



Opportunities available at Bishop Auckland College event



The open evening will provide an insight into the academy's training programme and its plans to develop the next generation of Bishop Auckland workers.

A special apprentice open evening is to take place on 10th May as part of the joint Bishop Auckland College and Auckland Castle initiative to launch an apprenticeship academy. This

academy will equip youngsters with the expertise needed to capitalise on the £60m redevelopment of the former palace home of England's only Prince Bishops. Believed to be the first

time an independently run heritage attraction and a college have teamed up in this way, the first Auckland Academy course gets underway on 5th September.

The open evening, which will run from 5.30pm and 7.30pm at Bishop Auckland College, will provide an insight into the academy's training programme and its plans to develop the next generation of Bishop Auckland workers.

The aim of the event is to catch Year 11 pupils before they start their GCSEs as well as school leavers, and explain how they may be able to take advantage of the expected 100 new full and part-time posts predicted to be generated by Auckland Castle's exciting restoration and expansion plans.

Camilla Race, Bishop Auckland College's Employment Services Manager, who is in charge of the new academy, said: "Pupils, parents, teachers and careers advisors are

Continued on page 2

Eleven Arches heed residents' concerns

Residents in parts of Bishop Auckland are worried that the *Kynren, An Epic Tale of England* shows (which looks set to receive up to 8,000 visitors for each show) will impact on where they live. However, show bosses are not letting worries go unheeded: Eleven Arches has submitted four applications to Durham County Council and one of these proposes a reduction of parking spaces from 1,841 to 537 on the show site. Another proposal seeks approval to create three car parks with 1,800 parking spaces. The revision of parking spaces is a bid to prevent inconveniences that may be caused to residents living in the area by improving the efficiency of the show. Anne-Isabelle Daulon, CEO of Eleven Arches, said: "Further to discussions at Monday's (25th April) meeting, we have reported back residents' concerns to our traffic management company.

"They have been tasked with reviewing car parking options and coming up with a revised plan based on the feedback we have communicated.

"We will be reconvening in early May to discuss their proposals."

As well as fewer parking spaces on the show site, the application requests a coach drop-off point and changes to the layout and design of buildings, fencing, substations and the show area.

Six hundred car park spaces for staff and volunteers will also be available at Shield and Toronto sites (holding 1,400 and 450 cars respectively) and up to 600 spaces will be offered across the two town centre car parks.

However Joy Allen, County Councillor for Bishop Auckland, advises: "No doubt there will be some initial inconvenience, particularly during early shows, and we will have to learn lessons and adapt."



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BASH AAP AGM

On Tuesday 24th May from 6-8pm, a Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board and AGM meeting will be held at Bishop Auckland Football Club.

The AGM will take place at the start of the meeting and will include the

election of the partnership's new chairperson, with the regular Board meeting following.

Neighbourhood issues be raised by contacting the team by Thursday 12th May. To attend call 03000 268 663 or email bishopshildon-aap@durham.gov.uk.

Bishop Auckland cinema go-ahead

A long-desired cinema at Bishop Auckland looks set to go ahead after legal terms were finally agreed on a new seven-screen cinema as part of a leisure and retail complex at Tindale Crescent, on disused land next to Premier Inn.

Bishop Auckland Cinema, Leisure and Retail Park, the developer behind the project, says that the agreement means that work will begin on the development next spring.

Chris Dacre, on behalf of the developers, said: "We

are continuing to make good progress attracting new retail and leisure occupiers for the scheme.

"In particular, solicitors have agreed terms with a national cinema operator for a seven-screen facility. "This has also generated positive interest from other exciting leisure operators, whom developers are confident will provide a unique experience for the people of Bishop Auckland and the surrounding area."

Construction at the site is expected to last 12 months.

Need to check council decisions, boundaries and rights of way, or obtain copies of baptisms or marriage in church certificates?

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Cockton Hill infants become good litter-picking citizens



After an informative talk about the consequences of litter-dropping, the youngsters at Cockton Hill Infants School participated in a clean up.

Cockton Hill Infants School had an exciting time on Wednesday 27th April when Claire Hubbard, from Durham County Council, visited the school to give a talk and read a story about Tidy Ted.

The message was about dropping litter and the negative consequences of doing so.

Claire talked about how pupils should always use bins and, if there are no bins, the next best option

is to take litter home.

At the moment, there is a problem with people throwing rubbish out of car windows after visiting fast food chains such as McDonalds or KFC.

