



THE BISHOP PRESS



Issue No 258

At the heart of our wonderful community

Saturday 6th April 2019

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If you are unable to attend the drop in due to any disabilities, then you can contact Home Groups Gateway where you will be referred to see if you are eligible for their floating support service on 0191 332 4935.



Boys Climbing Fence, Norman Cornish. Copyright: © Estate of Norman Cornish. Courtesy of Mining Art Gallery, The Auckland Project.

CORNISH CENTENARY COMMEMORATED

THE COUNTY Durham mining community that provided a lifetime of inspiration for artist Norman Cornish, will sit at the heart of a special exhibition, commemorating his centenary year.

Perhaps one of the most celebrated artists of the north east, Norman Cornish lived all his life in Spennymoor. Now generations of the former mining town have come together to co-curate an exhibition of his work at

the Mining Art Gallery, Bishop Auckland.

Titled, *Norman Cornish – A Slice of Life*, the exhibition is part of a county-wide celebration marking 100 years since the artist's birth and opens on Saturday, 6th April.

Describing his hometown, Norman Cornish said: “Spennymoor has all that a painter needs to depict humanity.” And for decades the streets, faces and landscapes that surrounded him were

a constant source of inspiration.

The pit road he walked every day to work in the mines, children playing in the street and men leaning companionably at the bar all feature in his work. And whether in paint, pastel or his famous Flo-master pen, each scene is captured with the same compassion and warmth that characterised Norman's popular renderings of everyday life.

Now, to celebrate this

legacy, residents of Spennymoor have joined Norman's children, John and Ann in choosing some of their favourite Norman Cornish artworks to be displayed at the Mining Art Gallery.

Angela Thomas, Curator at the gallery, which is part of The Auckland Project also worked with Spennymoor Settlement Sketching Club, Rosa Street Primary School

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Painting and Decorating students and Head of School, Michelle Andelin with Trades4Care co-founders Andrew Coxon and Charlie Wright.

WORK EXPERIENCE COMPANY SEEKS TRADES4CARE PROJECTS

NEW BISHOP Auckland-based Community Interest Company, Trades4Care (T4C) is looking for help.

Founders, Andrew Coxon, Charlie Wright and Deborah Jenkins want to help young people prepare for a career as skilled tradespeople by getting real life work experience in community settings.

A first pilot was run with students from Bishop Auckland College who are training in painting and decorating.

They completed a T4C induction programme and then worked with Charlie and his partner Nigel on real jobs for Butterwick Hospice and Stainton Village Hall.

The team was so successful with staff and

residents at the venues that two of the young people have already gone on to get further work, and all five of the first participants loved the experience and feel more enthusiastic about their career prospects.

Andrew Coxon said: "It's so important for young people to learn how to interact with older and vulnerable people in community settings.

"They learn so much about communication, risk assessment, and empathy, at the same time as improving their trade skills in a situation where quality and professional behaviour really matter."

News of Trades4Care has travelled fast, and the Department for Educa-

tion (DfE) is planning to include the CIC in a film featuring several case studies of best practice in work experience.

Charlie and Andrew are looking for more social and community organisations that need work doing and might be interested in giving the work to a T4C team.

Jobs are costed at competitive prices, but the venue benefits from the extra work that the young participants contribute, and from knowing that they are helping young people get a foot on a career ladder.

Charlie explained: "We work with highly experienced time-served tradespeople who enjoy coaching young people and see the benefit of

doing a good job in community settings.

"If you have a job that needs doing, give us a go - we won't let you down."

Filming for the DfE will take place in May, and T4C are particularly keen to find a job which will showcase the young people then, but more generally are happy to discuss any job in a community, care, or social venue.

If you can help, and would like to learn more about T4C, you can get in touch with Charlie at 07905 027074.

For more information on the projects already undertaken by T4C, to read testimonials and to find out more about the organisation, visit their website at www.trades4care.co.uk.

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Members of the Spennymoor Settlement Sketching Club selecting artworks for the commemorative Norman Cornish exhibition with Mining Art Curator, Angela Thomas (centre). Photograph: House of Hues, Courtesy of Mining Art Gallery, The Auckland Project.

