



## ROTARY CLUB RETURNS WITH QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER

THE INTERNATIONAL Committee at Bishop Auckland Rotary Club got back into action after a long lay-off due to Covid restrictions.

Toft Hill & Etherley Community Centre held a night of food, fun and fellowship in an effort to raise money for overseas charities.

A quiz with an international twist was set by Rotarian, John Yeomans.

Graham Barsby provided music from around the world along with Derek Ward's stand-up bingo.

A representative from Aquabox gave a short talk and demonstration.

A Ukrainian lady who works in a local care-home gave an update on how relatives and friends are living during the crisis in her country of birth.

The evening's cuisine had an international flavour. Moroccan Tagine of Lamb was cooked by President Graham Barsby, Tony Sanderson made his signature dish Bolognaise Pasta, Kishor and Vivian Velangi made Mumbai Chicken Curry whilst Kath Yeomans made Uruguayan Corned

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Robert McManners receiving the Chairman's Medal from Cllr Watts Stelling, Chairman of Durham County Council.

## CHAIRMAN'S MEDAL FOR RETIRED GP

DR ROBERT McManners OBE has been presented with the Chairman's Medal, the highest accolade that Durham County Council can award to individuals for their selfless contribution to their communities.

Dr McManners received his Chairman's Medal for his proud and passionate efforts in helping to

improve both the wellbeing of people in Bishop Auckland and the environment of the town.

As a well-loved and respected former GP, Ferryhill-born Robert cared for Bishop Auckland residents, trained fellow GPs and held clinics in the local hospital but also extended his duty to caring for the community,

as well as its individuals.

As a result, he became involved in a number of medical, social, historical and environmental projects, giving an incredible amount of time to the development of Bishop Auckland and always going the extra mile to enhance and promote the town.

Robert gives his time

to many wide-ranging groups, including the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Appeal and numerous fundraising cycle rides for local charities and organisations.

He chairs Bishop Auckland's Civic Society, Choral Society, Operatic Society, Drama Society,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Left to right: Mayor Louise Mather, Shildon Town Council; Mayor Harry Trueman, Sunderland City Council; Mayor Pat Hay, South Tyneside; Stacey Stoker Bishop Auckland College; Mayor Katie Eliot, Bishop Auckland Town Council; Judith Layfield, Vice Principle Bishop Auckland College; Cllr Watt Stelling, Chairman of Durham County Council and Mayor Sandra Haigh, Great Aycliffe Town Council.

# MAYOR'S DINNER DATE WITH AMBITION

**BISHOP AUCKLAND** Town Council Mayor, Katie Eliot, welcomed dignitaries to Ambitions Restaurant, at Bishop Auckland College on Friday.

Mayor Eliot hosted the dinner as part of her fund raising activities for the Frailty Ward at Bishop Auckland Hospital during her year of office.

Ambitions was chosen as the dinner venue to enable the college students to showcase their work.

Mayor Eliot said: "It was a wonderful evening. Myself and the other mayors from across the county and region were very impressed.

"The food was exceptional and the programme of entertainment put

together by the students was beautiful. The students involved are all very talented and I hope this experience gives them the confidence to be ambitious and reach for the stars."

"I also wish to thank local businesses who provided raffle and tombola prizes for the evening.

"We made over £240 from a blind raffle to win a *Basket of Bishop Auckland* which had gift vouchers and prizes all sourced from the wonderful businesses of our town."

Catering and hospitality students prepared the dinner and served the guests.

Art students prepared table centre pieces with the theme of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Music and performing art students provided a varied entertainment programme for the forty guests.

The event enabled practical work experience opportunities for the students, which has been a huge barrier to them during the pandemic.

The evening raised over £500 towards the Mayor's fundraising for the hospital.

During her term she hopes to raise over £3,000 for the ward to help enhance the environment for patients, by having new murals painted on the walls.

Judith Layfield, Vice Principle of the College said: "We were delighted to be approached by the Town Council to provide the venue, catering and entertainment for the Mayor's dinner.

