



Monster Saturday entertains the crowds



A youngster gets into the Halloween spirit with the zombies and monsters in Bishop Auckland Town Centre.

On Saturday 25th October the Bishop Auckland Town Team organised a spooky Monster Saturday to entertain the shoppers in the town.

Invitations and flyers went to the schools in the area inviting the little monsters

to go along dressed in their spooky costumes.

Halloween themed music was played into the Market Place as the crowds gathered to watch some scary zombies and stilt-walkers dance and perform.

The Sandra Welsh School of Dance also performed a special 'Addams Family' dance routine in the Market Place and in the Newgate Centre.

Chair of the Town Team, Dave Hunter said, "The Town Team would like to thank all the shops that joined in the event and all the children (and adults) that made the special effort in getting dressed up. We are now currently working on our Christmas entertainment package where we will be bringing Santa to Bishop Auckland." Deputy Mayor, Councillor Lee Brownson said, "It was great to see so many people in the town all enjoying the free entertainment. Some of the traders said it's been a busy day for them with lots of people shopping." The Town Team are a group of volunteers consisting of residents, traders and councillors trying to make improvements to the town centre in an effort to boost visitor numbers. For more information call 01388 609852 or visit www.bishopaucklandtownteam.org.

Help the Busker

A music and theatre enthusiast is seeking the support of the community in order to open a Community Arts House and Coffee Shop in Bishop Auckland.

Kirsty Voy is hoping to raise pledges for 'The Busker', a coffee shop that will also provide a home for artists in the town to take advantage of a free platform for expression. This could range from Shakespearean speeches, modern scenes, stand up comedy, choir singing, acoustic sets or even knitting lessons! "There really are no boundaries" said Kirsty, who went on to say, "We really believe that this venue will be a fantastic asset to those performers and artists who require a much-needed platform to showcase their talents."

"We would serve quality coffee and light meals to diners with the opportunity to witness, watch and listen to the creative minds of County Durham.

In order to show what The Busker will do, Kirsty is

hosting a taster event on Sunday 9th November at Newton Aycliffe Workingmen's Club, when the X Factor's Geoff Mullen will perform alongside an array of local talent.

Kirsty commented, "The only thing we ask is that attendees pledge a minimum of £3 on our Kickstarter site for The Busker, and their tickets will then be forwarded on to them. The edge to this is that if the entire £15,000 needed is not raised then no money will be taken for the event."

To make a pledge and obtain tickets for the event, go to www.kickstarter.com/projects/583287419/the-busker-0?or=visit www.facebook.com/helpthebusker.

Kickstarter is a global crowdfunding platform which aims to help bring creative projects to life. Project creators choose a deadline and a minimum funding goal. If the goal is not met by the deadline, no funds are collected.

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Fireworks only for Aycliffe residents

Great Aycliffe Town Council will again be holding its Fireworks Display on Wednesday 5th November, but due to safety concerns the Council has taken the decision to only allow residents of Great Aycliffe to attend the display, therefore the event will be pre-ticketed. The site will be secured

and only those in possession of a wristband will be able to gain access. A spokesperson for Great Aycliffe Town Council said, "No wristband, no entry. The event is for residents only." For a full list of fireworks displays local to Bishop Auckland, visit www.durham.gov.uk/fireworks.

Harrogate Christmas Market

The Butterwick Hospice is running a bus trip to Harrogate Christmas Market on Saturday 29th November. Held on The Stray in the historic Montpellier Quarter of Harrogate town centre, the festive market will be filled with high

quality Yorkshire products, not forgetting Santa's Grotto and real reindeer. Tickets cost £15 per person and are available by calling Helen on 01388 660644. The coach will leave the Hospice at 9am and return at 4pm.

Police crack down on underage drinking

A man has been fined £90 for supplying alcohol to an under-age drinker during an operation in Bishop Auckland.

He was given the fixed penalty notice during a crackdown on under-age drinking and associated anti-social behaviour on Friday 24th October.

