before, why not come to Durham Christmas Festival, and spend a day making the most of Durham, picking up lots of unique Christmas gifts and getting in a truly festive mood.

Tickets and Information

There is an entry charge of £5 per person for the Craft & Producers' Marquee on Palace Green (under 16s accompanied by an adult are free). Discounted entry is available when purchased online in advance. On the Friday of the festival Carers attending with the person they care for have free entry (that is 2 entries for the price of 1). Additionally, on Friday college and university students are entitled to half price entry on presentation of their student ID. Lanterns for The Children's Lantern Parade can now be reserved via the website at £6 each.

For more information about Durham Christmas Festival, visit the festival website.

By Albert Nelson
Read more: **durhammagazine.co.uk**

Four Days of Snow Forecast for Bishop Auckland's Christmas Town

The first flakes are due in Bishop Auckland Market Place at 4pm on Thursday 3 December, when Christmas Town opens the doors to Little Lapland, its new indoor snowfall installation.



Photo: Bishop Auckland's Christmas Town

Families can step into the softly lit scene and hold out their hands to catch the snow as it drifts down to gentle music. Around the snowy edges, children can pose beside winter wildlife for a festive photo.

What Is On

Christmas Town is free to enter and runs from Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th December. Visitors can see the Market Place lights from the top of the Ferris wheel, spin on the Twister, take a turn down the traditional helter-skelter or find their way through the Fun House. The event also has a curling lane and live music in the Giant Tipis, with Santa's Grotto available as an optional extra. There's plenty to enjoy for free, from roaming performers and the Christmas Tree Festival to the Giant Snow Globe. Between attractions, families can browse the Christmas market, toast marshmallows or warm up with a hot chocolate or mulled wine.

By Thomas Wales

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/four-days-of-snow-forecast-for-bishop-aucklands-christmas-town**

Your turn

Send us your story

magazine.ad/submit

Durham Students Reach National Final With Platform to Beat AI Job Screening



Photo supplied by Griffiths Hunt PR

Nearly one million UK 16 to 24-year-olds are currently not in education, employment, or training, with many job applicants rejected by systems before a human ever sees their application.

CVSuite.ai aims to tackle part of the problem by helping students improve their own applications rather than simply generating generic AI-written content.

The platform helps students understand how to match their experience to individual opportunities, while careers teams can use live data to identify where students are being screened out and where additional support is needed.

How It Began

For Isaac, the idea began after experiencing the challenges of applying for jobs himself. In the last year he applied for around 100 applications but was getting nowhere. He used his computer science knowledge to design and streamline a system to tailor his applications quickly, which was time consuming but worked. He got multiple offers and friends started asking him for help.

The National Final

Isaac and Eila will now take their innovation to the Champion of Champions event at the Royal Academy of Engineering in London in November. The competition is sponsored by the business education charity ESBF, Engineers and Scientists in Business Fellowship. The UK is world renowned for its innovation, yet our scientists and engineers often struggle when it comes to turning these ideas into financially viable companies in the UK, generating jobs and contributing to economic growth in their home country. ESBF aims to give Britain's engineers and scientists the business education skills to turn their ideas into successful businesses. The November event will see ten student teams from universities across the UK receive expert coaching from ESBF's Sainsbury Management Fellows community and pitch their innovations in a live final for a share of £16,500 prize money and business mentoring.

By Judith Hunt

Read more: **durhammagazine.co.uk**

Your turn

Send us your story

magazine.ad/submit

DURHAM

Durham woman who was homeless at 22 wins top award



8

Photo: Sam Cooke

A Durham woman who was made homeless at 22 has been named Young Property Investor of the Year at the Property Investors Awards in London.

Ellie Cockbain, now 24, collected the award on 14 November 2026 in front of 800 people from across the property industry. It caps a remarkable two years for the former police officer, who built her business from the ground up while she had nowhere permanent to live.

Ellie started her property company, The Rest Club, while still working as a police officer. In the early days she often worked from the very unit she was managing.

Ellie said:

"Two years ago I didn't have a home of my own, so standing on that stage in London still doesn't feel real.