NORMAN CORNISH EXHIBITION

FROM PAGE 1

and Tudhoe and Spennymoor Local History Society to select works to be part of the commemorative exhibition.

Their selections, whether bar settings, street scenes or familiar landscapes reveal that Norman's carefully observed and lovingly created depictions of his hometown continue to resonate with the community living there today.

Rosa Street Primary School in Spennymoor was a subject frequently sketched and painted by Norman.

Exploring his artworks, year three students now studying in the same building, recognised streets and landmarks in the town, despite them being painted decades ago. One artwork they selected, *Boys on Fence*, is an evergreen scene of children playing, one which young and old alike will find familiar.

Spennymoor Settlement Sketching Club was a central part of Norman Cornish's life and his journey into art. He joined on his 15th birthday, just one year after starting work at Dean and Chapter Colliery and it was at the club where he developed his unique style and first exhibited work in an annual exhibition.

He remained loyal to his roots at the Sketching Club, continuing to exhibit there, whilst also showing work in galleries across the north of England, nationally and alongside artists such as Henry Moore and L.S Lowry.

Norman's son, John and daughter, Ann, have chosen more personal works, portraits of them, their home life and childhood, lovingly captured and preserved forever by their father.

These artworks bring back memories of being instructed to "hold that pose" by Norman as he grabbed a pen and paper to take down a sketch.

Angela Thomas, Mining Art Curator at The Auckland Project said: "Norman Cornish is one of the most enduringly popular mining artists in the country and to celebrate his centenary we wanted to focus on his home town of Spennymoor.

"That is where it all began and where he found new inspiration every day.

"It has been fantastic to work with a range of generations and people from all across the community to explore how Norman's legacy lives on in the town and what his artwork means to them.

"Their input has resulted in a very special exhibition which puts a new and

refreshing perspective on one of the country's best-known artists."

The temporary exhibition sits alongside the Mining Art Gallery's permanent collection featuring further work by Cornish, as well as other mining artists such as Tom McGuinness, Tom Lamb and Bob Olley.

The authorised biography of Norman Cornish, which has been out of print for a number of years, has been reprinted to commemorate the artist's centenary year.

Copies of *The Quintessential Cornish*, written by Robert McManners OBE and Gillian Wales, will be on sale at the Mining Art Gallery to coincide with the exhibition, priced at £14.95.

The Mining Art Gallery is open 10am-4pm daily, tickets are £6 for adults, £4 for concession and £1 for under-16s. For more information, visit, aucklandproject.org/mining-art-gallery.

The exhibition at the gallery is one of a number of exhibitions planned across County Durham in 2019 to mark the centenary of Norman Cornish, including exhibitions at the Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle and the Bob Abley Art Gallery in Spennymoor.

For more information, visit normancornish.com.

Bishop Auckland

#LoveBishopAuckland

SPREAD THE LOVE WITH #LOVEBISHOPAUCKLAND

BISHOP AUCKLAND Town Team have launched their #LoveBishopAuckland social media campaign.

It's all about promoting positive messages on everything related to Bishop Auckland.

Town Team volunteer, Lee Brownson said: "Everyone who is passionate about the town can be part of it.

"The social media posts can be related to the history, heritage or culture.

"It can be to promote the many groups or organisations we have or to support the major town centre regeneration.

"Shops and businesses

can promote themselves along with all public events across the town."

The key aim of the #LoveBishopAuckland campaign is to try and put Bishop Auckland on the global map.

To get involved, simply download and print the logo from the town team website.

When publishing a photo or post on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, remember to use the #LoveBishopAuckland hashtag and tag in the Bishop Auckland Town Team (@batownteam) so your posts can be shared and retweeted.

MONDAY CHATS FOR CARERS

DURHAM ALLIANCE Community Care, which has a centre at Cornwall Place, Henknowle, supports carers, those living with memory lapses, learning difficulties and the socially isolated with

a Monday afternoon invitation to a cup of tea and a chat.

The sessions are free and run from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. For more details, call Helen or Kelly on 01388 748431.

CONCERT CANCELLATION

DUE TO unforeseen circumstances, the Crook and Weardale Choral Society Concert, scheduled to take place at St Cuthbert's Church in

Etherley on Tuesday 16th April has had to be cancelled.

