SUNDERLAND MAGAZINE



Inside this month

Sunderland Hair Salon Named Best Hair Salon of the Year 9

Sunderland Prepares for Back-to-Back Weekends of Music at Keel Square 4

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens Prepares for £13.6m Transformation 6

DIGITAL EDITION
August 2026

Compiled from stories published online in August 2026

SUNDERLAND MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION

IN THIS ISSUE

Your people, your pages

4 Sunderland Prepares for Back-to-Back Weekends of Music at Keel Square

6 Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens Prepares for £13.6m Transformation

7 £82,300 Invested in Sunderland's Young Creatives

8 Washington Village Welcomes Britain in Bloom Judges

8 One Big Summer Returns to Sunderland Parks and Bandstands

9 Sunderland Hair Salon Named Best Hair Salon of the Year

9 Sunderland Restaurant Week Returns with Deals Across the City

10 In brief: Sunderland

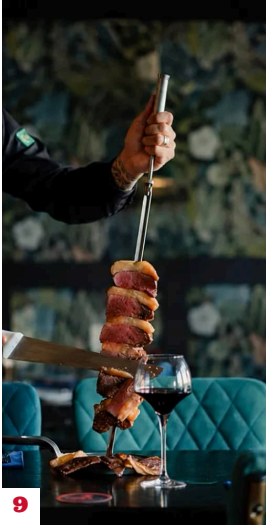
11 In brief: Newcastle

12 In brief: Newcastle, Durham

13 In brief: Durham

14 In brief: Stanley

16 Your story could be next



9



9



10

+ Your story here

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

On the cover: Sunderland Hair Salon Named Best Hair Salon of the Year, page 9. Photo supplied by Satchi Salons.

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

sunderlandmagazine.com

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



4

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Prepares for Back-to-Back Weekends of Music at Keel Square

Sunderland's Keel Square is set to become the ultimate party destination this month, with two back-to-back weekends of live music offering something for everyone.

Expect everything from massive throwback anthems and world class tribute acts to heavy-hitting dance beats and family fun when the In the Square Summer Series kicks off on Friday 21 August with George Michael tribute, Rob Lamberti.

The fun continues on Saturday 22 August with a 'Love the 90s Festival' bringing a day of pure nostalgia to Keel Square, while a Girlypop Festival, featuring top tribute acts to Beyonce, Sabrina Carpenter and Taylor Swift among others, brings the first weekend to a close on Sunday 23 August.

There's more to look forward to over the August Bank Holiday weekend, with The Bootleg Beatles bringing the soundtrack of a generation to Keel Square on Friday 28 August, followed by a day of house music with Armand Van Helden, SOSA, Sidney Charles and more taking to the stage on Saturday 29 August.

The Road to Nashville rolls into Keel Square on Sunday 30 August for a day of country music,

great food and plenty of Wild West fun in the heart of the city centre. Expect country favourites inspired by artists including Shania Twain, Luke Combs, Dolly Parton, Chris Stapleton and more.

Family Fest with K-Pop Live rounds off the Bank Holiday weekend on Monday 31 August, bringing a day packed with entertainment, music and festival fun to the heart of Sunderland.

Attendees will be able to enjoy a range of food and drink offerings throughout the event, alongside a selection of popular fairground attractions. The fairground will feature a number of rides, including the Waltzer, Tagada and Starflyer, providing entertainment and excitement for all ticketholders.

Councillor Ciera Hudspith, Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Heritage at Sunderland City Council, said: "We're looking forward to welcoming thousands of people into the city centre for what promises to be two fantastic weekends of live music and entertainment in Keel Square. The In the Square Summer Series offers something for everyone, from iconic tribute acts and nostalgic festival favourites to world-class DJs, country music and family-friendly fun.

"These events are a fantastic opportunity to showcase Sunderland as a vibrant destination for live events, while also bringing additional visitors into the city centre to support local businesses.

"With the August Bank Holiday weekend and Sunderland AFC's first home match of the season also taking place during this period, we're expecting the city to be particularly busy. We'd encourage visitors to plan their journeys in advance, make use of public transport where possible and allow extra time for travel so they can enjoy everything the city has to offer."

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

By Metro https://travelnortheast.uk/

· Stations: Sunderland and Park Lane and Stadium of Light, which are 0.3 miles and 0.4 miles respectively from Keel Square

· Line: Green, South Hylton to Newcastle Airport, includes stops at Newcastle Central Station and Gateshead. Frequency: every 12 minutes,

· If travelling Northbound after the event, you should use Sunderland Metro station, if travelling Southbound use Park Lane Metro station. Nexus metro services from both stations are wheelchair accessible.

