



AYCLIFFE FELL WALKING CLUB'S PLANNED WALKS

AYCLIFFE FELL Walking Club (AFWC) is very proud to have been in existence for over 40 years.

Equally significant since the Covid19 outbreak is the return in August 2021 to a programme of monthly walks.

It has been a difficult year with no walks in the Lake District but it has meant that we have been able to engage with closer terrain in the North Yorkshire Moors, Northumberland and the Yorkshire Dales.

It is anticipated that a return to walks in the Lake District will be planned for 2023.

On August 13th AFWC has a walk going out to Cross Fell and finishing in Appleby-in-Westmoreland. AFWC

AFWC walks continue to cater for all abilities so that you don't have to take on the heights of Cross Fell and Great Dun Fell but instead can take a number of lowland routes, from the local villages of Kingland, Blencarn, Milburn and Dufton or try an ever popular route to High Cup Nick, all of which will end up in Appleby.

Later in the year, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



One thousand summer explorer passes for families went on sale on Wednesday for Auckland Castle and its grounds

SUMMER EXPLORER PASS LETS FAMILIES ENJOY AUCKLAND CASTLE

CHILDREN AND their families who live locally to Bishop Auckland can enjoy a whole summer of fun in the historic Auckland Castle and Gardens for just £10.

The Auckland Project has introduced a new Summer Explorer Pass for children and their

families, which will give them unlimited access to the popular heritage attraction for six weeks during the summer holidays for £10 per household.

1,000 passes will be available from Auckland Tower from Wednesday 27 July on a first come

first served basis, for households with a DL postcode.

The passes will be valid until Sunday 4 September.

The household must include children, who should be accompanied by well-behaved adults!

Daily games on the

stunning Bowling Green and the chance to explore one of the best-preserved Bishops' palaces in Europe will offer youngsters countless hours of summer fun during the long summer break.

In addition, on Thurs-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Bishop Oakland is a free exhibition inspired by the ancient trees and forests of County Durham.

NEW IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION ARRIVES

AN IMMERSIVE and interactive free exhibition inspired by the ancient trees and forests of County Durham has gone on display.

Bishop Oakland, an installation by North East visual artist Bethan Madocks, is now on show at Bishop Auckland Town Hall's Gallery, which is run by Durham County Council.

Visitors can explore a forest full of paper tree trunks, unfurling foliage and coloured leaves which they can touch, listen, play and add to.

The exhibition's paper forest is inspired by the prehistoric 'coal forests' which created the coal seams beneath the region, and 'Bishop's Oak' - a 400-year-old tree found in Wolsingham.

Visitors exploring the forest will find spotted trees and striped bark - patterns taken from fossil records of ancient tree relatives which grew in the area 250 million years ago.

Looking up, they will find oak leaves, acorns, and rough oak bark representing the ancient native

woodland of County Durham.

The exhibition is accompanied by a soundscape of original sound recordings of woodland across the North East. Visitors can also create their own foliage to take home or add to Bishop Oakland to help the exhibition grow and bloom over the summer.

Bishop Oakland was first developed at Woodhorn Museum in Northumberland for its Coal Forest season. It was selected for display at Bishop Auckland Town Hall's Gallery after winning the venue's annual Open Call Exhibition last year.

Creator Bethan was born in Bishop Auckland and grew up in Wolsingham, spending her childhood exploring the wild spaces and great trees of County Durham with her family.

Bethan said: "Having grown up in Weardale I was really excited to win the Bishop Auckland Town Hall Gallery Open Call for Artists in 2020.

"Bishop Oakland celebrates the wilder places of County Durham and the forests that I played in as a child, particularly 'Bishop's Oak', a 400-year-old tree tucked away in Baal Hill Woods in Wols-

ingham.

"I wanted to create an immersive, playful woodland that visitors could touch, explore and add to.

"Bishop Oakland was in part originally conceived for the 'Coal Forest' season at Woodhorn Museum in Ashington. It explored the ancient forests that created the coal which was so key to our area.

"For Bishop Oakland, I partnered these ancient paper trees with new giant oak trees, inspired by the woodland of County Durham, to tell both ancient and modern stories of our landscapes."

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "Bishop Oakland is a wonderful interactive exhibition which draws on the rich heritage of County Durham.

"It provides an ideal day out for people of all ages and I'm sure those interested in the fascinating natural history of our area will be particularly keen to visit."

Bishop Oakland will be on display until Saturday 27 August. The exhibition is free to view and is open Monday to Saturday, excluding bank holidays, from 10am to 4pm.



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Are you or someone you know struggling with budgeting your finances, claiming benefits, filling in forms or documents, getting in touch with other services or experiencing tenancy issues with your current or previous tenancy? Support is available during these financially uncertain times.