By Victoria Farrow

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/durham-woman-who-was-homeless-at-22-wins-top-award**

DURHAM

Brandon Boxer captures the Northern Area Super-Middleweight Championship



8

Photo: Jason 'The Snapper' Corbett

Brandon boxing club's 'EL CANNON', Callum Walton has won the vacant Northern Area Super-Middleweight title in a bout with local rival Jack Scott from Jobes Gym in Newcastle.

They battled it out at The Sunderland Live Arena for the vacant Northern Area Super-Middleweight title, on the 31st October, 2026.

Callum, 31-years-old, was coming off the back off his first professional loss against Grant Dennis who Scott had defeated and floored twice.

Walton went into the bout giving away experience to the seasoned and well travelled, Scott, and was the underdog heading into the fight.

By Alex Oliver BEM

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/brandon-boxer-captures-the-northern-area-super-middleweight-championship**

DURHAM

Tanfield Railway Volunteers Receive County Durham's Highest Civic Honour



9

Photo: Durham County Council

Dedicated volunteers who have helped preserve and transform Tanfield Railway, the world's oldest railway, have been recognised with County Durham's highest civic honour.

As the historic railway celebrates its 300th anniversary, Durham County Council has awarded its volunteers the prestigious Chairman's Medal in recognition of their outstanding commitment to protecting and celebrating the region's railway heritage.

The railway has been run by volunteers for over 50 years now, with 218 people currently volunteering their time, skills and passion to the railway.

By Albert Nelson

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/tanfield-railway-volunteers-receive-county-durhams-highest-civic-honour**

DURHAM

Jörd brings fine dining to Bishop Auckland market place



9

Photo: Y Hawkey

Inspired by a passion for Scandinavian cuisine and a belief in letting exceptional ingredients speak for themselves, Jörd offers a fresh approach to fine dining, with a menu centred around locally sourced produce, seasonality and simplicity.

Named after Jörd, the Norse goddess of the Earth, the restaurant champions food that is rooted in its surroundings. Dishes are thoughtfully created using quality ingredients, with a stripped-back approach that allows the natural flavours of the produce to take centre stage.

A local chef comes home

Born and raised in Bishop Auckland, Mike Bartley's early career took an unconventional route. Before finding his way into hospitality, he was a musician and singer with local band Red Method, performing at venues across the North East and beyond.

By Yvonne Hawkey

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/jord-brings-fine-dining-to-bishop-auckland-market-place**

In brief



Photo: Ian McLelland

DURHAM

Former social worker turns Silversmithing passion into new North East business

Tom Farncombe has launched Lughna Silver, creating individually handmade silver jewellery after deciding to step away from a varied career that saw him working in both children's education and, more recently, in protection roles as a Children's Guardian.

By Tim Deakin
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/former-social-worker-turns-silversmithing-passion-into-new-north-east-business**



Photo: North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS)

DURHAM

Lifesaving defibrillator installed to protect rural County Durham community

A rural community in County Durham has welcomed a potentially lifesaving new defibrillator, helping residents access vital emergency equipment when every second counts.

By Barbara Parker
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/lifesaving-defibrillator-installed-to-protect-rural-county-durham-community**



DURHAM

County Durham Charities Secure £670,000 Funding Boost to Expand Homelessness Support

Two charities are set to benefit from a combined £670,000 funding boost to expand homelessness support across County Durham.

By Barbara Parker
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/county-durham-charities-secure-670000-funding-boost-to-expand-homelessness-support**



DURHAM

Crook Winter Light Parade returns with spectacular space-themed Christmas celebrations

Crook is preparing for a spectacular celebration of light, music and Christmas magic as its much-loved Winter Light Parade returns on Sunday 29 November with an exciting outer space theme.

By Catherine Wilson
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/crook-winter-light-parade-returns-with-spectacular-space-themed-christmas-celebrations**

In brief



Photo: Dean Midas

DURHAM

North East filmmaker releases Charity Christmas EP inspired by Durham rescue

Dean Midas, a North East film director, will release a charity six-track EP, A Dean Midas Christmas, on Friday 27th November 2026 to raise funds for The Salvation Army's winter homelessness support.

