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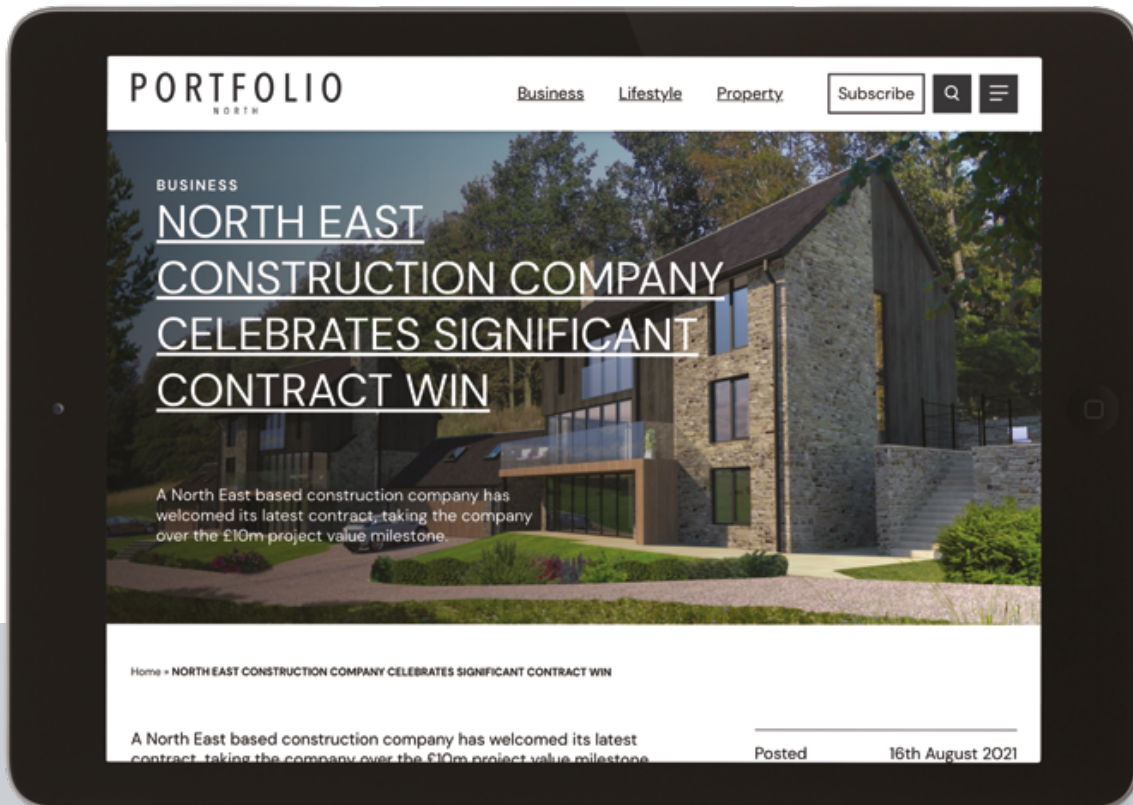
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The harder you work, the luckier you get

Editors notes from Cassie Moyse

The end of the year is fast approaching, which often makes us to take stock and reflect on the events of the last twelve months. The highs, the lows, the challenges and the successes. A year can pass so quickly, but a lot can be achieved within that time – and we have certainly come a long way.

I feel grateful in that I can reflect on the growth of Portfolio North by looking back at my previous editors notes - it's almost like a diary. At roughly this time in 2021 I drafted A Year in Review for the 13th edition of Portfolio North. I closed the article with; 'I can't wait to see where we are at this time next year'. Looking back, I really don't think I could have anticipated where Portfolio North would be towards the end of 2022.

A year ago, I announced our plans to double our annual edition count to create six magazines a year. We will have exceeded these plans in creating seven editions by the end of the year, including one more following this edition to be distributed in December and cover January. The extra edition is our dedicated Yorkshire magazine which we launched in October and distributed across Leeds and other areas in Yorkshire as we look to replicate the success of the North East edition across our next region in 2023.

At the time of my last 'Year in Review' we were also gearing up to launch Portfolio North as its own, standalone business. It started as a publication in 2017 to promote Bradley Hall and its clients, then steadily grew to include other businesses and eventually it made sense to create an independent, profitable publication with its own brand. I've honestly loved building Portfolio North and creating successful campaigns for my clients in the magazine - and it's all been worth it to hear the great feedback from the people and businesses we work with, with some crediting their coverage to securing significant new clients and projects.

This year we've also secured several new advertisers and partners as well as the extension of previous partners and clients. I feel incredibly grateful to be working with some outstanding Northern-based businesses and organisations including our latest partners, Building Design Northern which is undoubtedly making waves in the industry. Fast-growing hospitality firm, The Inn Collection Group, also continues as partner with its managing director Sean Donkin featured in our exclusive business

interview spot in this edition.

City of Sunderland continues to be a partner of Portfolio North - and I am extremely proud that the magazine is associated with such significant plans and regeneration which is not only developing the built environment, but also creating a better quality of life for so many.

Portfolio North also became the official media partner of the Sunderland Business Festival, which was a three-day celebration of local business, created to inspire business people and budding entrepreneurs from across the region. The event included an impressive line-up of speakers, including; Dame Irene Hays DBE, Heather Mills, the teams behind international production company Fulwell 73, SAFC and a range of business and local authority leaders. I also enjoyed speaking on the panel about my own career and business journey at the Sunderland Fire Station Auditorium during the Entrepreneurial Leaders event alongside Alice Rowen Hall, Kimberley Cattin and our host Natasha McDonough.

Throughout the year we have also steadily grown our digital presence via the Portfolio North website, social media platforms, email newsletters and digital OOH campaigns with support from The Social Co. and Smart Outdoor. We launched our self-upload platform on the website this year which allows more efficient online publishing for PR and marketing teams and business owners to promote good news, thought leadership and comment articles. We have since approved and published hundreds of positive news stories and created many e-newsletters and content with these press releases and editorials.

We also recently launched The Portfolio North Wine Club, which has been a brilliant success, and have plans to grow this as well as to branch into other events next year. Our plans also include technological advancements which will create a better and more varied user experience for our readers, as well as new opportunities for the businesses which we work with.

Last week, we found out that the North East Marketing Awards has also shortlisted Portfolio North for Product

Launch of the Year, while my team is up for Team of The Year and I have been shortlisted for Marketing Director of the Year. It's fantastic to be recognised for our work and achievements and I look forward to celebrating alongside some of the amazing local industry talent at the ceremony in December.

In addition to the growth of Portfolio North I was also happy to have been appointed to The Board of Directors at Bradley Hall as group marketing director, with many milestones met and progress made from the team over the course of the year. All-in-all it's been a year of huge growth and fantastic momentum which I am determined to elevate the pace of throughout 2023. There's always more to do, new opportunities to unlock and fresh ideas to develop and I am extremely excited to see what the next year will bring.

As we come to the close of another year I am extremely grateful for the opportunities, the people I've met along the way, the little wins and the big achievements and lessons learned. It's true what they say - the harder you work the luckier you get and I look forward to another year of hard work and more 'good luck'.

As always, thank you to all of the businesses which have chosen to be involved with Portfolio North this year and I hope to work with you all again in 2023.



Cassie Moyse
Director
Portfolio North

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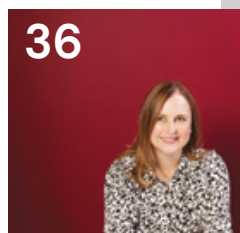
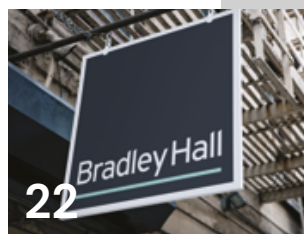


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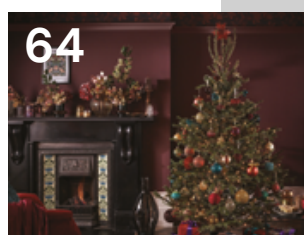
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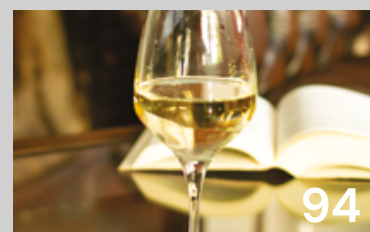
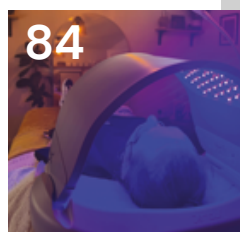
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TV chef joins Sheepfolds line up



Sunderland is set to be taken on a food adventure, after Hairy Bikers star Si King confirmed plans to take space in the newly redeveloped stables at Sheepfolds.

The TV chef, who's show explores culinary delights from around the world, will be opening a new eatery in the riverside venue which is currently being brought back to life by BDN, an architectural practice that recently renovated the Old Simpson Street School, as its own commercial development.

Si will be offering a creative menu of comforting, hearty dishes that are inspired by flavours from around the world. He will also use his space to stage exciting food pop-ups from independent producers, providing a platform for them to sell their tasty meals, while ensuring lots of variety for visitors to Sheepfolds.

Si said he could not resist the opportunity to be part of the building's exciting transformation.



He said: "Sunderland is a transforming city, and one with great provenance when it comes to local produce. It's a city by the sea, with access to fresh fish and seafood, plenty of allotments for homegrown fruit and veg, and a spirit of innovation that really appeals to me as a creative person.

"When I met BDN and heard more about the vision for the former stables at Sheepfolds, I could see the opportunity to co-design a space that would allow me and my sons - both of whom work in hospitality - to bring some of the unique flavours I have sampled from around the world during my time as a Hairy Biker to the people of Sunderland. That's what I'm most excited about - offering exceptional, unfussy food to Sunderland - delicious

dishes that are inspired by other cultures and that take people on journey."

The stables development - which will be created thanks to the restoration of a Grade II former stables, outbuildings and some contemporary new additions to create a unique open air leisure hub - is set to open its doors in summer 2023, with a range of restaurants, eateries, and pubs and bars, as well as a large stage area that will play host to live music and performance. The venue announced the owners of Route - a Michelin Guide restaurant in Newcastle - as its first occupiers, with their new venture Zinc set to serve up seasonal plates and wines from a casual bistro space.

Si added: "The menu will be the kind

of dishes you'd want to enjoy with a nice beer in your hand. Flavoursome, rich Hairy Bikers style food that will be brilliant for people to have before the match as well as with the family."

Si's venture in the Sheepfolds development will be his first permanent venue and he is proud it will be in Sunderland.

"I think Sunderland is crying out for venues like the stables, that mean people do not need to venture outside of the city to enjoy good quality food in a stunning setting. The fact that the team behind it are Sunderland based, and want the absolute best for the city, is what makes this such a special development and one I am thrilled to be joining. What will be absolutely vital is that people vote with their feet, and patronise the brilliant places being developed for them."

Planning permission was granted for the building's transformation in May, paving the way for the stables and surrounding courtyards to be transformed into a vibrant new destination, for food, drinks, events and entertainment. The venue will serve up a cornucopia of culinary styles, with eight individual operators within the site and large outdoor spaces for people to mix and mingle.

Rick Marsden, managing director of BDN, said: "We're pleased to be welcoming Si to our venue. We want to bring something really special to the city - a fantastic range of places to eat, drink and enjoy - so Si's relaxed style of food will be a great addition to the other businesses we're speaking to.

"Each will offer something different, so there will be a place to suit all tastes when we open next summer."

The development has been supported by Sunderland City Council, whose team have worked closely with BDN to attract the right businesses to take space in the building.

Councillor Graeme Miller, leader of Sunderland City Council, said: "This is a brilliant coup for the city, to attract a chef with such a pedigree to this fantastic new development at Sheepfolds. The excitement is certainly building for this new venue, another brilliant addition to our transforming city."

The Sheepfolds area will be connected to the city centre by a new footbridge, providing a pedestrian and cyclist crossing, with the wider area being transformed as part of Sunderland City Council's Riverside Sunderland plan.

The masterplan will see a number of large-scale developments progressing in the city centre, with the ambition of doubling the city centre's residential population and increasing employment by 50 per cent.

To find out more, visit www.riversidesunderland.co.uk or for opportunities within the stables development at Sheepfolds, contact hello@bdnlt.com

Property specialist bolsters board as it eyes further growth

A leading property agency in the North of England has bolstered its board to supercharge ambitious growth plans.

Bradley Hall has appointed a new board member while strategically aligning its current board member roles as it looks to increase turnover from £4.8million to £10million over the next three to five years, while its team will grow from 58 to 120.

Cassie Moyses joins Bradley Hall's board of directors as group marketing director. Three of the firm's shareholders take on roles which will see them concentrate on strategic growth of their own areas of the business. Richard Rafique will become managing director - commercial, Matt Hoy becomes managing director - residential, David Cran becomes managing director - Yorkshire, while Catherine Affleck and Paul Czerepok will remain as group operations and group finance director respectively.

The newly defined roles will allow group managing director Neil Hart and group director Peter Bartley to support key clients and to develop the overarching business strategy for Bradley Hall, its each of its services.

The rapid growth of the firm and its future plans aim to position the company as a full-service property firm which becomes the first choice all services for both members of the public, organisations of all sizes and local authorities.

The move follows a year of significant growth for the firm, with the opening of a new office in Leeds city centre and creation of over 20 jobs across the business. The company was also once again named the most active commercial

property agency in County Durham, Northumberland, and Tyne and Wear for the second quarter of 2022, having seen the value of its sales, lettings and acquisitions exceed £160,000,000 in the year to May 2022.

Richard Rafique, who has been a director and part owner of Bradley Hall alongside Neil Hart and Peter for seven years, said: "We are absolutely delighted to announce our ambitious plans for the future and proud to be continuing to work together as a board to reach our goals. With our redefined roles in line with the new demands which come with a growing business, along with the appointment of Cassie as our group marketing director, we have a clear strategy and responsibilities to facilitate the growth of the firm.

"Our mission is to work hand-in-hand with key organisations and people to support the ever-evolving built environment of the North, making it a consistently better place to live, work and socialise. Our new board structure, along with our fantastic team and the new talent which we will bring into the business over the next few years, will certainly support this.

"Over the last seven years we've grown from a stand-alone property agency into a full-service firm offering everything from planning and design to building surveying and property management, and the new responsibilities placed on our board members will ensure each arm of the business continues to develop and grow.



"Each of them brings a huge wealth of knowledge and expertise to their individual roles and I'm confident that they will each star in the next chapter of the Bradley Hall story as we look to 2023 and beyond."

Cassie Moyses is a new appointment to the board, joining as Group Marketing Director. The appointment will see the experienced PR and marketing professional deliver more 'strategic and results driven campaigns' while continuing to lead all of its core marketing efforts, including; PR, digital, business development, events and growth opportunities. She will also continue to run business and lifestyle magazine, Portfolio North, as a separate entity.

Cassie said: "It's been incredible to play a part in Bradley Hall's growth over the past five years as PR manager, head of marketing and now marketing director. My appointment to the board will allow me to work closely with Matt, David, Richard, Cat and Paul to create strategic and creative campaigns in line



with the business strategy as well as bring a new perspective to the direction of the business.

"Our aim is to continue being a business which is small enough to care about both our team and our clients, to create and maintain good relationships with all of our stakeholders whilst having the autonomy, motivation, knowledge and passion to deliver the best results.

"Our new brand and structure provide excellent foundations to build a £10m business on. As the firm grows, client habits change and the industry evolves, communications strategy has to adapt and I am very excited to be continuing to grow the Bradley Hall brand. I look forward to seeing all of the hard groundwork which has been done by my team and I come to fruition over the coming months and years."

Matt Hoy, who will continue to lead the firm's residential operations, said: "While the predicted economic headwinds will naturally throw up challenges for the residential property

industry over the coming months and years, we remain confident that the expertise of our team will continue to drive the residential arm of the business forward as we look to the future.

"Over the past few months, we've seen activity and values rise across almost every area of the business, and as we continue to expand into new areas and open new offices, I'm wholly confident that the residential business will continue to go from strength-to-strength.

"We have fantastic staff and a dedicated board who are all committed to delivering the best possible results for our clients and I'm excited to be working with them to realise our ambitions as we look to the future."

David Cran will take on the responsibility of Managing Director for Yorkshire, as Bradley Hall looks to continue investing in the region and growing its footprint outside of the North East. As well as overseeing the main Leeds office, including management of all service lines, David's new role will

also see him lead the firm's expansion into Sheffield, Hull, York and north Lincolnshire.

David said: "The opening of the new Leeds office was a huge milestone not only for the business, but for me personally.

"Since we opened our first Yorkshire base two years ago, we've gone on to assemble a team of experts who have fast-become the go-to agency for buyers and sellers across Yorkshire and the best is yet to come.

"A huge part of my new role will be overseeing the next phase of growth for Bradley Hall as we identify strategic opportunities to expand into Lincolnshire and Humberside and become an agency that stretches beyond the North East and Yorkshire and I can't wait to get started."

For more information on Bradley Hall, visit: www.bradleyhall.co.uk

News in Brief

BBC City of Comedy closes with a spectacular night of comedy featuring Mawaan Rizwaan and Adult Film Club in Newcastle



Actor, writer and comedian Mawaan will delve into his comedy career - from making music videos on YouTube, writing for hit Netflix series Sex Education, to developing, writing and starring in his upcoming BBC Three sitcom JUICE. The event, taking place on the 10th of November 4-5pm at the Tyneside Cinema, is hosted by Navi Lamba, Head of Talent Development at BBC Comedy.

