



SCHOOL CELEBRATES MILESTONE

COCKTON HILL Infants' School has an important milestone to celebrate this year; on Wednesday 27th February it will be 110 years old.

In honour of the special birthday, the school will be hosting an open day on the 27th, inviting families of the children and members of the local community to an exhibition of photographs and artefacts through the decades.

Everyone is welcome to drop in any time between 10am and 12 noon, or between 1pm and 4pm.

"Bring your friends and families to browse the exhibition and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat," encouraged a spokesperson.

ROTARY CLUB HOSTS ANNUAL CURRY NIGHT

THE ROTARY Club of Bishop Auckland held its annual Curry Night on Monday 11th February.

A spokesperson for the group said, "We would like to give Issy and his staff at the Spice Lounge a big 'thank you' for his support.

"Excellent food, a quiz, a raffle and much fellowship was enjoyed by 85 people, and the event raised just over £900 for charity."



Actress and restaurateur Jennie McAlpine and BBC MasterChef Champion 2018 Kenny Tutt will be at this year's Food Festival.

CORRIE ACTRESS AND MASTERCHEF WINNER JOIN FOOD FESTIVAL LINE-UP

ACTRESS JENNIE McAlpine and BBC MasterChef Champion 2018 Kenny Tutt will demonstrate their favourite recipes at one of the region's most popular food festivals.

Best known for playing the much-loved character

Fiz in Coronation Street, Jennie will swap the cobbled streets of Manchester for the North East when Bishop Auckland Food Festival returns on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th April.

As well as being an award-winning actress,

Jennie and her husband Chris run the successful Annies restaurant in Manchester, which offers a classic British menu in stylish surroundings.

Jennie, who regularly shares her favourite home-made comfort foods on

ITV's Lorraine, will demonstrate a selection of delicious dishes at the festival on the Sunday at 12.30pm and 3.15pm. Tickets cost £5. VIP passes including

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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The Bishop Auckland Town Council Youth Awards are an opportunity to acknowledge, celebrate and give recognition to the achievement's of the town's youth.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR TOWN'S YOUTH AWARDS

NOMINATIONS ARE now open for Bishop Auckland Town Council Youth Awards 2019.

The awards are an opportunity to acknowledge, celebrate and give recognition to young people in the town who have made significant progress in their own lives, achieved something significant or have made considerable contributions to others.

Nominations are now open for Individual Awards or Team of the Year.

Nominees must be aged 20 or younger and live, study or work in Bishop Auckland. Alternatively, their achievement or contribution must be associated with the town.

There are no specific categories for nominations. Awards are given on value of the achievements and contributions of young people rather than by category.

Examples of previous nominees include young people who:

- Care for friends or

family members;

- Have carried out an act of bravery;
- Help in their local community;
- Have overcome their own difficulties;
- Live with an illness;
- Achieve great things in sport, dance and drama or at school.

The Team of the Year Award recognises achievements made by a group of young people. "We're not just looking for sporting success," said a Town Council spokesperson, "A team can be a group of young people that have achieved something special or made a

significant contribution to the town. Last year's winners were Cockton Hill Junior School Mini Police."

The Team of the Year will win £500 to support their team's future endeavours.

Teams must be made up of young people aged 20 or younger that are based in or made a contribution to Bishop Auckland.

The closing Date for nominations is Friday 22nd March 2019.

A presentation evening will be held at Bishop Auckland Town Hall on Wednesday 1st May.

All nominees meeting the criteria will receive a certificate of achievement and the Mayor's Medal will be awarded to a limited number of young people whose achievements have been considered 'exceptional'.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from Bishop Auckland Town Council's website at www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk or collected from The Four Clocks Centre on Newgate Street.

Email council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk or call 01388 608852 for further details.

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Angellica Bell and Stefan Gates will also be sharing their skills with the Bishop Auckland audience.

TV STARS TO SERVE UP A TREAT

FROM PAGE 1

priority seating and a meet and greet opportunity are also available for the 12.30pm session priced at £10.

Jennie said: "I can't wait to join the lovely folk in the North East for some foodie fun. I look forward to sharing some of my favourite recipes with you."

Earlier this month, it was announced that BBC MasterChef co-presenter Gregg Wallace would be headlining the festival, and now visitors can also watch last year's champion Kenny in action.

The father-of-two won over viewers with his kind nature and passion for food, and millions were amazed by the 'make-my-heart-thump fantastic' dishes he created in the final.

Since winning TV's toughest cookery competition, the father-of-two has appeared at food festivals across the country, as well as getting ready to open his first restaurant PITCH in May. He is set to inspire crowds in Bishop Auckland

on the Saturday at 11am and 1.45pm. Tickets cost £5.