Claire discussed the dangers posed to litter pickers who have to work on busy main roads and how the students, as good citizens, can do their bit to help litter pickers avoid the dangers.

The children then par-

ticipated in a big clean up. The clean up was linked to the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign and the students' eco work.

A spokesperson said: "Everyone was keen to tidy the school grounds, even the staff!

"The big shed even got a spring clean.

"It was a really useful day and the children received a very important message about being a good citizen."

College's apprentice open day

From page 1

all welcome at the open evening, which will highlight the apprenticeship opportunities available through the academy, as well as the many other training initiatives offered by the college.

"The Auckland Academy is set to make a significant contribution towards meeting the job opportunities that will become available at not just Auckland Castle but within the wider community as other businesses benefit from the developments.

"Students on the course will be able to test and widen

their skills with sponsored placements.

"Not everyone who wins a place on the academy programme will be guaranteed a final job, but it will certainly give students a better chance of finding other skilled work and will set a benchmark for excellence." The Auckland Academy has grown from an existing affiliation between the castle and college.

This has already seen seven business administration, marketing and catering apprentices join Auckland Castle's rapidly expanding workforce over the past nine months.

The charitable Auckland

Castle Trust, which oversees the running of what is one of the UK's most important historical buildings, needs to fill a variety of jobs from horticulturists to business administrators, maintenance, events and promotions staff, trainee chefs, customer service and hospitality workers.

As a whole Bishop Auckland College currently had 40-plus apprentice posts waiting to be filled with many employers in the area. These included roles as diverse as catering, social media, customer service, administration, plumbing, childcare, joinery and cookery.

Local businessman takes on the Fred Whitton Challenge



Jonathan Plautus will take on the famously difficult Fred Whitton Challenge, and is looking for sponsors to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Bishop Auckland businessman, Jonathan Plautus, is planning to take on the Fred Whitton Challenge - arguably one of the hardest races in the UK.

The challenge is in the form of a 112-mile cycle in the Lake District and takes you through Grasmere, Ambleside, Kirkstone Pass, Patterdale, Keswick, Honister Pass, Buttermere, Newlands Pass, Whinlatter Pass, Loweswater, Cold Fell, Eskdale and then finishes with the brutal Hardknott and Wrynose Passes.

However, this only motivated 45-year-old Jonathan, who has been a keen cyclist since the age of eight.

Due to a misunderstanding, Jonathan failed to realise he had secured a place in the race which takes place on Sunday 8th May. The challenge is very popular and it was notoriously difficult to get a place!

Places are decided through a lottery draw system to be as fair as possible to the riders.

Jonathan was unaware that a second draw had taken place and that he was one of the lucky riders selected. It wasn't until cyclists were supposed to be halfway into their training that Jonathan learned of his place in the race.

With encouragement and support from his wife Anne, with whom he lives in Crook, alongside their nine-year-old son, Jack, Jonathan pushed the setback aside and entered an intense training regimen, training six days a week sometimes for ten to twelve hours a day.

However, he says that after the first five weeks, he felt the strongest he'd felt in years.

So far the dad has raised over £400 for Macmillan

Cancer Support but his goal is to get up to £600!

He said: "I'd love to give a big thanks to those who have sponsored me so far including local businesses who have helped me gain sponsorship."

They include JP Fitness in Willington, C&S Hair & Beauty Suppliers in Spennymoor, Indian Cottage in Crook and, Jonathan's own business, Plautus Hair & Beauty in Bishop Auckland. Jonathan said: "I'm going to carry on receiving sponsorship after the race up till Saturday 14th May."

Anyone who would like to donate to this worthy cause or sponsor Jonathan can do so by contacting the fundraiser at his salon (Plautus Hair & Beauty 221 Newgate Street, opposite Halfords). The Fred Whitton Challenge is in memory of Fred Whitton, the Lakes Road Club racing secretary for many years and promoter of many road races, who died of cancer aged 50.

Donation appeal for family charity day

The Manor House Hotel in West Auckland is organising a family fun day on 11th June to raise money for Sara's Hope Foundation and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Any donations of books, toys, bric-a-brac and DVDs are all welcome and can

be brought to the Manor House Hotel main reception to be sold or raffled on the day.

All proceeds go directly to the two charities.

For more information, email ross@manorhousehotel.net or call the hotel on 01388 834 834.

Escombe Spring Fair

Escombe Community Association is holding a Spring Fair at the village hall on Saturday 14th May at 2pm. There will be games and a tombola available as well as plants, cakes and books

to purchase. Entertainment will be provided by the Escombe School Choir. A spokesperson said: "Come and join us for tea and a chat. Everyone is welcome."

