SOUTH DURHAM
IN & AROUND

Issue 17 -
Nov/Dec 2026

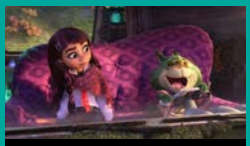
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Broom Mill Farm Shop... Make Christmas Local This Year

WHAT'S INSIDE


Local News


Movie Review


What's On

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Ferryhill Celebrates Community Achievements at Presentation Evening

Following this year's Ferryhill in Bloom Competition, Annual Art, Photography and Poetry Exhibition and Civic Awards, a Presentation Evening was held at Ferryhill Masonic Hall on Thursday, 24 September. The event also recognised the dedicated service of Ferryhill's retiring councillors.

Around 75 people attended the evening, where Town Mayor, Cllr Curtis Bihari, presented awards, certificates and prizes to the winners. It was a successful occasion, bringing together residents, councillors and town council staff to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Ferryhill's community.

A special award was presented by the Mayor to Michael Moody in recognition of his 29 years of dedicated service to community policing in Ferryhill. Unfortunately, Michael was unable to attend, so colleagues Craig McGuire and Peter Newman collected the award on his behalf.

Peter Atkinson was also presented with the special honour of Honorary Burgess, recognising his dedicated service to both Ferryhill Town Council and Durham County Council.

The Honorary Burgess Award is the highest civic distinction a local council can bestow. Although it carries no official duties, legal powers or special rights, it recognises individuals who have made a significant contribution to their local community through public service.



Mayor, Councillor Curtis Bihari, presents Honorary Burgess Award to Peter Atkinson

Peter said he was "incredibly grateful and proud" to receive the honour, expressing his sincere thanks to everyone who had supported him throughout his years of public service. He also thanked the current town councillors and council staff for supporting his nomination and recognising his contribution to Ferryhill and its community.

A raffle was held throughout the evening, raising a total of £103 for the Mayor's Charity, Bright Futures Ferryhill CIC.

Ferryhill Town Council, which organised the event, would like to extend its thanks to Windlestone Nurseries for sponsoring this year's Ferryhill in Bloom Competition and providing gift vouchers for the winners.

Thanks were also given to Viv and her team at the Masonic Hall for providing an excellent venue and a delicious buffet, helping to make the evening such a success.

Yorkshire Loft Ladders, Quality You Can Trust!

These days most homeowners suffer from a lack of storage space. So many precious items that need to be kept – but where to store it all? That's where Yorkshire Loft Ladders come in.

The company, based locally, offers homeowners the opportunity to maximise their storage space with a loft ladder, 50 sq ft of boarding and a light all fully fitted in less than a day from just **£277 + VAT**. But it's not just the affordability of the package the company offers that makes Yorkshire Loft Ladders stand out as manager Warren Ingleson explains:

'Our watchwords are Quality, Integrity and Value. Quality in the materials that we use for all our installations and the fact that all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesmen so our customers are assured of the best job. Integrity in that we will turn up at the time we say and make sure the house is spotless when we leave, and Value in that we offer our services at a price people can afford. Our business relies on referrals and we got a huge amount of our calls from people who have been referred to us by our existing customers - that simply wouldn't happen if we didn't adhere to our overriding principles.

At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers 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 small, call Warren on **0800 612 8359** and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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Welcome,

to the November/December edition of **IN & AROUND SOUTH DURHAM**! As the festive season approaches, South Durham is getting ready to sparkle with Christmas celebrations, winter events and plenty of seasonal cheer. From festive family days out and Christmas markets to local entertainment, community events and ideas to help you get into the Christmas spirit, we've rounded up some of the highlights happening across our local area.

Whether you're planning a magical day out with the family, looking for the perfect place to soak up the festive atmosphere, or simply wanting to support local businesses and discover what's happening on your doorstep, there's plenty to enjoy this November and December.

As we head towards Christmas and the New Year, we'd like to wish all our readers, advertisers and local communities a wonderful festive season!

If you'd like to feature in our next edition, we'd love to hear from you. Drop us an email at **HELLO@INANDAROUNDMAG.CO.UK** or call Ashley on **01388 434629**.

Contents

Local News 2, 18
Movie Review 20
What's on 22

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THIS DECEMBER, MANCHESTER STEPS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.

A breathtaking Christmas Musical Spectacular arrives at the iconic **AO Arena**, bringing together world-class performers, musical theatre anthems and festive favourites for an unforgettable celebration of music, emotion and Christmas magic.