Other celebrity cooks appearing at the event include Angellica Bell and Stefan Gates.

As the 2017 winner of BBC Celebrity MasterChef and a mother of two young children, Angellica knows all about cooking tasty and nutritious meals the whole family will enjoy.

The One Show regular and co-presenter of The Martin Lewis Money Show on ITV is passionate about inspiring families to cook together and passing culinary skills down through the generations.

Angellica will be preparing dishes from her children's recipe book, *Fantastic Eats!* & how to cook them, at 12.30pm and 3pm on the Saturday. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for children. There are also a limited number of VIP passes for the 12.30pm session, priced at £10 for adults and £6 for children, which include demonstration tickets and a meet and greet opportunity.

From delicious dishes to the science behind what happens next with CBBC *Gastronuts* and *Incredible Edibles* presenter Stefan.

Known for his love of extraordinary culinary adventures, Stefan has written and presented numerous food science television programmes, making him the perfect choice to lead the festival's outreach programme. In early April, he will take hundreds of schoolchildren on a journey through the human digestive system, complete with fascinating facts and explosive experiments.

The father-of-two will deliver similar sessions for people of all ages at the festival at 11am and 1pm on the Saturday and Sunday. Tickets cost £3.

To book tickets to see Jennie, Kenny, Angellica, Stefan and Gregg and to find out more about the event visit www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk, like the Bishop Auckland Food Festival Facebook page or follow @bishfoodfest on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

LOCAL TV MANUFACTURER SUPPORTS THE TOWN TEAM

SHOPPERS MAY have noticed that there were two 65" television screens in the windows of the old Argos store inside the Newgate Shopping Centre during December.

The TVs were used to promote the Bishop Auckland Town Team events with images from previous years, alongside photographs and information on what the Town Team has achieved since 2012.

These televisions were on temporary loan from the Bishop Auckland based manufacturer *Cello Electronics UK Ltd*, who are located at South Church Enterprise Park.

Clive Auld said; "Following a meeting with the

manager they have now given us the televisions permanently for us to use for our promotional needs. We are currently looking at two suitable locations around the town for them to be placed. They will then will be used throughout the year to promote Town Team events."

The new 2019 Town Team Events A5 magazine is available now. Pick up your free copy from various locations including Newgate Shopping Centre, Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Auckland Tower, No. 42, the Four Clocks Centre plus many other shops and businesses around the town.

MAKE HISTORY THIS SPRING

HISTORY-LOVERS CAN get arty this spring, harnessing the power of County Durham's historic Prince Bishops to put their spin on a personalised coin.

Running over six Saturdays, from 2nd March to 13th April, Auckland Tower is hosting a series of Tower Arts: Mint Print sessions, where visitors can have a go at printmaking and designing their own medieval coin with artist Suzie Devey.

The workshops are inspired by the Prince Bishops of Durham, who held exceptional political and military powers, including the ability to command armies and mint their own coins, and are being run by The Auckland Project.

Everyone taking part can learn more about these medieval men, creating a coin design with emblems of either a Prince Bishop or a King.

To decorate the flip side of their coin, each printmaker can try their hand at linocut printmaking, creating a unique printing plate using animal templates, which were inspired by the *Medieval Book of Beasts* and can be found in Bishop Auckland.

To add the finishing touch, the coin can also be embellished with dates that are significant or important to its designer

as well as a choice of decorative borders, each inspired by different elements of the mitre of the Bishop of Durham.

The sessions have been supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and will run on a drop-in basis between 11am and 3pm, with participants welcome to attend one session or return each week to try a different activity or hone and improve their printing skills.

Visitors can print and take home their finished artworks at the end of each session, and artist, Suzie Devey, will also transform the designs into moulds. These will be used in the final two workshops, where participants will create and paint clay versions of the coins which will be combined to create a collaborative artwork entitled *Treasure Trove*.

Treasure Trove, will go on display in Auckland Tower to coincide with Bishop Auckland Food Festival in April.

Tower Arts: Mint Print sessions will take place at Auckland Tower. Booking is not required and all ages are welcome, though children are required to be supervised by an adult at all times and may not be able to use the lino-cut tools. For more information visit, aucklandcastle.org/yourvisit.

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STEP BACK IN TIME WITH A 60s & 70s NIGHT

THE BISHOP Auckland Fundraising Group of Marie Curie is aiming to reach its target of £100,000 by the end of March.

