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Peterlee woman marks 100 years after helping Britain's wartime miners

WHAT'S
INSIDE



Local News



Movie Review



What's On

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Welcome,

to latest edition of **In&Around East Durham!**

As the seasons change, there's plenty to discover, enjoy and get involved with across East Durham. From events and family days out to local entertainment and community celebrations, we've rounded up some of the highlights coming your way this November and December.

Whether you're looking for something to do with the family, getting into the spooky spirit, preparing for Bonfire Night, or simply exploring what's happening on your doorstep, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

If you'd like to feature in the next edition, drop us an email at hello@inandaroundmag.co.uk or call Ashley on **0191 500 9574**.



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Copy deadline for the December/January edition is November 18th

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COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to the previous competition winners, all winners have been notified

Winners will be selected at random. The provider will only receive the details of winning entries in order to fulfil completion of the prize.

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lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for every installation we carry out! So, if you want to make use of your loft space, however big or

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May Edwards with Kim Corfield and Beverly Goodwin from Believe Housing.
(Image: BELIEVE HOUSING)

Peterlee woman marks 100 years after helping Britain's wartime miners

A former wartime canteen girl who helped support Bevin Boys working in County Durham's coalfields has celebrated her 100th birthday.

May Edwards, a Believe Housing customer, marked the milestone on Friday, September 4, with a special visit from Neighbourhood Officers Kim Corfield and Beverly Goodwin, who presented her with a birthday card and hamper on behalf of the landlord.

Born May Savage in Horden, May played her own part in the war effort as a teenager, working at the miners' hostel in Horden, which accommodated Bevin Boys – young men conscripted to work in Britain's coal mines during and after the Second World War to help tackle a critical fuel shortage.

As a tea bar attendant, May worked in the kitchen, serving tea, coffee and meals to miners working at Horden and Easington collieries.

She said: "I was proud of that job; it was my bit for the war effort. It was a paid job and I had a little room to sleep in.

"I was a canteen girl, helping in the kitchen and making tea and coffee for the lads, who were lovely and worked so hard.

"I had wanted to work in the munitions factory in Sheffield, but I wasn't old enough. Looking back, it was for the best."

May later worked in a drapery shop in Horden, where she met her future husband, Stanley Edwards, who worked at a nearby butcher's. The couple married in 1948 and later moved to Peterlee as the new town was being developed.

They went on to raise their two children, Alan and Glynis, in the home where May still lives today – more than 60 years after moving there.

Now widowed and a grandmother, May remains active with the support of her family.

"I have a lovely big family and they come to help me with the jobs I cannot do myself, but I like to keep busy and try to keep active," she said.

"I have a little four-wheeler to whizz around.

"My garden has always been one of my great pleasures; I still like the borders to look good.

"My family take me for a look out, we go all over. I enjoy a garden centre trip and going out for food. I'm lucky that way."

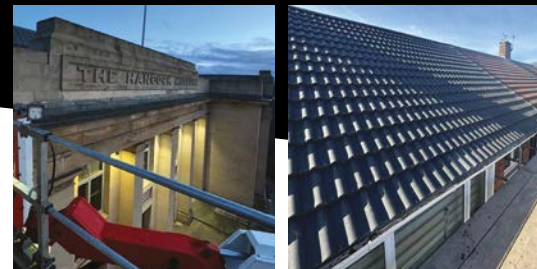


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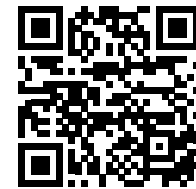


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Pattinson Peterlee: Putting Local Property Knowledge to Work

When it comes to moving home, experience matters, and so does knowing the area, understanding the local market and, perhaps most importantly, understanding the people who live there.

At Pattinson Estate Agency in Peterlee, we are proud to have built a strong reputation in the local community and to be the area's leading estate agent for property sales. Selling more properties than any other agency locally is something we are incredibly proud of, but for us, the numbers are only part of the story.