Audiences can expect soaring singalongs, laughter and powerful performances, creating a shared experience designed to entertain, uplift and bring people together.

Leading the spectacular line-up is **Michael Ball OBE**, two-time **Olivier Award winner** and one of Britain's most celebrated musical theatre stars. Joining him are **Loren Allred**, the voice behind *Never Enough from The Greatest Showman*, and **Tony Award nominee Keala Settle**, famous for her powerhouse performance of *This Is Me*.

The outstanding cast also includes **Ben Forster, Kerry Ellis, Alice Fearn, Hugh Maynard** and **Kelly Mathieson**, alongside emerging talent from **Caldwell Theatre School**. The evening is hosted by Aled Jones, adding his unmistakable warmth and festive charm.

With the acclaimed **Manchester Camerata** and **Manchester Vocal Ensemble** providing the musical backdrop, the arena will be transformed into an immersive festive spectacular on a truly epic scale.

Taking place across two nights, the event adds another major attraction to Manchester's renowned Christmas celebrations, offering families and visitors the chance to come together and experience something truly special.

Manchester at its most festive, with an unforgettable night of music, theatre and Christmas magic.

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CHRISTMAS MUSICAL SPECTACULAR

AO ARENA MANCHESTER
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What musical did Michael Ball star in as Caractacus Potts?

answer: .....

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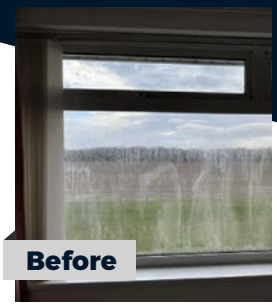
THE DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIR MAN

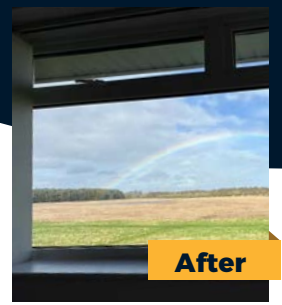
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A Taste of the Countryside at Broom Mill Farm Shop.

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Nestled in the heart of the County Durham countryside, Broom Mill Farm Shop & Café celebrates everything we love about rural life: great food, traditional farming and a warm, friendly welcome. From our home reared meats and locally sourced produce to homemade pies, delicious ready meals and seasonal favourites, we're passionate about bringing quality food from the countryside to your table.

Our café offers the perfect place to pause, whether you're joining us for a freshly prepared lunch, a proper cup of coffee or a homemade sweet treat. There's always something delicious waiting to be discovered. But there's more to Broom Mill than what you see on the shelves. Farming is at the heart of everything we do, and we love sharing a little of that life with our customers.

Through Mini Farmers Jack & Elodie, we're opening the gates and giving a behind the scenes glimpse into life on the farm. From caring for their Ryeland sheep and learning about the animals to the everyday adventures, muddy boots and memorable moments that come with growing up around farming, our mini farmers are helping share the story behind the farm.

We believe in supporting local, celebrating our agricultural heritage and helping the next generation understand where their food comes from.

Whether you're visiting for the farm shop, stopping by the café or following our farming adventures online, you're always part of the Broom Mill community.

Visit Broom Mill Farm Shop & Café and discover a little taste of countryside life.

Shop local. Eat well. Stay connected to the farm.











Anticipation is part of the *Fun*



I turned 65 during the past month and, incredibly, the balloons to celebrate are still up in the living room. Since I penned my last article, I have been to London, Grimsby, Edinburgh, Reading, Oxford and Brighton but these were working visits with no time to research interesting places to visit. My wife spotted an email from Northern, the train operator, offering a £2 ticket to places across their network. I bagged one for 14th October and am writing this in advance of a trip tomorrow morning to Carlisle, which (if I remember correctly) was the destination for the first of this series of articles back in 2003. Although I have a £2 ticket to go, I don't have a ticket to come back.



Carlisle Cathedral



Carlisle Cathedral ceiling

I shall travel with my National Trust card, English Heritage card, Historic Houses card and my Art Fund pass, all of which are kept with other membership cards in my "pass wallet". I know the English Heritage card will come in handy for Carlisle Castle, should I decide to go there at the full price of £18.00. The price includes entry to Cumbria's Museum of Military Life. The Art Fund pass will save me £8.50 to enter Tullie House Museum which has reopened after significant redevelopment. I was there earlier in the year but had a train to catch before seeing all of the reordered galleries.