By Bus: https://travelnortheast.uk/

· Park Lane Interchange: Sunderland's main bus terminal is just 0.4 miles from Keel Square

· Routes: You can reach Sunderland from all across the North East on a wide range of bus services; plan your journey at https://travelnortheast.uk/

· Price: Adult single fares are £2.50 or less. Under 15s travel free (under 11s when accompanied by an adult) thanks to the Great British Summer Savings scheme. Under 22s travel for just £1.

PARKING

Visitors travelling to the city centre are advised that a number of parking facilities will remain available throughout the event period.

By Albert Nelson Online 18 August 2026

Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-prepares-for-back-to-back-weekends-of-music-at-keel-square**

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens Prepares for £13.6m Transformation



6

There's less than a week left to visit Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens before it closes its doors to allow preparations to begin for its exciting £13.6m transformation.

Before work gets underway, residents and visitors are being invited to make one last visit to the museum, explore their favourite exhibits and enjoy a stroll through the popular Winter Gardens before the venue closes its doors to the public.

To mark the occasion, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens is hosting a special Alice in Wonderland Farewell Party on its last day, Saturday 29 August, celebrating the memories, creativity and community that have made the museum such a special place for generations of visitors.

Visitors will be able to enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities throughout the day, including:

Delicious homemade cakes from Sunshine Cooperative

Taking part in a community art project with local artist Kerry Cook

The chance to write a 'love letter to the museum', sharing their favourite memories and reflections. These will become part of a special commemorative scrapbook celebrating the museum's story

Making Walrus badges

Viewing the exciting new designs for the museum

In the Winter Gardens, there will be a final opportunity to experience the thought-provoking 404 Birdsong Exhibition, exploring our relationship with nature and sounds.

By Zoe Walker Online 26 August 2026

Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens-prepares-for-136m-transformation**

SUNDERLAND

£82,300 Invested in Sunderland's Young Creatives



7

Young people across Sunderland have received more than £82,300 in creative development funding through Culture Start Sunderland's Ignite Bursary Programme, as the third round of ends.

Since launching, the programme has awarded 172 bursaries to 138 young people, helping them access opportunities, equipment, training and experiences that would otherwise have been beyond their financial reach.

Among those supported is Belle, a 14-year-old dancer whose bursary helped pay for essential ballet shoes, enabling her to continue pursuing her passion for dance.

Belle's mother, Leanne, said:

I want Belle to have the opportunities other children have. As a parent, there is a lot of pressure when it comes to finding the extra money to support your child's talents, with the expense of ballet shoes, lessons, taking part in competitions, and such. The bursary money has helped, as well as given Bella a huge boost of confidence.

The Ignite Bursary supports young people aged 11–18 (up to 25, for young people with SEND) who face financial and social barriers to accessing creative and cultural opportunities.

Sunderland has some of the highest rates of child poverty in the UK. 15,000 children live in poverty in the city.

The programme specifically targets young people experiencing poverty and disadvantage, including those eligible for Free School Meals, living in low-income households, young carers, care-experienced young people and those with long-term health conditions or disabilities.

By Clair Challenor-Chadwick Online 12 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/82300-invested-in-sunderlands-young-creatives**

SUNDERLAND

Washington Village Welcomes Britain in Bloom Judges



8

A dedicated team of volunteers has welcomed the RHS Britain in Bloom judges to Washington Village, as the community represents the region in this year's national competition.

Washington Village is going head-to-head with nine others across the UK in the Best Village category of Britain in Bloom, representing the North East area from Berwick to North Yorkshire and across to the Cumbria border.

Washington has had previous success in the competition, picking up the Best Village award in 2024 and being named overall winner in Northumbria in Bloom in both 2021 and 2025.

A team of 20 volunteers welcomed the judges today (Monday 3 August) as they toured the village and inspected the floral displays. They were also judging the village for community involvement and environmental responsibility.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 4 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/washington-village-welcomes-britain-in-bloom-judges**

SUNDERLAND

One Big Summer Returns to Sunderland Parks and Bandstands



8

Residents and visitors are being invited to enjoy four weekends of free entertainment, creativity and culture as Sunderland's popular One Big Summer programme returns to the city's bandstands and parks.

The community events will celebrate local talent through poetry, visual art, live music, fashion and folk performances, giving people of all ages the chance to enjoy Sunderland's outdoor spaces.