"We do apologise for the short notice," said a spokesperson.



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CANCER CHARITY NIGHT

GREAT AYCLIFFE Cancer Support Group, which has been running for over five years and provides support to many residents in Bishop Auckland, is hosting a Charity Night fundraiser at Newton Aycliffe WMC on Friday 12th April from 7pm.

The event will include musical entertainment from Chrissy and from The Hudson Sisters as well as a fundraising raffle and games.

Thickets for the event are £5 and available from the bar or by contacting Allison on 07762 258 696.

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Chief Executive of believe housing, Bill Fullen.

NEW IDENTITY FOR LOCAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION

COUNTY DURHAM Housing Group, the social and affordable housing provider for Bishop Auckland has revealed its new identity and vision for the future of social housing in the region.

The group, which provides low-cost homes for more than 18,000 families in the region, has been rebranded as Believe Housing.

The rebrand does not have any impact on arrangements for existing tenants but marks a shift in the aspirations of the four-year-old organisation.

The new name comes at the same time as a change in structure.

Following consultation with tenants and stakeholders, the four individual landlords that formed County Durham Housing Group since inception have been brought together as a single housing provider for the first time.

This means that Dale & Valley Homes, Durham City Homes and East Durham Homes that make up the group will also now disappear.

The group's existing £54m new-build programme, which is delivering 545 homes, and £138m improvement programme to existing properties will continue under Believe Housing.

Existing community investment programmes, which have supported more than 100 local groups over the last two years, will continue as well.

Chief Executive of believe housing, Bill Fullen, said: "Since the group was formed four years ago we've come a long way, and probably quicker than we could have hoped for."

"The launch of Believe Housing is an important step in our aims to transform the provision of affordable homes in the region and help our

tenants meet their aspirations.

"When considering our new identity, the answer was right in front of us. We're remaining true to our existing vision – we believe in life without barriers – because after all, anything is possible if you believe."

"We believe that affordable housing should be the catalyst for communities to flourish and our new identity is designed to reflect that. We're determined to challenge many of the preconceptions around social housing and show that it can be a force for good in everything we do."

Believe Housing, will retain headquarters in Seaham and offices in Bishop Auckland, Durham and Peterlee, employing more than 450 people. To contact believe housing, call 0300 1311 999, visit believehousing.co.uk or follow believehousing on Facebook and Twitter.

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Until now, the needs of adults and children with autism have been addressed separately.

COUNCIL LEARN OF PROGRESS ON ALL-AGE AUTISM STRATEGY

PROGRESS ON the development of an all-age approach to autism in County Durham has been agreed by Durham County Council at their latest Cabinet meeting this week.

The Cabinet heard of a new joint strategic approach, developed through partnership working with adult and health services and children and young people's services, when it met on Wednesday, 3rd April.

Autism affects each individual differently and a person on the autism spectrum may experience difficulties with social communication, social interaction and thinking.

Until recently the needs of children with autism in the county have been addressed separately from adults. Following the council's Health and Well-being Board meeting in September 2018, it was agreed that there should be a combined *Think Autism in County Durham* action plan and an overarching all-age strategy for 2018-20. The aim of this approach is to improve support for individuals during the transition from childhood through to adulthood.

The strategy was launched as part of World Autism Awareness Week, which runs from Monday 1st to Sunday 7th April. During the week the council worked to raise awareness of the range of services and support available around the county with information stands and representatives from a range of organisations available in the Durham Room in County Hall during the week, offering advice and guidance to individuals, parents and professionals.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "Over 1,200 children and young people meet criteria for an autism diagnosis in County Durham and this new strategy aims to ensure that throughout their whole life, from starting school to applying for jobs, they have the seamless support they need."

ENERGY AND CYBER CRIME TALKS AT HENKNOWLE

HENKNOWLE COMMUNITY centre in Cumbria Place will host a Cyber Crime talk on Tuesday 9th April from 10.15am until 11.45am.

The talk, which is free to attend, will be delivered by Katie Bartle of Durham Constabulary.

"Please come along and support the event and find out how to stay safe online," said a spokesperson for Wear Valley Community Action Group, who have organised the talk.