Then there is the Cathedral which has an amazing series of events. Tomorrow all day there is the opportunity to see the Museum of the Moon, a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the moon features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. The Moon has been suspended from the clerestory in the Cathedral and rests under the starry ceiling for which Carlisle Cathedral is well known.

I might even bump into the Venerable Michael Everitt, Interim Dean of Carlisle, formerly a member of staff at Durham Cathedral who said "Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon inside Carlisle Cathedral – along with our stellar ceiling – enables us to see in close detail its landscape.

There is no longer an obstacle for us to see it up close. In the setting of our stars, it is as if the heavens are close at hand. A divine view, accessible to all, in the heart of our city." Museum of the Moon is on display until Sunday 1 November

But on a pretty normal Wednesday in October, I note there is a Eucharist at 1230, a recital in the afternoon by a pair of accordionists, Julie Best and Jean Corrighan, Choral Evensong at 1730 for about 45 minutes and two evening performances of David Bowie's music by candlelight, the first of which I might even be able to attend and return on the penultimate evening train to Newcastle.

I have a choice of journeys back. I can take the train for about £7 but I am keeping my day flexible, and if I want to come back the cheapest way, hourly Stagecoach bus 685 is only £3 for the journey from Carlisle to Newcastle. It takes just under two and a half hours, so longer than the train. There again, I might stop over finding the best value hotel in Carlisle and come back the following day. Sometimes just anticipating the fun of being curious and flexible is the best bit of the journey.

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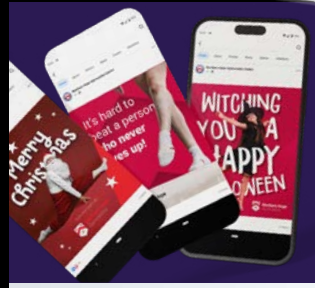
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CHERYL BAKER

WEARING CHERYL BAKER

February 20th 2027

Selby Town Hall



February 2027 sees Cheryl invite you to join her to celebrate her 50+ years in the entertainment industry with music, laughter and chat, following a successful run of limited shows in 2026.

A real-life Eastender, she won The Eurovision Song Contest in 1981 with Bucks Fizz, with "Making Your Mind Up" and went on to have three number one hits and a further 8 top twenty hits. She is still fizzing with fellow Eurovision winner, Jay Aston, together with Matthew Pateman and Nikk Mager, now known as The Fizz. Her television career started in 1984 presenting numerous shows starting with Eggs'n'Baker and, of course, Record Breakers, with the legendary Roy Castle.

So many more guest appearances followed – she more recently appeared in an episode of Eastenders. Cheryl will take you through her life with the ups and downs-she will make you laugh and possibly cry and will leave you wanting more. So much to say and many tales to tell!

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WEARING CHERYL BAKER SELBY TOWN HALL
SATURDAY FEB 20TH 2027

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What was the name of the song that Bucks Fizz won the Eurovision Song with?

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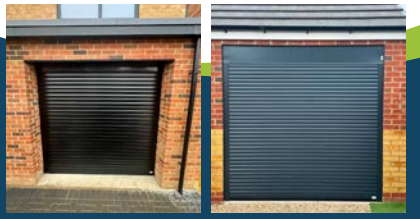
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Auckland Palace Shortlisted for Two Regional Tourism Awards

A Bishop Auckland attraction has been shortlisted for two regional tourism awards, recognising its visitor experience and role in regenerating the town.

Auckland Palace and Gardens is a finalist in the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year and Regenerative Tourism categories at the 2026 North East England Tourism Awards.

Vic Cunningham, head of visitor experience at The Auckland Project, said the recognition reflected the hard work of staff and volunteers, as well as the attraction's commitment to providing memorable experiences and lasting benefits for the community.

The awards celebrate excellence across tourism in County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

Auckland Palace, once the main country residence of the Prince Bishops of Durham for more than 800 years, includes a 150-acre Deer Park, 10 acres of gardens, St Peter's Chapel and restored Georgian Gothic state rooms.

The attraction also houses Francisco de Zurbarán's paintings of Jacob and His Twelve Sons.

The Auckland Project's wider attractions include the Faith Museum, Spanish Gallery, Mining Art Gallery, Auckland Tower, Weardale Railway and Binchester Roman Fort.

