

## NEWS



Like us on Facebook facebook.com/eveningchronicle

## IN BRIEF

## » Campaign to help homeless

A GATESHEAD woman rallied the support of her Facebook friends to help the homeless.

Kerry Lister Pattinson got together more than 150 rucksacks of treats and vital supplies for people on North East streets as part of her own Making Winter Warmer campaign.

Search 'making winter warmer' on Facebook.

## » Pupils bring festive cheer at care home

YOUNGSTERS sang carols for delighted residents at a North Tyneside care home.

Pupils from St. Mary's Primary School, Forest Hall, drew enthusiastic applause from the residents at nearby Granville Lodge. The event was sponsored by umbrella charity Angels of the North.

## » Geordies' budget Christmas

PARENTS in Newcastle are amongst the nation's thriftiest when it came to hunting down a bargain for their kids.

According to research by price comparison site, PriceSpy.co.uk, parents in Newcastle were amongst the most price-savvy in the build-up to the festive period, coming fifth in the nation's top 10.

## » Unknown object found in Blyth water

A LIFEBOAT was launched to investigate an unknown object in the water in Blyth Harbour.

The object was recovered and taken back to Blyth lifeboat station where it was handed to police. It was quickly identified as an inflatable fender which is used when mooring a boat which has become water-logged.



# New tales of miners paint a striking picture of past

By Nicola Bartlett

Reporter  
ec.news@ncjmedia.co.uk

IT WAS an image captured in the white heat of the most bitter industrial battle ever seen in the North East.

When Norman Strike got arrested he found himself on the front page under the banner "Strike by name, Strike by nature".

Now, almost 30 years later, he is appearing in a new film about the bitter dispute.

The Enemy Within tells the story from the perspective of those on strike and their supporters.

Norman said: "All the documentaries I've seen are talking about the strike from Arthur Scargill or Margaret Thatcher or somebody else's view but not the people who actually took part."

"It's not just the miners, it was the miners' wives, students who supported the strike, it was a wide variety of people."

In 1984 the then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called striking miners, their families and their supporters "the enemy within".

But many of those felt they were ordi-

nary people standing up for their livelihoods and communities.

Norman Strike, 62, worked at the Westerhoe Colliery in South Shields, which closed in 1993, and was one of the 160,000 miners who went on strike.

"I was just a rank and file coalminer but I had a big mouth. I was on the picket line in September of '84, and I was arrested because I was cajoling the other miners to get on the road and push the police. I worked in Westoe Colliery in South Shields and I was out on strike from day one and I stayed out until we went back to work. People say 'How did you go on strike?' but we didn't have a choice."

Sinead Kirwan is one of the producers of the film which is being funded through donations from lots of different people. Having interviewed people involved, the team has now begun the editing process and watching back some of the interviews.

She said: "We have just done the rough assembly and I burst into tears when I saw it. It's not depressing, it's a rollercoaster."

According to Sinead, the film shows how feelings changed over the course of the strike.

The excitement at the start was replaced with the difficulties of staying out and the

disappointment when it was called off.

The film's producers need to raise enough money to pay for its completion which is being done by crowd funding, raising small amounts from lots of individuals and organisations.

They have already raised more than £20,000 from individuals and trade unions up and down the country and £1,000 from the Durham Miners' Gala.

After the strike, 62-year-old Norman became an English teacher and settled in Essex where he now lives with his wife, paralympian Anne Wafula Strike, whom he met in Kenya while volunteering with the Voluntary Services Overseas.

Norman has no regrets about striking and said: "I'm really proud and I'll always be proud. In many ways it was the highlight of my life that year on strike because I met so many interesting people."

To find out more about the film, watch the trailer and donate visit the sponsume webpage [www.sponsume.com/project/still-enemy-within](http://www.sponsume.com/project/still-enemy-within)



Norman today with his family at top, at a miners' reunion with former colleagues



Pickets at Westoe Colliery during the 1984 miners' strike, with Norman Strike, right, on the picket line