Meanwhile, another free talk to add to the diary is an Energy Advice talk on Tuesday 21st May, also from 10.15am until 11.45am.

The talk, given by Susan Carr and Lynne Grange from Durham County Council will provide free energy advice. Everyone who attends this talk, also organised by WVCAG, will also receive a free gift.

PULL UP A PEW AT ST ANNE'S

AS PART of Bishop Auckland Food Festival, St Anne's Church in the market place is looking for individuals, businesses, community groups and families to take part in their free competition called *Pull Up A Pew*.

A spokesperson explained: "We'd love people to come in to St Anne's on the Friday night before the Food Festival begins and decorate one of our pews."

"Could you create and design the most comfortable, colourful, courageous, beautiful, fun, foodie, seasonal, sensational, sustainable, quirky, inspirational, pew?"

"The pews will be part of St Anne's Church activities, display and reflections on the theme of Sanctuary over the Food Festival Weekend"

"The public will be asked to vote which is the best pew and an overall winner will be chosen on the Sunday."

"Call 01388 662148 to book your place and to ensure you beat the rush for the best pew!"

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Glynn Wales, Kathryn Brocklesby and Robert McManners.

QUIZ NIGHT RAISES FUNDS FOR BUTTERWICK HOSPICE

BUTTERWICK HOSPICE in Bishop Auckland received a cheque for £510 from the Civic Society in Bishop Auckland last month.

In the photograph is Glynn Wales, the quiz master, Kathryn Brocklesby, Butterwick Hospice's newest fundraiser, and Robert McManners, the Civic Society's chairman.

Every year the Civic Society holds a quiz night in aid of varied charities and this year, because of the struggle Butterwick have had recently, the society decided to chose Butterwick Hospice as their chosen charity for the quiz.

The society works closely with the Town Hall in Bishop Auckland to organise a fantastic quiz night, with food, fun and a raffle.

Gillian Wales, who helps to organise all the society's quiz nights said: "I would like to thank everyone who helps us."

"It's the people who give up their spare time free of charge to help us raise the money for fantastic charities."

Kathryn said: "On behalf of Butterwick Hospice, I would like to say a huge thank you to the Civic Society for raising such a wonderful amount of money."



Town Mayor, Cllr David Fleming cuts the ribbon to declare World of Make Believe open for business.

MAYOR AND TOWN TEAM WELCOME NEW BUSINESS TO NEWGATE STREET

A NEW business providing activities for you people has been welcomed to the town centre by Bishop Auckland town mayor, Cllr David Fleming and volunteer members of the Bishop Auckland Town Team.

Owner of World Of Make

Believe, Stacey Nicholson said: "It's all about role play for 0-3-year-olds and we have individual areas from a hairdressers, builder's yard to a pirate boat."

"Other activities include music, Spanish, baby massage and yoga sessions."

"We also cater for children's birthday parties and there is also a café serving homemade food."

Town Mayor, Cllr Fleming said: "I would like to wish Stacey, Emma and Jasmine good luck and hope their venture is a great success."

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(BISHOP AUCKLAND) (PARKING AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS) (CONSOLIDATION NO. 1) ORDER 2014 (AMENDMENT NO. 1) ORDER 2018

The Council on 28/3/2019 made the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 4, 32 and 35 and Part IV of Sch. 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. Effective from 17/4/2019 this Order will make the following amendments to restrictions in the Bishop Auckland area: (1) Tenter Street (service area to the rear of the Newgate Centre): (i) Introduce a Loading only area (ii) Introduce Parking Mon-Sat 8am-6pm 30 mins no return within 1 hour (iii) Introduce Disabled badge holders only Parking 3 hour limit, no return within 1 hour (iv) Tenter Street: No Stopping At Any Time except Taxis (restricted bays); (2) Gib Chare: Introduce No Waiting/No Loading At Any Time (north side) from a point east of the entrance to The Dell westerly to property No. 21 (3) C130 Durham Road: Introduce No Waiting At Any Time (both sides) from No 43 to No 5 Durham Road then proceeding north westerly on west side of road only to entrance with Gib Chare; (4) High Bondgate - Introduce permit holder only parking on the southern side of road from Gainsborough Court to No 31 High Bondgate; (5) North Bondgate: remove the existing Parking and Loading Bays on the south side and introduce coach parking bays 8am-6pm on south side between No 41 Market Place to No 15 North and relocate the existing Disabled Badge Holder Only Parking in front of Property Nos 16 and 17 and extend the existing No Waiting At Any Time on north side to point adjacent to property No 18; (6) C130 Escomb Road: (south side) remove the existing Parking Mon-Sat 8am-6pm max stay 2 hours no return within 2 hours restriction running from Property No 29 westwards for 20 metres and extend the existing Permit Holders Only Parking over the previous restriction and the full length of the existing Permit Holders Only Parking (ER) on both sides of the road; and amend the times of the restriction to Mon-Sat 11am-1pm 4pm-6pm.