Behind every sale is a person, a family or a couple making an important decision about their future. Our role is to make that journey as straightforward, well-informed and positive as possible.

Peterlee and the surrounding communities offer a fantastic variety of homes, from established family properties to newer developments and everything in between. We understand what attracts buyers to the area and what sellers need to do to make the most of today's market.

Our local knowledge is supported by the wider strength and reach of the Pattinson Estate Agency brand, giving our clients the benefit of both a genuinely local service and the marketing expertise of an established

North East brand.

We believe good estate agency is about more than putting a board outside a property. It is about accurate advice, strong presentation, effective marketing and communication throughout the process. Above all, it is about doing what we say we will do and being there when our clients need us.

Our position as the area's top-selling agency is a reflection of the trust placed in us by local homeowners. And as an almost 50 year old company, we never take that trust for granted.

Whether you are thinking about selling now, planning a move for the future or simply wondering what your property might be worth, we would be delighted to have a conversation.

Because when you know Peterlee, its people and its property market, you can help people move with confidence. Speak with our Pattinson Peterlee team today, because sometimes the best place to start a property journey is simply with a conversation. The branch is open Monday to Saturday, and our main Regional call centre is open at extended hours, and you can enquire anytime online at pattinson.co.uk

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FIFTEEN YEARS OF FOOD, FAMILIAR FACES AND GIVING BACK IN SEAHAM

For more than 15 years, Ashoka has been a familiar name on Seaham's North Terrace, serving local diners from its spot close to the seafront.

The restaurant has built its reputation on Indian cooking that brings together traditional favourites and more contemporary dishes, with flavours drawn from different parts of India. It caters for everything from a quiet meal for two to family celebrations and larger parties, while takeaway and delivery are also part of the business.

But for the team behind Ashoka, the story is not only about what comes out of the kitchen.

They are particularly proud of the relationship the restaurant has built with Seaham. Over the years, the team says it has tried to support local causes, fundraising and community activity whenever it can, while also providing a place where people come together for birthdays, anniversaries and the ordinary nights out that become part of family life.

That community role has included opening the restaurant up for local fundraising. In 2022, the Mayor of Seaham held an Indian Night at Ashoka as part of a

programme raising money for local charities.

It is one example of the part Ashoka has played in the town beyond its day-to-day restaurant trade.

Based at 15 North Terrace, Ashoka has also watched Seaham itself change. The seafront and surrounding area have developed considerably during that time, bringing new visitors and businesses into the town, but the restaurant's focus has remained fairly simple: good food, a friendly welcome and looking after the customers who keep coming back.

That loyalty is something Ashoka openly values. Its own website talks about the importance of seeing diners return, and after more than a decade in Seaham, plenty of those customers now know the restaurant, its food and its team well.

Reaching the 15-year point offers a chance to look back at what has changed, but there is no suggestion Ashoka is treating it as a finish line.

For the team, the plan is straightforward: keep serving the town, keep supporting the community where they can and keep giving people a reason to come back.



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IN AROUND

MAGAZINE

Support for Families and Help for Hospitals

The Bradley Lowery Foundation, Blackhall

The Bradley Lowery Foundation are appealing to the public for support on their newest projects.

The Hero Hampers Project, launched in May of this year, provides care packages to families that find themselves stuck in Hospital without basic items such as fresh underwear, toiletries and phone chargers. With the increasing cost of living in the UK, many parents do not have the extra cash to purchase these items once in Hospital. The Bradley Lowery Foundation has set up a donation appeal via cardboard collection bins in locations around Sunderland and are asking the public to support by donating items such as pyjamas; a full wish list is featured on the collection bins and bin locations can be viewed on The Bradley Lowery Foundation website.

The Hero Hampers have already been accessed by 24 individuals who would have been without basic items if not for the new project. Please visit www.bradleyloweryfoundation.com, supported causes, help for hospitals, hero hampers, to view the full wish list and donate today.