To support this worthwhile cause - dust off those platform soles, raise your hem, back-comb your hair - and go along to The Park Head Hotel on Friday 1st March at 7pm and wallow in nostalgia at a 60s and 70s

Night.

Dance to topical music, supplied by lead vocalist Jenna Highfield.

Tickets cost £10 which include a '60s supper' - chicken or scampi in a basket!

Contact Elizabeth Varley on 01388 606075 or 07816 306910.

Fancy dress is optional, but there will be a prize for the best vintage-dressed guest!

TOWN TEAM MEETING PUSHED

THE NEXT meeting of the Bishop Auckland Town Team has been postponed and will now be held on Thursday 14th March at 6pm.

A by-election is taking place to elect a Town Councillor for the Woodhouse Close Ward on Thursday 7th March. During the pre-election period (known as purdah) strict rules apply that limit activities of public bodies. As two of the Town Team's key mem-

bers are public bodies, ie Durham County Council and Bishop Auckland Town Council, it has been necessary to rearrange the Town Team meeting.

Meetings take place in the Wesley Room of the Four Clocks Centre, 154a Newgate Street. Light refreshments are served from 5.30pm and the meeting starts at 6pm. Guest speakers will also be in attendance giving updates on local projects.



Gil Dowson and Peter Oakley from the City of Durham Lions present Butterwick's Bishop Auckland fundraiser Milly Toner with a cheque for £150.

LIONS RAISE FUNDS FOR BUTTERWICK

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION, The City of Durham Lions, recently raised £150 in aid of Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland.

The group, which has been established for more than 45 years,

devoted a day to a bucket collection in Morrisons supermarket to raise the money for the Hospice.

A spokesperson for Butterwick commented, "We would love to say a huge thank you to the

group for raising the money for the Hospice."

If any groups would like to help in any way to raise funds for the Butterwick, call Milly on 01388 603003 or email millytoner@butterwick.org.uk.

Miners Pension Compensation



We are successfully claiming compensation for former miners in the North East who transferred out of the Mineworkers Pension Scheme.

Many miners in the North East were advised to transfer out of their British coal pension scheme to a private scheme which paid considerably less! This was bad advice and many retired miners or their widows have lost out.



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Example 1 - £77,000

Mr H a former miner from **EASINGTON** was made redundant in 1993. After the pit closed he was advised by an agent from Sun Life to transfer £9,000 from his miners pension to them. He was promised a better pension which wasn't true. Sun Life agreed compensation of £77,149.

Example 3 - £48,000

Mr P is a former miner from **BEDLINGTON**. When the pits closed in 1986 he was advised by an Independent Financial Advisor to transfer his pension to Standard Life. He was told it would be a better pension which wasn't true. Even though the Independent Financial Advisor was no longer trading we were able to secure him a lump sum of £48,000.

Example 2 - £53,000

Mr K a former miner from **CRAMLINGTON** was made redundant in 1988. He was advised to transfer £5000 from his miners pension to Prudential. His pension was nowhere near as good as it would have been if he had stayed in the miners scheme. We obtained a lump sum payment of £53,302.

Example 4 - £82,000

Mr R is a former miner from **HOUGHTON LE SPRING**. In 1991 he was persuaded by an agent of the Prudential to transfer £5600 from his miners pension to them. He received a poor pension and we were able to show the advice was bad and secured compensation of £82,877.

If you transferred out of the British Coal Pension Scheme and would like a **FREE REVIEW**, please either call us on **FREEPHONE:**

0800 988 7997
or return the form below

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Please can I have a Free Review to see if I am eligible for a payout ☒

Signed Date

Please address to: Miners Pension Compensation Dept, Corries Solicitors Ltd, 11 Melroses Yard, Walmgate, York, YO1 9XF.

Miners Pension Compensation is a trading name of Corries Solicitors Ltd, Melroses Yard, Walmgate, York YO1 9XF. Regulated by Solicitors Regulation Authority no. 424101.

AUCKLAND TOWER FINALIST FOR PRESTIGIOUS PLANNING AWARD

A BISHOP Auckland landmark has been shortlisted for an award.

Auckland Tower is in the running to pick up an award in the excellence in planning for the heritage and culture category at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence 2019.

Durham County Council submitted the application to the RTPI, on behalf of the Brighter Bishop Auckland Partnership Board, in recognition of the collaborative partnership that helped make Auckland Tower possible.

The 29m high building, created as the welcome centre for The Auckland Project visitor destination, opened to the public in 2018.

To help make it a reality the council brought together officers from development management, regeneration, design and conservation, landscape design and strategic

traffic, to work alongside The Auckland Project and its design team from Niall McLaughlin Architects, as well as Historic England.

