



THE BISHOP PRESS



Issue N^o 274

At the heart of our wonderful community

Saturday 16th November 2019

ENTRIES OPEN FOR CIVIC SOCIETY ANNUAL TOWN QUIZ

BISHOP AUCKLAND Civic Society is once again holding the Annual Town Quiz.

The Society's aims are to promote civic interest and co-operation and to raise funds for a nominated charity in the course of an enjoyable social and intellectually challenging evening.

This year's venue is Bishop Auckland Rugby Club on Wednesday, 4th December at 7pm for a 7.30pm prompt start.

Once again, the question master will be Glynn Wales.

A table fee of £10 (up to a maximum of 6 players) is payable on application and will secure entry for each team. Pie and peas will be able to purchase and the bar will be open.

This year, all monies raised during the evening will be donated to Woodhouse Close Community Centre's Crisis in the Community project.

To take part in the quiz and support this worthy cause, email either robertmcmanners@hotmail.com or gillianwales@gmail.com for an entry form.

Places are limited and the closing date for entries is Wednesday, 20th November.



Jonathan Ruffer, Founder of The Auckland Project and Mrs Sue Snowden, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham at the official re-opening of Auckland Castle. Photograph: House of Hues, courtesy of The Auckland Project

AUCKLAND CASTLE RE-OPENS

MORE THAN one thousand people joined in a day of celebrations at Auckland Castle, as the historic site opened its doors for the first time in three years earlier this month.

The 900-year-old Castle, once home to the powerful Prince Bishops of Durham, has re-opened

following extensive conservation work, led by regeneration charity and visitor destination, The Auckland Project.

To commemorate the landmark moment, a sell-out crowd of residents from Bishop Auckland and its surrounding towns and villages enjoyed live music and entertainment

at a Georgian-themed community celebration.

A ceremony was also held, with speeches from Jonathan Ruffer, Founder of The Auckland Project and Tiffany Hunt MBE, Chair of the Committee for the North of England at The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Mrs Sue Snowden, Her Majes-

ty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, also spoke before cutting the ribbon to officially declare the Castle re-open.

Speaking at the opening, Mr Ruffer said: "The visitor destination is the first visible sign of what we're doing, but our pur-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2


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Visitors enjoy Georgian entertainment at the re-opening of Auckland Castle in Bishop Auckland.
Photograph: House of Hues, courtesy of The Auckland Project

AUCKLAND CASTLE RE-OPENS

FROM PAGE 1

pose here is to see Bishop Auckland back in the style and the confidence that it had 100 years ago

"The real pleasure is not looking at the bricks and mortar but looking at the marvellous turn out today, what that tells us is that here we are looking at the future of Bishop Auckland and it's a bright one."

The conservation has been supported by a number of organisations and individuals, including a £12.4m grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Reflecting the rich history of Auckland Castle and its grand Georgian State Rooms, visitors at the opening event enjoyed a host of history-themed entertainment with appearances from characters from the 18th century, such as Bishop Shute Barrington, as well as sword fighting demonstrations and live music from the era.

Attendees of all ages also had fun stepping into Georgian-themed fancy-dress, taking part in craft activities and trying their hand at fencing and archery.

Throughout the day, people were invited to record their personal history and links to Auckland Castle on a special Memory Tree and the Bishop's Kitchen café, inside the Castle, was open for the first time, offering a selection of snacks, sandwiches and treats all created by The Auckland Project's Catering Team.

One thousand ticket holders were given the opportunity to be among the first to step back through the Castle doors to see the newly conserved building and explore the untold stories of power and faith that lie behind its walls.

Visitors were able to walk through centuries of the Castle's history, from 300-year-old St Peter's Chapel, through the care-

fully conserved grandeur of the Georgian Gothic State Rooms to the bishops' private apartments, which have been opened up for the first time.

Clare Baron, Head of Interpretation and Exhibitions at The Auckland Project, said: "After three years of hard work and careful conservation it's so exciting to see the Castle doors re-opened and visitors welcomed back inside.

"The story of Auckland Castle and the Prince Bishops of Durham spans more than 1,000 years but for various reasons has remained relatively untold.