Super Brad's Pad Project in Scarborough is due to open in September this year to provide free stays to families experiencing illnesses and disabilities, creating lasting memories together during difficult times. The Bradley Lowery Foundation has raised £1.2m to build an accessible, 5 double bedroom holiday home, featuring a sensory room, teen games room, adult sunroom with pool table and bar and hot tub.

Estimated to help over 1000 individuals per year, Super Brad's Pad will host up to 2 families per week and is estimated to cost £1000 per week in running costs. The Bradley Lowery Foundation is appealing to the public to help fundraise towards running costs by hosting community fundraising events, raffles or simply donating via their website.



**Bradley Lowery
Foundation**



Gemma Lowery (Brad's Mam), Brooke (Family Support and Fundraising) and Ellie (Community Fundraiser) in front of Super Brad's Pad.

Bradley's Mam, Gemma had this to say: "I feel incredibly privileged to be part of helping families create precious memories by offering them the opportunity to stay in our holiday home during what can often be the most difficult times of their lives. Being able to ease some of the financial and emotional pressure through initiatives such as our Hero Hampers, supporting families with children in hospital, is something I am immensely proud of. Every family we help is a reminder of why the Bradley Lowery Foundation exists. I am honoured to continue Bradley's legacy, carrying forward the kindness, compassion and hope that he inspired, and ensuring his remarkable spirit continues to make a difference to the lives of children and families every single day."

Could you or your business help support Bradley's legacy and host a community fundraising event or donate towards our projects?

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Chesterfield

Places to go:

In many years of writing this column, I have only once visited a place which I decided not to write about as there was nothing to see or do. I nearly decided the same on a recent visit to Chesterfield. The north Derbyshire town should have lots going for it. Passing by on the train, travellers wonder at the twisted spire of the parish church of St. Mary and All Saints: "the most famous architectural distortion north of Pisa". It is also the burial place of railway pioneer George Stephenson who lived in the town towards the end of his life. He is buried at a different parish church, Holy Trinity, which is less than a mile from the crooked spire. I deliberately went to Chesterfield on 12th August which was the anniversary of his death, and the church was full with a coffee morning and helpful young people showing several visitors round the building.

Stephenson is buried behind the altar, and the National Lottery has funded a new kitchen facility at the back of the church. But it's not open every day, so it's a bit of a lottery whether you can get in to see the 15 interesting banner stands outlining his life, including the useful fact that he found, through experimentation, that even a slight gradient of 1 in 260 could consume half the locomotive's power. He therefore determined that railways should be constructed as flat as possible. The welcome was warm but opening hours intermittent. Meanwhile the twisted spire is only open to go up inside on a Friday and Saturday.

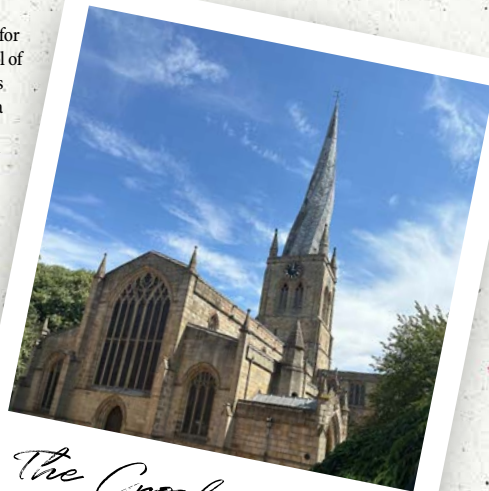
I met up with a former employee of mine for a drink in the Rutland Arms at noon and wondered what we should see beyond the two churches. There is a museum but it is closed for redevelopment. So is the adjacent art gallery. I was keen to see Revolution House, which is out at Old Whittington, a short bus ride away. That's where several nobles met (to avoid the rain) to plan what became the 1688 Glorious Revolution when William and Mary were invited to take the throne of Great Britain. At that time, the House was a pub known as the Cock and

Pynot which is a local word for a magpie. Under the control of the local museum (shut) it is also closed whilst they find a new tenant to run the building. Given the nobility were anxious to ensure a bloodless transition - which was achieved - after the bad experiences of the Civil War earlier in the century, you would think there's a real story to be told here.