Cllr Carl Marshall, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "As part of our plans to rejuvenate Bishop Auckland town centre we needed to make the most of the area's fascinating heritage and enhance the visitor experience, which is exactly what The Auckland Project's new welcome centre does. Auckland Tower is helping the town to further become a cultural tourist destination for local and international visitors."

The chair of the partnership board and the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, added: "The Auckland Tower is a wonderful addition to the Bishop Auckland skyline. Its views are terrific and the first floor is exquisite. It is a thoroughly worthy nominee for this



Auckland Tower, by Norman Cooper, courtesy of The Auckland Project

prize."

Chris Blacklock, property director at The Auckland Project, said: "Auckland Tower would not have been possible without the realignment of Bishop Auckland Market Place, which was funded by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and delivered by Durham County Council. It is fantastic to see this partner-

ship working now being recognised in the RTPI shortlist."

The RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence are the most established and respected awards in the UK planning industry.

The winners will be announced during a ceremony held at Milton Court Concert Hall in central London on Wednesday, 24th April.

DURHAM TIGERS RUGBY CLUB RECRUITING

DURHAM TIGERS Rugby League Club is recruiting for the open age (over 16s)

Training sessions take place weekly on Wednesdays from 6pm-7pm at Maccs Strength Gym in Shildon.

Anyone interested in joining, whether new to the sport or returning, should contact Durham Tigers vice chairman Jason Plews by email at plewsjason@btinternet.com.

Alternatively you can contact the Tigers online through direct message at their Facebook page (search for Durham Tigers Rugby League) or by emailing thedurhamtigers@hotmail.co.uk.

To advertise in the Bishop Press and its sister papers:

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MINT PRINT!

Every Sat from 2 March–13 April 2019

11am–3pm

Auckland Tower

Explore the art of printmaking and the history of the Prince Bishops with Tower Arts: Mint Print.

Come along to one session or take part each week to create a coin design and investigate traditional printmaking techniques, with artist-led activities for adults and children to enjoy.

Suitable for all ages, drop-in

Auckland Tower, part of The Auckland Project

For more information, visit aucklandproject.org



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One lucky winner will take home this beautiful hand-made quilt.

RAFFLE TO WIN ADVENT QUILT

A RAFFLE is taking place for one lucky winner to take home the wonderful quilt featured in the Bishop Auckland Town Team Advent Windows.

The quilt was designed and hand-made by The Oakleaf Community and was revealed at the Forces Support shop, located inside the Newgate Centre, on the last Advent Windows unveiling on Christmas Eve.

It has been a means of raising funds for the Forces Support charity since then and tickets are still available at £1 per strip. The quilt will go to the winner of a raffle draw, which is expected to take place next month.

Get your raffle tickets from the Forces Support shop located at Unit 9 inside the Newgate Shopping Centre, open 6 days a week.



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ARTIST CELEBRATES 1st ANNIVERSARY

SPENNYMOOR-BASED

ARTIST John William Smith - aka Smudge - is celebrating a year since the opening of his art gallery in Bondgate, *House of Smudge*.

John has had a lifelong affinity for painting, drawing and sketching, taking inspiration from the North East's history and local culture.

His quirky artwork is a reflection of his own experiences, with men in flat caps and women in head scarves often making an appearance. These help to express themes such as love, life, loss and dreams.

These emotions are portrayed through the eyes of a young boy named Smudge and the characters based around him. Left deliberately faceless, this encourages the viewers to explore the emotion in the picture itself, rather than what is told by the expression on their faces.

"These characters could be any one of us, at any time of our lives; that is what enables us all to resonate with what is trying to be portrayed, regardless of our background,"



The characters in John Smith's artwork are left deliberately faceless, so as to enable the viewer to project their own lives and experiences onto the images.

explained John.

Having already proven incredibly popular, selling originals all over the country and prints around the world, House of Smudge has just celebrated its first year of business, where he launched new originals and prints.

John said: "With people travelling as far as London

to especially visit the gallery, it was an extremely busy day, with most of the new work selling out within the first few hours.

"I would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support, especially from the local community. Everyone's kind comments and appreciation really mean a lot."

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INCREDIBLE EDIBLE IS COMING TO BISHOP AUCKLAND

EVERY CORNER of the community is being invited to get their hands dirty to transform their town as a horticultural movement sprouts up in Bishop Auckland.

Incredible Edible Bishop Auckland is launching on Wednesday 6th March 2019 and will challenge people to transform unused land in their community into vegetable plots and attractive, wildlife friendly spaces.