Full details can be examined at Bishop Auckland library & County Hall, Durham during normal opening hours or via the Council website. If you believe this Order is invalid because it does not comply with the legal requirements, you can apply to the High Court by 22/5/2019

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981, SECTION 53A (2) THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM (PUBLIC FOOTPATH No 27 (BISHOP AUCKLAND PARISH)) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2019

On 28th March 2019, The County Council of Durham confirmed the above order. The effect of the order will be to divert the public footpath from a point on the industrial estate road, north-east of Durham Box, proceeding in a generally west-south-westerly, then south-westerly, then southerly then south-westerly direction to a point on Footpath No. 28 to a line running from the same point north-east of Durham Box, proceeding in a generally east-north-easterly direction along the industrial estate road to the adopted highway, as shown on the order map.

A copy of the confirmed order and the order map may be seen free of charge at Woodhouse Close library and the Council's Offices at County Hall, Durham between 9am and 4pm Mon-Fri and via the Council website. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £1.15.

The order came into force on 28th March 2019 the date on which The County Council of Durham certify that the terms of Article 2 of the order has been complied with but if any person aggrieved by the order desired to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to the Act.

Dated: 6th April 2019



Helen Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL



St Andrew's pupils, parents and staff joined forces to take part in a big clean in Bishop Auckland.

ST ANDREW'S GROUPS JOIN FORCES TO CLEAN UP THEIR COMMUNITY

CHILDREN FROM St Andrew's Primary School Eco Warriors and Rights Respecting Groups have come out in force to clean up their community.

Both action groups meet monthly to discuss and plan events that help their school, community or the world, and this month they decided to join forces to tackle litter in our local area.

With the help of funding from a Gregg's Foundation Environmental Grant

for £1,200, the school was able to purchase waterproof clothes, wellies, gloves, litter pickers and refuse sacks to aid the students in their quest.

The children were joined by staff and parent helpers and focused on the area around the River Gaunless, a place where many children play and had noticed the need for improvement.

The Rights Respecting Group are focussing on Article 24: "You have the right to... a clean and safe

environment," and this activity helped the children achieve this right.

Headteacher Mrs James said: "The children in our school are passionate about doing what is right in our community.

"This project was led by the children because they wanted to do something positive for their community."

The project also links with the Big Clean event which is being run nationwide from March 22nd to 23rd April.



Katie and Sophie show off their one mile swim certificates.

KATIE AND SOPHIE RAISE MONEY FOR LEPROA

KATIE BROOKS-SHEA and Sophie Campbell, both year 7 pupils at St John's School in Bishop Auckland are showing off their one mile certificates after swimming the distance to raise money for charity.

The girls chose LEPROA, a UK-based international

charity working to beat leprosy after listening to a talk about leprosy at the school. The disease affects the most vulnerable people in the world, causing life-changing disabilities. The girls were delighted to raise over £75 for the cause.

RAFA CLUB SUPPORTS TINY LIVES

BISHOP AUCKLAND RAFA Club is set to host a Family Charity Night for Tiny Lives, the Newcastle based neonatal service for premature and sick babies across the North East and Cumbria.

The event will take

place on Saturday 27th April from 7.30pm until 11.30pm.

Entry is just £2 on the door and there will be a Disco from the Downtown Roadshow as well as a fund raising raffle and tombola.

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Sport

Local leagues, competitions and events...