Tapton House where the "father of the railways" lived is rented out and not open to visitors. We headed towards Queens Park on what was a hot day and found an excellent little café with some outstanding signwriting inside, and a wide selection of drinks and food, where we had a late lunch. But after that, with my train back to the northeast not until 1804, we had several hours to fill in a mixture of hostelrys, coffee shops and park benches. We found an interesting antiques centre over three floors between the park and the town, and enquired at the library (there being no tourist information centre) whether we had missed somewhere to visit, but had not! In the late afternoon the markets were shut, but I did not come to Chesterfield for coffee, booze, and closed market stalls. I'm sure it could be good when things are open: go, but not yet.



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Next level chicken pie

Discover the secrets to a great chicken pie. We use an easy one-pan filling, and bake it in a cake tin so it can be easily turned out and cut into neat wedges



Ingredients:

- ✓ 50g butter
- ✓ 1 leek
finely sliced
- ✓ 8 skinless, boneless chicken thighs
cut into chunks
- ✓ 1 thyme sprig
leaves picked
- ✓ 2 bay leaves
- ✓ 2 tbsp plain flour
- ✓ 100ml white wine
or dry sherry
- ✓ 300ml chicken stock
- ✓ 100ml crème fraîche
or double cream
- ✓ 1 tbsp mustard
(we used wholegrain, but use whatever variety you have)

For the pastry

- ✓ 150g cold butter
cut into cubes, plus extra for the dish
- ✓ 400g self-raising flour
plus extra for dusting
- ✓ 1 egg
beaten



Serves 6



Prep:
40mins



To cook:
1hr 15mins

Directions:

Step 1

Melt the butter in a casserole dish over a low heat. Add the leek, chicken, herbs and seasoning, and cook for 10-12 mins until the chicken is cooked, the leeks have softened, and the mixture is simmering. Stir in the flour and cook for 3 mins until the mix resembles a sandy paste. Pour in the wine or sherry, and bubble for 1 min, then stir in the stock, crème fraîche or cream and the mustard. Bring to a simmer. Cook for 10 mins until the chicken is cooked through. Season to taste, remove from the heat and leave to cool completely. Tip into a container and chill for 2 hrs, or overnight. Will keep chilled for up to two days.

Step 2

To make the pastry, rub the butter into the flour with a large pinch of salt until completely combined. Add half the beaten egg and 4 tbsp ice-cold water, and bring together into a dough using your hands, adding a little more water if needed. Knead for a minute so it completely comes together, then chill for 1 hr.

Step 3

Butter a 20cm loose-bottomed cake tin. Roll two-thirds of the pastry out until large enough to line the tin with some overhanging. Use it to line the tin, then spoon in the filling. Roll out the remaining pastry until large enough to cover the pie. Brush the edge of the pastry with a little of the remaining beaten egg, then drape over the pie to close it. Trim the edge, then press with a fork to seal. Chill until you're ready to cook. Will keep chilled for up to 24 hrs.

Step 4

Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7 with a baking sheet inside. Brush the pie with some of the remaining beaten egg, then lightly score a criss-cross pattern on top using a sharp knife. Bake on the hot sheet for 20 mins, then brush with the rest of the egg, season with sea salt flakes and bake for 15-20 mins more until deep golden. Remove from the oven and rest for 10 mins, then carefully remove from the tin, put on a board and cut into wedges to serve.

What's on East Durham



Shildon MFC Indoor Model Flying – Peterlee

Saturday 19 December 2026 - 11am–1pm

Looking for something a little different this December? Shildon Model Flying Club brings indoor flying to East Durham College in Peterlee, with a variety of radio-controlled aircraft taking to the air inside the sports facilities.

Open to BMFA members and spectators, it's a fascinating experience for aviation enthusiasts and families, with another session planned for January.