The programme begins with 'Art and Poetry in the Park' at Mowbray Park on Saturday 22 August, a celebration of creativity where live poetry performances delivered by King Ink. This will sit alongside interactive art workshops and guided open-air painting sessions led by 24 North East.

By Barbara Parker Online 19 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/one-big-summer-returns-to-sunderland-parks-and-bandstands**

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Hair Salon Named Best Hair Salon of the Year



9

Photo supplied by Satchi Salons

A Sunderland hair salon has beaten strong competition from across the country to be named Best Hair Salon of the Year.

Satchi Salons, based at Everlast Gym on Timber Beach Road, received the prestigious honour at the UK Hair & Beauty Awards, held recently in Manchester.

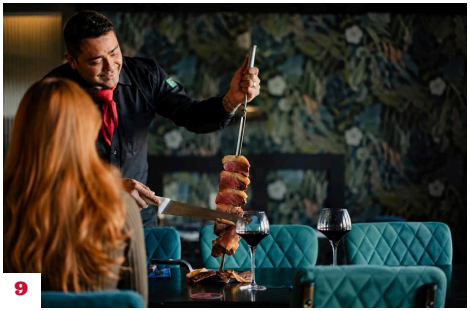
The awards (widely regarded as the top industry honours) turn a spotlight on salons which are at the top of their game, with Satchi also placed highly in a number of other categories.

Junior Bobby Parks took third place in the Best Trainee category, with Satchi Salons named fourth in the Best Colour Salon category and seventh for Best Business Branding.

By Barbara Parker Online 27 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-hair-salon-named-best-hair-salon-of-the-year**

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Restaurant Week Returns with Deals Across the City



9

Photo supplied by Sunderland BIDs

Restaurants, cafés, bars and pubs on both sides of the River Wear are preparing to welcome hungry visitors, as Sunderland gets ready for its second Restaurant Week of the year.

From September 5 to 13 diners from across the region can take advantage of discounted deals at dozens of top eateries.

Around 50 top Sunderland spots have already signed up to participate in the event (where diners can enjoy £10, £15, £20 and £25 offers) with more poised to take part.

The excitement around Sunderland Restaurant Week reflects the city's fast-growing food and drink scene, which is the number one contributor in sales to the local economy.

By Albert Nelson Online 7 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-restaurant-week-returns-with-deals-across-the-city**

In brief



10

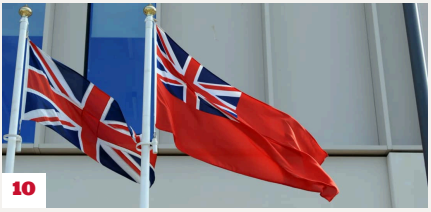
Photo supplied by Sunderland City Council

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Receives £24,000 Grant to Tackle Chewing Gum Litter

Streets in the north of Sunderland will be undergoing a deep clean as the City Council has received a £24,000 grant to clean up chewing gum.

By Sunderland Magazine Online 3 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-receives-24000-grant-to-tackle-chewing-gum-litter**



10

SUNDERLAND

Public Invited to Attend Sunderland Merchant Navy Day Ceremony

Sunderland will honour the Merchant Navy as the city commemorates Merchant Navy Day on Thursday 3 September.

By Zoe Walker Online 13 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/public-invited-to-attend-sunderland-merchant-navy-day-ceremony**



10

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Residents Invited to Shape £20m Pride in Place Investment

Residents in two Sunderland communities are being invited to have their say on how up to £20m could be invested in their areas over the next decade.

By Zoe Walker Online 8 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-residents-invited-to-shape-20m-pride-in-place-investment**



10

SUNDERLAND

Sunderland Festival and Events Fund Opens with RE:IMAGINE Theme

Sunderland City Council's Festival & Events Fund 2026/27 is now open, with the latest funding round inviting groups to explore this season's theme: RE:IMAGINE.

By Albert Nelson Online 10 August 2026
Continued at **sunderlandmagazine.com/sunderland-festival-and-events-fund-opens-with-reimagine-theme**

In brief



11

NEWCASTLE

Great North Air Ambulance Launches SOS Raffle for Helicopter Fleet

The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) is offering supporters the chance to win a £10,000 top prize in its annual raffle, while raising vital funds for its life-saving work across the North of England and the Isle of Man.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 3 August 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/great-north-air-ambulance-launches-sos-raffle-for-helicopter-fleet**



11

NEWCASTLE

Sketch for Sammy 2026 Launches Search for North East Comedy Writers

The search is underway for the North East's next comedy writing talent, as the Sunday for Sammy Trust launches its popular Sketch for Sammy 2026 competition and the Clement & La Frenais Award for Best Sketch.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 11 August 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/sketch-for-sammy-2026-launches-search-for-north-east-comedy-writers**



11

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Cathedral Café Marks Five Years After Supporting 64 Prison Leavers Into Work and Volunteering

A Newcastle Cathedral café created to help people rebuild their lives after involvement with the criminal justice system is marking its fifth anniversary after supporting 64 prison leavers into employment and volunteering.