"It was a fabulous evening and we are extremely proud of the student's achievements both on the day and in preparing and rehearsing for the event."

Special thanks was extended to Bridge Creative CIC, who provided staffing for a wonderful *Mayor's Mocktail Bar*.

Ben Tinkler of Bridge Creative, which assists adults with learning disabilities to find employment said: "We were thrilled to be asked to provide the mocktail bar for the Mayor's Dinner.

"It was a great opportunity for our apprentices who gained valuable work experience at the event."

Thanks were also given to Bishop Auckland Golf Club who loaned the college the table cloths for the evening.

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Butterwick Hospice Care family support staff, from left Carol Iveson, counsellor, Dianne McKenzie, head of family support, and Paula Thompson, counsellor.

## BUTTERWICK BEREAVEMENT SERVICES GIVEN FUNDING GRANT

A HOSPICE has been given over £30,000 in funding to provide specialist bereavement services to those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic.

Butterwick Hospice Care, in Bishop Auckland, continues to help and support families in challenging and difficult times.

The hospice was previously awarded £15,284 by Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership (AAP), to help with day care services for palliative care patients during the pandemic.

This was supported by £3,000 in Neighbourhood Budget funding from Durham County Council councillor Sam Zair for home care support.

Staff at Butterwick Hospice Care have been delighted to receive an additional £31,393 from

Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership to provide specialist bereavement services.

Counsellors will work with those specifically bereaved during the pandemic, either through coronavirus or another illness.

Services will be provided to both adults and children through one-to-one counselling and complementary therapies.

Counselling for adults will be held at the centre and for children through their place of education.

The funding was able to support fully qualified counsellors including a specialist children's counsellor to work with those under 18s, as well as complementary therapies and equipment.

Dianne McKenzie, head of family support at Butterwick Hospice Care,

said: "We are really grateful for the ongoing support we receive.

"The funding helps us to continue our provision of vital bereavement support to local people within our community, particularly to those whose loved ones have died during the pandemic."

Andrew Walker, Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP co-ordinator, said: "This vital funding will provide a big boost to bereavement counselling services at the hospice.

"It's great that staff will be on hand to help more of those who have lost someone during the pandemic, which has been such a tough time for so many people.

"We hope that those affected by bereavement will use the service to help deal with their grief and be able to improve their mental health."

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

NEW YEAR may be the traditional time to make resolutions, but I far prefer Spring when it comes to making changes in my life.

In January I'm still tucked up trying to get through the often cold, wet gloomy and short winter days; whereas this time of year I feel like I can start to 'wake up,' stretch my limbs and mind to consider what my goals are for the rest of the year.

I use nature as one of my 'spiritual' supports as I get a huge amount of hope and empowerment from observing all the living things around me (plants, animals, birds, etc.) beginning to grow again and come alive.

For many it's a time to find love and colour is emerging again in everything around us.

It's important not to be too ambitious with one's hopes and desires as one doesn't want to set oneself up to be disappointed; but it's also often the time to take some calculated risks in order to achieve one's wishes.

In our day to day lives it's so easy to get into a monotonous rut where the routine is always the same.

For many, doing something new is challenging as it's outside of their comfort zone.

Whilst the pandemic was horrible for most, it was also a valuable lesson.

On the one hand it showed us how fragile life is and how vulnerable we are; yet on the other it showed us what huge strengths we have; and the massive amount of opportunities and choices we have to improve ourselves and our lives.

Maybe it's time to ask ourselves whether we're making the most out of life? When did you last feel proud, or something intrigued you into

finding out more? When was the last time you met new people? When was the last time you did something you've always wanted to do but might have been reluctant because of fear or the energy involved? When did you last feel fully relaxed, had some fun, recharged your batteries and felt content with your lot? Who was the last person you felt loved by; or you told how much they mean to you?

All of us need to challenge ourselves to whatever extent to feel worthwhile; and to bring meaning and purpose into our lives.