The multi-agency StaySafe operation was carried out in Bishop Auckland town centre following concerns raised by local people.

Focusing on the recreation ground, the activity involved Bishop Auckland Neighbourhood Policing Team, the force's alcohol harm reduction unit, Durham County Council licensing officers, Durham County Council Trading Standards, neighbourhood wardens, 4Real, which is the young persons' alcohol

and drug service, and local youth workers.

Groups of youths were spoken to and alcohol was seized, both from under 18s and from young adults who might supply alcohol to under-age drinkers.

Five intoxicated 14 year-olds were taken to a place of safety where, together with their parents or carers, they were given advice from 4Real.

Alcohol seized included 50 cans of lager and three bottles of vodka, as well as spirits mixed with soft drinks in plastic bottles, dip-tested to establish the presence of alcohol.

A quantity of drugs were seized after a 17 year-old youth and an 18 year-old man travelling in a car were stopped. The youth was arrested on suspicion of possessing an offensive

weapon and possession of drugs with intent to supply, and the 18 year-old on suspicion of possessing drugs with intent to supply. They have been bailed pending further enquiries.

StaySafe operations are carried out primarily to safeguard young people who are drinking and placing themselves in situations that may put them at risk of harm. The aim is to educate young people and local retailers about the harm posed by alcohol and, where there is evidence, police will carry out enforcement.

Anyone with information regarding under-age drinking can contact the ARIES team at - aries@durham.pnn.police.uk or CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

Follow Operation ARIES on Twitter @aries_durham.

Festive markets

A festive market to celebrate the countdown to Christmas is to coincide with the town's Christmas lights switch-on in Bishop Auckland Market Place on Friday 21st November.

The event, organised by the South Durham Enterprise Agency, will consist of 14 stalls selling North-East produce and will

run from 3pm till 7pm on Friday 21st November and between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 22nd November. Auckland Castle will also be holding a festive market on Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd November, between 10am and 4pm, selling everything from confectionary to handcrafted jewellery.

Councillor Lee Brownson, deputy mayor of Bishop Auckland commented, "People are crying out for the market to come back." Joy Allen, County Councillor for Bishop Auckland, funded new stalls for the Market Place and said that if the event proves successful further funding will be available for future events.

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New foodbank for Town Centre What's on at the Town Hall?



The foodbank will be run alongside the popular Computer Cafe at the Wear Valley Christian Centre.

A new foodbank is being launched in Bishop Auckland with the aim of helping local people in need.

The project will be run from the Wear Valley Christian Centre on South Church Road alongside a new Computer Cafe, which is open every Wednesday between 10am and 1pm when people can go along and learn basic computer skills. Food will be donated

to the foodbank by the Durham Christian Partnership with support from the Trussell Trust, although organisers are also appealing for donations of non-perishable items from local residents.

David Parry, Minister of Wear Valley Christian Centre said, "We were asked quite a while ago if we could set up a foodbank and we are now in a position to set one up. There is

definitely a demand for it. It seems to be the people facing benefits changes who are most in need."

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about either project, or who would like to enquire about volunteering, can go along to a meeting at the Centre on Monday 3rd November at 7.30pm.

For more information contact Yvonne Etherington on 07824 861 685.

There are an array of events taking place at Bishop Auckland Town Hall this November.

On Thursday 6th the movie Belle will be shown at 7.30pm. The story follows Lord Mansfield's role in ending slavery in England as Lord Chief Justice (12A). Tickets £5.

On Friday 7th November Bishop Auckland Choral Society presents 'A Celebration of British Music', featuring favourite songs and choral pieces in a concert performance with conductor Venera Bojkova and pianist Allan Coombes. Tickets are £8, £6 for concessions and £3 for children and are available from S Hassall on 01388 834359, J Weir on 01388 747621 or from any choir member.

On Thursday 13th November budding artists can produce original handmade intaglio prints using the McGuinness printing press at the popular Print Workshop. Tickets are £7 per session and must be pre-booked.

Also on the 13th the movie Grace of Monaco will be shown at 7.30pm. Tickets £5. (PG).