The Incredible Edible community movement, which now has branches across the UK, was initially established in Todmorden, a small Yorkshire town, and has the overarching vision of creating kind, confident and connected communities through the power of food.

Incredible Edible Bishop Auckland will launch in a special event at Bishop Auckland Town Hall, and will encourage all ages and abilities to help create edible landscapes throughout the community.

The chairperson and co-founder of Incredible Edible Todmorden, Mary



The Incredible Edible community movement has branches across the UK.

Clear, will be telling the story of establishing the project in her home town in 2008, and the transformation she has seen in the community since then.

Expert in urban agriculture, Dr Mikey Tomkins, will also be speaking about his work in helping to establish projects to grow food and vegetables in towns

and cities across the world, including helping to develop home-gardens and agriculture projects with Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Officers from Durham County Council will be explaining how everyone can do more to reduce food waste and make good use of leftovers.

The launch event is being hosted by The Auckland Project, whose mission is to revitalise Bishop Auckland through employment, training and educational opportunities.

Members of the Project's catering team will be serving leek and potato soup, made using the produce grown in Auckland Castle's historic gardens. Each cup of soup will also come with a recipe card for visitors to take home from the event to start growing their own produce straight away.

Following the launch event, The Auckland Project will be partnering with a range of community stakeholders to support, facilitate and help to drive the Incredible Edible Bishop Auckland movement forward, with the hope that they will continue to grow and flourish in the future.

Booking is essential to attend the launch event, which runs from 6pm to 8.30pm. A £5 donation is optional when booking. To book email bookings@aucklandproject.org or call 01388 743 797. For more information or to get involved with Incredible Edible Bishop Auckland email incredibleedibleba@aucklandproject.org.

FALLING ON YOUR FEET

WOODHOUSE CLOSE Church and Community Centre on Proudfoot Drive is encouraging residents to 'fall on their feet'.

Helix Arts, in partnership with the Auckland Project, have developed a relaxed dance and health programme designed to give more confidence to older people and to help prevent possible falls and associated mobility problems.

The programme will help to improve strength, mobility and balance, reduce the risk of falling and help people have fun and make friends.

Go along for a taster session on Tuesday 5th March or Thursday 7th March, both from 10am.

For more information contact the centre on 01388 450838 or email www.whclosecomm@gmail.com or foyf@helixarts.com.

JOIN THE JOURNEY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

A FRIENDSHIP group aimed at reducing isolation and encouraging engagement for 50+ aged residents is being launched in Leeholme next month.

A launch party for the Journey Friendship Group will take place at Mickie Grove Community Centre on Wednesday 6th March, from 10am to 2pm, and then every following Wednesday at the same time.

A spokesperson for the group, which is sponsored by County Durham Housing Group and implemented by Journey Enterprises, said: "Once established our clients can be involved with what they want from this group, i.e. wellbeing projects, sit and get fit sessions, off-site days out and cookery. Those who attend can be involved with future planning. The group is free and we will provide a light lunch every week."

For more information, contact Journey Enterprises on 01388 612160.

OPEN EVENING



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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
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TALKING ABOUT CYBER CRIME

A TALK on cyber crime will be taking place at Henknowle Community Centre in Cumbria Place on Tuesday 9th April, between 10.15am and 11.45am.

Katie Bartle from Durham Police will be on-hand to discuss the dangers of the world wide web.

"Please come along and support the event and find out how to stay safe online," encouraged a spokesperson.

The event has been organised by the Wear Valley Community Action Group.

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The children from St Anne's Nursery School loved celebrating Chinese New Year with a feast at Panda Panda in Bishop Auckland.

GONG HEI FAT CHOI!

ON WEDNESDAY 13th February nearly sixty Early Years children from St Anne's Nursery School walked to Panda Panda Restaurant in Bishop Auckland to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

There the youngsters met Town Ambassadors and were greeted by Sharon Lin, manageress at the restaurant, who had gone out of her way to make the experience

special for the children.

A staff member from the school who accompanied the children said, "The restaurant looked fabulous and the tables were beautifully set.

"The children were so excited as they sat with their friends eagerly waiting to try the food.

"They were not disappointed as dish after dish came out from the kitchen; noodles, rice,

chicken satay, sweet and sour, prawn toast and spring rolls. The children each got a fortune cookie to take home too!

"The children and families had so much to say about our trip and we all had a wonderful time."

Alice, a nursery pupil said: "Sitting with my friends and eating noodles was the best part", while Imogen from Reception enthused: "It

was so, so good, it was delicious."