It needn't be something big or expensive. For example, I've always wanted to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables and so this year I've got myself an allotment.

I'm hoping it'll help me to achieve a few goals, such as meet new people, learn about growing things and the seasons, increase my self-esteem by achieving something, keeping myself physically and mentally fit, giving me a complete break from my work, enjoy nature and so on.

So what are you going to do this Spring that will improve your quality of life? Some may make decisions that turn out to be major life changing events; others only small things – but in my experience most types of spring cleaning are good for the mind, body and soul.

David Stanton is a Senior Psychotherapist and Counsellor living and working in County Durham. For information and appointments phone 07584 711488.

Column sponsored by: [www.tatvacenter.com](http://www.tatvacenter.com)



## ROTARY CLUB FUNDRAISER

FROM PAGE 1

Beef Pie (from the city of Fray Bentos) accompanied by John's Very English Minted Mushy Peas.

The main courses were followed by Kath's Florida Cheesecake & Cream, Jill Robson's Blueberry Crumble & Cream and

Fresh Fruit Salad.

At the end of the evening, President Graham thanked all those attending as well as those who made generous donations.

The evening raised the grand sum of £1,031 which will be mainly used to support Aquabox

and Rotary's Ukrainian Appeal.

Visit the club online by searching for Bishop Auckland Rotary Club.

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Left to right: Sister Kayleigh Hutchinson with Julie Errington and Joanne Suddick of The Angel Trust and one of the neonatal diaries.

## NEONATAL ANGELS

THE ANGEL Trust have donated 500 Neonatal Diaries for parents to use, enabling them to follow the path of their precious babies during their stay in hospital and then at home.

The diaries will be issued as part of the patient admission process.

The Trust, which believes that everyone needs a helping hand some time in their life, is making a big impact in local maternity units at University Hospital of North Durham and Darlington Memorial Hospital with their thoughtful gifts.

Clair McGregor, CEO at The Angel Trust said, "Behind the scenes my team, with the help of students from St John's School & Sixth Form Col-

lege in Bishop Auckland, methodically removed the outside covers on ordinary diaries, replacing each one with a fabulous bespoke design especially created for this project with gorgeous graphics.

"We hope these diaries will create a lasting memory for the families in the neonatal unit in the future."

Collecting the diaries, Sister Kayleigh Hutchinson said, "We are very grateful to The Angel Trust for this lovely donation.

"Parents will be able to record their day to day progress with their babies, their thoughts and feelings and reflect on their special journey in years to come, a huge thank you to everyone who made this happen."

### **BRIDLEWAY NO.6 BISHOP AUCKLAND PARISH. ETHERLEY DENE (TEMPORARY BRIDLEWAY CLOSURE) ORDER 2022**

The Council on 4/5/22 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all traffic from proceeding on 180 metres of Bridleway number 6 Bishop Auckland Parish, west of Beckett Close between its junctions with B6282 Etherley Moor and Footpath number 9, Etherley Dene to enable new development drainage works to be undertaken. Alternative route will be available to pedestrian traffic from the southern side of the closure from Etherley Moor north onto Beckett Close and the link path onto Footpath number 9 leading west onto Bridleway number 6 to the northern side of the closure, and vice versa. There is no formal alternative route for equestrians and cyclists other than via the road network from Escomb to Etherley Moor via C93 and B6282. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence on 9/5/22 and are anticipated to be completed in 2 weeks. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

DATED: 7th May 2022



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



The coal mining charity, CISWO, is offering a £200 grant to help cope with the rise in energy costs.

## FORMER MINERS OFFERED FUEL GRANT

A CHARITY is offering a £200 grant to former coal miners to help them cope with the rise in fuel costs in 2022.

CISWO – the coal mining charity – has launched the scheme to provide some support towards combatting the huge hike in the energy price cap which came into effect in April.

The Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation is a UK-wide charity providing free support to former coal miners and their families.