On Monday 17th November the Paper Birds theatre company present 'Thirsty' at 7.30pm. The show weaves together real stories, memories and booze based confessions with live music and stunning physical theatre. Tickets are £10 or £8 for concessions (suitable for age 12+).

Hilarity Bites presents the monthly comedy club on Friday 21st November, from 7.30pm.

Sunderland's Matt Reeds heads the final club of the year, joined by Andrew Watts, who has recently received 5 star reviews for his 2014 Edinburgh Festival show.

Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door.

To see full event listings for November visit www.bishop-aucklandtownhall.org.uk. For tickets and information call the Box Office on 03000 269 524.

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Firearms raids

Officers from Durham Constabulary have been carrying out raids in Bishop Auckland and Shildon to disrupt suspected criminal activity in the area.

Six properties were searched on Sunday 26th October on Byerley Road, Auckland Terrace and Osborne Street in Shildon, and Proudfoot Drive in Bishop Auckland.

Two men, a 25 year-old from Byerley Road and a 20 year-old from Proudfoot Drive, were subsequently arrested on suspicion of

possessing a firearm.

The men are being interviewed by detectives.

Searches by officers from Durham Constabulary are still taking place at four of the properties.

Supt Kerrin Smith said, "This intelligence-led operation was carried out to target suspected criminal activity in the area and to ensure that this is a safe place for residents."

"I would like to reassure local people that there are no known threats to the wider public."

Bid withdrawn

Plans to turn the empty South Church Nursing Home into a home for vulnerable young people have been withdrawn after Durham County Council

received countless letters of opposition from nearby residents. Concerns were raised by residents about how the project would affect the community regarding noise and anti-social behaviour.

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Monster madness for MEGA Motion



Dave Eliot Cooper of the Histrionics drama company as Frankenstein with James and classmates.

Halloween came early for pupils at a school in Bishop Auckland as they walked to school with a scary monster!

Following a competition at St Anne's CE Primary School to design their own monster, seven-year-old James Jacobs got the chance to choose which monster accompanied them to school and chose Frankenstein. The walk was the first of this school-year's MEGA Motion campaign to promote healthy lifestyles.

After helping the pupils walk, cycle and scoot to school, Frankenstein and the other members of the

Histrionics drama company held a special assembly to show the pupils all about the benefits of healthy and environmentally friendly ways of getting to school.

MEGA Motion comes under Durham County Council's wider Local Motion campaign promoting sustainable transport throughout south Durham. The campaign aims to encourage children to walk, scoot or ride to school to make them aware of the health and environmental benefits from an early age. As well as the fun walks centred around this year's theme of Heroes and Villains, pupils earn points

every time they use sustainable travel to get to school, aiming to collect enough points to become MEGA heroes by the end of the year.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration said, "MEGA Motion is a brilliant scheme, helping our children to stay healthy and teaching them all about environmentally friendly ways of travel from a young age."

"It's great to see the kids enjoy such a memorable day and we'd like to wish them all good luck in their quest to become MEGA Heroes!"

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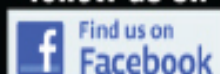


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Remembrance Parade

Bishop Auckland Town Council, in partnership with the Royal British Legion, is to hold a Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade. The event will be held on Sunday 9th November

at the War Memorial in the Market Place at 10.30am. Wreaths will be laid by members of various organisations, after which a Service of Remembrance will be held in St. Anne's Church, at around 11.15am.

Servicemen invited

The Hut in Bishop Auckland Bus Station is inviting all past and present service men and women to join them for a free hot drink and sandwich on the

morning of Remembrance Sunday, prior to the ceremony in the market place. All donations will go to the poppy appeal.

Barrington gets Gold

Bishop Barrington School has achieved the Investors in People Gold Standard; a benchmark of good people-management practice. The award recognises what the best businesses are made of, with only 16% of UK employers accredited. The Standard is based on demonstrating best

practice by meeting evidence requirements from the organisation's rigorous framework. Assessor Sheila Warren stated that the school's strengths lie in leadership and collaboration, working together towards common goals, good practice, consultation, vision and values.