Their teacher went on to express her appreciation to everyone involved, saying: "Thank you to Sharon Lin at Panda Panda, the Town Ambassadors and the parents who joined us, but most of all to our amazing children who made us so proud with their beautiful manners and excellent behaviour."

BE VIGILANT WITH ONLINE DATING

POLICE IN Bishop Auckland are urging people to be vigilant when using online dating sites after a woman was conned out of a large amount of money.

The woman was using a dating website when she struck up an online relationship with someone posing as a local man.

After a number of months, they made plans to meet. However, these were cancelled at the last minute as the man said he was going to work abroad and that they would meet up on his return.

The man then convinced the victim that he had lost access to his finances while abroad, and that he needed help

paying for accommodation.

He also convinced the victim that he had found some expensive jewellery and other valuable items, which he wanted to send to the UK, again convincing her to deposit large sums of cash. It was then that police were alerted to the scam.

Detective Constable Nichola Gaines, from Bishop Auckland CID, said: "Scammers will often create fake social media accounts to build up trust and a rapport with their victims.

"They will also often profess strong emotions towards their victims in a relatively short period of time before asking for money to be sent, usually

via systems like Western Union, MoneyGram or to international bank accounts. A lot of these scammers operate outside of the UK.

"These scams can have a devastating impact on victims both emotionally and financially.

"I would urge anyone who feels they have been victim of a similar crime to call police on 101 and report the fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or over the phone on 0300 123 2040."

To protect yourself from falling victim to a similar scam, take the following steps:

- Don't rush into an online relationship.
- Analyse their profile – check their photos and

details. Put them into a search engine with the phrase 'dating scam' and see if there are any reports about them.

- Talk to your friends and family, let them know what you're doing.

- Never send money to someone you have not met.

- Do not disclose any bank account or credit card details to someone you do not know.

- Be cautious when sharing personal information with people online as scammers are known to blackmail their targets.

- Be aware of what information you share on social media as scammers can use this information to target you.

Advertorial



Local Bishop Auckland business carries on success with booming baby business

MEET SAM Townsend, Shildon Town Councillor, owner of Geeky Baby and one of five directors who founded Parenting North East.

In 2013, Samantha had her first child - as a new mother, she struggled to find a baby carrier or sling on the high street that was comfortable for her and her newborn. Frustrated, Samantha started to look online for different options.

It soon became clear that the one-size-fits-all approach didn't work for the different body types and

lifestyles of new parents. Realising the opportunity, she began sourcing first and second-hand carriers and slings from a growing online community, major retailers and manufacturers to rent out to parents in her local community.

By the end of 2013, her 'sling library' was growing steadily and parents across the region would meet her in coffee shops and community centres to hire a sling or baby carrier from her collection for a month or two before bringing it back, hiring

another or being signposted towards the best places to buy. Two years later, Samantha teamed up with five other like-minded parents who were also providing similar services - Parenting North East was born which now includes over 500 slings and baby carriers to borrow and buy. Today Parenting North East has expanded to now sell a range of other baby accessories, as well as one-to-one consultations and training services.

With this expansion, Samantha also set up Geeky

Baby, home for a baby carrier, and change bag that she has designed. For both businesses she soon realised that they needed a payments solution that would work remotely whilst also being more cost-effective, fast and hassle-free.

Samantha heard about Square through her work with Shildon Town Council and realised that the flat transaction rate charges would offer a more flexible and cost-effective solution to their small business needs. Both businesses con-

tinue to grow from strength to strength by being able to accept every way their customers want to pay.

To find out more about Samantha's products visit her website: <http://geeky-baby.com/>



Grab your FREE Square reader and be part of 'Digital Bishop Auckland, Shildon and Spennymoor'

ARE YOU one of the staggering three million small businesses in the UK that are still cash-only? Did you know that nearly half of Brits (47%) would actually prefer to pay by card? In the past, taking card payments has typically been expensive and complicated for small business owners, meaning many rely on cash. In order to remain competitive, businesses need to find a way to keep pace with customer demand and the way people want to pay for goods and services.

It's no secret that the Brit-

ish High Street is a tough place at the moment, high street banks are closing, cash machines are disappearing and the number of people carrying cash is declining.

Recent research has revealed that the true cost of dealing with cash is actually costing small business owners over seven million business hours a week in labour hours and a staggering £39 million is lost each year in loose change as consumers admit to pocketing the wrong change.*

In order to support local businesses and encourage people to shop on their local high street, payments company Square has created 'Digital Bishop Auckland, Shildon and Spenny-

moor', an initiative that will set up businesses with card machines to encourage people to shop locally and pay by card.