Later that evening at The Black Swan in Newcastle, Adult Film Club will return to round the celebrations off with a night of comedy short films from 7pm. Hosted and curated by writer/performer Chris Cantrill (BBC2's Alma's Not Normal and half of Edinburgh nominated double act The Delightful Sausage) and animator/director Sam O'Leary (Inside No.9 and Don't Hug Me I'm Scared) and produced by local talent Hal Branson.

The evening brings a close to The BBC City of Comedy in Newcastle. The tenure has helped North East Screen find, nurture and connect new comedy talent in the North East with BBC commissioners and the wider TV industry, bringing the North East comedy community together to collaborate, grow and thrive.

Lisa Laws, Head of Talent and Professional Development at North East Screen said; "We are thrilled to welcome the fantastically funny and prolific writer, creator and performer Mawaan Rizwan to the region to hear how he has developed his career. We have a lot to celebrate following our year as BBC City of Comedy, including opportunities for local people to gain real insights into the world of TV comedy. We have loved working so closely with the BBC Comedy Commissioning team and through the

partnership we've been able to open up even more opportunities to champion, develop and work alongside the next wave of comedy producers, writers and directors."



Luxury apart-hotel proposed for Newcastle's Ouseburn Valley

North East Developer Modo Bloc has revealed plans to develop a stylish apart-hotel on a site in the Ouseburn, Newcastle.

The rapidly growing Newcastle-based company has submitted plans to the city council to build 28 apartments within a single, five storey structure on Foundry Lane. The proposal to develop a vacant brownfield site builds upon previous planning consent for a mixed-use development by the same design team.

The £8.5 million project will comprise a mixture of one, two and three bed apartments along with one four-bed apartment. It is proposed the ground floor will be made up of some retail and commercial units with associated parking for vehicles and cycles.

Located within the Ouseburn Conservation Area, Miller Partnership Architects have given great care and attention to the heritage and character of



the site when designing the structure. Co-director Steve Miller, who worked on the original Ouseburn Central Masterplan with Newcastle City Council, explained that

careful consideration has been given to an architectural approach which adopts the characteristics of surrounding industrial buildings and prominent structures.

Hospital becomes among the first in Europe to welcome specialist neonatal X-ray equipment thanks to £70,000 donation from the Red Sky Foundation

A neonatal unit has welcomed a specialist X-ray machine to help its youngest patients thanks to the family of a girl born with a heart defect who continue to give back to the NHS.

Sunderland Royal Hospital has become one of the first in the Europe to use the technology thanks to a £70,000 fundraising campaign by the Red Sky Foundation, which was launched by Sergio and Emma Petrucci.

Their daughter Luna, now nine, was diagnosed with two holes in her heart during a check-up following her birth in its maternity unit, with the couple indebted to consultant Majd Abu-Harb for his help in her diagnosis.

Sergio, 46, and Emma, 40, were told it was hoped her heart would heal on its own, but her condition was described as a "ticking time bomb" by

cardiologists as they monitored her and the decision was made that she would need surgery just days before she turned two.

The new kit bought through the charity set up in her name is now helping to X-ray babies, delivering images back to a radiographer in as little as two seconds. This allows for swift diagnosis and treatment, and so less stress for the patient and their loved ones.

The quieter, lighter and smaller system can be moved into places a traditional mobile X-ray machine can struggle to reach and has no need for a motor to transport it, making it especially suited for the unit.

The foundation began collecting the cash as its first task after it was given charitable status in March 2020 and managed it hit the target in the face of the additional challenges brought on by lockdown.



Budweiser partners with Stack Seaburn for official World Cup fanzone...



Leading brewing company, Budweiser, is to partner with STACK Seaburn to create an exciting fanzone to screen the tournament's major games.

The international brewing company is the main sponsor of this year's competition, which kicks off in Qatar on 20 November.

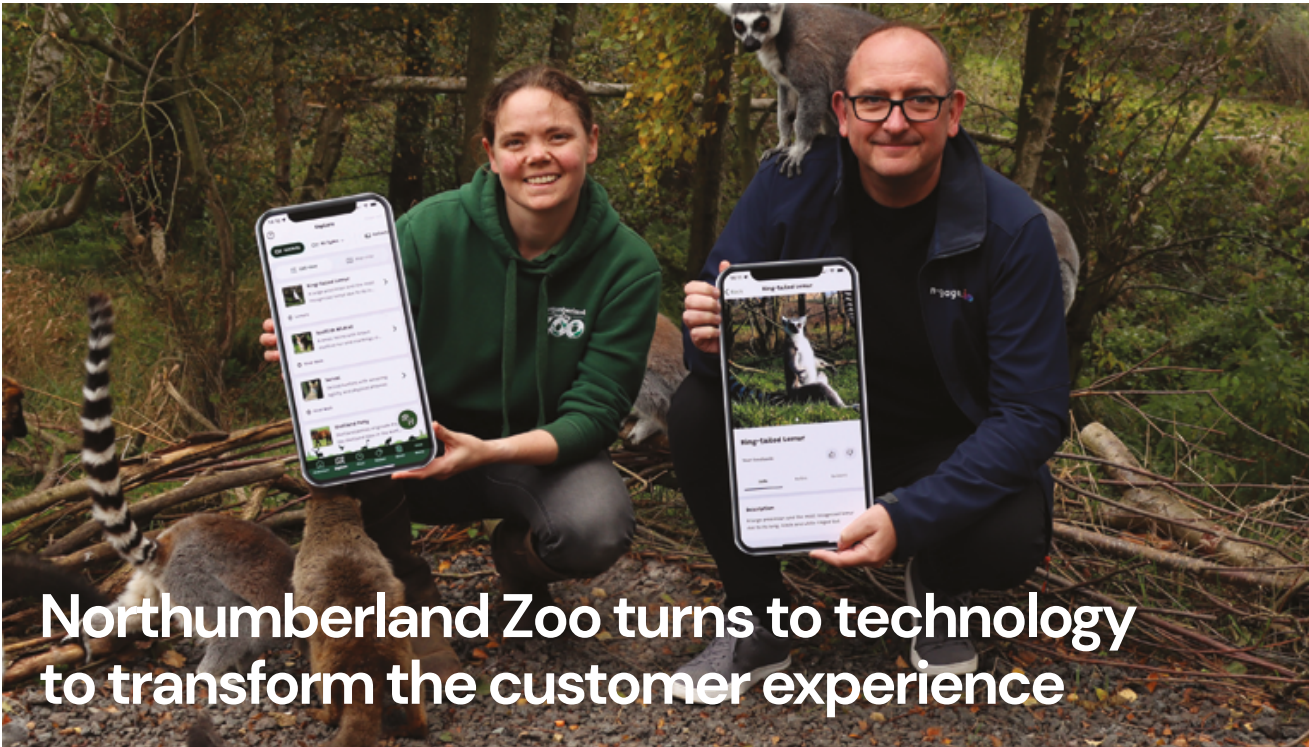
And football fans from Sunderland and beyond can enjoy the experience on homeground, as Budweiser takes over STACK Seaburn for the duration of the contest.

The container village will be showing the games on the big screen alongside STACK's usual programme of entertainment - the key England fixtures will be shown with full commentary with entertainment taking place before and after England games.

And that means an exciting opportunity to really enjoy the atmosphere of the competition throughout November and December.

A limited number of tables for the England games, which are liable to draw the biggest crowds, will be available to book with the proviso they are occupied at least an hour before kick off and the remaining space will be on a first come, first served basis.

The tables on the upper plaza, which has perfect views of the big screen, can be reserved at the cost of £10 per person, which is exchanged for drinks vouchers on arrival.



Northumberland Zoo turns to technology to transform the customer experience

Owners at Northumberland Zoo believe an innovative technology platform they have introduced will be a gamechanger for the sector - growing income while also educating.

The family-run zoo, sat in 17 acres, near Felton, Morpeth, has partnered with County Durham-based n-gage.io, to implement the company's audience engagement platform and attraction management software, created to improve the visitor experience.

Maxine Bradley, founder and zoo curator, explained: "The zoo industry is all about making the right impact on

visitors and shifting their behaviour, by encouraging a sense of conservation in people and generations to come.

"Ongoing research and measurement as to what visitors take away with them from a visit to their local zoo, safari park, or wildlife sanctuary, is critical."

The zoo, which has more than 100 species of animals to see, has come a long way in a brief period, having gained its licence in June 2015. Bradley is anxious to keep building on the early success and make the customer experience even better while gathering important data.

Helping to deliver on this mandate,

Northumberland Zoo has partnered with SaaS (software as a service) developers and audience engagement specialists, n-gage.io, who have launched an advanced audience engagement platform (AEP) and mobile app for the visitor attraction sector and wider experience economy. Led by entrepreneur Bryan Hoare and incubated by GCV Labs - n-gage.io aims to transform audience experiences through a highly customisable, data insight driven SaaS platform with an integrated mobile-web application.

North East Screen announce a new funded development opportunity for North East based comedy talent, plus another BBC Comedy event in Newcastle.

An exciting opportunity is being offered to comedy writers, performers, producers and directors by North East Screen and BBC Comedy to develop talent in the region. The NE Screen Comedy Hot House have devised a scheme that offers funds to six comedy creatives to help them develop their television ideas. Each chosen creator will receive £1000 as well as development support and an introduction to production companies, ahead of pitching their ideas to BBC Comedy for feedback.

Lisa Laws, Head of Talent and Professional Development at North East Screen said; "This is a first of its kind opportunity for North East comedy creators ready to burst onto comedy platforms. We are looking to champion six people and support them to get their ideas ready to pitch to the BBC."

To support and inspire applications to the funded development opportunity, the NE Screen Comedy Hot House will be hosting Cracking the Comedy Codes - a



day of panels featuring comedy industry experts.

The event on Thursday 13th October with industry experts, will centre discussions around short films, audio, and the development of comedy

characters for screen. Featured guests include Simon Mayhew-Archer (This Country), Rupert Majendie (Brian and Charles, Pls Like), Kirk Flash (This is Gay), Julia McKenzie (BBC Radio4 Comedy Commissioner) and more!

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Sean Donkin and The Inn Collection Group – Thinking Long Term



Operating in one of the fastest growing lodging sectors, 2022 has been another year of solid progress for The Inn Collection Group.



New owners, new headquarters, six new sites, the grand opening of The Northallerton Inn, and the significant expansion of its central support headcount are among the headlines from the pub with rooms operator.

For the group's managing director Sean Donkin, a deep understanding of the business is the special ingredient that is opening the doors needed to maintain its growth.

"The reason we can continue investing is because we are well funded and the reason we are well funded, is because we are pretty good at what we do and are viewed as a stable and maturing business.

"We have a strong underlying business which is performing incredibly well and that's not just a covid bounce back, we understand what the market is doing, and navigating that is the focus for now.

"A lot of our concentration for the next nine months is going to be around nailing the development of our sites under refurbishment. There are 12 of those, all set to reopen in the next 12 months so the investment side going into that is huge."

The position as a maturing business saw ICG acquired by a new company backed by The Harris Family Trusts together with Kings Park Capital back in February, with the deal seeing an established association with the latter resumed by the group.

With a clear business model that sites are pubs with rooms rather than hotels with pubs, Donkin says the sale shows the

strength of that position.

"The question posed to the guys at Kings Park was 'if you could deploy x amount of pounds into UK hospitality where would it be?' and their first response was 'the company that we sold three years before' so that is a testament to how the model holds true.

"It's the oldest model in the world when it comes to hospitality, it's been around before Jesus was born! Hotels do ground floor F&B and do it with good food, but the conviviality of that sort of restaurant or reception area is just so far away from what we do. That is why we are pubs with rooms rather than hotels with pubs.

"As the mix changes in the estate with number of bedrooms increasing and ground floor spaces getting bigger there is an argument, we may adapt to have two models to cover the differing sizes but tweaking to suit individual sites is what we do already."

Having risen to a total of 33 sites at time of print from a starting point of three just nine years ago, that rapid expansion has seen the group's footprint increase considerably, with Inns now across the North East, the Lake District, Yorkshire, Lancashire and most recently, North Wales.

And whilst the ideal world would see steady rather than the explosive growth in recent times, Donkin is pleased that ICG are well placed to seize on the right opportunities when they arise.

"The two sites we have just completed





on in Wales were pre-planned and were in trail for a long time, but you can't dictate the market when these opportunities are going to come along.

"In a perfect world, you'd get a site every two or three months, but the reality is that people don't sell that way.

"The current economic climate may create opportunities but what we look for are the very best opportunities, not just acquiring for the sake of it.

Explaining the recent acquisitions in North Wales, Donkin details how an understanding of the market and the company's customer base drove that decision.

"The areas we've moved to, North Wales in particular, have been monitored and researched for a good three or four years and it is a popular destination.

"It is a beautiful part of the world with fantastic natural characteristics and an abundance of compelling reasons to visit and the customers we see visiting those areas are those which are visiting where we operate already.

Having a central support hub for the group's Inns is another area where expansion has been visual in 2022, with a move to new offices at Quorum Park and a significant increase in the number of colleagues working in the background to allow the customer facing teams to focus on their guests.

With an ethos of "Making people happy" across the group, Donkin says creating strong

foundations at the centre is the best way to empower the group's people to achieve that aim and will be a continuing focus in order to drive the company's forward momentum.

"We started off with three people sharing two desks as head office three, four years ago and now there are in excess of 75 people in the central support hub. That increase has been necessary through the development of the company itself.

"We've gone from 350 employees four years ago to close to 1000 now, which will double by the end of next year. So how do you ensure the culture and the values of the business aren't diluted?

"We acquire sites with people who don't know us, with large staff numbers who have done certain things their way forever because that's the way the previous owners did it. Integrating them into our model is going to be important in transitioning from a medium sized business to a large one and not trip ourselves up on the way.

"What we are doing now is laying the foundations for a massive concentration on culture so that everyone in the business understands the journey that we are going on together."

"We are on a very long-term plan with the new owners, and we have an ability to plan a lot further into the future and that is the bit I'm most excited by - that no matter what happens to me or anyone in the business, that ICG set to continue for the long term."

The biggest operator of large format digital billboards in the North East



Despite having only been trading for three years, Smart Digital Network, a group made up of Smart Outdoor, Lucid Outdoor and Route Media, boasts over 300 screens across the UK, with many road screens utilising real-time audience measuring software averaging 22millions impressions per week.



St Mary's



Tyne Bridge



Stack Seaburn

A consortium of independent media businesses, the group has recently reached the target of the smart advertising screens generating over 500 million impressions during its first six months. The biggest operator of large format digital billboards in the North East, Smart Outdoor was founded in 2019 and since then the firm has built an outstanding trading reputation which saw the business more than double in revenue throughout 2021, and saw the firm forecasting triple digit growth again by the end of 2022.

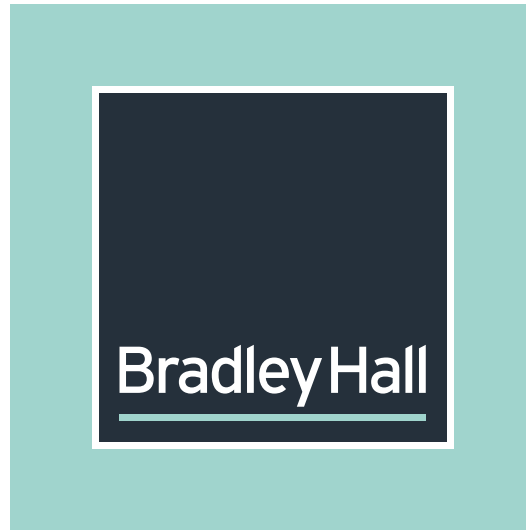
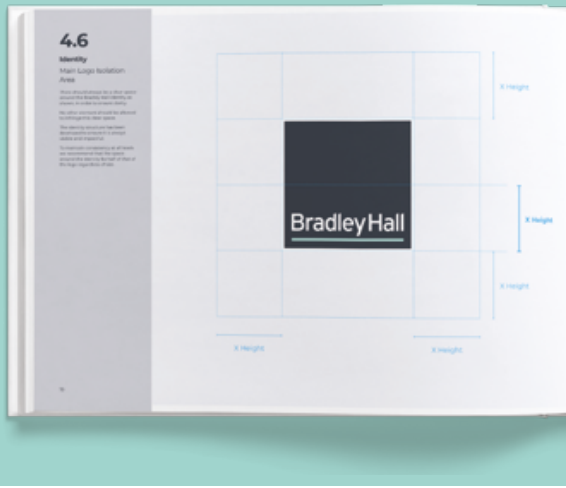
Smart Digital Network already has an impressive headcount of over 30 who together are way ahead of their targets that were set initially at the beginning of 2022. The firm has recently expanded their network of screens to some prominent locations outside of the North East including London's Leicester Square, Liverpool's Merseyside, and three prominent locations across Edinburgh including Edinburgh Waverly Station.

As the biggest operator of large format digital billboards in the North East, it looks like Smart Digital Network is in no way slowing down and is progressing at pace outside of the North East.

Clients can choose from a range of screens or choose to be included on all of its digital billboards for a fully comprehensive brand building campaign to reach across the North.