Pod calls for creative locals

Pod, a community hub designed to provide work, exhibition and retail space to the town (as well as advice and mentoring), in a bid to improve Bishop Auckland's economic growth, is seeking entrepreneurs to fill new studio space.

Creative locals are being offered the opportunity to sell and exhibit their work in the Market Place, as part of an all-inclusive package from £30 a week.

Six new studios have been created, benefitting more than 50 County Durham artists. However, a call has been issued for more ambitious business people who want to follow in the footsteps of Gillian Arnold, the successful designer jewellery and homeware brand. Gillian Arnold has enjoyed a larger workforce and seen turnover double since becoming the first

business to move into Pod last year.

Kate Gorman, Pod manager, said: "Pod provides a great facility for local creative enterprises wanting space to grow and take advantage of the investment being made in the area, to tap into additional support services and mentoring, to take their idea to the next level before moving out into the wider community. "Being based at Pod means they can focus on what is important, growing their concept."

Pod aims to attract a wide variety of businesses including illustrators, web designers, jewellers, woodturners, leatherworkers, photographers and ceramicists.

Applicants can contact Kate Gorman on kate.gorman@auklandcastle.org.

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Rotary ride for Prostate Cancer UK

As part of a national event, The Rotary, Cycling and Rugby Clubs of Bishop Auckland are organising a 20-mile ride and a family ride/fun day on Sunday 12th June from 10am to 2pm. The event will be in aid of Prostate Cancer UK and will be held at the Rugby Club at West Mills, and promises to be a wonderful day of fun and fellowship while raising money for a very worthy cause. The 20-miler will be along roads and cycleways, starting and finishing at the Rugby Club, with an entry fee of £10 per person or £15 per family. Complimentary event T-shirts will also be available for £5 each. Riders can encourage their

friends, families and colleagues to sponsor them and raise additional funds for the charity. There will also be the family ride/ fun day to take place in the ground. There will be a range of bike-related activities for all the family including a mini cycle circuit around the ground for families (using their own bikes), bike safety checks and security marking. There will be other stalls and attractions including a barbeque and refreshments. Entry/sponsorship forms and further information can be obtained from Nigel Bell on 01388 767612 or the Rotary Club website: www.bishopauckland.rotary1030.org.

Fire-shooting archers on target for Kynren



Over 150 volunteers undertook their first training session using arrows and sticks under the direction of experienced Eleven Arches trainer, Mark Hindman Smith.

Volunteer archers performing in live action night show, *Kynren - an epic tale of England*, are fired up after taking part in a special training session delivered by an esteemed combat trainer. Over 150 volunteers undertook their first fire training session using arrows and sticks at the weekend, under the direction of experienced Eleven Arches trainer, Mark Hindman Smith, an actor, writer, historian and skilled combat trainer who runs seven stage combat schools across the North of England. Mark is training Eleven Arches volunteers in a range of combat skills ready for Kynren, but also for use in the world of film and TV and other live performances.

The volunteers will use their new found skills as they perform as archers as part of a cast and crew of over 600 involved in Kynren, the UK's most spectacular live action night show since the

opening of the 2012 Olympics, which starts on 2nd July for 14 summer shows. Kynren will take audiences on a spellbinding journey through British history. Taking place on a 7.5 acre landscaped stage (equivalent to five football pitches, with a full-size lake at its centre) against the backdrop of Auckland Castle, the dazzling production will immerse audiences in a captivating story that stretches across 2,000 years, encompassing Roman times, the Viking invasions, the Industrial Revolution and Second World War, with ships and a steam train, mass choreography, mesmerising

pyrotechnics and spectacular lighting and water effects. The show involves more than 1,000 volunteers as cast and crew, who have undergone professional training by the best of the best, including Steve Boyd, a key figure in the choreography of the London 2012 opening ceremony. Kynren is expected to attract nightly audiences of up to 8,000. Tickets are on sale with prices starting at £25 for adults and £19 for children. For more information, go to www.kynren.co.uk or call 0844 581 1252. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Four Clocks vacancy

The Four Clocks (154a Newgate Street) is looking for a Project Worker who must enjoy manual labour, the outdoor environment and working in groups. The vacancy is for a temporary job that requires

eight hours per week at £7.20 an hour. Anyone interested in this role and who believes they meet the above criteria, or who is just looking for more information can contact 01388 609852.