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New Art Gallery planned in Bishop Auckland



Plans have been put forward to transform the old Barclays Bank building into a £4m art gallery.

Auckland Castle has announced plans for a new art gallery focusing on Spain's 'Golden Age' which it is hoped will raise County Durham's profile as an academic and tourist hub.

The £4m gallery, due to open in early 2017, is earmarked for the old Barclays Bank building in Bishop Auckland's Market Place.

The project is the brainchild of investment manager and art lover Jonathan Ruffer, who in 2012 bought Auckland Castle.

It is hoped to attract loans from major international public and private collections such as the Museo del Prado in Madrid, which holds the biggest collection of paintings by some of Spain's greatest artists including Zurbarán, El Greco, Goya, Ribera and Velázquez.

The Prado's deputy director, Gabriele Finaldi, was in County Durham last week taking part in a Spanish art symposium

when he took time out to view the site of the proposed gallery.

A planning application to convert the former Barclays Bank building is expected to be submitted to Durham County Council at the end of November. The proposal also includes the founding of a new art research institute.

The gallery is part of a wider, long-term aspiration shared by Auckland Castle, The Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle, and Durham University to establish the county as a key international academic and tourist destination focused around the area's rich concentration of Spanish art. Auckland Castle, Durham University, The Bowes Museum and Durham Cathedral between them house the biggest pool of Golden Age Spanish art outside London.

Mr Ruffer has made no secret of the fact he wants developments at Auckland Castle to regenerate the town of Bishop Auckland following the closure of

the coal mines and subsequent industrial decline.

The art gallery is the latest in a line of high profile developments announced for Auckland Castle.

These include a £17m project, backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to build a new museum extension at the castle to house a unique and internationally important exhibition charting 5,000 years of faith in the British Isles. This will also see the renovation of the castle and its state rooms - home for 900 years to the Bishops of Durham.

Planning applications for all the schemes are currently being prepared and will be submitted in the coming weeks.

David Ronn, chief executive of the Auckland Castle Trust, said: "In some cases these plans have been in the making for over a year, but things are now coming together.

"The new Spanish art gallery is a major piece in the jigsaw.

"People are often surprised that County Durham is home to such significant collections of Spanish art. "It is remarkable that for so long County Durham has had such an outstanding collection of Spanish art that hasn't been recognised.

"Our challenge is to make Spanish art, particularly that from the Golden Age, open and accessible to all."

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On Tuesday 21st October Butterwick Hospice hosted their Autumn Breakfast Meeting at Redworth Hall-Hotel. Local businesses gathered to hear Chief Executive Graham Leggatt-Chidgey explain how businesses can work with the Hospice to raise their profile by partnering with Butterwick Hospice. Following this guest speaker Sue Campbell from Media

Messages gave an insight into PR and how to successfully promote your business. Corporate Fundraiser Laura Douthwaite said, "We are now looking to build stronger partnerships with the corporate sector to help ensure the Hospice is there for future generations and these events give companies an opportunity to learn more about the extent of the services the Hospice freely provides within the com-

munity as well as the many ways people can support the Hospice." The next breakfast meeting will be held in spring 2015. Any business interested in attending this meeting or learning about the benefits of supporting Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland through the Corporate Supporter Scheme, can contact Laura Douthwaite on lauradouthwaite@butterwick.org.uk.

DACC free taster session

Durham Alliance for Community Care, in Cornwall Place Community Centre, Henknowle, are offering a free taster sessions.

A spokesperson said, "Whether you are a carer looking for day care for your loved one or you yourself would like to get 'out and

about' meeting new and old friends, then try our free taster session. A warm, friendly welcome awaits, with a complimentary lunch and craft activities."

For more information, or to book your free place, contact Rachel or Debbie on 01388 451751.

Police poser

A Bishop Auckland man has appeared before Durham Crown Court via video link from Holme House Prison, accused of posing as a police community support officer.