Sites include;

- Sunderland A19, Southbound
- Sandy Lane
- Great North Screen, South Tyneside,
- Leam Lane (Whitemare Pool)
- Tyne Tunnel, North
- Tyne Tunnel, South
- The Spire, A1231 Pallion, W H Forster, Sunderland
- Newcastle STACK External
- Newcastle STACK Internal
- South Shields, Kings Street
- Sunderland, St Mary's Way
- Tyne Bridge
- Manor Walks Shopping Centre, Cramlington (1) Asda
- Manor Walks Shopping Centre, Cramlington (2) Greggs
- Manor Walks Shopping Centre, Cramlington (3) Sainsburys
- Grainger Town, 51 St James Blvd , Newcastle
- Percy St, Eldon Square Shopping Centre, Newcastle
- Morden St, Eldon Garden Shopping Centre, Newcastle
- Dean St Car Park, Newcastle
- Stack, Seaburn Internal
- Stack, Seaburn External
- Cleveland Centre
- Felling Bypass
- York Vangarde x 9
- York McArthur Glen x 10



Bradley Hall has unveiled a new modern looking brand as it prepares for the most exciting period in its 34-year history.

Established in 1988, the company started life as a one-branch property agency but has expanded rapidly since its new leadership team was introduced in 2015.



The firm has also recently announced the appointment of a new board member while strategically aligning its current board member roles as it looks to increase turnover and double its team.

A multiple EG award winner, Bradley Hall is now one of the most active agents in the North East, with nine offices across the North East and Yorkshire.

Cassie Moyle, Marketing Director at Bradley Hall, said: "It's a really exciting time for everyone involved with Bradley Hall as the company continues to expand its footprint across the North of England at pace.

"The first step in this journey is this brand refresh which we believe more accurately reflects our modern approach to property services and our ever-increasing list of specialisms.

"We are a professional and established company which is consistently evolving and adapting to the ever-changing market and this update to our branding will reflect that.

"Our aim is to continue being a business which is small enough to care and create good relationships with our clients while having the influence, drive, knowledge and passion to deliver the best possible results.

"We've worked closely with all of the team to define who we are and why we do what we do and as the firm grows, we have to adapt our communications strategy accordingly and I am very excited to have such excellent foundations to build the business on."

The brand refresh will include a streamlined, more modern look across all marketing collateral including; website, social media, boards, logo, brochures and documents, digital and print

advertising and branded items. The rebrand project also redefined the company's mission and tone of voice in order for its growing marketing team to consistently communicate the firm's purpose and personality.

It will also bring in-line all corporate, electronic and physical marketing material to ensure they remain consistent and reflect the true image of Bradley Hall as an organisation.

Cassie added: "Bradley Hall has become synonymous with its dark grey and green branding, so we didn't want to stray too far from that, however we were keen to ensure that the new look really encapsulated the essence of the organisation.

"We are a professional and established company which is consistently evolving and adapting to the ever-changing market and by breaking free from the 'Chartered Surveyors & Estate Agents' strapline, we are able to really drive home the message that we're more than merely a letting and sales agency.

"We are a dynamic, modern business with a competitive edge that never shies away from a challenge, and I think this new look for Bradley Hall really captures that.

"It was important for us to communicate our plans and new brand with the team first, which is why we organised the inaugural Bradley Hall Away Day. The event was a great success and brought the team from each of our offices together."

Bradley Hall has nine offices across the North of England and specialises in services including: commercial agency; land, development, and new homes; professional management; property management; building surveying; estate agency; mortgages, and BH Planning and Design.

Social Media Academy launch new training courses

A North East based social media training academy has launched an innovative new course to create the next generation of social media marketing experts.

The Social Co. Academy, which supports businesses of all sizes, train teams on utilising social media by creating engaging content to its full potential as part of their communications and marketing strategies.

The courses have supported a range of businesses and organisations of various sizes and look to continue to expand their client base through the introduction of the Social Media Content Creator programme.

The Social Co. Academy was born out of parent company, The Social Co. which is a team of creative minds with specialists in every department including graphic design, videography, photography, animation, and social media management.

The main aim of the academy is to educate people and businesses and generate awareness through workshops, masterclasses, and bespoke training solutions.

The newest course on offer at The Social Co. Academy will encourage students to plan and develop creative content in line with a brief, through the use

of budgets and costings. The course spans over 12 months and will enable each participant to achieve a level 3/A Level qualification.

The Social Co. Academy has teamed up with accredited DRL Services to produce the training programme designed to support and develop content creators. The partnership enables applicants to receive funded training through a service that is fully certified and is a main provider of the government's Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers (ROATP).

The Social Co. Academy is run by director, Zoe Pouton, who works closely with business owners to create bespoke courses to help drive results. Zoe said; "It has been amazing to see the difference our training provides businesses and witnessing how it can transform marketing strategies. The Social Media Content Creator course is bursting with practical information that can be used in the workplace rather than just boring theory. It

THE SOCIAL CO.



is also a great way to build a career and to improve your individual development.

She said; "Applicants will do this qualification with a lot of training providers but the difference in doing it with The Social Co. Academy is that we are a social media agency by trade, so we physically put everything we teach into practise every day and know all of the tips and tricks of the industry to relay over to our learners.

"The course is delivered remotely and is made up of weekly two hour sessions - I offer one in working hours and one in the evening to allow for further flexibility. At the end of each session the participants are asked to complete a small task which will be relevant to the applicant's job role, meaning they can add this to their portfolio of evidence for an end point assessment.

"Courses such as these that The Social Co. Academy offer create many opportunities for businesses. Not only can this upskill current staff in marketing roles, allow business owners to be self-sufficient on social media, but it also encourages businesses to see a significant financial return on investment."

The qualification will allow students to:

- Interpret strategies and objectives of the brand and align these to the content
- Research, prepare and develop the media messaging to maximise audience engagement
- Develop and create written content that can be used across a variety of media
- Create visual and audio content that can be used across a variety of media
- Store content securely and methodically to enable efficient access and retrieval
- Collaborate with colleagues and clients to plan and align content delivery with business objectives
- Manage content online using appropriate tools and techniques
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the content produced against the original plan and recommend improvements
- Undertake continuous professional development to keep up-to-date with trends and technology

Zoe said: "The first cohort for the Content Creator course is now full but applications are open throughout December for the second cohort of classes to begin in January 2023. Due to popular demand for our courses, we have recently taken on more team members with the hope of introducing and running the course in monthly cohorts from 2023."

For more information about the Social Media Content Creator course with The Social Co. Academy contact Zoe via zoe@thesocialco.co.uk



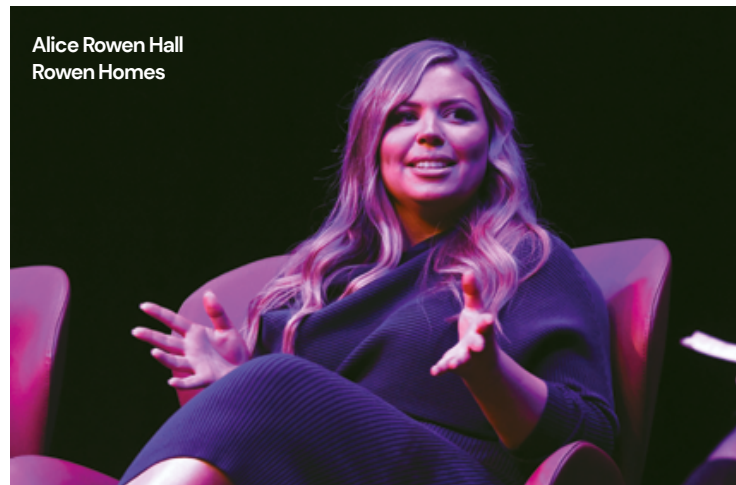
Entrepreneurial Leaders share their knowledge at Sunderland Business Festival

A panel of leading North East entrepreneurs discussed their career journeys and passed on invaluable insight at a regional business festival.

Kim Cattin
West Barn Co



Alice Rowen Hall
Rowen Homes



Natasha McDonough
MMC Research & Marketing.



Speakers at the event – part of Sunderland Business Festival – included Alice Rowen Hall, who founded Pink Boutique and now runs Rowen Homes; Kim Cattin, co-founder of West Barn Co; Cassie Moyle, co-owner and director of Portfolio North and group marketing director at Bradley Hall; and host Natasha McDonough, founder and MD of MMC Research & Marketing.

The panellists, who have each established successful brand-led lifestyle businesses, discussed their career journey to date, the challenges they have overcome and their advice for anyone thinking about starting their own business.

“I was delighted to host this event as part of Sunderland Business Festival and shine a light on three of the region’s most inspirational, entrepreneurial leaders,” said Natasha.

“The panel covered a range of topics from the need to constantly adapt and evolve to striking the right work-life balance. I’m sure that there was plenty of takeaways for those that attended.”

Sunderland Business Festival, which took place from 12 – 14 October, featured an action-packed programme including a Jobs Fair and Tech Talent event showing digital careers and training, expert presentations, panel

discussions, ‘on the sofa’ style discussions with industry leaders and behind the scenes tours.

The festival was organised by Sunderland Business Partnership, a collective of organisations – large and small – all with an interest in the city’s development, creating opportunities for members to collaborate and grow, which in turn helps Sunderland to be a more dynamic destination for business.

Cassie Moyle said: “It was a pleasure to take part in this event and to share the stage with some amazing entrepreneurs. There’s so much you go through in business and it was great to be able to share my career journey so far and hopefully it provided some useful insight.”

Sunderland Business Festival was sponsored by Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland, Sunderland AFC, North East BIC and Portfolio North.

The Entrepreneurial Leaders event took place at the Auditorium at The Fire Station in Sunderland city centre.

For more information about the Sunderland Business Partnership, visit: sunderlandbusinesspartnership.co.uk



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UNW secures top cyber award for the second year in a row



Newcastle-based independent chartered accountancy and business advisory firm UNW has been awarded Cyber Essentials Plus certification for the second year running.

Cyber Essentials is a two-tier government backed scheme that helps organisations protect themselves against the burgeoning threat of cyber-attacks. Building further on UNW's initial certification in 2021, the reaccreditation demonstrates the firm's ongoing commitment to cyber security and therefore the protection of its client's data against cyber threats. The award also means that the business remains in the list of certified companies on the IASME (Information Assurance for Small and Medium Enterprises) consortium website. Reflecting UNW's unrelenting commitment to looking after its clients and providing them with the best

possible service, the Cyber Essentials Plus certification comes in the wake of a significant expansion to its workforce and sustained growth across all areas of the business. The firm has welcomed 40 new recruits so far in 2022, including taking on 20 new trainees as it expanded its graduate and apprenticeship programmes.

In retaining the award, UNW once again worked with Richmond-based IT Security and Information Governance consultancy Evolve North which support organisations in achieving Cyber Essentials Plus certification via its Cyber Toolkit platform. UNW's Head of Operations Jacqui Brown said: "We're extremely proud to

have retained our Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation for a second year with the assistance of Evolve North. We're growing fast, with our headcount nearly at 160, so it's even more important than ever that we embrace the very highest standards of cyber security and focus on guarding our client's data (and our own systems) against cyber threats.

"Our work doesn't stop here though. The very nature of cyber threats is they are difficult to define and hard to anticipate. These threats are continually evolving, and we are working with our IT partners to continue to improve our systems and controls as we grow, ensuring the safety and security of the data we hold."

North East business festival a huge success

A North East business festival made a successful return in October, with hundreds attending events across Sunderland.



Sunderland Business Festival, which was back for a second year, ran from October 12 – 14 and included sessions with industry experts, panel discussions, 'on the sofa' talks, a jobs fair and behind the scenes tours of some of the city's biggest employers.

Speakers at the festival included North East born entrepreneur Heather Mills; Leo Pearlman from Fulwell73, the production company behind shows such as Friends: The Reunion; Dame Irene Hays from national travel agent Hays Travel; Alice Rowen Hall who founded Pink Boutique and now runs Rowen Homes and Kristjaan Speakman and Steve Davison from Sunderland AFC, alongside leaders from key Sunderland organisations.

The festival was organised by Sunderland Business Partnership, a collective of organisations – large and small – all with an interest in the city's development, creating opportunities for members to collaborate and grow, which in turn helps Sunderland to be a more dynamic destination for business.

Ellen Thinnesen, chair of Sunderland Business

Partnership and chief executive Education Partnership North East, which includes Sunderland College, said: "Sunderland Business Festival was an amazing opportunity for businesses and individuals alike to hear from great speakers, network and share ambitions for the future of Sunderland.

"After last year's virtual festival, it was great to be back in-person, celebrating Sunderland's vibrant and growing business community."

The festival also showcased some of Sunderland's great venues, including The Fire Station's Auditorium, the Stadium of Light, 1719 and Mackie's Corner.

Patrick Melia, chief executive of headline sponsor of the festival Sunderland City Council, said: "It is amazing to see such levels of development and investment coming to the city of Sunderland.

"The Business Festival was a brilliant opportunity to showcase our changing city to a business audience from across the North East and show off the many ways in which the city is positively contributing to the regional economy too."



Sunderland Business Festival was sponsored by Sunderland City Council, the University of Sunderland, the North East BIC, Sunderland AFC and Portfolio North.

Professor Lawrence Bellamy, Academic Dean for the Faculty of Business, Law and Tourism at the University of Sunderland, said: "The transformation that is happening in Sunderland is truly remarkable and there's still so much more to come.

"The festival really highlighted the reasons to be very positive about the future of the city, the career opportunities on offer to our students when they leave university and we are proud to be at the heart of that."

To learn more about the Sunderland Business Partnership, visit the website sunderlandbusinesspartnership.co.uk or follow @sunderlandBP on Twitter.



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Who needs a lawyer anyway?

Divorce laws changed significantly in April this year when long awaited landmark reforms introduced no fault divorce – aimed at reducing conflict between separating couples by putting an end to the need for blame in the breakdown of a marriage.

Alongside a new user-friendly government portal, the reforms now mean that making an Application for a Divorce could not be easier... so do you still need to engage a lawyer?

If the split is amicable and you have no children, property, assets or possessions, a DIY divorce may be an attractive option. However, in reality, very few divorces will fall into this category.

Divorce is one of those topics that everybody often thinks they know about. From stories passed around the staffroom to celebrity divorces splashed across the press, many are full of advice and 'facts' about what they believe should or shouldn't happen and how the process works.

Given the number of marriages which unfortunately end, it is fair to say that most people know somebody who has experienced divorce themselves. Surely they should know everything, right?

The reality is often very different. No two marriages are the same and therefore, inevitably, each divorce or separation has its own set of circumstances. If you're not a plumber, you wouldn't plumb your own bathroom. If you're not a mechanic, you wouldn't fix your own car. If you're

not a lawyer, you wouldn't do your own divorce... would you?

Most people who have been through a divorce are likely to agree that when it comes to emotional turmoil, it's definitely up there as one of life's most trying times!

As a result, it is often very difficult to be dispassionate when acting for yourself in your own family breakdown. It is hard to stand back from the facts and look at them objectively as people have a very natural tendency to see things from their own perspective and struggle to act impartially, often becoming embroiled in minor issues whilst losing all sense of objectivity and failing to see the wider picture. When dealing with the most important things in life, there is a lot to be said for a bespoke service, tailored to the individual family's needs.

The law is a technical area of expertise just like any other learned skill and it is easy to make mistakes. It is not often recognised that the process of a divorce is commonly divided into three parts; the process of obtaining the Final Order of Divorce (to legally dissolve the marriage), deciding how finances are to be divided and issues in relation to the children - where they will live and how often each

parent will see them. Each aspect is very different and requires specialist advice and attention to detail.

In most technical areas, there are many myths that circulate and divorce is no exception.

Many people do not appreciate that a Final Order of Divorce alone will not deal with financial aspects and that even after a Final Order of Divorce, financial claims are still very much live until such time as a separate court order deals with the financial position, entirely separately to the Divorce.

With the new Divorce reforms and the online government portal, there are certainly better opportunities for separating couples to limit some of their costs in relation to obtaining a Divorce and reducing hostility, but there is still a place for clear legal advice to ensure all matters are dealt with properly and cost efficiently.

For more information or advice, get in touch with Partner and Head of Family, Emily Cannell by calling 0191 2816151 or emailing ecannell@mincoffs.co.uk

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Sunderland Business Festival breakfast launch in association with Portfolio North

Sunderland Business Festival 2022 officially launched with a VIP breakfast event at Mackies Corner.

The event - ran in association with Portfolio North - featured a panel of senior business figures from the city and was hosted by former Journal editor Brian Aitken.

Panellists included Ellen Thinnesen OBE, chief executive of Education Partnership North East; Sir David Bell, vice-chancellor and chief executive of the University of Sunderland; Steve Davison, chief operating officer at Sunderland AFC; Sharon Appleby, chief executive of Sunderland Business Improvement District; Paul McEldon OBE, Chief Executive at North East Business and Innovation Centre (BIC); and David Pattison, Business Investment Manager at Sunderland City Council.

The panel discussed the changing physical and business landscape in the city, with topics including skills, start-ups, business confidence, events, sport and retail and leisure.

The festival, which ran from 12 - 14 October, was organised by Sunderland Business Partnership, a collective of organisations - large and small - all with an interest in the city's development, creating opportunities for members to collaborate and grow, which in turn helps Sunderland to be a more dynamic destination for business.