The one-off grant will be available to former coal miners, or their partners or widows, who are identified as being particularly vulnerable due to being on a low income, live in their own home and are responsible for paying for energy costs.

It is also only available to those former mineworkers who have ten years' service in the industry or those whose last place of work was in the industry. Only one grant is available per

household.

The price rises will see millions of people having to pay around £700 more each year to heat their homes.

And with former miners often suffering from health issues, poor mobility and managing on low incomes, they may be disproportionately impacted by the changes.

Nicola Didlock, Chief Executive at CISWO, said: "We are very aware that many of our beneficiaries are vulnerable and susceptible to the cold, especially those on low incomes and trying to cope with ill-health, mobility issues and older properties to maintain.

"We want to ensure that those individuals are identified and supported to keep warm and healthy, particularly during the colder months as the energy price rise begins to impact those most affected."

CISWO's Personal Welfare team will be identifying people in need and supporting them to get

the help they are entitled to. As well as the CISWO grant, they will help people to obtain other financial aid and subsidies from the government.

The team will also be on hand to provide information about other support on offer from CISWO for former coal miners and their dependants, including:

- Confidential home visiting service;
- Advocacy, information, advice and guidance;
- Emotional support;
- Benefit applications;
- Access to mobility equipment;
- Reducing loneliness and isolation;
- Access to holidays and convalescence.

CISWO also works to secure the future of recreational facilities in former coal mining communities and work with local mining charities to ensure their services continue.

For more information about claiming the £200 CISWO grant, visit [www.ciswo.org](http://www.ciswo.org) or call 01977 703 384.

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# Everyone Succeeds

## The Barrington Way



School leaders at Bishop Barrington Academy in Bishop Auckland have initiated a rigorous and powerful journey of cultural shift and improvement across the school since becoming an Academy as part of the Advance Learning Partnership in September 2021.

Under a new Headteacher and senior team, students, families, staff and visitors to the Academy have witnessed a relentless drive to improve standards across the board underpinned by the highest expectations for all students where everyone succeeds.

Headteacher Grant Sowerby has employed a range of strategies to move the Academy to one of the most rapidly improving schools in the area.

'The Barrington Way' is an innovative approach designed to revolutionise the overall culture of the Academy based upon the highest expectations for every young person underpinned by the Academy's RISE values of Respect, Inspiration, Resilience and Excellence. The Barrington Way sets out a compelling narrative for school improvement aimed at students and staff alike and is an exciting blueprint for future development of the Academy.

Deputy Headteacher Stuart Dixon said: 'We are genuinely excited about the direction in which the Academy is headed and the bright future that is ahead for students, families and staff alike. We have taken powerful ideas from research and have worked in collaboration with other Academies within our Trust, and beyond, to adapt these ideas to suit our unique context. We are acutely aware of what does and will work for us and we have ambitious plans for the rest of this academic year, and beyond, as we continue to transform the lives of our young people.'

A recent review undertaken within the Academy concluded that, 'The Headteacher and Deputy Headteachers have established clear expectations and consistent systems for staff and students. This has created strong foundations from which all other aspects of leadership and school improvement can continue to flourish.' The Barrington Way is the next leg of this powerful and exciting journey of school improvement where the key message remains that this Academy 'Opens Doors to the Future' for all of its young people.

The Barrington Way sets out the Academy's recipe to create vision and set direction, redesign roles and responsibilities, develop people and revolutionise teaching and learning developing a culture of self-improvement and excellence for all.

**[bishopbarrington.org.uk](http://bishopbarrington.org.uk)**

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## CHAIRMAN'S MEDAL FOR DR MCMANNERS

FROM PAGE 1

The Felons' Society in Coundon, and the Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone.

Robert was also a founder trustee of Bishop Auckland Rugby Club and of Auckland Castle Trust and The Auckland Project.

As a member of the Bishop Auckland in Bloom committee and Brighter Bishop Auckland Partnership, Robert has been influential in shaping the regeneration and transformation of the town.