"Now, thanks to extensive conservation work and research, visitors are able to walk in the footsteps of the men who helped shaped the country we live in today."

Following its official launch, Auckland Castle is now open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, last entry 3pm.

Entry top the castle is priced at £10 for adults, £8 for concessions and £3 for under-16s and tickets can be pre-booked until March 2020.

Entry includes admission to the Bishop Trevor Gallery, which houses a programme of special exhibitions of fine art, with a focus on European painting from the medieval period to the present day.

Currently, the gallery is home to the National Gallery Masterpiece Tour 2019, sponsored by Christie's, which sees Nicolas Poussin's *The Triumph of Pan* displayed alongside other works.

However, visitors can also purchase an Auckland Pass, starting at £12.50 per adult, which offers regular entry to Auckland Castle, the Bishop Trevor Gallery, The Auckland Project's Mining Art Gallery and Auckland Tower visitor centre and remains valid until January 2021.

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Thousands attended this year's Remembrance service at Bishop Auckland's Market Place Cenotaph.

BISHOP AUCKLAND REMEMBERS

HUGE CROWDS gathered in Bishop Auckland Market Place on Remembrance Sunday to pay tribute to those who had fought and lost their lives in war.

The Cenotaph Service at St Anne's Church in the Market Place is organised annually by Bishop Auckland Town Council in partnership with The Royal British Legion and an estimated 2,000 people attended this year's Remembrance Service and Parade, led by WO2 MacFarlane from 8th Bat-

talion the Rifles who led the parade from the Newgate Centre to the Market Place War Memorial.

Pipes played *Abide With Me* as Dr. Robert McManners, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, laid the first wreath followed by Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Joy Allen who laid a wreath on behalf of the town.

Joy Allen, said: "The Council would like to say a huge thank you to those behind the scenes who ensure the Act of Remembrance is made possible each year, particularly

Ruth Wright from the Royal British Legion, WO2 MacFarlane from the 8th Battalion the Rifles, Rev Matt Keddlity and Clergy from St Anne's Church, members from the 2505 Air Cadets, Mike Donne from SSAFA, Bishop Auckland Police, The Army Cadets - Bishop Auckland, Bishop Auckland Pipes and Drums and the DLI Bishop Auckland Branch'.

This year the Bishop Auckland Remembrance service was closed with prayer by Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler.

COULD YOU MAKE A DOOR WREATH?

IN DECEMBER this year, there will be a project launched to decorate and adorn shop doorways, windows and railings within the Market Place and Bongate retail areas of Bishop Auckland.

The Auckland Project and the Regeneration Development coordinator have combined forces and budgets to create fresh holly, winter foliage, berries and pine cones onto wreaths and garlands to decorate these areas.

A call has gone out to Churches, WIs, floristry groups and in fact anyone who has the artistic flair and imagination to create these pieces in time for

the launch on 7th December.

There will be two workshops in the former Argos store in Bishop Auckland's Newgate Centre on Wednesday 4th December and Thursday 5th December from 11am-1.30pm where all materials and foliage will be provided.

A spokesperson for the project said: "If you have the know-how then we would love you to join us to assist in the making of these Wreaths and Garlands."

For further information contact Beryl at The Enterprise Agency on 07538 701211.

DISCIPLES NEEDED

WOULD YOU like to be a disciple in Passion Play Bishop Auckland 2020?

The role is non speaking and no acting experience is required. It is ideally suited to males aged between 18 – 50 years.

"It is an amazing opportunity to perform a significant role in the play", said a spokesperson. "Other

opportunities are also available."

If you would like to be a disciple or would like further information, email passionplaybishopauckland@gmail.com

The Passion Play will be performed on Good Friday, 10th April next year in Bishop Auckland, Market Place.



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Adam Sakr, of Bishop Auckland, has returned home to open a new business venture.

After mastering his hairdressing craft in Newcastle's Tom Baxter Hair for the past three years, he is aiming to bring the standard of the city to Bishop.

Sakr & Co. presents the modern day transition between precision barbering and contemporary hairdressing.

Growing up, Adam found you would need to visit a ladies' salon for a colour or a nice scissor cut, and a male barber shop for a sharp fade or beard line-up. But never together.