Champions: St Mary's U7 Aces have won their league after a 3-3 draw away at Leven. A double from Mick Fieldson and another from Coulson Craft secured the title for the young side.

U7 ACES ARE CROWNED CHAMPIONS

BISHOP AUCKLAND St Mary's FC are celebrating their latest championship win after the U7 Aces secured their league title with a 3-3 draw away at Leven.

In other games, the U10 Kings played Middleton Rangers in a close game with Joel Carline starring and Harry Black scoring in the development game with Max Dutton picked out as the man of the match.

The U11 Aces has a fantastic 2-1 win against Saltburn who are currently top of the league. Goals from Kyle King and Jack Dale secured the win while Kai Fletcher and Jack Redhead shared the star player award.

The U11 Kings had a very entertaining game against Redcar with Joel Butler notching a hat-trick

and Mason Wright also scoring.

The U13 Aces also had two great wins to earn promotion to the First Division with goals from Aidan Barrass, John Taylor and Kieran Patterson.

The U14 Kings recorded an excellent 4-1 win over Richmond Town with man of the match, Lennon Seymour joining Luke Pinkney and a Finley Stevens double on the scoresheet.

The U17s completed their own title winning season in emphatic style with a 7-1 win over Redcar Athletic. A Tom Aldsworth hat-trick was complemented by goals from Lewis Hoare, Charlie Malcolm, Joseph Moore and Gideon Kanyondo.

The side now have a cup final to look forward to in May against the same opponents.

The U17/18 Bishop Auckland FC development team also had a great 6-1 win at Heritage Park with Thornaby the side falling victim.

The club has tickets available for the BAFC sportsman's dinner and presentation evening on Friday 10th May at Heritage Park with Chris Sutton and John Stiles keeping everyone amused.

Tickets are also available for the Tess Tickle Show on Sunday 12th May at 2pm. Call 07968 426817 for details.

Bishop Auckland first team have two games left to try and stay in the top three with the local derby at Shildon this Saturday (6th April). They then take on league champions, Dunston at home in the final game of the season on April 13th.

GOLFERS GET OFF TO WINNING START IN NATIONAL MATCHPLAY

ON SUNDAY 31st March, Bishop Auckland Golf Club started their 2019 campaign in the National Annodata Matchplay Competition in the preliminary round away to Tyne-side Golf Club.

"It was certainly a very tough draw to start with in the early golfing season," said team manager, Mark Walker, "however the five players produced some great golf to win the tie by 4.5 points v 0.5 points.

"Chris Thompson got the half point with four wins coming from Carl Johnson, Stephen Ridley, Niall Bennison and Graham Milne.

"This was a fantastic win in a competition in which we lost out in the quarter finals last year in the last game.

"We therefore missed out on the semi finals and final, which are always held in November in Spain."

TT KIDZ COMING TO BISHOP

BISHOP AUCKLAND Table Tennis Club has been chosen to play a key role in the launch of a new initiative to help youngsters develop a sporting habit.

The club was chosen by Table Tennis England as one of only five around the country to pilot the new *TT Kidz* scheme.

It will hold its first session on Thursday 2nd May at 5.30pm, as the sport's governing body trials the scheme ahead of a planned national launch in October.

TT Kidz is the largest programme of its kind that the Governing Body has launched in 20 years.

It is an eight-week programme developed by Table Tennis England to provide boys and girls aged 7 to 11 years with an inspiring, engaging and fun first experience in the game.

Children will learn all the basic skills necessary to enjoy a great game of table tennis, as well as all the benefits that an active life brings, including fit-

ness and hand/eye coordination, building social relationships and generally having a great time!

Greg Yarnall, Head of Development and Volunteering at Table Tennis England said: "The pilot projects were chosen because of their expertise and their enthusiasm for the project and we can't wait to see them in action over the next few weeks.

"I'm sure all the children who sign up will have a fantastic time."

Once signed up, all TT Kidz will receive their very own TT Kidz kit bag, holding everything they need to get started – including TT Kidz T-shirt, bat, balls, activity book and sticker album.

The programme is great value at just £40, which will include all the kit to keep as well.

Places are limited and expected to fill-up fast, so if you are interested please visit www.ttkidz.co.uk to find out more and secure your child's place.

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