By Callum Fraser Online 14 August 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-cathedral-cafe-marks-five-years-after-supporting-64-prison-leavers-into-work-and-volunteering**



11

NEWCASTLE

Northumberland Ex-Racehorse Anythingtoday Heads to RoR Championships

10 August 2026: Northumberland's remarkable former racehorse, Anythingtoday, is to compete in three dressage and two showjumping classes at The Jockey Club Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) National Championships at Aintree between 18-20 August.

By Newcastle Magazine Online 11 August 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/northumberland-ex-racehorse-anythingtoday-heads-to-ror-championships**

In brief



12

NEWCASTLE

Community Project Builds Cycling Confidence Across the North East

A North East community project is helping adults rediscover the freedom of cycling through free guided rides, bike lessons and repairs at its Cycle Hub.

By Zoe Eastman Online 17 August 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/community-project-builds-cycling-confidence-across-the-north-east**



12

NEWCASTLE

Sir Bobby Robson Institute to Expand Clinical Trials for Cancer Patients

Sir Bobby Robson launched his Foundation in 2008 to help find more effective ways to detect and treat cancer.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 16 August 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/sir-bobby-robson-institute-to-expand-clinical-trials-for-cancer-patients**



12

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Youth Therapy Service Supports Families Before Crisis Point

A Newcastle academic with international expertise in children's rights has launched a specialist youth wellbeing service to support young people with anxiety, stress and self-esteem before these challenges escalate into a mental health crisis.

By Sara Janiszewska Online 12 August 2026
Continued at **newcastlemagazine.com/newcastle-youth-therapy-service-supports-families-before-crisis-point**



12

DURHAM

Treasured DLI Collection Items Prepared for Display in Durham

Treasured items that help share the stories of those who served in the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) are being prepared for display at a new cultural venue.

By Durham Magazine Online 3 August 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/treasured-dli-collection-items-prepared-for-display-in-durham**

In brief



DURHAM

Opening Weekend Celebrates Culture, Creativity and Community at The Light

Visitors of all ages enjoyed their first look inside The Light, Durham's brand-new cultural attraction, as it officially opened to the public.

By Barbara Parker Online 26 August 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/opening-weekend-celebrates-culture-creativity-and-community-at-the-light**



DURHAM

Ushaw Tea Dances Help Older People Connect Through Music and Movement

Older people in North West Durham are stepping back in time on the dancefloor, thanks to a new series of tea dances at one of the county's landmark cultural venues.

Online 12 August 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/ushaw-tea-dances-help-older-people-connect-through-music-and-movement**



DURHAM

First Durham Jazz Festival Performances Near Capacity as Excitement Builds

Durham Jazz Festival is seeing strong demand ahead of its inaugural event this October, with its first show now sold out and several other performances nearing capacity.

By Barbara Parker Online 30 August 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/first-durham-jazz-festival-performances-near-capacity-as-excitement-builds**



DURHAM

Moving On Durham Receives Funding for Young People's Garden Project

A long-standing North East homelessness charity will be able to create new outdoor opportunities for young people, thanks to funding from a regional employer.

Online 2 August 2026
Continued at **durhammagazine.co.uk/moving-on-durham-receives-funding-for-young-peoples-garden-project**

In brief



14

STANLEY

Stanley Author Hopes to Inspire Local Readers After Publishing Fourth Book

After turning more than 25 years of experience as a holistic practitioner into books for adults and children, Stanley resident Nicola P Foster is hoping to share her writing journey with local schools

By Nicola Foster Online 31 August 2026
Continued at **stanleymagazine.com/stanley-author-hopes-to-inspire-local-readers-after-publishing-fourth-book**

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 Sunderland and across the North East, and share the stories you love.

sunderlandmagazine.com

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



9


9


10

+ Your story here

+ Your story here

+ Your story here

+ Your story here

+ 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:
sunderlandmagazine.com

Sunderland Magazine Digital edition, August 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.