To learn more about the Sunderland Business Partnership, visit the website sunderlandbusinesspartnership.co.uk or follow @sunderlandBP on Twitter.





International Insights: MMC Helping Businesses Take Flight



Never leave a stone unturned.' That's the ethos that Natasha McDonough - Founder and Managing Director of MMC Research & Marketing, lives by. It is this passion and zest for life that led her from London to Australia to Los Angeles, cumulating in a fruitful 25-year career in marketing spanning three continents, before finally setting up base in Sunderland.

MMC Research & Marketing is all about finding out what your customers and stakeholders are thinking, what it means, and what to do about it. Providing clear insights through intelligent research so businesses can make informed decisions to shape their future and, in essence, take flight.

Natasha's own business future was shaped with the impulse decision to up sticks from her home city of London and head to Los Angeles to work for an independent publishing house in the 90s.

Natasha McDonough - Founder and Managing Director of MMC Research & Marketing said:

"The company owner asked if I wanted to run the marketing division of a new company he was starting, and I just went for it. This really was a pivotal role for me and one that started my global career in marketing. It was an epic moment, working on the global conference scene and fully immersed in the whole dot.com era.

Working in international marketing made a massive difference to my career journey. It gave me sheer independence and I had an absolute blast. My CV was really bolstered and when I returned to London years later, I went into very senior roles, which was predominantly down to my international experience gained."

MMC Research & Marketing has been operating for 7 years and works across an array of industries from housing, public sector to scale-up tech businesses, building strong working relationships with key businesses along the way including the Foundation of Light, Sunderland BID, Believe Housing, Nexus and Simpsons Malt.

The launch of MMC Research & Marketing was propelled when Natasha was made redundant. Natasha added:

"In business, I always thought if you worked hard, you'd be okay. But when I was made redundant it unsettled me, I decided I wanted to be master of my own destiny.

I've always worked with or around entrepreneurs, so I instinctively knew the passion needed to start and run a business. The decision paid off, as year one we started working with a global client, who I still work with to this day. Strong growth has followed, defining our offer in the marketplace to introduce more market research. I think I was always destined to have my own business, I had letter-headed notepaper and set up a car washing business at the age of 10!"

Given Natasha's unconventional route to business, she is keen to push past the usual stereotype of what a business owner looks like. Natasha said:

"I didn't follow the conventional route to business and didn't get a chance to go to university, but the international insights from travel and my early career really helped shape my journey. I'm keen to push the message that a business entrepreneur isn't always the

usual stereotype and business owners can sometimes lack confidence in themselves and it's something that some of us have to work hard to overcome.

These stereotypes can be a real barrier to growth for many and can bring anxiety around confidence levels. I speak to a lot of people who struggle with imposter syndrome, for example. There's a lot of funding out there for business coaching, which is great, but I'd been keen to see opportunities for funded coaching around the mental wellbeing of business owners too. Let's face it, if you feel strong in mind, you'll feel confident in your business and your ability to thrive."

Natasha settled in Sunderland after meeting her now husband in London, whose originally from the North East. She's a passionate advocate of the North East region and also chairs the Sunderland committee of the North East England Chamber of Commerce, and is part of a business group which collaborates on supporting the city's ambitious development plans, as well as her role as Governor at the University of Sunderland. As a result, Natasha has a lot of insight into the North East B2B community, which is quite unique in its collaborative approach. Natasha added:

"When I lived in London, I was always part of a particular 'sector', who became my 'tribe' so to speak. However, when I moved to the North East I noticed how all sectors seem to network together. I like that. I think it cultivates more opportunities for collaborative projects.

There can sometimes be the inclination for businesses to find a niche, find a sector and stick to it. However, I work hard at ensuring we have a diverse client base working across industries. I love the versatility this brings from working on a regeneration project through to supporting charities or software companies."

The research and insights through the many projects that MMC Research & Marketing have been involved in have been pivotal to many business decisions. Natasha said:

"We recently worked with a software company who wanted to acquire another provider of software. We conducted research for them on what customers thought of the product, and then advised if it was worth pursuing acquisition. They then went on and acquired the business, which was a great feeling to know our research had helped with the growth and direction of the company.

It would seem there is even more lift-off on the horizon for MMC Research & Marketing, with Natasha recently bringing home silver at the Best Business Women Awards in London for Business Services.

"It was a bit ironic that I went home to my native London, to bring home the award to Sunderland! To get a national recognition was incredible, and it was a fantastic opportunity to make new contacts at the dinner, and tell them how great the North East is. I love London and feel so comfortable there, but I love being an adopted North Easterner. The business and the family are firmly rooted here."

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Insuring Excellence: Client Focus at its Finest

'Always ahead of the curve'.
Todd and Cue are the largest independent insurance broker in the region specialising in the placement of insurance programmes for a wide spectrum of clients, including public companies, recognised professional practices, financial institutions, private companies, partnerships and sole traders.



Heavily rooted in the North East Todd and Cue quite literally live, breath and sleep insurance. Total client focus is at the forefront of their operations, with excellence in all aspects of service, coupled with their growing buying power, ensuring a competitive and comprehensive package of support for their client base.

Todd and Cue has a huge client portfolio and the building and cementing of relationships is an ethos that is at the heart of their foundations. One such collaboration brokered at Todd and Cue is the long-standing relationship with Bradley Hall through their bespoke Property Owners Scheme which has been in place for over 20 years. The two industry innovators initially developed the scheme for their high-profile core client base in the North East. Over the years the scheme has seen high growth and geographical expansion and alongside the North East they now service a strong client portfolio in cities across the UK including London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester.

As a result of their expansive inhouse skills set and their head strong team of 30, which includes an in-house claims department, Todd and Cue are able to insure all types of Landlord Property, including a diverse range of properties on the scheme ranging from small shops and residential properties, to large shopping centres, industrial units and office blocks.

One of the most reputable insurers within the market provides the insurance coverage for the properties on the Property Owners Scheme. Under the scheme run in conjunction with Bradley Hall properties include the Eldon Chambers offices nestled on the desirable Quayside spot, to shopping centres like St Cuthberts Walk in Chester-le-Street through to residential properties on Sandyford Road in Jesmond. Glenn Cue, Director, Todd and Cue said:

"We have a strong and established relationship with Bradley Hall to provide high quality and comprehensive support to an extensive number of their clients across the country. Our reputation is built on providing a trusted service and we are delighted to align with Bradley Hall, a business which echoes our commitment to customer support and excellence in all aspects of the service we provide jointly through the Property Owners Scheme."

Through the established scheme which has supported hundreds of property owners over the years, clients are able to take advantage of a multifaceted approach to insurance. Glenn added:

"The collaboration with Bradley Hall is unique in that we have a rounded understanding of what a landlord requires from both the property and insurance perspective. Clients have a strong and

structured support mechanism around them when utilising the Property Owners Scheme. They are not just buying into a policy, they are buying into years of combined and reputable experience from strong leaders in the property and insurance market."

Neil Hart said: "Todd and Cue offer a brilliant service which has allowed us to create cost-effective and time efficient services for our clients. Glenn and his team are truly experts in their field who bring forward unrivalled experience and knowledge. We are also extremely confident that if and when our clients need to come into contact with their point of contact at Todd and Cue, that they will receive a personable, professional and responsive service.

"It's essential for us to partner with regional firms which have the same ethos as us. As a professional services business, we are here to support local people, communities and businesses and Todd and Cue share the same passion to make the North a better place to invest and do business.

"In the current climate, it is absolutely essential for all investors, landlords and business people to look carefully at affordable insurance policies which could future-proof their investments and organisations. We have worked closely with Todd and Cue to offer our clients the Property Owners Scheme, which allows us to offer landlords the benefits of bulk buying power. This means that the landlords we work with get the best insurance for their needs for the best price, protecting them from any future issues whilst also being cost-effective."

Service is the key to the success at Todd and Cue, having built a reputation for trusted service with the personal touch for more than 40 years. Todd and Cue has grown consistently over the years, primarily through client recommendation. The business has long maintained a position in the Insurance Age Top 100 UK Brokers list and are one of the few firms which has gained Chartered Status from the Chartered Insurance Institute.

Glenn added: "We pride ourselves on service. We build real rapport with clients and in turn client retentions are high. Our clients have longevity as standard from an A-rated insurance company. Our passion and commitment to deliver a personable service really does set us apart, the key differentiator in the broker market is most definitely service and reputation and this is where we excel."

For further information on the scheme, please contact Glenn Cue:
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The transformation of Sunderland's The Yard

The former Gilbridge Police Station in Sunderland City Centre is quickly progressing and transforming to become 'The Yard' under £3.5million development plan.

Since 1972 this landmark building has been part of Sunderland's main police station that served Wearside for decades before Northumbria Police vacated the premises in 2015.

The 3,000 sq m building was selected for redevelopment for some time, owing to its central location. In 2020, Hanro was confirmed as the preferred developer for the building after a competitive bidding process took place.

In March this year, work began to transform the building into a multi-purpose office space that is to be named The Yard.

North East developer Hanro has engaged



Sunderland based Brims to carry out work on the former Gilbridge Police Station. There are plans for some changes to take place on the external fascia of the building, as well as a full internal fit out. The Yard's development is the largest in a long line of positive investment announcements in and around Riverside Sunderland, which is being resurrected as a mixed-use urban quarter, where people will live, work and play.

Work is now nearing completion on the top floors of the building, which formerly housed the officers' club, ready for potential tenants when the building is handed over in November 2022. The lower floors are also quickly taking shape. The ground floor, which will also feature a business lounge, meeting rooms and a leisure space, is now fully under offer. There is still a collection of remaining units available on other floors, including offices that range from 500 sq ft to 20,000 sq ft. depending on the requirements of the tenant.

Bradley Hall supported Hanro through the acquisition of the former Gilbridge Police Station and is now letting the units at The Yard.

Helen Wall, senior surveyor at Bradley Hall said: "Having lived in Sunderland all my life it is great to see the Former Gilbridge Police Station taking shape as The Yard, providing 23,000 sq ft of

office accommodation in the heart of the Riverside regeneration scheme.

"Watching it transform into a stylish new office block is brilliant for Sunderland and will provide a great deal of opportunity and encourage firms to the city centre in the future.

"It is fantastic to see that Riverside Sunderland is fast becoming a vibrant business district and Bradley Hall are proud to be involved in this exciting period of growth for the city.

Our vision is to work hand-in-hand with key organisations such as Sunderland City Council and Hanro, to support the ever-evolving built environment of the North, making it a consistently better place to live, work and socialise." Sharon Appleby, chief executive at the Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID), said: "The development of The Yard is set to be a great investment to the growing business district of Sunderland and will be an excellent facility for SME's right in the heart of the city centre.

"This corner of Sunderland has been in need of a refresh for some time, and it is brilliant to see that it is finally getting that and is able to support Sunderland's ever-expanding business hub. I am very much looking forward to seeing The Yard completed soon."

Laura Lloyd, head of Portfolio at The

Hanro Group said: "We've had a real mix of enquiries, anything from accountants to recruitment firms," she said.

"It's such a great location, right in the centre of the new CBD (central business district) and it's slightly more affordable for smaller, newer businesses who aren't looking for huge HQ premises.

"It's a really flexible space which can be split into offices, anything up from 500 sq ft. It's been really interesting to see it transform from March to now. Before, it was very cellular, no pun intended, but what we've done is to really open up the space.

"A lot of people knock down and rebuild buildings, but there was nothing structurally wrong with this building, it was really solid, so we've done all we can to work with its existing features."

Throughout the refurbishment, builders have been able to maintain original features due to the buildings solid concrete frame, including the Brutalist facade and terrazzo main staircase. However, the cell wall of the building has been demolished to create a space appropriate to house a car park to accompany the offices.

For more information on office space at The Yard, contact Bradley Hall on 0191 563 4242 or sunderland@bradleyhall.co.uk



Pub group announces plans for new Sunderland venue



One of the North East's best-known leisure groups has announced plans to open a new venue in Sunderland.

Vaulkhard Group, which has been operating in the region for some 30 years, has revealed that it will open its first Sunderland venue beneath the new Keel Square Holiday Inn.

The company, which is behind Barluga, The Bridge Tavern and Redhouse, has signed a lease for a ground floor unit alongside The Botanist, which confirmed its plans to open in the city in the summer.

The new venue will be the firm's nineteenth in the North East, its first south of Tyneside. The venue will serve food and drinks during the day and into the evening, with the Group expecting to announce the brand and showcase its plans for the interior in the coming months.

Oliver Vaulkhard, founder of Vaulkhard Group, said he had been attracted to Sunderland having seen the vision of the council to transform the city centre.

"We have only looked to Newcastle and further north for new venues in the past, but there really is a sense that Sunderland is transforming, and we want to be part of that," said Ollie.

"This really is urban regeneration on scale that is going on at Riverside Sunderland, and we see the opportunity that presents for us as a group. There's such positive energy about the place, and the right people are around the table driving the regeneration of Sunderland. People who believe in the city, have a vision for its transformation and also have the skills and connections to deliver it. It's a really exciting time to be coming to the city."

The venue will stand next door to award-winning bar-and-restaurant The Botanist - famed for its botanical interiors, quirky cocktails, signature hanging kebabs, live music offering, and venues adorned with tropical plants and foliage - delivering a complementary offer.

Ollie added: "Alongside The Botanist and the bars and restaurants already in the city centre, we believe we can create a really compelling offer, that will support the daytime and evening economy in the city and provide great places for the many thousands of people who will live and work in Riverside Sunderland to enjoy."

One of four retail and leisure spaces at street-level beneath the soon-to-be-completed hotel, Vaulkhard Group will create around 30 new jobs, as well as delivering a stylish new venue for residents and visitors to enjoy.

An exact opening date is yet to be confirmed, but the company has applied

to the council's licencing team to enable it to trade from the unit and the aim is spring 2023. Keel Square is at the epicentre of Riverside Sunderland, the award-winning new urban quarter that is being held up nationally as the UK's most ambitious regeneration project.

Vaulkhard Group's move to Sunderland has been supported by Sunderland City Council, forming a key new addition to the leisure offer.

Councillor Graeme Miller, leader of Sunderland City Council, said: "We are thrilled to welcome Vaulkhard Group to the city - a brilliant new addition to Sunderland and testament to the transformative effect of the work we're doing at Riverside Sunderland.

"We want Sunderland to be a spectacular place to live, work and play, so attracting operators of this calibre to add to the city centre offer we already have is brilliant."

The bar is part of the new £18m 120-bed Holiday Inn Hotel at Keel Square which is close to completion. North East based property firm Bradley Hall assisted in bringing Vaulkhard Group to Sunderland.

Neil Hart, group managing director at the firm, said: "We're pleased to have supported Vaulkhard Group with its move into Sunderland. We're sure it will be a huge success and will really enhance the city's hospitality and leisure offering."

The Keel Square hotel development is being brought forward by Cairn Group, and plans were first approved in 2019, with works commencing in 2020. The plans have been part-funded by Canada Life, a commitment secured by Avison Young, and will create additional accommodation that will support an increasing number of visitors to the city. The keenly awaited addition to the city centre will create 130 jobs when it opens its doors.

The hotel is one of a number of significant developments complete or underway in Sunderland city centre. Between them, the projects will transform Riverside Sunderland, which will become home to 1,000 ultra-sustainable residential properties, business premises comprising 1m sq ft of space that will welcome up to 10,000 workers and leisure spaces and public realm for people to enjoy.

To stay up to date with developments at Riverside Sunderland, visit www.riversidesunderland.com or follow @RiversideSund on social media.



Maker and Faber show their 'metal'

The steel frames of two new buildings are piercing the Sunderland skyline, as work gathers pace on the Legal & General-backed developments.

Maker and Faber, two new offices on Riverside Sunderland, are taking shape, with the outline of both structures now visible.

The buildings, which together will create 150,000 sq ft of office space, are set to become the workplace of thousands of people working for businesses of all sizes and kinds, when they open their doors in 2024. Delivered by development manager Landid, Maker and Faber have been funded as part of Legal & General's £100m commitment to the Riverside Sunderland site, and a combined £160m that the institutional investor is ploughing into the city over the next few years.

Sir Robert McAlpine has been contracted to build Maker and Faber, with Maker, a six-storey building that will deliver 80,000 sq ft of office space, set to be completed first. The second building, Faber - which will stand five-storeys high, delivering 70,000 sq ft - will follow and will be home to 400 staff from RSA, who announced their plans to move into the city centre earlier this year.

The steel frames - amounting to 1,625 tonnes of metal - stand to the north of the new City Hall and will deliver buildings boasting panoramic views out to sea and across the River Wear.

James Silver, managing director of Landid, said: "It's incredible to see Maker and Faber begin to take shape and make their mark on what is a fast-changing landscape in the city centre.

"The steel frames start to give a real sense of just how much these buildings will transform the city centre, and - for the development team - it's a really special moment as our plans start to come to fruition."

He added: "Riverside Sunderland is a world-class urban quarter, and a place that will have a transformational impact on the wider city centre. We're enormously proud to be playing a part in this game-changing programme for Sunderland with two buildings that will add to the city's vibrant office market."

Maker and Faber are a key part of Riverside Sunderland, which will create a vibrant, mixed-use site, comprising 1,000 new homes, 1m sq ft of office space, as well as a range of new places to enjoy. It will boost the number of people living and working in the heart of the city, creating a stronger daytime and evening economy by doubling the resident population of the city centre from 2,500 to 5,000 and increasing employment by 50% to 18,000.