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Sakr & Co. are Adam, full-time barber, Jack Hodgson and apprentice, Drew Neilson.



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Paige Allison and her friends have raised over £1,200 so far after 'Braving the Shave' for Macmillan and The Angel Trust.

PAIGE BRAVES THE SHAVE

PAIGE ALLISON a Year 5 pupil at Cockton Hill Junior School has recently completed a Brave the Shave Challenge along with two others, hoping to raise vital funds for two fantastic charities, Macmillan and The Angel Trust.

The target, which was

originally set at £500 has been smashed and is currently standing at £1,240.

However, Paige and her friends want to keep raising as much as they can.

If anyone who would like to donate, they can do so by visiting bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shaves/paula_and_paige.

BRASS BAND AT LEEHOLME HALL

COUNDON WI will be hosting a concert by Newton Aycliffe and Brancepeth Band at Leeholme Welfare Community Centre on Wednesday 20th November.

The concert will begin

at 7.30pm and tickets, which include supper and refreshments, cost just £5. You can also pay at the door.

For more information, contact Mrs Thompson on 01388 602925



Pupils from Cockton Hill Infants School have been busy in their workshop working on their Advent window model.

ADVENT WINDOWS RETURN

FOR THE third successive year, Bishop Auckland Town Team is bringing Advent Windows to the town.

Schools and other community groups, under the direction of local artist Laura Branchley, have started to make 24 life-size models which will appear in 24 shops leading up to Christmas Eve.

On that day there will be a parade where all 24 models will be collected from the shops and taken to St Peter's Chapel where they will all be assembled into a very unusual 'alterNativity' scene.

They will be on view there for everyone to enjoy

over the holiday period.

Advent Windows this year is also an opportunity to celebrate the return of the famous paintings of *Jacob and his Twelve Sons* by the Spanish artist Francisco de Zurbarán which are on view again after the reopening of Auckland Castle.

Models are being made by schools of all thirteen paintings and the *Zurbaran Boys* will be cast as shepherds, wise men and other characters from the nativity story.

The first window will actually open at the Auckland Tower two days early to coincide with the Town Council's Christmas

Lights Switch On event on November 29th.

The first model to be revealed will be Joseph, appropriately made by St Joseph's RCVA Primary School in Coundon.

The window will be opened by Bob and Stefa McManners who have a close association both with the school and the Zurbaran paintings.

The project is funded by Northern Heartlands and other generous donors and is also supported by The Auckland Project.

For more information contact David or Pam Pott on 01388 600063 or email badventwindows@gmail.com.

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Cockton Hill Infants School pupils with their Remembrance window display

REMEMBRANCE WINDOW PRAISED

A WINDOW display by the children of Cockton Hill Infants School is currently on show at the Forces Support Shop in Newgate Centre.

The display incorporates red and purple poppies, commemorating the animals who also lost

their lives in conflict.

The work was produced after the school was invited by store manager Karen to come up with a poppy themed display.

Karen said: "The work they have done is absolutely amazing and it brought a tear to my eye

to think they could come up with something stunning like this. It is getting a lot of interest.

Headteacher, Anne Graham said: "Every child in school has had a part to play in putting it together, and the school was delighted to be involved."

CHRYSANTHEMUM & DAHLIA SOCIETY SHOW

BISHOP AUCKLAND Chrysanthemum & Dahlia Society members will be holding their annual Late Chrysanthemum show on Sunday 17th November at the Scouts Centre, Kingsway, Bishop Auckland.

Open to the public from 2.30pm – 4pm, all are

welcome along to view the fabulous flowers.

For those up for a challenge this is an open show.

To request copies of the Show Schedule, contact the Secretary on 01388 662954 or email: liz.drake1@outlook.com

BUTTERWICK CHRISTMAS FAIR

BUTTERWICK HOSPICE at Bishop Auckland are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 23rd November at the hospice on Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland.

There will be numerous stalls including cakes, books, nearly new, knitted

stalls, gifts & craft stalls, also a raffle and tombola. Hot and cold refreshments will be available.

