

Youth Link
Dear Youth Link

120th anniversary
Sandcastle Challenge

WEYES Community Cafe
Yasmin wins EU prize



CHRISTMAS

IS COMING



Christmas list

- A present for a child or a shopping voucher for a teenager..... **£10**
- Warm winter clothes for a child or young person..... **£25**
- Provide food, gas and electricity for a family at Christmas as well as presents for the children of a family in need..... **£100**
- Pay for a group of 12 children to go skating, bowling, visit the cinema or the Centre for Life **£150**

See page 2...

Christmas Is Coming

...from the front page

Government figures suggest 1 in 4 children in the North East live below the poverty line. But no one knows how many children go without meals, live in inadequately heated homes, share a bed, go without a winter coat or wear hand-me-down shoes.

Thousands of North East families will struggle this Christmas. Rises in the cost of food and fuel, stagnant wages and cuts in tax credits and benefits all impact more heavily on those who have little to start with. Many children and young people can only dream of going to the pantomime or ice skating. You can help those dreams come true and turn them into lasting memories.

Every Christmas Children North East, our region's very own children's charity, receives more and more requests from families for help. So please have a heart this Christmas and give a little to those who don't have a lot...

If you would like to help a North East child this Christmas please complete the form at the end of this newsletter or contact:

**Carol Taylor at Children North East,
89 Denhill Park, Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE15 6AL**

Phone: 0191 256 2444

Email: Carol.Taylor@children-ne.org.uk

Youth Link

Dean Flanagan's ambition is to be a social worker but 23 year old Dean needed experience to help secure a place on the Masters Degree in Social Work course at Manchester University. So in September 2010 he applied and was accepted to become one of our Youth Link volunteers. By January 2011 he had completed the volunteer training which also qualified him for a Level Two Accreditation by the National Open College Network (equivalent to an A Level).



Dean Flanagan with his parents having completed the Great North Run

Dean was matched to help a young man who wanted to get fit and lose some weight but lacked confidence to join sports clubs.

The two of them met up every week at the golf driving range or went for long walks together. Dean realised the young man was rather isolated and anxious about meeting people.

They moved on trying out a nearby youth club where they played pool or table tennis.

This September Dean ran the Great North Run for the first time in 2 hours 23 minutes. The very next day he moved to Manchester to start the Masters Degree course in Social Work.

A huge thanks to all the 40 Great North Run runners who raised money for Children North East this year.

Dear Youth Link

Children North East has three Youth Link projects in Sedgefield, Blyth and Hexham. They engage 96 young people as trained volunteers to support other young people in need. For example young people on the edge of getting into trouble with the police; young people with conditions such as Autism, ADHD or ME; young people who have fallen out with their parents.

To find out more about Youth Link please visit our website: www.children-ne.org.uk

If you would like to become a Youth Link volunteer please contact Children North East phone: 0191 256 2444 or email: enquiries@children-ne.org.uk



Dear Youth Link

You have really helped me both at home and at school. My home life has improved massively and has been made far easier for me and for my family. Youth Link has helped me learn to take all the opportunities that I can get and to try and get the most out of it. My mentor Emma, has been absolutely awesome and we have had some great laughs together. When my Mum told me she was setting me up with Youth Link, I wasn't too happy about it, but I reckon its one of the best things that I've ever done!

Abi

On 11th July 1891 120 children set out on a river trip down the Tyne from Newcastle to the seaside. The trip was organised by Mr. John Watson and paid for by Mr. John Lunn.

Very soon after, these two gentlemen formed the Poor Children's Holiday Association and Rescue Society to end the scandal of 'street vendors'. We would call them 'street children', living off their wits trying to earn or beg enough for a bed and a meal each night, and if they failed sleeping wherever they could find shelter in yards or coal sheds and going hungry.

The 'PCHA' became Children North East in the 1980s. We no longer see children in rags with no shoes, but poverty and disadvantage are still with us. Children still go without meals and live in overcrowded houses. In some parts of Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Sunderland three quarters of all the children live in families below the official poverty line even though the majority of parents are in work.

In this 120th year we are drawing attention to what poverty looks like and feels like to children in our region today. During the summer we gave disposable cameras to 500 children and young people from every North East Local Authority and asked them to take photographs of their lives and what poverty looks like where they live. The photographs and children's words form an exhibition which will tour the north east starting with a national conference about child poverty at the Sage, Gateshead in November 2011.