Mike Coplowe, senior development manager at Legal & General, said: "Maker and Faber are hugely significant additions to the North East's commercial property market and it's wonderful to watch them take shape. Working with Sir Robert McAlpine will ensure that these buildings deliver a boost to the local economy during construction as well as when they open their doors."

Councillor Graeme Miller, leader of Sunderland City Council, said: "There can be no doubt about the council's desire to transform the city centre at pace, working with partners who will raise the bar.

"As we start to see these buildings constructed, the level of ambition and determination of all partners involved is clear, and they will make their mark not only visibly, but in terms of the economic value they deliver during construction and when they welcome many hundreds of workers upon completion."

To enquire about space within the buildings, contact Richard Thornton from JLL at Richard.Thornton@eu.jll.com or on 07966 532 251 or contact Patrick Matheson at Knight Frank at patrick.matheson@knightfrank.com or on 0191 594 5001.





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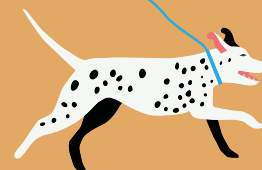
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Brancepeth Manor Farm

Aintree Lodge

£695,000

Bradley Hall is delighted to welcome to the market this exceptional, four-bedroom, stone-built barn conversion, softened with painted cedar panelling at first floor level, and located in the sought after Brancepeth Manor Farm Estate. Brancepeth Manor Farm was the once famous racing stables of the former Grand national winner Red Marauder and has most recently been developed into an exclusive estate of barn conversions and is rapidly becoming one of the most sought-after residential locations in County Durham. It sits close to the established village of Brancepeth with its famous Castle and well-regarded golf

course and club house, as well as being only 5 miles to the west of the historic city of Durham with its famous world heritage sites, cobbled streets, eclectic mix of shops, restaurants and bars and the established university and County Hall. This property is truly a one-of-a-kind home with captivating views over the lake and countryside from all levels. Extending to over 2000sq.ft, this home boasts high quality finishes throughout and is approached via automatic wrought iron gates hung on stone pillars and leading to the sweeping driveway that dissects the farmland and provides access to the hamlet of barns.

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East Rainton Century Way

£370,000

Bradley Hall Sunderland are delighted to welcome to the market this modern 4-bedroom, detached family home situated on the well-regarded Avant Homes estate within the village of East Rainton in the city of Sunderland.

The ground floor accommodation comprises of an entrance hallway, lounge, a spacious open plan kitchen/dining/living room with bi fold doors that lead to the rear of the property. The ground floor accommodation also benefits from a downstairs WC and utility room. The first floor offers 4 spacious bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, an ensuite to the master alongside a family bathroom.

Externally, the property boasts an enclosed rear patio area with a spacious lawned garden as well as a single-car garage and driveway to the front.

Sunderland
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Northumberland Easington

£600,000

Bradley Hall is delighted to welcome to the market this beautifully presented family holiday home, which is part of a collection of successfully ran holiday lets. The Stargazer infuses the traditional charm of Northumbrian country living with contemporary, modern style to create a truly unique property in a highly desirable coastal location in close proximity to Bamburgh.

This listing provides an incredibly rare opportunity to acquire a stand-out property which is currently ran as a successful holiday let amongst its neighbouring properties. This listing is the ideal option for those looking for a 'get up and go' holiday bolthole or for investors

looking to purchase an already successful holiday let.

The property has been finished to a stunning standard throughout, and benefits from a range of high-quality modern fixtures and fittings. Both wet rooms have been finished beautifully, with tiling throughout the main bathroom, complete with a freestanding bathtub. The open plan living area also features the biomass log burner that provides heating throughout, spotlighting throughout the room and stylish pendant lights featured above the kitchen island. The kitchen itself benefits from ample worktop space with a range of fitted wall and base units.

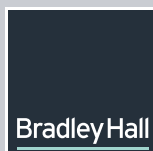


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New luxury homes for sale on historical country estate, surrounded by 1,000 acres of land and a castle...



Miller Homes at Lambton Park is located within the historic Lambton Estate which dates back hundreds of years and spans over 1,000 acres located in Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

As children many of us may have dreamed of living in a castle like in our favourite fairy tale, or spent some of our leisure time exploring castles that once were, picturing how the other half lived when they were home to royalty.

While the 11th century Lambton Castle within the privately-owned Lambton Estate isn't for sale, for the first time in the Estate's history, a development of homes is being built where residents can become part of its exciting next chapter - and enjoy daily views of the castle.

Apart from a brief spell in the 1970s (when it was home to family attraction Lambton Lion Park and exotic animals from around the world), the 1,200-acre heritage estate has been a hidden gem and closed to the public. However it's time for a new era, with a landmark redevelopment mission fully underway to protect the Estate's legacy, restore its heritage assets and open up its beauty to a new generation.

The homes are not your average new build and take inspiration from Victorian architecture. Every detail has been carefully considered, from sourcing materials from around the world to the names of each house style which are species of tree found within the Estate.

The selection of one, two, three, four and five bedroom energy efficient homes have been uniquely designed by renowned architect and interior designer Ben Pentreath, in keeping with the heritage of the estate.

In addition to the housing, the development of a community hub adjacent to the homes known as Bowes Gate, will begin to take shape next year. Plans for the complex include units such as a

bakery, delicatessen, butcher, florist, pharmacy, convenience store and more. All set to be within walking distance from the homes - perfect for shopping from local independent businesses.

Plans also include a standalone café/bistro, as well as space across the first and second floors of the main building, which could accommodate anything from conventional offices, serviced office space and meeting rooms to a wellness centre with a yoga/pilates studio or gym.

Calum Gillhespy, a director with the Estate's managing agents GSC Grays, said: "Bowes Gate is a key component in the redevelopment of Lambton Park. It will be home to a complementary mix of businesses whose occupation on site will make a fantastic contribution to the vibrant community which is being built here."

People are not just buying a new home here; they are becoming part of the Estate's rich history and new beginning. Homeowners can enjoy walks around the estate's beautiful woodland and parkland, right from their doorstep with exclusive access throughout the year and an area of the estate dedicated to those who live on the estate.

Aisling Ramshaw, sales director for Miller Homes North East says "The Lambton Estate is a beautiful area, full of large open spaces, woodland, wildlife and nature yet close to key commuter links not only for the region but for those who may travel across the country. To live on its doorstep would be a dream for any homeowner who loves the countryside.

"When we create our developments, we ensure they

reflect and encompass the local area, while offering homeowners access to the amenities and services they need. Although they are new build properties, each of our homes at Lambton Park are designed to keep that historical feel of the iconic Lambton Estate area, while providing modern, energy efficient living on the inside."

The wider redevelopment of the Estate has already enabled the refurbishment of the Stables at The Stud to accommodate the Northumbria Police Mounted Section, which is part of an overall £1m investment to refurbish the whole of The Stud. The Grade II Listed Shepherds Cottages have been fully refurbished externally, including essential repairs and re-roofing.

Those interested in becoming a resident of Lambton Park can choose from a range of bespoke one, three, four and five-bedroom homes as well as two-bedroom apartments. The sales centre and five-bedroom "Oak" show home open is Thursday to Monday from 10:30am to 5:30pm and we encourage anyone interested to come along speak to our team.

As well as at the development's sales centre, homebuyers can also reserve their chosen home using Miller Homes' online reservation system. Buyers can reserve a new home and pay a reservation fee via the Miller Homes website in a few simple steps, any time and in a place convenient to them.

For more information on Miller Homes at Lambton Park visit www.millerhomes.co.uk/new-homes/north-east/lambton-park-lambton-park.aspx.





Young family swap London for Lambton Park life

A young family have found a new life in the country, swapping their one-bedroom flat in London for a five-bedroom home with its own estate and castle right on the doorstep.



Keiran and Sarah fell in love with Miller Homes' Lambton Park development, which offered everything their life in London didn't. Plus, it gave them an opportunity to live in a larger property and save money, as the mortgage on their new five-bedroom home is considerably less than the rent they were paying for their one-bedroom London flat.

Keiran said: "First impressions of the development were amazing. The build quality and the look of the homes stood head and shoulders above all of the other developments we'd visited. We fell in love with the place the moment we saw it and knew we had to live there."

"After living in London for so long the peace and quiet we have now living at Lambton Park is so refreshing. We go on walks all the time and Freddie loves listening to the birds, which we didn't have in London. From when we first moved in it just felt like home, which is an amazing feeling.

"I'm a director at an Ecomm furniture retailer and the pandemic inspired us to take our business entirely online with a fully remote working model, so this freed us up to head back home to the North East. I'm lucky to have my own office in our new home and for when I need to be in London for the occasional meeting, Durham and Newcastle train stations are so easy to get to. We've definitely got the best of both worlds, feeling so remote yet close to everything we need.

"I must say the Miller Homes team were really great during the whole process, from our first visit and even now, checking that we're happy with our home and doing everything they can to give us a top class experience. We couldn't recommend Miller and Lambton Park anymore. It's a fantastic place to live."





LAMBTON PARK

Overlooked by the iconic Lambton Castle, Lambton Park is an exclusive country estate development with a selection of bespoke 1, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes and 2 bedroom apartments. Each one boasting its own unique, personal character.

Residents can enjoy exclusive access to 11.5km of footpaths meandering through historic park and woodland providing an oasis of calm and tranquility. Plus, the online forum Lambton Live has been created for the exclusive use of the new residents joining the community at Lambton Park.

Entirely bespoke, these outstanding homes include features such as red brick detailing, sash windows and decorative ridge tiles, all inspired by existing residential properties on the estate. The development has been designed by the renowned architect and interior designer Ben Pentreath.



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The logo for Bradley Hall, featuring the company name in a white serif font on a dark blue square background with a thin white border.

Bradley Hall





Ponteland Woodside

£850,000

Situated within the prestigious and highly sought after Darras Hall estate, this wonderful five bedroom detached property will make the perfect family home! Upon entering the property, you are greeted by the light and airy hallway which leads you through to the contemporary kitchen, separate dining room, utility room; with downstairs W/C, sitting room, study and snug. The ground floor bedroom is situated at the front of the house; ensuite included. The utility room has internal access to the attached garage. To the first floor there are four bedrooms and a family bathroom. The master and second bedroom both include dressing rooms and ensuites, the third bedroom benefits from generous storage space. Externally to the rear of the property there is a generous,

enclosed garden with decked area. Conveniently located for easy access to Newcastle airport and city centre, as well as a short walk to local schools; including Darras Hall primary school which has been awarded an Ofsted Outstanding grade. Just up the road in Ponteland, also known to the local residents as 'the village', you can enjoy popular bars and restaurants such as the black bird, the diamond, Mambos and many more. There are also various shops and supermarkets including Waitrose and Sainsburys. Just a short 5-minute drive from the property you'll find Ponteland Park. At around 18 acres, Ponteland park is the largest green space in the town. It is largely a natural park with woodland, green spaces and paths that run alongside the river Pont.



 x 5



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Thornley The Oaks

£595,000

Bradley Hall is delighted to welcome to the market this individually designed modern family home which is located on the exclusive Dunelm Stables development in Thornley. The Oaks is ideally located with good commuter links via the nearby A1 (5.5 miles) and A19 (4.1 miles). Durham City, with its world heritage sites of the Castle and Cathedral, is situated only 6 miles away with a wide variety of amenities, restaurants in addition to very good local and private schooling. There are smaller shops and more facilities in the village centre which is within walking

distance of the property. The front of the property benefits from an ample amount of parking with a block paved driveway which can provide parking for over five cars as well a double garage with a remote-control shutter door. The rear garden has been finished to a fantastic standard, benefiting from composite decking with a pergola and seating area, perfect for entertaining. There is also a lawned area and olive trees along the border. The garden faces southeast so has a truly sunny aspect.



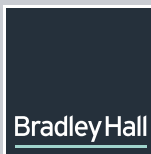
 x 4

 x 3

 x 3



Durham
durham@bradleyhall.co.uk
 0191 383 9999








Wynyard Wynyard Woods

£474,950

Bradley Hall Tees Valley are delighted to offer for sale this fantastic family home in one of the most exclusive developments in Wynyard.

Wynyard is a highly sought-after place to live offering high quality executive country living with a multitude of local amenities, inclusive of Wynyard Golf Club, Gym & Health Club, Wynyard Hall Hotel & Spa, Hair Salon, Gastro Pub, and Village Store. Not to mention, access to great educational facilities and infrastructure links via the A689 and A19 providing direct links to the wider region.

The Portland built by Charles Church benefits from a large plot overlooking a green open space. With a large, enclosed garden to the rear leading to the double detached garage and a small front garden showcasing the stature of this plot which oozes kerb appeal.

-  x 5
-  x 3
-  x 3

Tees Valley
wynyard@bradleyhall.co.uk
01642 265 300



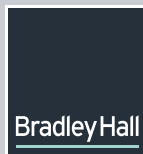
Hepscott South Lodge Wood

£1,450,000

Bradley Hall is delighted to bring to the market this high quality, luxury detached home occupying a generous site within the exclusive South Lodge Wood development in the heart of Hepscott village. South Lodge Wood is located in a residential cul-de-sac of similar properties in the heart of the highly desirable village of Hepscott, only two miles from the bustling historic market town of Morpeth. Constructed to high standard by Dorin Homes in 1996 in conjunction with Northumberland Classic Homes. Constructed in traditional brick with stone lintels and Georgian style double glazed sash windows, this impressive family home has been the subject of much improvement by the current owners and now offers an impressive standard of interior design including coving/cornices and some dado railing alongside high quality fixtures and fittings throughout.



Morpeth
morpeth@bradleyhall.co.uk
01670 518 518



-  x 4
-  x 3
-  x 3





Top tips for choosing a real Christmas tree. Find the perfect tree for your space.

A Christmas tree is the classic centrepiece to any home during the festive season and this winter, Dobbies Garden Centres will have a range of real Christmas trees in store to help you find your perfect match, from £19.99.

All Dobbies' trees are sustainably grown from specially selected seeds, taken from hand-picked cones which have been left to dry and nurtured into seedlings.

Specialist pruning techniques are used to create a bushy, uniform shape with emphasis on each individual tree's features. This work is done by hand which keeps any impact on surrounding wildlife to a minimum. Dobbies' customers can be assured they were not cut down from wild

forests but instead come from environmentally managed plantations across Scotland.

We spoke with Horticultural Director, Marcus Eyles, for advice and tips on how to choose the right Christmas tree to complement your home and optimise your space. Whether you are a fan of the traditional, big tree look or fancy something different this year, Dobbies has you covered.



Nordmann Fir slim cut tree,
180cm-210cm, £39.99

Freshly cut trees

Freshly cut trees are a fantastic option for those who love that real tree smell and a truly authentic Christmas vibe. Not only that, but once the festivities are over, a real tree can be used to create a safe and cosy space for wildlife in your garden to shelter during the winter months.

Remove the branches as close to the main stem as possible and make small piles with them on the soil, under shrubs, trees or hedges. You can also cut your tree's trunk into sections for a mini log pile that will help create habitat for small animals and bugs.

If you want the look and feel of a big tree but don't want to sacrifice a lot of space, Marcus suggests going for a Slim Nordmann Fir. Grown specifically to have a compact, narrow shape suited to smaller homes while retaining the classic lush foliage, this popular tree adds a touch of elegance to any home during the festive season. The Nordmann Fir is the most popular Christmas tree in the UK because it loses very few needles, meaning your tree will remain green and full, with the right care.

The Premium Nordmann Fir is a Christmas classic and Marcus's top choice for creating a winter wonderland at home. It can comfortably fill a large space to dramatic effect and will give any room that festive feeling. The full, broad conical shape of a Nordmann Fir makes it easy to spread your baubles, decorations and lights along its branches right into the centre of the tree for an extra magical display. With deep luscious green needles and a height perfect for high ceilings, this picturesque tree can't be beaten.

Pot Grown Trees

Pot grown trees are great for anyone who wants to give their tree a forever home - they can be transferred to the garden and brought back in the following Christmas, or they can be planted in the garden to become a permanent fixture. Make sure to leave plenty of room around them as they can grow very large!

For a tree which suits a low ceiling, consider a pot grown Nordmann Fir tree. Marcus recommends these smaller trees as they can be more versatile. Perfect for a cottage, flat, balcony or bungalow, they can be dressed in lights and baubles for some festive spirit while saving space. For a more rustic look, they can also be left bare and sat on a table or in the hallway. To get the most out of these, remember to keep their soil damp and keep them cool.

To make the most of a small space, a pot grown Blue Spruce tree will help to create a seasonal atmosphere while saving on room. This tree has unique silvery blue needles, making it a top choice for a cool or jewel-toned Christmas theme. Customise your tree with string lights, small baubles and a star on top. Small trees are versatile, so get creative adding your final touches!

Tree selection top tips

To ensure your Christmas tree is the right size, come equipped with the height, depth and width measurements of the area where you picture your tree at home. Make sure the area has a plug nearby, for your Christmas lights - corners are ideal, as it will keep your tree safe from knocks and bumps.

Bringing a tape measure to the store and double checking the dimensions is a good idea to avoid any disappointment and save you a return trip to the store if you find that your tree is too big or small once you get it home. Dobbies' team members will also be on hand to help you decide what tree is best suited to your space. Fear not, if your tree is a little too big, you can always trim it to fit the space.