Working with writing partner, Gillian Wales, the pair, in partnership with The Auckland Project, created the first design-

nated Mining Art Gallery nationally when Robert and Gillian donated their Gemini Collection of almost five hundred paintings of mining art to form the gallery.

These efforts are attracting visitors to the area, supporting employment opportunities for local people, raising the profile of Bishop Auckland and helping to boost the town's economy.

Robert said: "I have always been fascinated by our locality, by its landscapes, its industries, its traditions and its people.

"I have been fortunate, working with excellent people, to have been able to combine all these interests into my profession and hobbies.

"None has been a chore, all have been a very rewarding pleasure for me."

Presenting Robert with his medal, the council's Chairman, Cllr Watts Stelling, said: "Robert's award reflects the appreciation of his tireless work in Bishop Auckland over the years, which has been welcomed and valued by his local community.

"The time he gives to all these activities is given voluntarily and enthusiastically and is an excellent and inspiring example to others."



The Faith Museum will be the first museum in England to explore the story of faith in Britain.

## THE AUCKLAND PROJECT SHOWS ITS FAITH IN DURHAM 2025 BID

THE AUCKLAND Project has welcomed a special guest for a first glimpse of its eagerly anticipated Faith Museum, while backing County Durham's ambitious bid to be named UK City of Culture 2025.

The Faith Museum is due to open in 2023 and is the latest Durham landmark to host the gigantic inflatable based on the D2025 emblem, commissioned to celebrate the launch of the exciting bid and raise local awareness and support.

The sculpture was designed by award-winning North-East artist Steve Messam and has quickly become recognisable as an icon of the campaign, which has seen County Durham make the final shortlist.

Robyn Brown, Chief Operating Officer at The Auckland Project, said: "We are delighted to support County Durham's bid to be named UK City of Culture 2025.

"The County has a glorious past, and with more investment, tourism and

growth, the promise of a glorious future too.

"The bid comes at such an exciting time for The Auckland Project, as it's the first year that we've opened Auckland Castle and its grounds together with Auckland Tower, the Mining Art Gallery and the new Spanish Gallery."

Featuring seven galleries across two floors, the museum is housed in the historic Scotland Wing of Auckland Castle and a stunning new extension designed by Niall McLaughlin Architects.

### CAR BOOT SALE

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### ABBEY ROAD AND BROOKLANDS, BISHOP AUCKLAND (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2022

The Council on 4/5/22 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on 70 metres of Abbey Road and Brooklands between the access adjacent to number 1 Abbey Road to the link road junction from Watling Road to number 1 Brooklands, and including 25 metres of link road from Abbey Road leading to Watling Road, Bishop Auckland to enable drainage installation works to be undertaken. Alternative route from the northern side of the closure from Abbey Road westerly onto Proudfoot Drive then southerly to the roundabout and north easterly on Brooklands to the southern side of the closure, and vice versa; or continuing southerly onto C130 then easterly to A688 Watling Road roundabout then northwards to the eastern side of the closure. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on 16/5/22 and are anticipated to be completed in 2 weeks. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

DATED: 7th May 2022



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

## FREE WATER SAFETY SWIMMING SESSIONS

FAMILIES CAN enjoy free pool fun as part of a campaign to encourage safer swimming.

Durham County Council is offering free pool-based activities for children and young people aged 18 and under who live in the county.

During every weekend until Sunday 17 July, the council is offering free swimming sessions to young people.

The selected sessions, which are funded by County Durham Sport, aim to inspire people to enjoy spending time in and around water safely, with rafts, floats and inflatables to add to the fun.

Cllr James Rowlandson, the council's Cabinet member for resources, investment and assets, including sports and leisure, said: "It's important to teach children about water safety, particularly in the run up to the summer holidays when we often see an increase in water-based incidents in coastal and inland beauty spots across the county.

"These free sessions give families an opportunity to enjoy the water in a safe environment.

"They're a chance to spend time together and have fun, whilst increasing young people's confidence and strengthening their swimming abilities."

