Community News.

06/26

electricworks

In this issue:

- **The Healthy Vending Machine Experiment**
- **Sheffield Innovation Spine**
- **Sheffield and South Yorkshire tech ecosystem**
- **Electric Works Puzzle Club**
- **Kellam Pride 2026**
- **What’s on in Sheffield**

WHERE DID OUR VENDING MACHINE GO?

A place for freelancers, startups, founders and remote workers, the Electric Works Club was identified as the perfect location to trial a prototype healthy-vending machine. So, with all the events we run and all the workspace occupiers who use the Club - why did the Big Vending Machine experiment result in ‘no vending machine’?

Here’s what REALFAST had to say: “After almost exactly one year of building it, we're closing REALFAST Ltd, our healthy-vending startup. It's one of the most interesting things we've ever built, and shutting it down is one of the best decisions we've made as founders.”

Intrigued as to why? This is what the data told REALFAST’s founders: Qualitatively: people said, in every customer interview, loudly and consistently, that they wanted healthy food. Quantitatively: they bought crisps, peanut butter cups, energy drinks, and chocolate. You can read the full dissection of their business journey start in this blog by Annette Lyn O'Neil

Full story: Goodbye, REALFAST—and thank you

PRIDE OF YORKSHIRE COMES TO ELECTRIC WORKS

Learn More

We have a new occupier at Electric Works and they're not here for the co-working! A brand-new sculpture trail will be taking to the streets of South Yorkshire from Monday 8 June right through to Tuesday 8 September 2026, as the Pride of Yorkshire roars into life.

This exciting initiative by Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity will see lions forming a free public arts exhibition across Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield, in celebration of 150 years of Sheffield Children's Hospital. Uniting businesses, artists, community and schools across the region, the Pride of Yorkshire trail will feature 150 lion and lioness sculptures, and 150 lion cubs – all to raise vital funds for Sheffield Children's. In next month's issue we'll reveal more about the artist and sponsors of our very lion, located here on Sheffield Digital Campus.

SHEFFIELD & SOUTH YORKSHIRE TECH ECOSYSTEM RANKED AS THE NUMBER ONE RISING STAR IN THE UK

Tech SY has revealed that Sheffield and South Yorkshire have been awarded the number 'Rising Stars' top spot in the Dealroom 2026 Global Tech Ecosystem Index.

Described as the most transparent and definitive international ranking of tech and startup ecosystems, The Global Tech Ecosystem Index measures across 325+ cities and 77+ countries. With actionable benchmarks based on investments, talent, innovation and outcomes, this is a significant acknowledgement of the growth of the ecosystem in the region.

The Rising Stars category highlights the fastest-growing tech ecosystems globally, identified through growth in enterprise value, and unicorn creation over time, adjusted for economic conditions. These are dynamic, often under-the-radar hubs transforming rapidly and signalling the next wave of global innovation.

Mel Kanarek, Co-founder of Sheffield Digital, said: ""This fantastic recognition reflects the strength and momentum of Sheffield and South Yorkshire's tech community. What's driving that growth is a truly collaborative ecosystem, where founders, businesses and support organisations are working closely together to build and scale. We'll continue to take our role in this very seriously - to be an independent voice for the local tech industry and to connect, promote and represent it wherever we can."

View the **2026 Global Tech Ecosystem Index here**.

LAST MONTH WE ATTENDED THE SHEFFIELD INNOVATION SPINE LAUNCH - HERE'S THE DE-BRIEF

Sheffield Innovation Spine

Sheffield Innovation Spine is the city centre's urban innovation district. The Spine spans 190 acres, connecting five mixed use neighbourhoods that run from Sheffield train station and Sheffield Hallam University Campus, up to the University of Sheffield, and is plugged into a scaling innovation ecosystem within South Yorkshire and the North of England.

Electric Works sits within the 'Station Campus' a location of choice for scaling tech, digital and creative businesses. Central to this growing innovation community, our workspace is home to the Business Sheffield team and their scale up Tech Advisors, and we host regular founder workshops, events and networking sessions from our co-working Club and Conference room. Because of the range of spaces, flexible letting, short term leases and competitive rates here at Electric Works, our tenants are able to start-up and grow their business with fantastic access to support programmes, talented people and opportunities to collaborate.

ELECTRIC WORKS PUZZLE CLUB

WORD SEARCH:

Prompts & Hints

- Modern office and coworking space beside Sheffield train station.
- A famous Sheffield theatre near Tudor Square.
- Beautiful gardens popular for walks and picnics.
- Classic Sheffield food spot famous for pork sandwiches.
- Sheffield’s biggest annual music festival!
- Trendy road packed with cafés, pubs, and independent shops.
- Gallery in the city centre with art and metalwork exhibitions.
- Popular Sheffield road and suburb with lots of restaurants.
- One of Sheffield’s coolest neighbourhoods for food and nightlife.

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Kelham Pride 2026

A FREE event celebrating and bringing together the local LGBTQ+ community and their allies, Kelham Pride returns on Saturday 20 June 2026.

Once again this inclusive street party will be centred around multiple Kelham venues offering a broad range of entertainment from live musicians, DJs, drag queens, comedians and guest speakers.
Expect the usual parade through the streets of Kelham, starting from Kelham Island Museum and ending at the Main Stage on Burton Road.
There will also be drop-in locations for relevant charities offering advice, guidance and support for attendees, a variety of food and drink stalls and a number of family-friendly events throughout the day and into the evening suitable for all ages.

Click here for more info

JUNE 2026 ISSUE

Click on events to see more

WHAT'S ON IN SHEFFIELD?

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06 May 2026 - 10 May 2026

Quayside Market: June 2026

A street food market held at the heart of Sheffield's canal basin! Quayside returns to Victoria Quays. The market will also be taking place throughout 2026 on the second weekend of every month April - September.

13 Jun 2026 - 14 Jun 2026

Sheffield Krazy Races

Krazy Races arrives in Sheffield for the first time!
Get ready for an adrenaline-filled day as teams race downhill, navigating tight turns and racing to the finish line in front of thousands of spectators!

21 Jun 2026

JUNE 2026 ISSUE

Click on events to see more

WHAT'S ON IN SHEFFIELD?

Walkley Festival 26

Walkley Events Collective brings you a full day of entertainment with live music on our main stage from several Sheffield bands plus extra entertainment.

06 Jun 2026

Eid Street

Taking place on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June, the two-day event will be held outside Meadowhall's Oasis Dining Quarter, with a lively line-up of street food, entertainment and an artisan market.

06 Jun 2026 - 07 Jun 2026

Sheffield Video Game Market

Replay Events' Video Game Market, the UK's biggest and longest-running retro gaming market, is returning to Sheffield following the resounding success of its first Sheffield market last year.

07 Jun 2026

JUNE 2026 ISSUE