Doors open from 11am until 2pm. Admission is free and also Santa Claus will be there. For more information telephone 01388 603003.

WOODHOUSE CHRISTMAS FAIR

WOODHOUSE CLOSE Church is holding their Christmas Fair at 2pm on Saturday 23rd November at the church on Proudfoot Drive, Bishop Auckland.

Admission is free and stalls include tombola,

cakes, gifts, toys, books and bottle stall.

Santa will be there with a gift for the children (small charge of £1), and we will be drawing our Grand Raffle.

All are welcome to this fun event.

Stopped the closure of Ward 6 and saved Breast Screening at Bishop Hospital

Supported 60 small businesses with new payment technology

Saved 100 jobs at Vinovium House

Helen Goodman

Started the campaign to save the Zurbaran Paintings at Auckland Castle

Raised funds for Auckland Youth and Community Centre

Standing alongside & working with you

Defended ASDA and Morrisons workers against unfair contracts

Led Labour's campaign against the Bedroom Tax

Defended manufacturing jobs at Cello when the Tories wanted to outsource contracts to China

Promoted by Phil Hunt on behalf of Helen Goodman, both at 1 Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6EN.



Kirsty Lowther with her wife, Stephanie and their son Joey after whom their family-run business is named.

WAFFLE HOUSE MAKES KIND CHRISTMAS OFFER

KIRSTY LOWTHER, the owner of Joey's Waffle House in St Helens Auckland, opposite McDonald's is reaching out to anyone who is in need this Christmas by offering a turkey and stuffing sandwich and a hot drink free of charge.

Kirsty remembers her own past struggles with hardship and she and her staff will be on hand to serve out the free snacks to anyone who is homeless, lonely or struggling during the festive period.

"Where you are a family or on your own, you will be more than welcome," said Kirsty, whose staff are also giving up their Christmas morning to help.

"Anyone attending will be treated with respect,

dignity and confidentiality", she added.

The cafe will be open from 9am until 12 noon, but Kirsty is also reaching out to those who may not be able to get to the cafe.

She said: "We understand that everyone might not be able to attend the shop so we are hoping the volunteer drivers in the surrounding areas would deliver to people in their own homes."

Anyone local business that would like to contribute to Kirsty's gesture, anyone who would like to volunteer, or anyone who would like to arrange for the food to be delivered to their home on Christmas Day should contact Kirsty on 07708 753255 or by email at kirsty.lowther@aol.com.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

WITTON PARK Methodist Church is holding its Christmas Fayre at 2pm on Saturday 30th November in the Village Hall.

There will be stalls, a

raffle and entertainment by the Escombe School Choir.

Admission to the Fayre is £1.50 and includes tea and biscuits.



Beth Maddox of Bishop Auckland Neighbourhood Police Team (right) with Tanya Ornsby of Auckland Youth and Community Centre and Chief Constable, Jo Farrell.

WOODHOUSE UTD ARE CHAMPIONS

A STREET games project which has seen antisocial behaviour on a housing estate cut by 95% has won a police problem-solving award, beating 11 other finalists to claim the prestigious award.

The Woodhouse Utd: Auckland Street Games project was crowned overall winner at the Problem Orientated Partnerships awards after judges heard how it tackled the problem of antisocial behaviour in Woodhouse Close Estate, in Bishop Auckland.

Inspired by the Street Games project in Peterlee, Beth Maddox, of the Bishop Auckland Neighbourhood Police Team, teamed up with the Auckland Youth and Community Centre (AYCC), Believe Housing, Durham County Council and other businesses to launch the Auckland Games – a

weekly activity session for children in Woodhouse Close.

By providing fun activities and engaging with the children and their families, the team have managed to reduce antisocial behaviour on the estate by an incredible 95% within just a year.

Presenting the awards, Chief Constable, Jo Farrell said: "The impact of these projects on both individuals and communities has been phenomenal.

"Each of the twelve finalists has been a fantastic effort; getting a grip with the issues and leading partners to get underneath some really challenging problems.

"Deciding the overall winner has been a challenge in itself, but we typically liked the Auckland Games project as it built on an initiative which has worked elsewhere; the

planning was particularly meticulous; and it also demonstrates a real sense of leadership.