By Dean Midas

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/north-east-filmmaker-releases-charity-christmas-ep-inspired-by-durham-rescue**



DURHAM

County Durham Ready for Winter with £5.2 Million Investment in Road Safety

Durham County Council is gearing up for the colder months, with preparations well underway to keep roads safe and communities moving throughout the winter.

By Zoe Walker

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/county-durham-ready-for-winter-with-52-million-investment-in-road-safety**



DURHAM

Bishop Auckland Hospital Patients Praise Outstanding Care and Surgical Facilities

Patients at Bishop Auckland Hospital have praised the high standard of care, modern facilities and dedicated support they receive when undergoing planned surgery, with some saying they would not choose to have their operations anywhere else.

By Albert Nelson

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/bishop-auckland-hospital-patients-praise-outstanding-care-and-surgical-facilities**

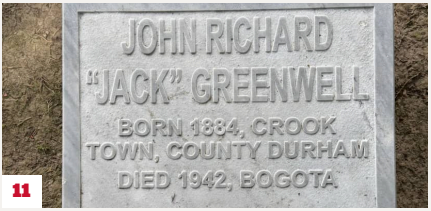


Photo: Richard McColl

DURHAM

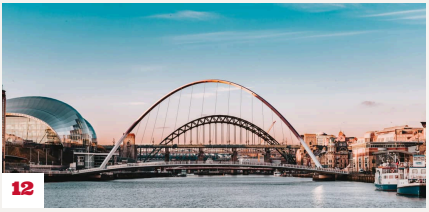
Crook football legend receives tombstone 84 years later

Jack Greenwell, of Crook Town, County Durham, is arguably the most successful English football coach to have ever plied his trade overseas.

By Richard McColl

Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/crook-legend-receives-tombstone-84-years-later**

In brief



12

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle and Gateshead Regeneration Plan Opens for Public Views Until 6 January

Residents across the North East are being invited to help shape the future of Newcastle and Gateshead, with plans to create vibrant, welcoming places to live, work and enjoy.

By Barbara Parker
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-and-gateshead-regeneration-plan-opens-for-public-views-until-6-january**



12

Photo: Joe Costigan Photography

NEWCASTLE

North East Rugby Players Swap Boots for Swimsuits in Hilarious Charity Calendar

A group of former North East rugby players have traded their muddy boots for miniskirts, swimsuits and Spice Girls outfits in a lighthearted fundraising campaign supporting motor neurone disease charities.

By Albert Nelson
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/north-east-rugby-players-swap-boots-for-swimsuits-in-hilarious-charity-calendar**



12

Photo: Erin Malik

NEWCASTLE

Fenwick Christmas Window Brings the Gruffalo's Child to Newcastle

The Fenwick Christmas Window is one of the North East's most beloved family traditions, globally renowned for its stunning designs and captivating stories each year.

By Erin Malik
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/fenwick-christmas-window-brings-the-gruffalos-child-to-newcastle**



12

Photo: Southpaw Company

SUNDERLAND

Community Spectacular Marks Opening of Culture House

School children from St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy were the first audience for HOME, a community performance by Southpaw Company marking the opening of Culture House in Sunderland.

By Lindsay Parker
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/community-spectacular-marks-opening-of-culture-house**

In brief



DARLINGTON

Retired Officer Meets Air Ambulance Crew Who Saved His Life

A retired police officer from Darlington and his colleagues have thanked their local air ambulance service for coming to their aid following a road traffic collision earlier this year.

By Zoe Walker
Continued at **darlingtonmagazine.com/retired-officer-meets-air-ambulance-crew-who-saved-his-life**



Photo: TJMov

DARLINGTON

Alphabetti Theatre set to host festive special from RuPaul's Drag Race UK contestant

Darlington born drag artist The Delta Quadrant is bringing her full-length festive production to the Alphabetti Theatre in Newcastle for a limited run.