Its work aims to make Bishop Auckland a major cultural destination, creating jobs and opportunities through heritage, education, skills and sustainable economic growth.

The awards are run with VisitEngland, with eligible Gold winners progressing to the national VisitEngland Awards for Excellence.





COMPETITION CORNER

Simply complete one of the puzzles on this page and fill in the entry form below for a chance to win family tickets courtesy of **Vue Gateshead.**

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G	N	Z	M	I	H	Z	C	G	U	I	Y	Y	A	M
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WORD SEARCH

ANGELS, FILMS, NATIVITY, STOCKINGS, CHRISTMAS, LEAVES, PRESENTS, TREE, COLD, LIGHTS, SNOW, TURKEY

NAME THE CHRISTMAS FILMS THAT THESE LINES ARE FROM...

1. "I never like a girl enough before to give her twelve sharp knives"
2. "We're your worst nightmare. Elves with attitude!"
3. "Blast this Christmas music. It's joyful and triumphant!"
4. " Is that a Polar Bear directing traffic down there?"
5. "Merry Christmas ya filthy animal"

ANSWERS.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____

We are offering a family ticket for any film at Vue Gateshead
(valid for 2 adults & 2 children or 1 adult & 3 children).

All you have to do is complete the puzzle and fill in the form below!

Name: ..... Address: .....

Email: ....

Post Code: .....

Please send all entries to:
Competitions Department, Unit 4, Station Road, Chester-le-St, Co. Durham, DH3 3DY

vue BIG SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT

Competition end date 14th December 2026.
The winner will receive a letter from Jak HQ within 14 days of the competition closing date.
Entrants can view Terms & Conditions at www.inandaroundmag.co.uk
Vue guest admission policy terms and conditions apply, visit myvue.com/legal for details.







Disney HEXED

Meet Disney's Magical New Movie, Hexed

An original Disney movie is always worth celebrating, especially when it features a rebellious teenage witch voiced by Hailee Steinfeld. Get ready to discover Hexed, the Mouse House's eagerly awaited magical adventure.

Why is everyone talking about Hexed?

In 2026, witchcore is practically a genre of its own. With both Wicked films behind us, Hokum watched and Practical Magic 2 on the horizon, it's time to gather your coven and head to Vue Cinema for Disney's Hexed, arriving on 27 November.

"It's a little sharper and a little weirder," co-director Fawn Veerasunthorn told Cartoon Brew. The rule-breaking adventure follows a young person discovering her full potential in a magical world full of surprises.

What is Disney's Hexed about?

Meet Billie Doe (Hailee Steinfeld), a teenager who stands out from the crowd with purple hair, punk-rock boots and a rebellious attitude. Feared and ignored by her classmates, Billie spends her school breaks hiding in the toilets. But everything changes when her mysterious bracelet, gifted by her organised mother Alice (Rashida Jones), suddenly falls off.

The bracelet has always suppressed Billie's magic. Without it, her fingers begin to spark as toilet rolls and liquid soap swirl around her. Could Billie really be a witch?

After being expelled and grounded, Billie discovers a portal to Hexe, a magical realm where persecuted sorceresses can finally be themselves. Alongside adorable talking books voiced by Stephen Fry and enchanting shopping streets, she encounters ten-storey eyeball monsters and sinister sorceresses who hunt her in raven form. This is a magical world where wonder and danger go hand in hand.

"This creates a bit of a situation," Veerasunthorn told fans at Annecy, describing Billie's struggle between two worlds. But the pull of magic is impossible to resist.

See Hexed at Vue Cinema from 27 November 2026. Experience Disney's original magical adventure on the big screen, where a rebellious young witch discovers that breaking the rules can lead to extraordinary things.

DON'T MISS DISNEY'S HEXED AT **VUE CINEMA FROM 27 NOVEMBER! SCAN HERE TO GET YOUR VUE CINEMA TICKETS!**

What's on Nov/December



Ghost Hunt at Dean Bank Institute

29 Jan 2027 - 9pm–2am · £25 per person
Dean Bank & Ferryhill Literary Institute, Ferryhill, DL17 8PP

Dare to explore the historic Dean Bank Institute in Ferryhill on a guided paranormal investigation with Kindred Spirit Investigations. Use investigation equipment and explore reports of unexplained noises, shadowy figures and mysterious happenings in this historic community building. **Visit Eventbrite for more.**



Human Nature – Art Exhibition

Until 30 January 2027 - Bob Abley Art Gallery, Spennymoor Town Hall, DL16 6DG

Explore artist Alexander MacDonald's exhibition inspired by the connection between dance and nature, using ideas of movement, flow and balance.
Check with the gallery before visiting.