The initiative is being spearheaded by local MP, Helen Goodman, who comments, "This initiative offers a much-needed boost to businesses in Bishop, Shildon and Spennymoor. With banks vanishing from our high streets, and fewer shoppers carrying cash, it's important that our businesses are equipped and supported to accept a wider range of payment types."

Whether you're thinking about a traditional brick-and-mortar shop or a mobile business, you can use Square Reader to take chip and PIN cards, contactless cards and mobile payments like Apple Pay and Android Pay anywhere you are doing business.



Square can help transform your business

Whatever your business, you can sign up for free** (no contracts or catches) and you'll receive a free card reader worth £39+VAT and a dock worth £19+VAT as well as and free processing credit for the first £1,000 of transactions.

Square enables millions of small and medium-sized businesses to take credit and debit card payments without monthly fees or long term commitments.

By accepting all forms of payment, you increase the number of people that you can do business with. Here are just a few ways Square can help transform the way you work:

- Get paid fast - normally next business day
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- Pay just 1.75% per transaction for payments made in person
- Pay just 2.5% for telephone orders, online payments and electronic invoices
- Use your existing device. Square is compatible with multiple iOS and Android phones and tablets, including iPhone 6 and 7.
- Track your sales and inventory through the free Point of Sale app.

For more information and to claim your free reader visit
squareup.com/go/bishopshildonspennymoor

* Square commissioned a nationally representative survey of 1,000 small business owners in the UK, conducted by Censurwide September 2018.

** Limited time offer valid only for new Square customers and is not transferable. Waived processing fees are reimbursed to your account on each deposit. Open to businesses or individuals with a DL2, DL4, DL11, DL12, DL13, DL14 or DL16 postcode.

After waived fees expire, Square charges 1.75% for all swiped transactions including Visa, MasterCard and American Express. 2.5% for manually entered transactions.





Representatives of Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service during a walkabout in the Cockton Hill area.

COMMUNITY ACTION IN BISHOP

HOUSING AND environmental issues in Bishop Auckland are being tackled through a multi-agency programme.

Durham County Council's community action scheme, which sees the authority work with emergency services in one town or village at a time, has recently started work in the Cockton Hill area of Bishop Auckland - its first destination of 2019.

The 11-week project is

running in an area covering approximately 830 properties either side of Cockton Hill Road, where a high number are privately let.

It is led by the council's community action team (CAT) and sees it joined by Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and other partners.

The initiative began with two weeks of speaking to community

groups and residents, with two engagement events organised, to find out people's concerns and allow priority work areas to be set.

The council and other agencies have now agreed a strategy for the seven weeks of action that follow, focusing on empty homes, accumulations of rubbish, privately rented properties and dog fouling.

During this period of action there will be

weekly walkabouts, project work and surgery sessions.

The sessions take place on the dates and times below at the listed locations:

- Monday 25th February, Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, 10.30am - 11.30am;
- Wednesday 6th March, Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre, 5pm - 6pm;
- Monday 11th March, Woodhouse Close

Library, 10.30am - 11.30am;

• Monday 18th March, Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, 10.30am - 11.30am.

Members of the public are invited to drop-in to speak to the CAT team about the project and report any issues of concern.

Residents are invited to join the council and its partners on a joint walkabout on Friday 1st March, meeting outside Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre at 10.30am.

The final two weeks will be spent reviewing the work undertaken and feeding back.

The community action scheme has been tackling housing and environmental issues across County Durham since 2013, following a successful pilot programme in 2012. It has visited more than 30 locations.

To find out more about the work in Bishop Auckland, visit www.durham.gov.uk/article/3939/Community-Action-Scheme-s-current-project.



DARREN, A WOODHOUSE LAD FOR WOODHOUSE CLOSE



DARREN NEWTON-WOODS, Labour Candidate for the Bishop Auckland Town Council election for the Woodhouse Close Ward, has been active in his local community, on the streets and at the doorstep with his party members to speak with residents of Woodhouse Close.

Darren, who was born and bred on Woodhouse Close Estate and has lived there all of his life, has been a member of the Labour Party since early 2018. Since joining, he has been out across Woodhouse Close and Bishop Auckland campaigning on local and national issues.

Darren is involved with his local food bank and has participated in numerous events in the area such as the 70th Anniversary of the NHS.

"I was active in my community before joining the Labour Party, and even more so since then," he says. "Me and other members from the estate have been out regularly to report issues and I'm hoping that with the support of the residents, we can confront those issues in partnership with the rest of the Town Council, the

County Council, and other supporting bodies and organisations."