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Care Connect: A 24/7 service that's just up your street (advertorial)

People in County Durham are being urged to join Durham County Council's community alarm service that supports vulnerable residents of all ages.

Care Connect assists people in maintaining their independence in their own home, providing a monitoring and response service to people's homes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, offering assistance and reassurance whenever it is needed.

The service is vital for anybody who believes they are at risk, or vulnerable and their families want security and peace of mind.

People may know of a neighbour or friend who is at risk or socially isolated and the *Care Connect* service can offer assistance and support these people when in need.

Customers are provided with a unit alarm system and pendant, which is installed in their homes, and when the alert button is pressed for assistance a call is placed directly to *Care Connect's* Control Room.

The service operates 24/7 so staff are always available to offer support and assistance, to dispatch Responders to a customer's home, or to contact the emergency services when necessary.

There is a small weekly charge for the service, but this will be discussed with customers prior to coming on to the service.

The service helps around 15,000 households across County Durham and has recently retained its Accreditation to the Telecare Services Association (TSA) Code of Practice, being one of less than 10% of members to achieve 'Platinum Member Status' (European Technical Specification) for the community alarm and Telecare services it provides.

Care Connect promotes independence through the use of technology so people can remain in their own homes as long as possible.

Where a customer is assessed as needing addi-

tional support, equipment known as *Telecare* can be installed, giving carers and families' peace of mind. Customers who do not wish to go through a social care assessment can agree a private arrangement with *Care Connect* to

have *Telecare* equipment installed.

There are numerous types of equipment available and include items for people who are at risk of falling, have dementia (or some memory loss), are deaf, blind, or have epilepsy.

An example of this technology is a fall detector for people who are frail and/or at risk of falling.

The device is unobtrusive and worn about the person and will identify a genuine fall and immediately alert the Control Room so appro-

priate action can be taken. For more information about the service, visit *Care Connect's* website at www.durham.gov.uk/careconnect or telephone 03000 262 195 or send an email to care.connect@durham.gov.uk.



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Care Connect



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Poetry Corner

"Doggart Days"

Brian H. Gent

The "Doggart Days" in Bishop Auckland,
take me back in time,
Sweeping staircase, mirrored wall and
atmosphere sublime,
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dullest days seem bright.
We queued up at the Hippodrome, the Odeon,
King's Hall,
Every film star of the day we sat and
watched them all.
Such are those special memories that
dwell in many ways,
Of dear old Bishop Auckland in those
far off "Doggart Days"...

Restaurant donates preview night proceeds to mayor's charity



Tony and Claire Gibbons of Park Head Hotel donated money raised at their restaurant's preview night to Mayor Lee Brownson's chosen charity, Help for Heroes.

The owners of a hotel and restaurant at New Coundon, who have invested more than £100,000 to refurbish its bedrooms, conference and function rooms, have donated £842.15 to the Mayor of Bishop Auckland's chosen charity Help for Heroes after a preview night at the hotel's new restaurant called the

Bishop's Grill.

Claire Gibbons, Director at the Park Head Country Hotel said: "Our preview night proved to be a huge success with an opportunity to sample some amazing dishes made with locally sourced produce, and we were delighted with such positive feedback. "Thank you to everyone

who supported us on the evening and for their kind donations to Help for Heroes."

Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Cllr Lee Brownson, said: "I was most grateful to receive this very kind donation from Claire and Tony, and I wish them every success with the hotel and the *Bishop's Grill*."

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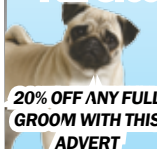
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Pollards Allotments to host annual plant sale



There will be a variety of plants (like the beautiful foxgloves pictured above), vegetables and other garden items on offer at the plant sale on 21st and 22nd May.

Pollards Allotments will be holding its annual Plant Sale on Saturday 21st May from 10am till 4pm and on Sunday 22nd May from

10am till 12 noon. Bedding plants, items for hanging baskets and a wide variety of vegetables will be on offer.

All products are grown by some of the best gardeners in the area. A spokesperson said: "Come along and support local growers!"

Patient representative sought for committee

The County Durham and Darlington NHS Area Prescribing Committee (APC) is looking for a new patient representative to join its work.

The APC serves the local community by improving the safe and effective use of medicines, and improving cost effectiveness across its member organisations.

It is responsible for provid-

ing advice on medicines used locally and for supporting the implementation of evidence based guidance on the best use of medicines.

The group meets six times a year. Anyone with an interest in the role should contact Joan Sutherland on 0191 389 8567 or 0191 389 8600 or by email at joan.sutherland@nhs.net.