A Winter Walk Along the Durham Coast - FREE Seaham Harbour & Durham Coast, Seaham, Co. Durham - Dec 2026 – Jan 2027

Looking to get outdoors after Christmas? The Durham Coast offers a beautiful winter escape right on East Durham's doorstep. Seaham's coastline provides dramatic sea views, beaches, harbour scenery and sections of the Durham Coast Path. Crisp sea air and wide-open views make it a refreshing way to start the new year. Wrap up warm, grab a flask and enjoy a coastal walk close to home.



Hot Potato Comedy Club Christmas Special

Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre - Saturday 12 December 2026 - £18.50

Get ready for a night of festive laughs as Hot Potato Comedy Club brings its Christmas Special to Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre. Enjoy a brilliant line-up of stand-up comedy from Dave Twentymann (MC), Paul McCaffrey, Connor Read and Mick Ferry.

Tickets are £18.50, plus a £1.30 booking fee per ticket. Groups of 5+ pay a maximum booking fee of £6.50.



Cinderella

Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre - 10–27 Dec 2026 - £15–£26

Step into fairy-tale magic this Christmas as Cinderella comes to Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre.

This traditional festive pantomime features comedy, music, colourful costumes and plenty of audience participation – perfect for families.

Performances run from 10–27 December 2026, with tickets from £15–£26. Restricted view seats are £1 less.



Return of the Mack – The Ultimate Christmas Cracker with Frankie Mack

Peterlee Pavilion, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1ER - Tickets: £20
Enjoy an afternoon of festive glamour, award-winning entertainment and live music with Frankie Mack – The Scottish Showman. Perfect for a Christmas get-together with friends or family, this promises an afternoon packed with festive fun and entertainment.

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PRACTICAL MAGIC 2



In&Around Score 3/5

the film went on to become a much-loved cult favourite.

The sequel will continue the story of the Owens family curse – something Gillian jokes in the trailer probably isn't ideal for a Tinder profile.

Director Susanne Bier, who previously worked with Bullock on Bird Box, has hinted at a darker, moodier feel for the sequel. However, the trailer's use of Harry Nilsson's Coconut appears to nod to one of the original film's most memorable moments: the sisters' famous kitchen dance.

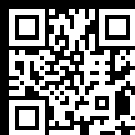
And yes, the margaritas are returning too. Kidman confirmed their comeback during an appearance on The Tonight Show, while Bullock added to the excitement by making her Instagram debut with a playful video featuring a magically appearing margarita.

The return of Practical Magic comes amid renewed interest in much-loved 1990s franchises, following the cancellation of a planned Buffy the Vampire Slayer revival and anticipation surrounding the upcoming Harry Potter HBO series.

Practical Magic 2 is scheduled to arrive in cinemas on 18 September.

Tony Yip

Graphic Designer



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The midnight margaritas are back, with Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman returning as sisters Sally and Gillian Owens in the long-awaited sequel to Practical Magic.

The first official teaser for Practical Magic 2 has already sparked huge interest, landing in Google Trends' top 10 within 24 hours of its release and attracting millions of views.

Bullock and Kidman reprise their roles from the 1998 cult classic, with Kidman previously sharing a behind-the-scenes video of the pair on set alongside the caption: "The witches are back."

The next generation of the Owens family will also take centre stage. The Kissing Booth star Joey King and Game of Thrones' Maisie Williams play Sally's grown-up daughters, Kylie and Antonia.

Lee Pace, best known for playing the elf Thranduil in The Hobbit trilogy, has also joined the cast as scholar Harlan Vex.

Based on Alice Hoffman's bestselling 1995 novel, the original Practical Magic followed the supernatural Owens sisters as they returned to their family home in Massachusetts. Combining romance, comedy and darker supernatural themes,

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NAME THE FILM THIS FAMOUS LINE BELONGS TO...

1. "Here's Johnny!"
2. "I see dead people."
3. "They're here..."
4. "Be afraid. Be very afraid."
5. "What's your favourite scary movie?"
6. "It's live! It's alive!"
7. "The power of Christ compels you!"
8. "Whatever you do, don't fall asleep."



ANSWERS.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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