Caring for your real tree

Once you have your cut tree home, keep it outside in a sheltered area, cut 1" off the base of the trunk and stand in a bucket of water until you are ready to bring it indoors, this will help reduce needle drop. Place your tree in its water holding stand and ensure the water reservoir is replenished on a regular basis.

To find out more, visit [_](#)



Nordmann Fir cut tree premium grade
120-150cm Nordmann £19.99
150-270cm from £34.99



Pot Grown Nordmann Fir
60-80cm, £34.99



Pot Grown Blue Spruce
60-150cm, from £24.99

The region's new build specialists

Take a browse through some of the impressive new-build developments and properties which are currently available through Bradley Hall's established North East residential branch network.



TWO PLOTS REMAINING
**Priest Moor Close,
 Christon Bank**

Priest Moor Close is a prestigious development nestled within the picturesque Northumbrian countryside in the charming village of Christon Bank. This truly stand-out property occupies a prominent plot and benefits from serene views of the sweeping countryside to the south of the village.

Prices from £555,000

alswick@bradleyhall.co.uk | 01665 605 605



THREE APARTMENTS LEFT
**Shepherd's Quay,
 North Shields**

Shepherd's Quay provides homes that fit right into and take full advantage of what the environment has to offer. A carefully crafted design and material palette, which a tradition brick choice allows the buildings to sit seamlessly and in harmony with their surroundings. The development showcases a collection of apartments that all benefit from spectacular water views so that everyone can experience the unique local landscape and the animation that the river traffic brings to the setting.

Price from £140,000

gosforth@bradleyhall.co.uk | 0191 284 2255



FOUR PLOTS REMAINING
**Town Foot Rise,
 Shilbottle**

Town Foot Rise is an exclusive development of seven detached homes situated on a breath-taking elevated position a short distance from the village of Shilbottle. Each property is perfectly positioned and individual, cleverly designed to combine the very best in striking architectural features and extensive glazing externally. Internally, clever use of space provides a perfect place to live, work and enjoy all there is to living in such a fabulous rural location.

Prices from £575,000

alswick@bradleyhall.co.uk | 01665 605 605



THREE PLOTS REMAINING
**Adey Court,
 Newbottle**

The Adey Court development consists of 23 homes, comprising of three detached and 20 semi-detached houses, in the popular village of Newbottle. The development offers homes with a range of three and four bedrooms and will feature open plan kitchen/dining rooms and master ensembles. The Magna Homes development of Adey Court will benefit from the Help to Buy scheme available on selected plots.

Prices from £199,950

durham@bradleyhall.co.uk | 0191 383 9999



FINAL PLOT REMAINING

Plot 1, Backworth

Backworth enjoys ready access to Newcastle Upon Tyne via road and Metro network links, which makes it ideal for commuters and those who enjoy the restaurants and amenities of the nearby city. Whitley Bay and the coastline are just a short journey away also, with golden beaches and further opportunities for dining/drinking. This exclusive development of just 7 units is due for build completion later this year, and is likely to prove popular with prospective purchasers.

Prices from £365,000

gosforth@bradleyhall.co.uk | 0191 284 2255



FIVE PLOTS REMAINING

The Paddocks, Acklington

The Paddocks development is a stunning selection of two, three, and four bedroom houses and bungalows set within the award winning village of Acklington. The Paddocks is perfectly located in the centre of the peaceful village of Acklington. Just ten minutes' drive east is the idyllic Northumberland coast and the seaside towns of Amble and Warkworth. The Bondgate Homes development of The Paddocks has been specifically designed to be spacious and welcoming, with secluded plots surrounded by trees and hedgerows, guaranteeing fabulous rural views by with a degree of privacy rarely found in new build developments.

Prices from £410,000

alswick@bradleyhall.co.uk | 01665 605 605



SEVEN PLOTS REMAINING

The Kilns, Beadnell

Homes at The Kilns have been specifically designed to be spacious and welcoming. The village centre and spectacular coastline are both just a short stroll away. At this Bondgate Homes, each property is constructed using tradition materials and trades. The clever mix of distinctive brick and stone from Hexham's Darney Quarry gives a charming and very traditional look to the exterior of the development. Each of the 45 homes has a landscaped front lawn and benefits from a private driveway.

Prices from £241,000

alswick@bradleyhall.co.uk | 01665 605 605



FINAL PLOT REMAINING

Ottermead, Ponteland

The listed at Ottermead are a collection of Grade II listed buildings that have been sympathetically restored and redeveloped to create beautiful family homes in Ponteland. Located on the former Northumbria Police Headquarters site, these houses enjoy a high-quality specification and contemporary fixtures, while retaining some historical internal features and their original elevations. Ponteland is ideally situated for access to Newcastle International Airport and within close commuting distance to Newcastle Upon Tyne.

Prices from £689,995

gosforth@bradleyhall.co.uk | 0191 284 2255



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Lifestyle

The latest luxury lifestyle news
including travel, fine dining,
interiors and automotive



The swiftest, most dynamic and most luxurious Continental GT yet created

- Continental GT Mulliner receives performance and chassis enhancements of GT Speed
- The fastest, most dynamic and most luxurious member of the Continental range
- 6.0 litre W12 engine, handcrafted in Crewe, delivers 659 PS (650 bhp) and 900 Nm (664 lb.ft)
- 0-60 mph in 3.5 secs (0-100 km/h in 3.6 secs)
- Top speed 208 mph (335 km/h)
- Active torque vectoring via eLSD and electronic all-wheel steering
- Sits atop the recently launched S and Azure ranges, and the Speed
- New GT Mulliner to make debut at Goodwood Festival of Speed, alongside new S range





Bentley's refreshed model portfolio is being crowned with a new ultimate version of the Continental GT Mulliner to sit at the pinnacle of the Continental family and two-door grand tourers. With enhancements to both its W12 engine and its advanced chassis shared with the GT Speed, the GT Mulliner W12 becomes the most powerful, fastest, most dynamic and most luxurious Continental GT yet created.

The new GT Mulliner W12 takes the best of all worlds to create the ultimate Continental GT combining the performance and dynamism of the Speed, the comfort of the recently-announced Azure and the magic touch and artistic flair of Mulliner handcraftsmanship. Its W12 TFSI engine, handcrafted at Bentley's carbon neutral factory in Crewe, delivers 659 PS (650 bhp) resulting in a top speed of 208 mph (335 km/h) and 0-60 mph in 3.5 seconds (0-100 km/h in 3.6 seconds). Electronic All-Wheel Steering enhances the dynamic nature of the Continental GT Mulliner W12 in each of the driving modes. The Mulliner-unique 22" wheel design features self-levelling badges which ensure the Bentley 'B' remains vertical at all times.

The cabin of the Continental GT Mulliner W12 is one defined by luxury, and showcases a level of choice and customisation that only Mulliner can provide. A unique colour split is exclusive to the car, with a new combination of primary and secondary hide joined by a third colour through a flowing design line. Eight different three-colour combinations are proposed by Mulliner, using Bentley's palette of hides and threads to create striking yet elegant contrast throughout the cabin. A choice of 88 Piano wood veneers encourage further personalisation. "Diamond in Diamond" quilting to the seats, door trims and rear quarter panels is made up of almost

400,000 stitches with each diamond containing exactly 712 individual stitches. Naturally these are available in a spectrum of coloured threads, too.

To the outside, a suite of exclusive exterior design features separate the Continental GT Mulliner from the rest of the family. At the front, the new 'Double Diamond' matrix grille defines the new Mulliner signature style, complemented by matching front fender vents echoing the same silver and black design and with Mulliner branding.

All of these features are available either with a bright chrome or with the more contemporary gloss black appeal of Mulliner Blackline Specification. Approaching and opening either door reveals the other Mulliner design features - mirror caps in either satin silver or black with Mulliner Welcome Lamps beneath, and illuminated outer door sills with Mulliner text.

The GT family now spans a range of models each with a different emphasis, to make customer choice easier. The Azure range is for those prioritising wellbeing and on-board comfort, while those customers wishing to concentrate on driving pleasure can specify the new V8-powered GT S. Going one step further, the W12-powered Speed is the pure drivers car, delivering exceptional dynamic performance and no expense to grand touring ability. Above all these sits the Mulliner.

The new GT Mulliner W12 will be on display at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed, where it will take to the hill along with three members of the new S range. Joining these modern road-going products on the hillclimb will be the first car in Bentley's Blower Continuation Series, Blower Car Zero.

Unrivalled Luxury And Attention To Detail

The Mulliner Driving Specification is fitted as standard, bringing the "Diamond in Diamond" quilting to the seats, doors trims and rear quarter panels, now with both contrast and accent stitching running through the diamonds design.

It takes almost 400,000 stitches to deliver this quilting across the cabin of the car, with each diamond containing exactly 712 individual stitches - each one precisely aligned to point to the centre of the diamond it creates. Developing the embroidery process to deliver this process alone took 18 months.

The seats themselves are finished with embroidered Mulliner logos. The floor mats are edged with micro-piping to match the rest of the colour theme of the interior and chrome Bentley 'B' retention caps are an example of the fine details that separate the Continental GT Mulliner.

The roof of the cabin is trimmed along its full length with indented hide, or smooth hide to match the seat backs if the fixed glass roof is selected.

The centre console is dressed in a unique diamond milled technical finish that uses precision machining to form a perfect pattern of facets, flanked either side by Grand Black walnut veneer with chrome overlays. A unique Breitling clock sits in the centre of the console, while the passenger side fascia is finished with a silhouette of the car's exterior profile and the Mulliner logo. The veneer flows into the doors, where it is completed by a discreet Bentley 'B' motif.

For the driver, the brushed-metal finish of the Breitling clock is carried through from the physical world to the digital, with a unique design to the main gauges of the LED main instruments cluster where careful skeuomorphic design and the application of digital textures makes the virtual dials look like real metal.

Bradley Hall welcomes sponsors to its annual festive fundraiser

**Full-service property specialist
Bradley Hall is set to host its largest
annual festive fundraiser with the aim
of raising £75,000 for local charities.**



THE INN COLLECTION
GROUP

smartoutdoor

smartvision
LED SCREENS



The event, which will host 700 guests at The Fed, Gateshead, has announced four key sponsors - The Inn Collection Group, Smart Vision Screens, Smart Outdoor, Strata and Portfolio North.

Since the launch of its annual fundraiser Bradley Hall has raised and donated over £200,000 for local charities, community action projects and grassroots sports clubs. The firm has contributed to helping over 30 different regional charities and sporting groups including; NE Youth, Marie Curie Newcastle's Hospice, Heel & Toe Children's Charity, Morpeth Rugby Club, ABF The Soldier's Charity, Glendale Agricultural Society, as well as local food and toy banks across the region.

Cassie Moyse, group marketing director at Bradley Hall said; "The Fed is a brilliant venue to host such a big event, and is fully equipped with high-quality and sizeable screens as well as plenty of space to promote sponsors throughout our fundraiser.

"As we're hosting 700 guests, it seemed like a good idea to offer the opportunity for businesses to be subtly promoted directly to a captive audience of the region's leading organisations

and business leaders. We've developed packages which include fantastic exposure before, during and after the event which have proven extremely popular and were snapped up within a day of launching.

"I would like to thank our sponsors and everyone who has supported the fundraiser by donating prizes and purchasing tables so far. We're extremely appreciative of the support."

This year, Bradley Hall's festive fundraiser will be held at the Fed in Gateshead and is in aid of supporting three local charities: Marie Curie Newcastle's Hospice, Heel & Toe Children's Charity, and NE Youth. The event is set to be the firm's biggest yet, hosting 700 guests for an afternoon of entertainment from Bingo Loco, generous auction prizes and a raffle which dozens of local businesses have donated prizes to.

Neil Hart, group CEO at Bradley Hall said: "This year's festive fundraiser will be bigger and better than any of the events we have ran before, and the team is very excited to raise £75,000 for worthy local charities.

"As a firm we aim to support local economy, business, and communities

with a full-service approach to residential and commercial property. Our vision is to work together with key organisations and people to make the North a consistently better place to live, work and socialise - which is at the very heart of why we began hosting the festive fundraiser.

"Being able to give back to three very important local charities such as Marie Curie's Newcastle Hospice, Heel & Toe, and NE Youth is something we are very proud of, and we would like to thank our guests and business partners who have purchased tables and the local businesses which have donated prizes.

"We would also like to thank our sponsors of this year's fundraiser. Having firms such as The Inn Collection Group, Smart Vision, Smart Outdoor and Strata onboard will allow us to raise even more funds for these deserving charities in exchange for some excellent exposure for the businesses."

The Inn Collection Group has been supporting NE Youth, a leading North East youth development charity since 2019; owing to this, the pub with rooms group were keen to support them further through a partnership of Bradley Hall's



festive fundraiser.

Sean Donkin, The Inn Collection Group managing director and NE Youth trustee said: "We're delighted to be supporting Bradley Hall's Festive Fundraiser this year and are looking forward to what we know is a great event."

"Supporting our local communities is hugely important to us and these two charities do brilliant work in the North East, so becoming the Partner Sponsor is a good fit for us."

Jon Niblo, chief executive at NE Youth said: "At NE Youth we place great value on our relationship with our corporate sponsors such as The Inn Collection Group and therefore we are delighted to be involved in the Bradley Hall's festive fundraiser this year. Huge thanks to all attending the event and to all who donate to our charity and the other worthy charities, Marie Curie Newcastle's Hospice and Heel & Toe Children's charity."

Peter Bartley, Bradley Hall's group director and trustee for Heel & Toe Children's Charity said: "Heel & Toe is an independent local charity which completely relies on donations to provide much needed therapy for children with

disabilities. We have been working with Heel & Toe for many years and I am so pleased that we are able to continue supporting them, as well as the other charities such as Marie Curie Newcastle's Hospice and NE Youth at this year's festive fundraiser."

Smart Media Group, a firm of digital out-of-home advertising specialists is also sponsoring Bradley Hall's festive fundraiser this year. CEO of Smart Media Group, Mark Catterall said; "Smart Media Group is proud to be involved in supporting local charities, as well as to be participating in an event as well known as Bradley Hall annual festive fundraiser."

"I am delighted to be launching Smart Vision Screens by donating a £20,000 screen as an auction prize to this year's fundraiser. Smart Outdoor is also donating an auction campaign worth £20,000 to run across all screens which I hope will make a great contribution to the overall funds raised for such deserving charities on the day."

The final sponsor at Bradley Hall's festive fundraiser is Strata, a contemporary new home builder with developments across Yorkshire and the Midlands.

Gemma Smith, managing director of Strata said: "We are delighted to be sponsoring Bradley Hall's sixth festive fundraiser to raise money for some amazing charities. I am sure the event will be one to remember and will raise a great sum to help some of those most in need."

Bradley Hall's annual festive fundraiser is set to be one of the biggest events in the North East this year. To enquire about how to donate prizes or for table information please contact Jordan Bowler, Jordan.bowler@bradleyhall.co.uk

In support of:



Menopause and Fitness: It's all about the O

The menopause is a hot topic of late, a natural stage of life for women who'll experience a varied and potentially wide range of physical and psychological symptoms.

With October branded Menopause Awareness Month, the menopause has really come to the forefront of conversations in recent years. Staying active during menopause has many physical and mental benefits and the team at Club Zest are keen to empower women to manage their fitness journey through this stage of their lives.

Holly McBride Donaldson, Co-Owner, Club Zest said: "The menopause and health and wellbeing go hand in hand. As a women's only gym we work with and support women at various stages of their life cycle. It is great to see more openness around the menopause which for several years was seen as a taboo. We've seen an increase in members actively asking about the menopause and the impact on health and fitness, in particular around weight gain.

It is so important to continue the fitness journey as women enter this stage of their life, fitness won't eradicate the menopause symptoms but it will help to manage it and help women to feel better about themselves."

The menopause usually occurs sometime between 45 and 55 years of age, but it can happen earlier or later. Symptoms can vary immensely from

woman to woman such as hot flushes, mood changes, chills and sleep disturbances. However, regular exercise can help to maintain a healthy weight, relieve stress and improve the quality of life.

It's all about the O'. Oestrogen is most commonly known for its role in developing and maintaining the female reproductive system, and the drop of oestrogen in the body during the menopausal phases and during the onset of the menopause can cause an array of issues and impact weight gain to bone strength.

Experts recommend regular strength training during the menopause to avoid the loss of muscle mass and bone density. It is common for women to often exercise less when they enter menopause, due to some of the symptoms such as lack of sleep and tiredness. This lack of exercise coupled with the decreasing of the metabolism can lead to weight gain and difficulty managing weight.

Club Zest, an award-winning, ladies-only gym, based in Sunderland have been helping women from across Sunderland and the North East become fitter, healthier and more confident for over 20 years. Alongside their fully equipped gym the Sunderland



based studio have a comprehensive timetable with over 60 classes per week, ranging from HIIT, Abs and Kettlebells, to Yoga, Clubbercise, Zumba and everything in between.

Jennie Moyses, Co-Owner, Club Zest whose recently been shortlisted for a Women In Business award added:

“Keeping physically healthy during menopause is vital. We are keen to work with women to support both their nutritional and lifestyle strategy as they enter this part of their life cycle. Hormonal fluctuations can influence the way women feel and think and exercise will boost the mood and help women feel calm and focussed.