By Em Tonkinson-Sharp
Continued at **darlingtonmagazine.com/alphabetti-theatre-set-to-host-festive-special-from-rupauls-drag-race-uk-contestant**

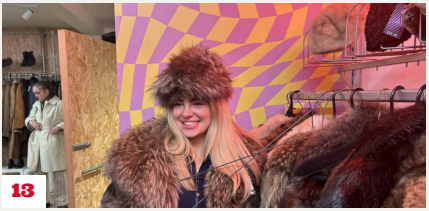


Photo: The Northern School of Art

HARTLEPOOL

Hartlepool fashion student lands Victoria Beckham Internship

Ebony Murtha has swapped the studio in Hartlepool's Northern School of Art for an internship with Victoria Beckham's London Atelier.

By Ian Monaghan
Continued at **hartlepoolmagazine.co.uk/hartlepool-fashion-student-lands-victoria-beckham-internship**



Photo: Karen Dickie

CONSETT

Wonderful gifts from a stranger: the magic of books travelling throughout the country

Originally, I thought this page could simply be another fantastic resource for recommendations however a post from the voluntary organiser of the group caught my attention about a secret book swap between members.

By Karen Dickie
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/wonderful-gifts-from-a-stranger-the-magic-of-books-travelling-throughout-the-country**

In brief

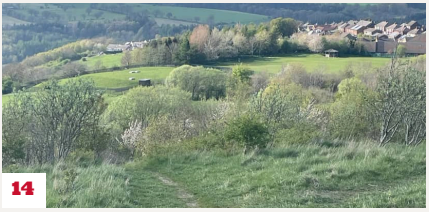


Photo: Soph Campbell

CONSETT

Four countryside walks in and around Consett

Consett has its fair share of wonderful places to enjoy nature and breath some fresh air into your lungs, despite its urban feel.

Soph Campbell shares her favourite hidden walking gems, in and around Consett;

By Sophie Campbell
Continued at **consettmagazine.com/four-countryside-walks-in-and-around-consett**

Your turn

Send us your story

Clubs, charities, schools, businesses and neighbours: if it matters round here, we want to hear about it.

magazine.ad/submit
Scan to send your story

All around you

Find your local magazine

Every story in this edition was first published by one of our local magazines. Find yours, read it and send it your news.

magazine.ad/our-magazines

Every day online

More local stories

Read more from Durham and across the North East, and share the stories you love.

durhammagazine.co.uk

Local news, made by local people.

Free to read and free to send in. Clubs, charities, businesses and neighbours share what is happening round here. There are three ways in.

1

Send your story free

Send it at magazine.ad/submit. Every story is reviewed by our editors, who decide what runs on news value.

Scan to send your story
magazine.ad/submit

2

Do it yourself on magazine.ad

Choose a paid option when you send your story: priority with our editors, a clearly labelled advertisement feature, or magazine.ad Amplify for more reach across our magazines, newsletters and social media.

3

A campaign built for you

We plan it with you and run it across our magazines, newsletters and social, at the scale you need.

Local

One town, or a few neighbouring towns.

Regional

A whole region.

National

Across the UK.

Every story is reviewed by our editors; paying never buys a place in the magazine.

SEE THE OPTIONS

magazine.ad/pricing

CAMPAIGNS: TALK TO BARRY OR PETER

020 3468 0479

Stories sent to us can appear in our monthly digital editions too.

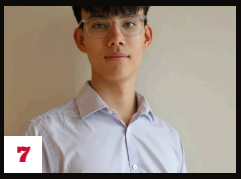
Firefly New Media also builds websites and designs for local organisations: fireflynewmedia.com

and finally...

YOUR STORY COULD BE NEXT















+ Your story here

magazine.ad/submit

Scan the code to send us your story. Clubs, charities, schools, businesses and neighbours all welcome.

Read more local news:
durhammagazine.co.uk

Durham Magazine Digital edition, November 2026. Stories first published by our local magazines across the North East.

Find your local magazine at **magazine.ad/our-magazines**
Published by Firefly New Media Ltd.