Children and young people's voices are absent from debates about child poverty, we hope this major project will bring their opinions to the forefront of action to eliminate child poverty in our region.

120 years
transforming children's lives





Sandcastle Challenge

Every year we remember the origins of the charity with a huge Sandcastle competition for primary school children on Sandhaven beach South Shields. Like the street children of 1891 many of today's children have never been to the sea before.

Taking castles as their theme, children were asked to design and build a sandcastle with the help of people from a range of businesses. As always the judges were drawn from many walks of life including DFDS Seaways, Marks & Spencer, and Deputy Mayor Coun Eileen Leask.

A quick thank you note!

Just to inform you how much the children from Sedgfield Hardwick enjoyed the sandcastle challenge last Friday. Once again we had a great day and enjoyed being involved with your super challenge. It has become a tradition in our school to enter the competition and children look forward to meeting and working with professionals and designing their sculptures.

In our school it is taken seriously from the research stage, through the planning and design stages and eventually to the beach where our sculpture begins to take shape. The children are buzzing and full of great ideas.

I can't believe how 15 pairs plus of feet can negotiate round a sand sculpture, on such a small plot, without destroying their 'work'! A marvellous achievement of team work!

Thanks again, it is always so well organised (even ensuring sunshine this year) and everyone is so friendly.

To win was great, but just being able to take part is incredibly rewarding for both adults and children alike.

Many thanks

Years 5 and 6 Sedgfield Hardwick Primary School

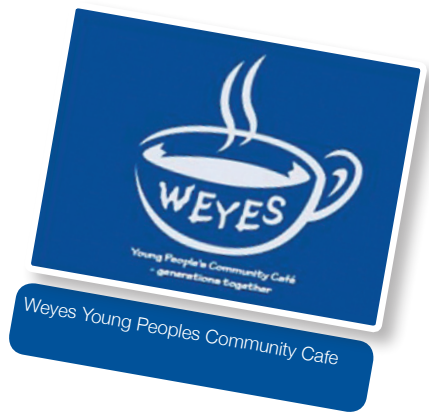
Five winning teams were picked and presented with medals in a ceremony at the amphitheatre. Each of the winning schools was awarded a prize of £200 at a presentation assembly.

WEYES Community Cafe

Children North East would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped our West End Youth Enquiry Service (WEYES) win £60,000 from the Jubilee People's Millions.

We were overwhelmed by the amazing support and the number of votes cast that helped us win the 'head-to-head' on Monday 27th June on the ITV News.

The money is enabling us to set up a 'Young People's Community Cafe', where young people can take part in weekly healthy eating workshops and learn how to manage a community café in partnership with older members of the community.



Since winning the Jubilee People's Millions we have recruited two new project workers to run the community café; and set up a steering group to support and shape the community cafe.

Once again a big thank you and watch out for the opening of the Young People's Community Café early in 2012.

Malik's day on board ship

7 year old Malik and his family were illegally evicted from their privately rented house and given a temporary, homeless families flat. Malik's Dad lost his job at the same time (he was working for the landlord's brother); the whole family were living on £90 a week from Malik's Mum's cleaning job.

Malik and his four siblings joined the out of school club Children North East runs for children living in temporary accommodation. At first they were frenzied after so much change, now all crammed into a tiny flat and the parents worried sick about money and the future.

The club is a place to chill and gradually they settled down. The parents made sure they kept to the same schools despite the 2 mile walk. And Malik joined other children helped by Children North East to see a DFDS Seaways ferry.



Malik with Captain Karsten Jeppesen on board the DFDS Seaways ferry

"Thank you so much." said Malik, "This has been the best day of my life."

A big thank you to DFDS Seaways for 5 years of charity mini cruises in support of Children North East.