Samuel John Houlihan, of Linburn Grove, allegedly donned his friend's uniform without permission, including CS gas spray, before 'going on patrol' in the Town Centre on Saturday 4th October.

The 20 year-old aroused suspicion when his demeanour suggested he had been drinking. He was subsequently arrested and detained by police.

Charges against him include impersonating a police constable or PCSO with intent to deceive, possessing a prohibited weapon and criminal damage. Houlihan will remain in custody until his next hearing on 9th January.

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Manager goes through the pain barrier for his team!

St Mary's Under 7 Aces Manager Graham Bowes and Alan Bell, coach, both went through the pain barrier to raise funds for their team with a sponsored chest and leg waxing. Between them they hope to raise over £900 for their team's funds.

The Under 7 Aces team played Leven FC last weekend in an entertaining game with Jamie Wright scoring.

The Under 7 Kings had a fantastic game away at Middleton Rangers with scorers Tyler Richardson (3) and man-of-the-match Jay Bulch.

The Under 8 Kings had a great game against SRC Hornets with goals from James Whales (2), Ben Crinnion (3), Cobie Woods (3) and man-of-the-match Tom Brown. The friendly was just as good with more goals from Cobie, Tom, James and Ben along with Blake Milroy, Sam Aspinall and George Anderson.

The Under 9s had a good game away at Hartlepool Golden Flatts with Arrun Roe man-of-the-match along with Karn Wood having a great game.

The Under 10 Kings had a great win over 21st Allstars with goals from Joe Spark and Lennon Seymour along with Isaac Newton scoring in the friendly match.

The Under 11 Aces are still unbeaten in the league



Graham and Alan with Graham's son and wife, Linsey Bowes, who had the pleasure of waxing the two men.

and had a 4-0 win over Kader with goals from Ben Conner, Robbie Vickers, Ryan Byrne and Tyler Jackman.

The Under 11 Kings played away at Grangetown and Luke Brownless scored a hat-trick on his debut, but unfortunately came out on the losing side in a very exciting game.

The Under 12s had a great 6-1 win over Cargo Fleet with goals from Jack Purdham, Oliver Johnson, Ryan Raine and three from Regan Nixon.

The Under 13 Kings had an exciting 2-2 draw against Redcar Town with goals from Ben Shaw and a penalty from James Bundock along with Curtis

Curl man-of-the-match.

The Under 15s played away at Stockton Town in a close game losing 2-1 with Callum Guy scoring.

The Under 16 Aces had a close windswept game against Stockton Town with Charlie Wigley scoring and Owen Stephenson man-of-the-match.

The Under 16 Kings won 5-1 against Sunderland Plains Farm with goals from Jake Armstrong (3), Harry Coulthard and Regan Blakey.

Christmas raffle tickets are now available in conjunction with BAFc, with a first prize of £1,000 cash along with over 20 other prizes. Visit www.basmj.net for full match reports.

Sports grants for local clubs

Two sporting clubs in Bishop Auckland are among 148 local sports projects to secure a share of £10 million of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Inspired Facilities fund.

Bishop Auckland Cricket Club were awarded £53,850 to upgrade their changing rooms, while Bishop Auckland Canoe and Kayaking Group received £54,865 to establish its first permanent base.

The kayaking club will use the funds to refurbish the

disused swimming pool at St John's RC School.

John Holmes, secretary of the club said, "This grant is fantastic news. The grant will ensure the future of the club for many years to come, offering an updated, energy-efficient facility. This will include a new viewing area, cubicles, lockers, pool plant refurbishments and full disabled access to enable the club and the school to offer canoeing and kayaking to all."

Under 13s wanted

St Mary's Under 13 Aces are currently top of the TJFA Premier League and are looking to strengthen their team in the hopes staying top till the end of the season.

If you think you can play dynamic, fast paced football why not go along for a trial?

The team trains on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

For more information call manager Dave Willoughby

on 07969 040 852 or contact the club on 07860 356 074.

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