"Beth saw a problem in the community which needed our help and with her tenacity and leadership, she saw it through."

Beth said: "I am delighted to have won the POP awards but even happier that we have been able to make such a difference to the lives of everyone in Woodhouse Close.

"To me the most important part is about making a change for the better in young people's lives and it has been brilliant to see the community come together.

"I certainly can't take all the credit as it was a big team effort with everyone in Bishop Auckland NPT and they deserve to be recognised for all their hard work too."

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Sport

Local leagues, competitions and events...



Jonas Railton with his dad and coach, Anthony proudly displaying his winners medal.

JONAS WINS WEXFORD BOX CUP

JONAS RAILTON of Bishop Auckland Boxing Club travelled to Ireland for the three-day Wexford Box Cup on Thursday 7th November.

He flew out with his dad and boxing coach, Anthony.

Jonas boxed in the semi final, winning unanimously against a strong opponent from Clonmel Boxing Club in Tipperary.

In the final, Jonas was up against a young man from Co. Meath's Ratoath Golden Gloves Club.

He was very experienced, having 24 bouts and only 2 losses under his belt in comparison to Jonas only having 13 bouts.

The match was very competitive with his opponent always busy in the ring, but Jonas was declared the winner on

a split decision to take another title this year and be crowned 2019 Wexford Box Cup Champion.

Jonas is going from strength to strength.

Back in May this year he became England Boxing u36kg National Cadet Champion.

He then won recently in his home club show on 2nd November against a Scottish School Boy Champion and then a week later going out to Ireland and winning the Wexford Box Cup.

Jonas was also recently mentioned in the press for being shortlisted for the *Northern Echo* Local Hero Award for most promising new talent, which is held on the 5th of December.

Meanwhile, as mentioned above, the club recently held their first boxing show of the sea-

son on Saturday 2nd November at Tindale Workingmens Club.

The show put on 18 competitive bouts which saw an England v Scotland Select.

Bishop Auckland had 14 boys, one girl and three skills bouts. Out of these Bishop scored 9 wins out of 12 competitive bouts with three losing on a close split decision.

A spokesperson said: "The club would like to thank all the clubs involved from Scotland and England.

"A massive thank you to Tyne Tees & Wear Boxing Association officials, Club Secretary Kevin Adams, whose work behind the scenes goes unnoticed and Matty Stephenson for match making, as without these the show simply wouldn't have happened."



St Mary's U7 Kings with their poppy armbands.

ST MARY'S PAY TRIBUTE ON REMEMBRANCE DAY

IT HAS proved to be another fantastic weekend for Bishop Auckland St Mary's Juniors, with all seven games taking place on the 3G all weather pitch last weekend.

The payers also all paid their respects to the fallen by wearing poppy armbands.

The U7 Aces had a great draw against Hartlepool with two goals from man of the match, Oliver Chambers.

The development game was also a great performance with goals from star player, Teddy Surtees, who bagged a hat-trick and other goals coming from Oliver Chambers and Harry Coulthard.

The U8 Aces enjoyed an exciting and competitive game against Stockton Town.

The U9 Kings played a fantastic game against Barnard Castle, producing a great goal from Finley Pinkney to win the game in a very close contest.

Layton Wymer was named the man of the match.

Jack Little scored a hat trick in the development

game in an excellent performance.

The U10 Kings played Newton Aycliffe in a thriller of a game, just losing out by the odd goal.

The U11 Kings also had an exciting game ending in a high scoring draw with goals from Isaac Chambers (2), Jake Wilkinson, Connor Scaife and Jackson Raitt.

The U12 Kings put up a good fight against a good Boro Rangers team.

The U13s County Cup match was cancelled again but is definitely going ahead this Sunday at 12 noon on the 3G.

The U15 Aces game against Kadar looked like going to a draw with both keepers playing well, but Bradley Charlton scored the winner in the last few minutes after good work from Jack Dixon.

The U17s came up against top of the table Stockton Town in another excellent game, losing out 3-2 with Regan Nixon scoring both goals.

There are 10 home games planned this weekend hopefully getting some back on the grass.

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