Residents are encouraged to sign up for a free Thrive card in advance of the sessions.

Sign up is only needed once, and children who already have a Thrive card do not need to apply for a new one.

Parents can get a Thrive card by visiting the local authority's website at [durham.gov.uk/thrivecard](http://durham.gov.uk/thrivecard).

To participate in inflatable sessions, children must be aged eight or over and able to swim unaided.

More information about the free sessions, including dates and locations, is available at [durham.gov.uk/freeweekendswimming](http://durham.gov.uk/freeweekendswimming)



Potential recruits have until 5pm on Friday 13 May to apply.

## PC RECRUITMENT NOW OPEN

**POLICE CONSTABLE** recruitment for Durham Constabulary is now open.

Applications to join one of the top-performing forces in the country officially opened on Friday, 29 April with potential new recruits having until 5pm on Friday, 13 May to submit their application.

The force is opening applications for those interested in joining the constabulary through the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) and the Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP) schemes, as part of the Government's pledge to recruit 20,000 new officers.

Under the degree apprenticeship, student officers will study towards a degree in Professional Policing Practice through Northumbria University while working as a front-line officer, splitting their time between practical, on-the-job training and classroom-based learning.

Students will be paid

officers from day one, with a starting salary of £24,780, which eventually rises to £41,130, and university fees will be paid for by the force.

The DHEP is for applicants who already have a degree in any subject area.

Applicants will spend two years working as a frontline officer while working towards a graduate diploma in Professional Policing Practice.

A third pre-join route is available for those who have already completed the Professional Policing Degree. These entrants will also do two years' probation.

Applicants who have already passed a SEARCH/online assessment centre taken within any Home Office force in the last 24 months will go straight to interviews, which will take place in June and July.

Successful candidates will join the force from October.

Chief Constable Jo Farrell said: "We are looking

for motivated individuals to join our high-performing force.

"Policing is a challenging role and we would like to hear from all sections of the community.

"Successful candidates will join the force from October 2022, and during your time as a probationer, you will see all operational aspects of the force and receive full support. We are looking for people who can make a difference."

Joy Allen, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, said: "This is part of my Police and Crime Plan to put more officers on the streets.

"It is what the public want and I am keen to ensure that the force recruits the best people because the public deserve the best.

"If you or your family or friends are interested in helping communities and businesses thrive and feel that you can make a difference, please apply."

Apply now at: [durham.police.uk](http://durham.police.uk)

## BISHOP AUCKLAND CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

BISHOP AUCKLAND Choral Society are happy to present their spring concert, *The Gift of Music* at the Town Hall on Friday May 13th at 7pm.

The concert includes a selection of sacred and secular music reflecting the changes of the seasons.

Venera Bojkova is Musi-

cal Director, with Duncan Brown accompanying and Lily McNeill as special guest.

Tickets are £10, concessions £8, children £3, under 12s free and are available from the Town Hall, from choir members, or from Sophie Hassall on 01388 834359 and Jane Smith on 01325 360514.

## ADVICE DROP-IN AT YOUTH CENTRE

**WEAR VALLEY** Community Action Group, supported by Gaunless Gateway Big Local, has organised an information and advice drop-in session at Auckland Youth Community Centre on Walker Drive, Woodhouse Close on Wednesday 18 May from 11am until 2pm.

The drop-in will be

attended by lots of local organisations ready to provide advice, including believe housing, Alzheimer's Society, Citizens Advice, Durham Learn, Durham Deafened Support, Energy Advice, Durham Employment & Skills, Cancer Awareness and more. Private rooms will also be available.



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# Sport

Local leagues, competitions and events...



The U8 Bishops with Liverpool legend, John Barnes, who presented them with the cup.

## U8s WIN SKEGNESS TOURNAMENT

WITH THE season drawing to a close, St Mary's Juniors FC's teams are playing their last games of the season with the U17s recording a fantastic 1-0 semi-final win in the TJFA League Cup over Norton & Stockton.