We have an extensive fitness timetable and the balance of enhanced resistance or strength training alongside low-impact, gentle exercises like Yoga and Pilates that work to improve flexibility, strength and even your focus and mood can really go along way in helping women manage the menopause and their wellbeing.

“Another thing we have to think about as we age is osteoporosis. Women are more at risk of suffering from this, due to hormonal changes and oestrogen levels falling before and after menopause. Oestrogen

is essential for healthy bones, so ensuring we eat a diet rich in calcium is essential for women.

“Foods such as dark green leafy vegetables, dairy products, figs, brazil and almond nuts, peas, beans and sesame seeds are all foods that we should add to our shopping list to help with hormonal changes.”

Alongside fitness classes the fully qualified and experienced team work hard to deliver a variety of 1-1 and small group personal training sessions, which ensures that fitness plans, which are regularly reassessed can be bespoke and adapted to the member.

Holly added: “We completely understand that every person has their own individual goals in mind, which is why every member goes through our induction process, we always adapt and modify fitness programmes in accordance with clients increasing ability, fitness and strength. The taboo has been lifted on the menopause and we are committed to empowering our members to have the best fitness experience tailored to their needs to enhance their overall wellbeing.”

www.clubzest.co.uk

Solace, Bold and Sensual from Barker and Stonehouse



Brand-new for this season, we're now looking at our seasonal imagery as 'moods' rather than specific looks or trends. Each mood is positioned around how a space makes us feel and what emotions we want to feel in the home, all explored through the use of colour, pattern and texture.





AW22 Mood: Solace

This relaxing and restorative look is all about creating a calming home retreat where you can kick-back and re-charge.

Combining organic materials, natural textures and a soft neutral palette across beautifully crafted furniture and accessories, each space has been designed to channel a mood that's laid-back and liveable.

Don't underestimate the effect that natural materials can have on a space, from both an aesthetic and a psychological perspective. Bedroom spaces call for soft, unstructured styling and tactile layered linens.

Style Tip: "A tonal palette is a great way to add variety to a space in a way that still feels harmonious. Don't be afraid to use a full range of shades, from light to dark; the contrast will help to keep things interesting and ensure that beautiful silhouettes are given the attention they deserve." - Claire Hornby, Head of Creative at Barker and Stonehouse.



AW22 Mood: Bold

Combining rich colours, playful patterns and decorative details, this look is all about embracing creative expression and injecting a bold, joyful energy into a space.

Earthy mustard yellows and vivid cobalt blues hum happily alongside dusty reds and khaki greens, whilst rattan weaves and organic wood grains offer natural warmth. Together these elements exude a bounty of confidence and grounded optimism.

Style Tip: "Throw the rule book out the window and pick designs that you really love. A sofa or armchair in a bold colour can be a great starting point when it comes to designing a room scheme and will help set the tone straight away." - Claire Hornby, Head of Creative at Barker and Stonehouse.



Style Tip: "Don't be afraid to bring together colours, styles and patterns that clash a little. An eclectic combination can have an incredibly powerful and uplifting effect." - Claire Hornby, Head of Creative at Barker and Stonehouse.



AW Mood: Sensual

This look has been designed to be elegant and calm. With its tonally soothing palette and blended textures, it delivers more than a hint of understated luxury.

Lustrous materials such as marble, leather and fluted glass are paired with clean lines and soft lighting to create a mood that's sensuous and inviting.

Style Tip: "Natural elements such as branches and foliage can be used sparingly to create sculptural silhouettes that really hold their own." - Claire Hornby, Head of Creative at Barker and Stonehouse.

Style Tip: "Use contrasting textures and finishes to bring together a pleasing pairing of opposites." - Claire Hornby, Head of Creative at Barker and Stonehouse.



Shop Solace, Bold and Sensual from Barker and Stonehouse via: www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk



Buying a new watch should always be a pleasure.



But not all online watch sales are created equal. There's a lot of misinformation and unscrupulous vendors online and it's easy to get caught out.

Buying a luxury watch is a big deal. Whether it's your first purchase or your fifth, every piece has a special significance for its owner.

Savvy consumers are increasingly going online to make this all-important purchase and Berry's is proud to be a front-runner in this space. To help you avoid potential pitfalls, we've put together our 5 tips for buying a luxury watch online



1. Do Your Research

The first step to protecting yourself when buying online is informing yourself. Start building an overview of the watch you're interested in. What drives its value? How widely available is it?

Where possible, try to find out what you should look for to verify the authenticity of your watch once it arrives. This especially applies to vintage/ used timepieces, where original parts may have been replaced with inferior, non-genuine ones.

2. Always Buy From An Authorised Representative

To protect yourself when buying a new watch online you should only deal with a seller that has been certified by the brand. That way you can have absolute confidence that the product you are buying is authentic.

You can also be confident that you will receive the full brand warranty, and that it will be honoured.

3. Look For Bricks-And-Mortar Back-Up

Buying from an authorised dealer is a must. If you really want peace of mind though, look for online platforms that also have an actual physical store location

Returning items for repair or service can prove an ordeal when there is no physical shop to go to. Having a store to go into can make resolving issues as simple as dropping the watch in and waiting for a call when it's ready to collect.

Plus, you can rest assured that the work is being carried out under warranty either by the brand itself or certified representatives of the brand.



4. Read The Fine Print

These days, most luxury watch brands offer at least two or three different collections (generally more), each of which comprises multiple models. For this reason, it's important to read the product description closely. Likewise, make sure you understand what you are agreeing to when you commit to making the purchase.

What's the process for returns or warranty claims? Where does the watch need to be sent for services and repairs, and who pays for shipping?

5. Ask Questions

If you still have some questions before making this all-important purchase online, by all means ask them.

Not only will this help inform your decision, it's also a great way to discern if the seller really knows their product.

Michael White,
Business Development Manager,
Berry's Jewellers

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Best Country Sunday Lunches in the North East

With the nights drawing in and Autumn on the horizon, now is the perfect time to venture out into the countryside for a weekend walk and a delicious Sunday Lunch.

With Northumberland and County Durham only short drives away, there are plenty of options for cosy village pubs serving up the best roast dinners in the North East.

The Percy Arms in Chatton- just outside Alnwick- is the ideal countryside location for a Sunday lunch after a wander around Alnwick. Their giant Yorkshire puddings and seasonal vegetables are a great accompaniment to their perfectly cooked meats and vegetarian options. The pub is dog-friendly and also hosts five luxury bedrooms if a weekend away is what you need. With stunning views of the Northumberland countryside and with cosy fires and soft seating, this is an ideal location for a wintry Sunday lunch.

Closer to the coast is the newly refurbished **Beadnell Towers** in the village of Beadnell, near Seahouses and Bamburgh. Situated in the heart of the village, Beadnell Towers has an expansive outdoor seating area and bedrooms, but the new restaurant is the star of their show. With an open kitchen setting and leather seating, they offer beef, pork, lamb, fish and vegetarian options on their Sunday lunch menu.

Just down the coast is **Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel** in Embleton- offering a cosy, affordable venue for Sunday lunch. With their beef option only £13.95, this is the perfect setting for a large family lunch after a walk on the beach. Right in the heart of the village, this pub is easily accessible and is full of friendly locals. Their bar is stocked with local beers and ales from around Northumberland and is a great place to settle down by one of the fires and enjoy a local pint.

The Whittling House in Alnmouth is a unique pub and hotel with tasteful seaside themed decor and a bright airy feel. The Sunday lunch menu boasts the usual meats, a grill option and lobsters- a real surf and turf of roast dinners. Using local produce and lobsters caught nearby, everything is fresh and delicious. The portions are well-

sized, and dogs are welcome in part of the restaurant.

The Pack Horse Inn in Ellingham is the ultimate cosy country pub. With large roaring fires and a dog-friendly atmosphere, they are the perfect place following a walk in Northumberland National Park or a walk on the coast. Their meat is sourced in the village from farmers who drink in the pub, their eggs come from their neighbour and their gin is from nearby Holy Island. Their passion for local food is fantastic and can really be felt within the dishes. The Sunday lunch menu expands to more than just a roast, and there really is something for everyone.

On the Northumberland/Durham border is **The Lord Crewe Arms** in the pretty village of Blanchland. They have a unique take on Sunday lunches and provide a sharing platter of meats and vegetables for the whole table to enjoy. With a number of rooms across the restaurant, there is formal dining, cosy log fires and spaces for larger groups. Emma- the chef- uses ingredients from the pub's kitchen garden and sources eggs and meat from the village.

The Blackbird in Ponteland is popular with Darras Hall residents and has a fantastic Sunday lunch just outside of Newcastle. With old stone walls and large fires, this is the ideal place for a quick drive from the city centre.

Their roasts come with all the trimmings including pigs in blankets year-round, and they offer a trio of meats for only £16.95.

Located in the North Pennines, **Carts Bog Inn** in the village of Langley has stunning panoramic views of the hills and a traditional stone fireplace under high beamed ceilings. Their Sunday lunches are well-portioned with plenty of local veg and meat from nearby JW Davison. Local ales from Allendale Brewery provide a great tippie to wash down the meal before a delicious dessert- if you can find room!





Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel



The Blackbird



The Blackbird



The Whitting House



Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel



ard Crewe Arms



The Carts Bog Inn



The Carts Bog Inn



The Pack Horse Inn



The Percy Arms



The Percy Arms

WELCOME TO

Pure Bliss



20 Years of Pure Bliss

Relax. Refresh. Revive. The beauty industry is big business and award-winning salon Pure Bliss are celebrating 20 years in the fast-moving and innovative industry with an array of new product and treatment launches hitting the popular Sunderland salon.

Nestled just a stones throw from the calming coastline of Seaburn beach the salon quickly became one of the most popular in the region and were awarded the prestigious 'Decléor Regional Salon of the Year' a number of years running. The prestigious accolade recognises the salon and staff as being truly the best at what they do within the beauty industry.

The salon who has recently been shortlisted for the North East Beauty Industry Awards offers an array of treatments to their loyal clientele. From the relaxing NEOM and Aromatherapy Associates treatments to the most advanced medical based treatments, Environ, Omnilux light therapy, C.A.C.I. and Microdermabrasion, Guniot, Hydrofacial, IPL, 3D Lipo and Dermaforce. The ethos is to offer exceptional and high-end service in a relaxed and non-pretentious environment.

Lisa Seferi, Spa Director at Pure Bliss said: "My career started in 5-star hotels and luxury cruise liners. My previous roles include The Savoy Group where I worked for The Berkeley Hotel, the embodiment



of luxury, nestled amongst London's elite. This is the level of service I embed in our team of now 24 staff; we want clients to have the best treatment and service they've ever had."

Pure Bliss have recently expanded their treatment portfolio further to become the first salon in North East to launch the latest medical grade treatment technology, Dermaforce, a powerful new force in non-surgical skin rejuvenation. Dermaforce is an advanced cutting-edge device combining microneedling and Radio Frequency (RF) technology to effectively treat a large number of facial and body concerns, with amazing results.

Lisa added: "Dermaforce is a powerful new force in non-surgical skin rejuvenation and is really popular with our clientele. We were really excited to be the first salon in the North East to bring Dermaforce to the region. The treatment is so versatile and can be used to target a number of concerns."

The launch of Dermaforce follows the successful introduction of French brand Guinot into the salon which has

seen exceptional demand, with Guinot's exclusive hydradermie facials seeing exceptional results.

The salon works with some of the biggest brands in the beauty industry and specially select the treatments and products offered in the salon. Their wealth of experience and prestige in the industry has put the salon on the radar of some of the biggest brands.

Lisa added: "NEOM Wellbeing treatments are normally only offered in large spas, however they are available at Pure Bliss as we've worked with them for a while now and have a great relationship.

We are also so excited for Christmas, alongside our luxurious treatments we have fabulous product ranges to enjoy some pampering at home. Our Guinot and NEOM Christmas gifts have just arrived and they are really beautiful. We'll shortly be launching our popular Ultimate Christmas Bliss package which includes massage and facial treatments a perfect festive pick me up, the treatment options and products are going to be

immense this festive season."

The wellbeing market is also a growing sector, and the salon are keen to support women at various stages of their life. The menopause continues to be a hot topic and the team have recently launched Meno-PAUSE, a truly nurturing treatment to fortify and strengthen the mind and body through difficult times. The Inner Strength and Resilience Wellbeing Treatment for the face and body, provided in the ambiance of the luxurious treatment rooms is set to be a blissful sanctuary for the senses. Pure Bliss.

Exclusive offer for Portfolio North

readers: To celebrate the recent launch of Dermaforce at Pure Bliss readers can take advantage of an exclusive 3 for 2* offer of the treatment. Plus, the first three bookings will receive a month's supply of Advanced Nutrition Collagen Support free* - quote 'Portfolio North' when booking via Pure Bliss reception on 0191 549 9999.

*T&C's apply. Subject to availability. www.pureblissspa.co.uk



Led Light Therapy with Studio Aesthete

LED light therapy is a non-invasive and non-painful treatment which can speed up wound healing and improve a variety of skin conditions and disliked skin characteristics including skin rejuvenation, dry skin, pigmentation, acne, redness or sensitivity, psoriasis, wound healing, and seasonal depression.

The popularity of the treatment is certainly on the rise with an influx of publicity from beauty professionals, magazines such as Vogue and Elle discussing the therapy in depth, and many influencers and A-list celebrities adding this addition step into their skincare regime - so, what's the big deal about LED light therapy and does it really work?

LED light therapy was initially developed by NASA, due to astronauts noticing that in zero-gravity cellular ageing happens at a massively increased rate. To counteract this the space agency did a great deal of research until it was realised that light at very specific wavelengths can stimulate the cells' mitochondria and promote biochemical changes in a process called 'photobiomodulation'.

With this new knowledge, the technology was soon translated into devices for improving the skin, as well as some health conditions, and was backed by more than 3000 clinical studies. LED light therapy has also been noted to be incredibly safe owing to it being measured in nanometres and is measured at a beneficial range which are not strong enough to cause burns or cuts.

Different wavelengths of light can be used - blue and red being the most common. The light penetrates the skin and affects gene expression and cellular function leading to a variety of effects on the skin. Blue light is often used to help to alleviate blemishes and reduce breakouts, whereas red light promises to increase collagen production. Infrared light boosts circulation in the skin which helps to calm irritation and to strengthen the skin's overall integrity.

A popular tool for this therapy, used by celebrities such as Kate Moss, is the Dermalux Flex MD Led Light Therapy. Kate Moss was recently photographed at Milan Fashion Week using the tool that is increasing in popularity with other celebrities including The Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle also being noted for enjoying the product.

Dermalux Flex MD is the most powerful portable LED system in the world and has been proven to be at least three times more powerful when compared to other portable LED devices. Its features include tri-wave MD pioneering ceramic LED technology, the most clinically proven wave lengths, and a flexible LED array design for face and body, while still having a base unit to secure to for optimum facial position.

Studio Aesthete, a holistic, private clinic based in Sunderland and Newcastle recently added Dermalux Flex MD to their toolkit of treatments thanks to its unique cutting-edge technology. Dermalux Flex MD is a medically certified device and is multi award winning while ensuring the results it offers are real and pain free. As this product is manufactured in the UK, the team are able to receive ongoing professional clinical training to ensure the best practice and treatments.

Lucie Royer, director of Studio Aesthete and lead nurse has an eye for detail, a love for cosmetic treatments and a passion for making people feel good from the inside out. Lucie was keen to introduce the Dermalux Flex MD into her treatments and med-facials because of the popularity of LED light therapy, and as a result of the wide range of benefits she can offer her clients through its use. As the Dermalux can be used as a standalone treatment or can be added into other treatments she already offers, Lucie believes this is the next logical step in assisting her clients and growing her businesses.

With a Dermalux Flex MD LED Light Therapy tool at Studio Aesthete, facials are available at £45, and when using the tool as an add on to any other facial it is £25.

www.studioaesthete.co.uk



Drip and Go! IV Nutrition Therapy

The vitamin supplement market has always been popular with individuals looking to top-up their bodies with vital nutrients to support their diet, fitness, and general daily life.



Wellbeing is a hot topic of late and a newcomer to the market is IV Nutrition Therapy. Since the celebrity wellness trend dripped into the market it appears that demand has gone fully mass market.

The trend has now hit the North East with the very first Get A Drip franchise recently setting up base in Newcastle. Get A Drip Newcastle is headed up by Becky Robinson who started the business in August 2022, offering Vitamin Drip and Booster Shot call-out appointments in and around the Newcastle area.

IV Nutrition Therapy is a form of IV treatment that supplies the body with necessary vitamins and minerals to replenish deficiencies or aid in healing. The nutrients get delivered through a liquid solution and the IV drip delivers nutrients directly to the bloodstream.

Becky has been an NMC registered nurse for 6 years and runs the franchise alongside working as a Ward Sister at the Freeman Hospital caring for clinically unwell patients. With a background in surgical and medical nursing she has experienced many different sides to nursing including working frontline during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Becky Robinson, Owner, Get A Drip Newcastle said, "Working through COVID was an extremely eye-opening time, since then I have done so much research into health and wellness and supporting your own health - as a preventative measure, and Get A Drip fell straight into my eyeline.

As you can imagine, as a nurse, I see a vast range of medical conditions, some which can't be avoided and some that can, living a healthy lifestyle is something that is embedded into us from a young age. Fitness, diet and exercise, but also Vitamins, electrolytes and antioxidants are also natural ways to improve our body's health from our heart health to our immune system - simply from having Vitamins, that bypass the gut and have 100% bioavailability via the bloodstream."