South Church Fayre

South Church Methodist Church is holding a Spring Fayre, to be opened by Mrs Vanessa Purdy, on Sunday

14th May at 2.30pm.

Various stalls and refreshments will be on offer. Everyone is welcome.

Coin valuation day at Butterwick Hospice

A team of experts from 'The Medal Centre' have been invited to return to County Durham, to run another series of their popular coin and medal valuation days.

They will be visiting Bishop Auckland on Saturday 18th June as a special fundraiser for Butterwick Hospice. Doors will open at 9.30am until 4.30pm and the site of the event boasts ample free parking.

There is a small entrance fee of £2 per person which includes tea/coffee or soft drinks.

Valuations are being

offered free of charge with no obligation to sell but if a customer wishes to sell their items after they have been valued, a cash payment will be available. Anyone wishing to have any of these types of items valued is invited to go along and learn more about their items. Mr Jukes said: "I never fail to be surprised at the treasures that can be found hiding in old tins and boxes that are brought along by the public.

For more information about this event please contact Butterwick Hospice on 01388 603003.

Auckland Academy Open Evening

10 May 2016, 5.30pm-7.30pm

Auckland Castle and Bishop Auckland College are recruiting school leavers for September 2016!

Apprenticeship vacancies include:

- Food and Beverages, hospitality and trainee chefs
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St Mary's under 12s win Fair Play trophy at Skegness



The U12 Aces were presented with the Fair Play trophy at the Skegness Tournament by ex-Liverpool and England player, and now Match of the Day pundit, Danny Murphy.

It has been a busy week for the St Mary's U16 team with three games and three wins starting with a 4-2 win over Polton Allstars with goals from James Hardy (2), Aidan Crooks and Cieran Jackson.

This was followed by an emphatic 8-0 win over Primrose Hill with goals

from Cieran Jackson (3), James Hardy, Cameron Tague (2), Jamie Redfern and Aidan Crooks.

Next was a 3-0 win over Greatham with goals from Cieran Jackson and James Hardy after James Frankland and Ellis Tait had both hit the bar and posts.

Three more wins this week will potentially secure them the league title.

The U17's played their last league game away at Roker Reds and, in a very close, windswept game, St Mary's took the honours 2-0 with two well taken goals from Charlie Wigley.

The side have won the league by 13 points after dropping just two points in 20 games.

The U13's lost 3-2 against Stockton in their last game but have already been

promoted for next season.

The U14 Aces had two games with an excellent 2-0 win over Stockton who are currently top and a very close 1-0 win over Whinney Banks to keep them in contention for league honours with one game to play.

With six teams away at Skegness tournaments, it was a great weekend for them all with trophies for all the teams and the U8 Kings winning every game apart from the final, which ended 1-0 to the opposition. The U12 Aces won the Fair Play trophy with the U11 Aces coming second in their group. The U8 Aces competed well, the U14 Kings also came second and the U10 Kings just missed out on the finals although they were unbeaten all weekend.

Make your Move to healthy, fun activity

Durham County Council's Neighbourhood Services has recently obtained funding which it is using to provide three free 'Make Your Move' activities and one subsidised activity per week until 22nd July this year to help adults reduce health risks (predominantly diabetes) through exercise increase.

"The programme can also help to increase self-confidence, fitness and mental wellbeing," says Wellbeing Development Officer, Simon Halloway.

The free and reduced cost adult classes are being hosted at three venues across Bishop Auckland.

Couch to Jog is a gradual session aimed at helping to get you out of the house and progress from no exercise to walking to jogging.

The free activity is aimed at complete beginners and is held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12.15pm to 1.15pm at Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

Gentle Circuits is also free and is a mix of exercises that can help to increase

fitness and confidence with your own ability.

The classes are held at King James Academy from 7pm to 8pm on Thursday evenings.

The third activity, for which there is a small fee of £2 per session is *Aqua Jog and Swim*.

The exercise is a mix of low impact based activity that can help to increase mobility and fitness with the support of the water and is held at Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre on Thursday afternoons from 12 noon until 1pm.

Mr Halloway said: "You will amaze yourself with what you can achieve by increasing your weekly movement. "Gentle exercise like this can help you to reduce risks related to diabetes and heart problems; increase your chances of losing or gaining weight or size; increase your mental wellbeing and self confidence and increase your fitness levels."

Anyone interested in taking any of the classes should contact 0300 262797 to book a place.

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