The side face Guisborough in the final this Sunday, 8 May, and the entire club wishes them the best of luck.

The U7 Kings finished off their season with a great win over Stockton Town.

The U14s also played their last game and also ended the season on a winning note with an entertaining 4-3 result against Marske.

Other teams have been away in tournaments with the U8 Bishops winning a cup in Skegness, with

John Barnes presenting the trophy. The side then took their form to a Boro tournament last Monday, winning that too.

The U10 Kings also had a great weekend at Skegness, with Kevin Keegan presenting the trophies.

Next season the club is looking forward to four U7 teams with the Aces, Kings, Bishops and Castles.

## CRICKET FIRST AND SECONDS CONTINUE IMPRESSIVE STARTS

BISHOP AUCKLAND CC First XI continued their impressive start to the new season defeating third placed Richmondshire by seven wickets.

After winning the toss (finally) Nathan Rimmington's side fielded first and encountered strong resistance from the opening partnership of James Stead (31) and Marc Locky (51).

Despite an excellent new ball bowling spell from Rimmington and Roosenboom, the pair added 75 before the partnership was broken when Stead was caught and bowled from the left arm spin of Steve Chapman.

Chapman bowled unchanged for 15 overs to return an excellent 7/31.

Dale Marshall added a powerful 21 in the middle before he was caught behind leaving Richmondshire's fluent start now stuttering at 101/5.

Bishops were again slick in the field and their ability to create pressure saving singles has so far made life tough for opposition batsmen.

Alex Percival applied himself to end 15 not out but wickets fell regularly around him as the visitors were bowled out for 138 from 48 overs.

Bishop's chase started positively. Steve Chapman and Jack Rutherford added 40 before Chapman fell to Marshall (1/34) caught at mid-off.

Rutherford continued his good form, finishing 59 not out with a knock that included 12 fours.

By the time Nathan Rimmington came to the crease, the Richmondshire total was well in sight.

With the pending rain looming, Rimmington batted positively to finish with a run a ball 23 which included three fours and pulled six over mid-wicket to see his team home by seven wickets.

Meanwhile the Second XI also continued their unbeaten start to the season with a winning draw away at Marske CC.

Winning the toss and electing to bat under clear blue skies, Bishop raced out to 70, only losing one wicket with Jacob Dinger top scoring with an impressive 39.

However, under cloudier skies, Bishop struggled to keep up the pace.

Thomas Stones added 21 and James Dowson 26, but Bishop continued to lose wickets at regular intervals before eventually being bowled out for 161 in 38 overs.

In reply, Marske were reduced to 38-3 inside 18 overs with Thomas Stones taking 2-19 off his 10 overs being the pick of the bowlers.

Despite Bishop's continued efforts to take wickets, Marske's young batsmen defied the bowling and held out without losing any further wickets, eventually ending on 91-3 off 42 overs.

You can follow the progress of all the club's sides, including the juniors, by following their Facebook page @Bishop Cricket.

## TWO BLUES CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BISHOP AUCKLAND Chairman, Steve Coulthard, has issued his end of season report, looking forward to the future after a disappointing and anxious campaign which saw the club flirting with relegation throughout the season.

"After a long, challenging season," said Steve, "I would like to thank Chris Hardy and his team for keeping focused and professional at all times and ultimately keeping

Bishop Auckland FC in Northern League Division One.

"This is a season we all want to put behind us, but our resilience sees us move on to what we all hope to be an exciting pre-season and a time where Chris can stamp his own mark onto the team.

"Chris has already shared some of his plans and has already started to talk to new players and we can expect some new

faces into the squad.

"Myself and my fellow directors would like to give a special thank you to our band of supportive and committed volunteers who give up their time and work tirelessly behind the scenes.

"Thank you too, to all our supporters. We promise you a much more exciting season to look forward to."

For the full end of season report, visit the club website at [bishopafc.com](http://bishopafc.com).

# BISHOP AUCKLAND

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