Town Councillor David Wilson, who has endorsed Darren's candidature alongside County Councillor John Lethbridge, said: "I've known Darren all his life and have known his family for even longer. I know how passionate and committed this lad is to improving the lot for his community, and putting other people before himself."

Darren added: "I want to use this election and this opportunity to be the voice for our estate and to make sure that Woodhouse Close, and we as residents, have our voices heard."

"I've been reporting on issues ranging from potholes, inadequate street lighting and dog fouling, to counselling and referring people to support bodies who are living hand-to-mouth - a situation I know all too well."

The Bishop Auckland by-election takes place on Thursday 7th March. Darren, with other activists is busy going door-to-door in Woodhouse Close Estate asking how he can best support the local community should he be elected as their representative.



On 7th March, Vote Darren Newton-Woods



AN ANNUAL day for archaeology enthusiasts is back next month.

County Durham Archaeology Day, arranged and hosted annually by Durham County Council, returns to County Hall on Saturday 9th March with a fascinating day of talks and displays highlighting the history, archaeology and historic architecture of our region.

This year the talks will include an update on the investigations at Auckland Castle, accounts of the excavation of the newly discovered Roman sites located at Morton Park, Darlington, and Hurworth-on-Tees, and talks on the further research and improved facilities at Binchester Roman Fort.

On the day attendees will get the chance to hear about the new findings that have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and the findings of investigations at Bishop Middleham Quarry and the Lady Seaham Pit, West Rainton.

Dr David Mason, Durham County Council's



Dr David Mason, Durham County Council's principal archaeologist, at Binchester Roman Fort.

DIG DEEPER INTO COUNTY DURHAM'S ARCHAEOLOGY

principal archaeologist, said: "Come along to hear about what has been happening in the world of County Durham archaeology over the past year.

"Our county has such a

rich and fascinating history, from Roman forts to medieval cathedrals there will be something that is sure to spark your interest."

Taking place on Saturday 9th March, the

day runs from 9.50am to 4.05pm with tickets priced £16 per person, including a buffet lunch and refreshments.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/doitonline and choosing 'Archaeology Day' from the services listed.

Alternatively, places can be booked over the phone by calling 03000 260 000.



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Sport

Local leagues, competitions and events...



The Under 9 Aces were mascots for BAFC in their tie against Whitley Bay at Heritage Park.

ST MARY'S ROUND-UP

ST MARY'S Under 14 Aces had a great win over Grangetown in the Cup in their most recent fixture, with Bradley Charlton scoring a hat-trick.

The team ended the match with a 3-3 draw, which meant penalties. But they kept their nerve during the shoot-out to take the victory with four goals to two.

The Under 13 Aces also had a great 3-0 win over Richmond, with a hat-trick from Thomas Stones.

The Under 12 Kings lost out to Boro Rangers with Callum Dale scoring and

Adam Thompson man-of-the-match.

The Under 10 Kings also had a good game away at Leven, with Jake Wilkinson man-of-the-match.

The Under 9 Kings had a very close draw against Leven, also in an evenly matched game.

The Under 8 Kings played Darlington FC in another good game with goals from Blake Freeman (2) and Edward Machan.

The Under 7 Aces had a very exciting win against Darlington FC with goals from Kaidan Hallimond (3), Kaine Butler and Noah

Haslem.

The Under 7 Kings also had a great win against Darlington 21stars, with Robbie O'Neil man-of-the-match and Theo Walker man-of-the-match in the friendly.

The Under 23 team lost out to Thornaby in the quarter-finals of the league cup despite going ahead 3-2 with goals from Morghan Claydon (2) and James Twinn.

The Under 9 Aces enjoyed their time as mascots at the BAFC game against Whitley Bay, helping them to a 5-1 win.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB TO HOST PARA GB RECRUITMENT DAY

BISHOP AUCKLAND Table Tennis Club, based at Bishop Barrington School, has been chosen to host a Para Table Tennis Recruitment Day on Tuesday 26th February, in partnership with Para GB Table Tennis Association.

There are two sessions to attend, 1pm – 3pm for schools and 7pm-9pm for all people with disabilities who may want to try table tennis.

Para GB's Pathways Manager and National Development Coach Shaun Marples will be in attendance, along with the club's own award-win-

ning coaches and players from the National set up.

"The aim of the day is to show how much fun table tennis is," said Matt Porter, Chair of Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club. "It's such an inclusive sport and we want to show that, while trying to find GB's next future stars."

There is no charge to attend and equipment will be provided if needed.

If you would like to attend, contact Matt Porter to book a space by emailing matt@bishopaucklandttc.co.uk.



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