Swift and painless the mobile clinic is making sure it is always possible for you to achieve your Vitamin Drip and Booster Shot needs. Get A Drip Newcastle is completely mobile and can come to your home, workplace, office or even hotel. With 'Pop Up Events' in lifestyle and fitness venues also becoming a popular choice. Through the franchise Becky is able to align with the success of the clinics in London, Dublin and Rotterdam and is working with a tried and tested model and a strong brand.

Becky added, "I always wanted to work for myself

and run a business, but nursing was something I always wanted to do. So, a Get A Drip franchise, focusing on promoting health and wellness, combined both perfectly. It's really exciting and empowering, as a young businesswoman in the North East, to be the only Get A Drip franchise in the UK outside of London. I feel empowered to do the best I can possibly do."

Get A Drip advise the benefits of IV Therapy are that it bypasses the gut, 100% bioavailability, with higher doses of nutrients, there is no need to take a daily supplement and it is fast acting and long lasting. The time range for procedures vary, between 5-10 minutes for an injection, and between 15 to 45 minutes for a drip. There is even the option to offer an 'express drip' for those with limited time and busy schedules.

Becky added, "The most popular drip I give is the Energy Drip, this contains basic hydration, electrolytes and vital body salts, 11 Amino Acids, Magnesium, Triple Vitamin B12 (short, medium and long-acting vitamin b12), and Vitamin B Complex.

The Energy drip is popular for those who have busy lives - most of us these days! It supports reduction in tiredness and fatigue, supports sleep regulation, supports mood regulation, and supports sustained energy release.

Our other popular drip is the Limitless Drip, which contains most of our Vitamins, IV and some Intramuscular injections too. It is quite literally 'limitless'. It lasts up to 6 weeks and is focussed on heart, cholesterol and immune system support, collagen production, detox, supporting hair and skin health and helps reduce tiredness and fatigue."

To maintain the vitamin levels and to continue to feel the benefits, and to support the healthy function of your body Get A Drip recommend treatments every 4-6 weeks.

Becky added, "There are no side effects other than the cannula site needing a bandage on for 30 minutes after the drip, we send aftercare information and people can return to their daily lives straight away."

Get A Drip Newcastle are offering Portfolio North readers an exclusive 15% discount on their first treatment, quote PORTFOLIO NORTH when booking. Subject to availability.

newcastle@getadrip.com
getadrip.com



Loving Fridays at Long Friday

BY FB VIVANT – PORTFOLIO NORTH'S SECRET DINER



Brentwood Avenue in Jesmond has earned a string of investments in the last couple of years. The most recent starlet to move in is 'Sweaty Betty', a celebrity favourite athleisure brand with a mission to empower women.

It is an apt compatriot to a busy row of boutiques featuring interiors, art, beauty, dance and fashion. Set in a prominent student area of West Jesmond, the boutiques of Brentwood Avenue attract a mix of Newcastle's trend-setters, those who love to buy local, and stylish students.

Brentwood Avenue sits just over the Metro lines from the rest of Jesmond where you will find Acorn Road, which has recently attracted a number of new eateries and shops, and the infamous Osborne Road. Whilst Jesmond has

earned its stripes as 'student central', it is also a really nice place to spend an afternoon browsing. Of course, no self-respecting shopping trip would be complete without a pitstop, and so among the collection of said boutiques is a handful of cafés, bars and restaurants. Chief among them, perhaps, is Long Friday, a startlingly great place to while away an evening.

A brainchild of proprietor, writer and committed cook, Anna Hedworth, Long Friday is a sister venue to Cook House



in the Ouseburn. It's a bright, buzzy and stylish neighbourhood bar with warm terracotta walls, an open bar and well stocked bar, and the coolest cactus-led decor.

Whilst the food is tremendous - more on that in a moment - it is the drinks that captured our attention. The cocktails are imaginative and often use locally sourced ingredients to life them to another level, the list of wines is extensive and available by the glass (always a winner), and the beers represent the best of our region.

The cocktail list includes twists on firm favourites including a cherry doused mezcal Old Fashioned, spicy Margaritas with chilli and honey, and an intriguing white Negroni. For those who may choose to drive, there is also a good selection of homemade soft drinks. The list includes lemonade and a variety of Kombucha.

The food is second to none, served as snacks and small plates, with prices ranging from around £4 - £10. The set-up

means that Long Friday works equally well for an after work drink as it does for a celebratory meal. In the last year, we have popped in for a post-shopping cocktail and a pile of seaweed spiced nuts, and we have booked in for a special birthday night out, taking in as many small plates as we could possibly manage.

For seafood lovers, the langoustines in spicy hazelnut butter are outstanding, as are the crispy crab and dill wantons, and the mussels in smoked venison nduja.

The vegetarian dishes too are exceptional - burrata with pickled radicchio and mixed seeds was our top pick, though we also fought over the crispy sage leaves in Wylam beer batter. The truffle and pepper popcorn also took a quick hit when it reached the table.

For those who prefer a cut of meat, there is a good selection including duck, minute steak, lamb ribs, pork belly and Ox heart - Each carefully elaborated with

homemade butters, pickles and salsas which seem to form the hallmark of the extraordinary food from both Cook House and Long Friday.

There is something about Long Friday that makes it easy to pass the time, but it's also a place that can help diners to push outside of their culinary comfort zones, but absolutely without being so challenging as to limit enjoyment.

If you make it to Long Friday and haven't yet been to Cook House, you really should consider booking a table for your next outing. Founded in the same approach to using best quality local ingredients and limiting waste, the dishes at Cook House are warm, comforting and topped with homemade crumbs, pickles, seed mixes and herbs. It's a great place for a brunch, for a BBQ lunch on the terrace in warmer weather, or a cosy evening with just the best food.



INGREDIENTS

- Rack of lamb
- Tablespoon of Dijon mustard
- 100g Panko breadcrumbs
- 50g bunch of fresh parsley - stalks removed
- 2 springs of fresh tarragon
- Garlic cloves
- Fresh rosemary
- 200g Ratte potatoes
- Fresh thyme
- Fresh sage
- Salt and pepper
- Olive oil
- 1 aubergine cut in half and thinly sliced about little fingernail thickness
- 1 courgette cut into 10 pieces
- 2 heritage tomatoes cut into quarters
- 1 red pepper deseeded and cut into 8 even pieces
- 5 baby shallots peeled and quartered
- Black olives for garnish.

Impeccable pig provencal rack of lamb

Serves two.

METHOD

Firstly remove the flap of sinew that covers the fat, it's vital this sinew is removed how ensure you keep the fat on the lamb rack.

Check the bottom of the bones and remove any chine bone that is left to ensure the herb crust remains intact when carving.

Make the herb Dijon crust by blitzing the panko crumbs. in a food processor with 50g bunch of fresh parsley, stalks removed & 2 sprigs of fresh tarragon, stalks removed

Bring the lamb to room temperature and then cut the rack in half

Render the fat down in a frying pan - cook skin side down on a medium/low heat until the skin is golden and beginning to crisp slightly

Roast the lamb on 210oc for 12 minutes skin side down, with a crushed garlic clove & fresh rosemary

Rest for 20 minutes and reserve the pan, along with and fat and lamb juice to cook the vegetables

Spread the mustard on the lamb skin then role in the herb breadcrumb mixture

Roast for 4 more minutes on 210oc Rest again for 5 minutes before slicing

Cook the potatoes with ½ bunch of thyme and two clothes of garlic in boiling water until they break up with the slightest touch, they should be overcooked.

Drain and discard the garlic & thyme, crush the potatoes with a fork slightly then add arbequina olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Add the vegetables and herbs to the lamb pans and quickly sauté for around 3 minutes then into the oven on 210c for 5 mins whilst the lamb is resting

TO FINISH

Finely chop around 10 black olives and sprinkle them onto the plate before plating anything else

Build up the vegetables in the centre of the plate

Carve the lamb portions in half and sit on top of the vegetables

Serve with the crushed potatoes & red wine jus

For an even more Impeccable Lamb, vacuum pack the lamb then cook sous vide 60 mins at 49oc prior to the lamb going into the oven.

Then proceed with the recipe.



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Celebrating the future with the Bradley Hall Away Day

Recently the staff at leading property agency, Bradley Hall, came together to celebrate the firm's first away day. Held at Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham, the day was organised around celebrating and investing in the teams situated across all offices and branches across the North East and Yorkshire.

The day was structured by announcing the organisation's ambitious growth plans, while also sharing some changes to the board structure, and showcasing a brand refresh.





The countdown to Christmas: A Focus on Slow Shopping

The countdown to Christmas is upon us and as the high street becomes a rush with the hustle and bustle of busy shoppers the thought of this intense retail environment brings an array of mixed emotions for many who may find shopping, or other important tasks which involve being in public, stressful or challenging.

With World Alzheimer's Month in full swing the team at Emmersons Solicitors are keen to shine a spotlight on the importance of Slow Shopping®. Now an official ambassador for Slow Shopping® the team are the only solicitors in the country to offer slow shopping free legal advice for people with visible and invisible disabilities.

Slow Shopping® caters for those who experience anxiety or mental illness, those who struggle with communication or literacy, older people, those with dementia, and all those with visible, invisible, or intellectual disabilities.

The firm's Gosforth office have been running a dedicated free drop-in session every Tuesday from 1-3pm for those who require legal advice relating to, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Court of Protection, Probate and Wills, in a relaxed setting. Staff and team members are also trained and on hand to support any specific needs. Members of the firm's team also became official Dementia Friends, an initiative set up by Alzheimer's Society.

This year the theme for Alzheimer's Month is 'Know Dementia, Know Alzheimer's' which focusses on diagnosis, the warning signs of dementia and the continued effect of COVID-19 on the dementia community. It's important to remember that dementia is a natural part of ageing and can impact a person in a number of ways. Dementia is not only about memory loss, but it can also affect the way people speak, think, feel

and behave. This is why initiatives like Slow Shopping® are instrumental to support social inclusion and a feeling of belonging, when many are going through a very difficult time in their lives.

The law practice also plays an integral part in the Gosforth Dementia Friendly Group, joining forces with other local businesses and charities in sharing their knowledge and experience of supporting clients and loved ones living with diseases which cause dementia.

Jacqueline Emmerson, director at Emmersons Solicitors, said: "The Slow Shopping® initiative really stood out to us as it allows everyone the opportunity to maintain a level of independence. I felt it was very important to be able to offer clients legal solutions even if they have been diagnosed with dementia or if they or their partner suspect they have dementia.

"Whilst other people might be swept away in the magic of Christmas shopping, our clients actually need to concentrate on protecting their future and that of their spouse or other family members. Shopping at a busy time can be challenging to many, but dealing with what may be thought of as complicated legal issues will be overwhelming and can lead to escalated emotions for those with dementia etc. We have put systems in place in order to introduce a calm environment where there's time to ask questions without pressure and people are not obliged to instruct us. Our

aim is to send clients away armed with knowledge which will help them make informed decisions.

"By introducing Slow Shopping® at the Gosforth site it allows everyone the opportunity to maintain a level of independence which is essential."

Slow Shopping® is aimed at anyone who needs more time and presents a space in which it is safe to have a more relaxed shopping experience and have time to think. A truly inclusive initiative. Jacqueline added: "Just as Shopping is an essential part of our lives so is sorting out our legal affairs. It is important regardless of circumstance that people are still able to conduct these tasks which involve social interaction, health, financial awareness, and the opportunity to be involved in the everyday world. We do appreciate that some people aren't able to make it to the office so will go to their homes, care homes and hospital settings.

"The team have also undergone targeted training so that we can assist anyone with visible or invisible disabilities. During our sessions, those requiring assistance, their carers and families can drop into our Gosforth office for free legal advice.

"We strongly believe that it is incredibly important for local businesses to help our communities. One of our main priorities is to ensure that local people are supported, and opportunities to maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle are available."

The Land of Wine and Glory



English wines are getting under the nose of some of the top industry professionals with an array of English vineyards leading a revolution in UK wine making.

Hot spots across England have in recent years been producing internationally acclaimed bottles, with recent research suggesting there are now around 800 in the UK. In 2020, 8.7m bottles of wine were produced in the UK, with industry experts forecasting this could rise to 40 million in the next 20 years.

The changing climate and chalky soils are leading to this boom, which has in turn translated to strong demand for land suitable for planting vines. The south-east of England is a particular hotspot with leading champagne houses eagerly purchasing land in the region to yield top-class produce from land which is seeing a similar makeup to that of Northern France.

French champagne house Taittinger is just one of the many prestigious producers setting up operations in England with the aim of producing sparkling wine by 2023. Taittinger along with their UK partner Hatch Mansfield Ltd and friends set up Domaine Evremond, this unique

collaboration marked the first time that a champagne house has invested in the UK.

The collaboration saw the purchasing of 69 hectares of farmland in Kent, with 40 hectares of this planted with Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grapes with the intention of producing a range of premium sparkling wines.

With the mass growth in the UK wine sector and the quality of the wine produced winning top awards on the international scene, the demand for land shows no sign of slowing down with sought after and suitable plots selling for a premium price tag.

Chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier grapes are the three grapes traditionally blended to make champagne and it's noted that these are flourishing in England. A study published in scientific viticulture journal OENO One has found that significant areas of Southern England could soon experience ideal growing conditions for making red wines from

Pinot Noir grapes. Experts predict that English wineries should act now to capitalise on climate changes which are soon to make ideal conditions for making red wines.

Decanter World Wines Awards, the world's largest wine competition and judged by top wine experts from around the globe awarded a flurry of awards to English wine producers. Amongst the winners the Wiston Estate's Blanc de Noir Brut 2014 picked up gold. Equally the WineGB Awards 2022 saw producers from almost every county in England awarded medals, picking up gold, silver and bronze.

It is clear that English Sparkling Wine is captivating the world, from our small land we are rivalling key industry players in the world to produce some of the world's finest Sparkling Wines, we are most definitely becoming a land of wine and glory.

The autumnal transition is here, the nights are drawing in, temperatures are getting cooler and the temptation to sit fireside and savour an aromatic glass of wine is at the optimum.

The changing of the seasons usually sees a trend to move to a more full-bodied tittle with fruity reds such as Merlot and Pinot Noir first in line for the tasting.

Smooth and versatile, the cool autumn evenings will see many uncorking a popular Merlot, one of the world's most popular wines and known for its soft plummy fruit character. Lafite Legende Pauillac is famed for their legendary first growths that fetch many hundreds of pounds, Barons de Rothschild also create a range of more accessible wines, of these 'second wines', Legende Pauillac is considered the finest. Taste the expressive spiced plum flavours, with hints of black pepper and round tannins in the masterful Montes Reserva Merlot and you'll understand why Aurelio Montes is one of Chile's most celebrated winemakers.

Closely following the Merlot another top autumn transition is the Pinot Noir, a red wine grape that is grown in cooler climates producing wines brimming with juicy red cherry, strawberry and red fruit. Offering a good balance of fruit and acidity, these wines are known for their versatility, smooth and earthy flavours and typically light-bodied.

Bichot Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune is a popular French red, that hails from grapes grown in the higher altitude Hautes Côtes de Beaune. Helping the slower-ripening Pinot Noir retain freshness and vivacity with a silky soft palate. The result is a fresh medium-bodied Burgundy that delivers initial crisp aromas of fresh redcurrants before the palate softens to ripe redcurrant jammy flavours and subtle hints of roasted cocoa and coffee beans.

Greywacke is a wine that is deep ruby red in colour with vibrant aromas of blackberries, blueberries and sweet black plums. An opulent style of Marlborough Pinot layered with notes of roasted chestnuts, clove and tobacco and hints of rose and lavender.

Reds can be the obvious go to, however, don't be too quick to side-line the whites or rosés. As a fuller-bodied white, a Chardonnay is seen to many as a top autumn transition. A little bit smoky and rich, Tom Carson (Yabby Lake Wines) is the winemaker behind Distant Noises Chardonnay. Soft and rounded, with hints of stone fruit, tangerine and pithy citrus, lemon tarts, both the pastry and filling, and a little spice and hint of oak.

Buena Vista Carneros Chardonnay is a Classic Californian Chardonnay, bright, woody and chewy. Fruit comes from four vineyard sites in Carneros and is fermented in barrel, matured for nine months in French and Hungarian oak barrels, and is bottled unfiltered.

The trend for pink continues to elevate the rosé market, with rosé consumption growing substantially in the typical 'rosé months' of April to August. However, there is still a lot of growth and consumption of rosé happening post summer and a sharper, drier rosé will be a perfect pink for the Autumn season.

Folc English Rosé is a vibrant, upbeat English still rosé and Independent English Wine Awards 2021 (Gold) winner. Made by blending seven grape varieties sourced from family-run vineyards in Kent and East Sussex. Plenty of summer berries, ripe peach and elderflower on the nose, crisp acidity refreshes a palate of raspberry and lime zest, with ripe strawberry jam coming through on the finish. Whispering Angel Cotes de Provence Rosé is probably the most iconic rosé of them all from the illustrious Château d'Esclans. This tantalising Côtes de Provence pink is elegant and fresh and offers creamy peach, raspberry and grapefruit flavours.

However, you decide to embrace autumn, a host of reds, whites and rosés offer an array of aromatic tastings to fall in love with and savour this autumn.





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Autumn Wines to Fall for



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