Decoupage Crackle Glaze Coasters Workshop

14 January 2027, 10am–12pm - Zuna Café, 39 High Street, Spennymoor, DL16 6BB

Enjoy a hands-on craft session learning how to create two decorative ceramic coasters using decoupage and a crackle-glaze effect. Materials are included, making it a lovely activity for beginners and craft enthusiasts.
Check the ticket page for the current price and availability.



Archaeology 'Open Lab' – Bishop Auckland

Fridays · 3.30pm–4.30pm - Auckland Project, Bishop Auckland town centre

Discover finds from archaeological excavations at Auckland Palace and get a behind-the-scenes look at how experts investigate and interpret historic objects.



Folk at the Hearth – Bishop Auckland

1 January 2027 · 7pm–9pm - The Auckland Project, 1 Market Place, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7NJ.

A relaxed evening celebrating folk music in a welcoming local setting. A potential choice for readers looking for live music and a sociable start to the New Year.

STICKY GINGER PUDDINGS



This ginger pudding has levels - sticky toffee, pistachios, tamarind and a warming kick of whisky.

For this recipe you will need six 175ml/6fl oz metal mini pudding basins or dariole moulds.

SERVES 6 PREP: 30 MINS COOK: 10-30 MINS

Directions:

Step 1
Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease six 175ml/6fl oz metal mini pudding basins or dariole moulds and line the bases with circles of baking paper. Place the moulds on a baking tray.

Step 2
Put the dates in a heatproof bowl and pour over 150ml/5fl oz boiling water. Set aside to cool, then transfer to a food processor. Add the stem ginger, tamarind paste and treacle and blend to a purée.

Step 3
Put the flour, ground ginger, cinnamon, bicarbonate of soda, egg, butter and sugar in a large mixing bowl. Stir in the puréed dates and mix until well combined.

Step 4
Spoon the mixture into the prepared moulds. Bake for 20 minutes, or until well risen and firm to the touch.

Step 5
For the sauce, place all of the ingredients except the whisky into a saucepan and bring to a gentle simmer. Cook for 2–3 minutes, stirring constantly until smooth and glossy. (Watch out for splashes and don't be tempted to touch or taste the sauce as it will be extremely hot.) Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the whisky.

Step 6
Carefully loosen the sides of each pudding using a table knife (the puddings will be hot, so wear oven gloves). Turn out onto warmed serving plates and remove the baking paper. Pour a little sauce over each one and put the remaining sauce in a jug. Decorate with chopped pistachios and serve immediately.

Ingredients:

- 100g/3½oz pitted dates, ideally Sayer
- 2 cubes stem ginger in syrup, drained
- 2 tsp tamarind paste
- 1 tbsp black treacle
- 100g/3½oz self-raising flour
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 large free-range egg
- 30g/1oz unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 150g/5½oz soft dark brown sugar
- 1 tbsp pistachio nuts, roughly chopped, to decorate

For the pudding sauce

- 150ml/5fl oz double cream
- 75g/2¾oz dark or light soft brown sugar
- 40g/1½oz unsalted butter
- 1 tbsp black treacle
- 3 tbsp stem ginger syrup (from the jar)
- 2 tsp tamarind sauce
- ½ tsp flaked sea salt
- 4 tbsp whisky

WED 2 DEC 2026 - SUN 3 JAN 2027

RuPaul's Drag Race Star **MICHAEL MAROULI** as CARABOSSE

BGT 2025 Golden Buzzer Winner
MAX FOX
as PRINCE MAX

Coronation Street & Shameless'
WARREN DONNELLY
as THE KING



Sleeping Beauty

Featuring BRAND NEW 3D EFFECTS

TICKETS FROM £24

Tiger Lily in Last Year's Peter Pan
CHARLOTTE FLOWER
as PRINCESS AURORA

The #Cracking
LIAM MELLOR
as CHESTER THE JESTER

"The Best Legs In The Business"
ROBERT SQUIRE
as QUEEN BETTY

Tracey Beaker Returns'
JESSIE WILLIAMS
as FAIRY SPARKLE



Fri 12 Feb



Tue 23 - Sat 27 Mar



Tue 18 - Sat 22 May



Wed 2 - Thu 3 Jun

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