Yasmin Wins EU Prize

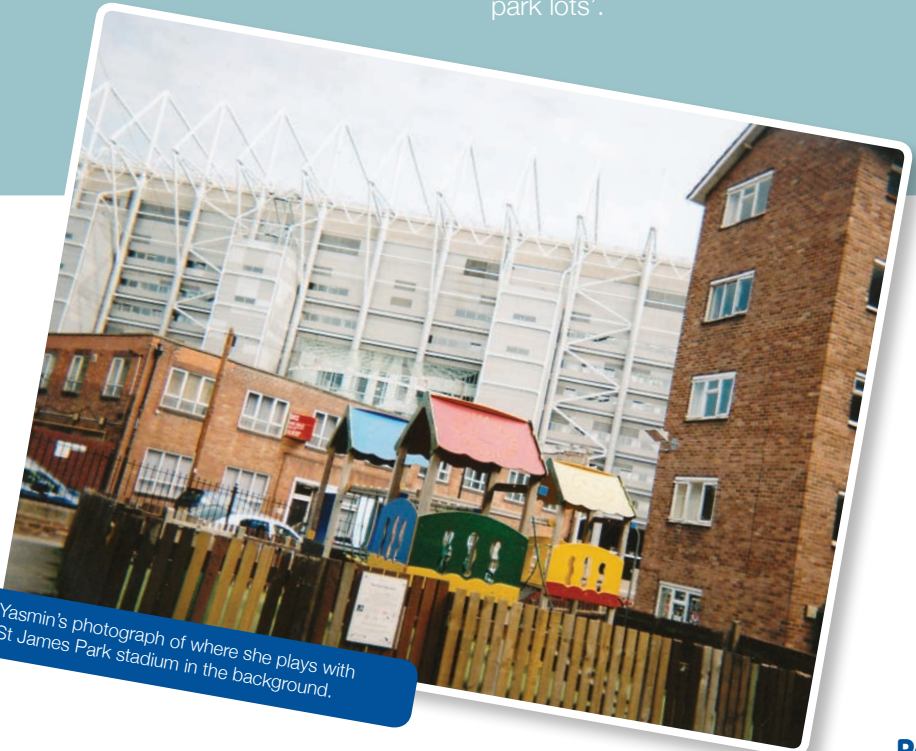
Yasmin Henderson, age 6 is one of the children who took part in our photography project this summer (see page 4). Her photograph has won a European photography competition!

The Eurocities network enables cities to share knowledge, ideas and experiences; to mark its 25th anniversary held a competition 'My City My View'. Newcastle and Gateshead Councils are joint members of Eurocities and chose Yasmin's photograph to represent young people's view of Tyneside.

Yasmin's photo will be displayed at an exhibition in Genoa in Italy. Yasmin was also invited by leader of Newcastle City Council, Councillor Nick Forbes to meet him and receive a prize.

Yasmin said: 'This is a picture of Newcastle. I took the picture because you can see the best park in the world; it's called St James Park because it's in Newcastle. It's the best football park in the world. I also took the picture because I've never been inside St James Park, but I would like to.

The little park you can play tag in. It's got a sign up saying 'no smoking'. You can slide down the pole and when it's raining sit underneath the shelter. I play in this park lots'.



Yasmin's photograph of where she plays with St James Park stadium in the background.

Christmas Cards and Santa Letters



This year for the first time you can order Children North East Christmas cards and letters from Santa in the comfort of your own home direct from our website store. Shopping online from Children North East is secure, simple, and fast, just go to www.children-ne.org.uk and click on this picture.

We have letters from Santa for children age under and over 7; ten different Christmas card designs; and you can also order large cards for everyone in a workplace or school to sign.

So why not visit our Christmas store? Last dates to order cards are 9th December and Santa letters by 15th December to ensure delivery in time for Christmas. If you prefer you can also order by phone: 0191 256 2444

Come Dine For Us!

Pick a date, invite your friends, ask for a donation of £10 each for the meal, then cook and have fun hosting your fantastic dinner party and donate the money raised to Children North East.

Register your party with us on 0191 256 2444 and we will send you a certificate of thanks. Why not send us photographs of your party for our website?



Yes, I would like to help a North East child this Christmas by donating:

£10 £25 £100 £150 Other £.....

Your Name

Your Address

.....Postcode

Telephone..... Email

Gift Aid I am a UK taxpayer and would like Children North East to claim back the tax on this and all future donations*

Signed

Date

Please return this form with your cheque to:

**Carol Taylor at Children North East,
89 Denhill Park,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE15 6QE**