Home Group run weekly drop-ins at Woodhouse Close Church in Bishop Auckland every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.

Our friendly advisors are available to provide free confidential advice. If you are unable to attend our drop in at Woodhouse Close Church, then please feel free to contact our staff on our support line on 0191 371 1470.



Families are able to explore Auckland Castle with the Auckland Project's Summer Pass.

EXPLORE AUCKLAND CASTLE WITH A FAMILY SUMMER PASS

FROM PAGE 1

days, children will be able to enjoy even more free activities and a complimentary lunch, available for children aged 16 and under.

By offering the Summer Explorer Pass, The Auckland Project hopes to share its story with as many children and families as possible this summer.

Liz Fisher, Director of Place and Purpose at The Auckland Project, said: "Here at The Auckland Project we have always focused on ways we can help our local audience.

"We are launching the Summer Pass to enable local families to visit Auckland Castle and its beautiful Gardens during the school holidays, with the added bonus of a free child's meal and specific activities planned on a Thursday.

"Hopefully many will take up the offer and

spend their summer holidays making happy memories with us."

The Auckland Project comprises a unique collection of heritage attractions, galleries, gardens and parkland in Bishop Auckland, at the heart of County Durham including the Spanish Gallery, Mining Art Gallery and Deer Park.

A regeneration charity with a difference, The Auckland Project aspires to revitalise Bishop Auckland, through heritage and culture to ensure that future generations inherit a prosperous town, filled with hope and rich in opportunities.

Councillor Cathy Hunt, from Durham County Council, said: "I am delighted to support the

Summer Pass, as anything that benefits our community and gives residents the opportunity to visit Auckland Castle and Gardens is positive especially during such challenging times.

"I am sure that the option of a free children's lunch on a Thursday and activities on offer will be welcomed by many local families."

The Auckland Project's other attractions, including the Spanish Gallery and the Mining Art Gallery, are also open from Wednesday to Sunday, and tickets for all attractions can be purchased from Auckland Tower.

For more information on The Auckland Project and its attractions, visit www.aucklandproject.org.

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2nd Bishop Auckland Beaver Scouts have been working hard for their International Badge.

AFRO-CARIBBEAN EXPERIENCE FOR 2ND BEAVER SCOUTS

2ND BISHOP Auckland Beaver Scouts have been working on their International Badge.

They have been collaborating with Fanuel and Cape to Cairo.

Cape to Cairo set up workshops for young people to learn Djembe Drumming and other skills, whilst letting children taste Afro-Caribbean food.

A spokesperson said "It was a fantastic success, helping us work with the community and bringing family and friends together.

"Drumming the roof off the Scout Hall, Kingway with Fanuel, the Beaver Colony and parents, played the Djembe Drums. "They had great

fun and sounded brilliant. "We were finishing work for our International Badge.

"Lucky for us, it's about trying and tasting different foods which Cape to Cairo brought, and we can't thank them enough, it was delicious.

"The Beavers tried and ate a lot of different food. "Our team celebrated Young Leader Matthew, joining the team as an adult, after over three years of volunteering with Beavers.

The Beaver section is going from strength to strength. The waiting list is always open. If you would like further information please contact Roz beavers@2ndbishaupaucklandscouts.org.uk

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CHANCE TO JOIN AMBULANCE COMMUNITY LIFE SAVERS

BISHOP AUCKLAND

South is one of 24 new areas to benefit after the North East Ambulance Service announced it is expanding its army of volunteer community first responders in a bid to save more lives and support more patients across the region.

There are currently 100 community first responders (CFRs) volunteering their time across the North East, supporting patients within their own communities whilst emergency ambulance crews are travelling.

Now, thanks to a £181,080 grant from NHS Charities Together, NEAS is recruiting volunteers to create a further 24 new CFR schemes to support communities in most need, who are not currently covered by CFR schemes, increasing CFR numbers by 23%.

Recruitment of the new CFRs opens on Wednesday, 20 July, and closes on 3 August. Training will take place over the coming months, with a view to the new CFRs taking up their voluntary positions by the end of the year.

The funding will also pay

for a defibrillator upgrade project for all community first responders, as well as additional falls equipment to allow more trained first responders to attend patients who require assistance following a fall, but do not require medical treatment.

Victoria Court, deputy chief operating officer, said: "Our CFRs come from all walks of life, and all have many different reasons for choosing to volunteer their time to support us and their local communities.

"Living within the communities they serve, they can often be on scene almost immediately, providing basic life support, observations and initial treatment whilst the ambulance crews are travelling.

"They also often remain on scene, offering a much-appreciated extra pair of hands to the attending crew.

"Their contribution really does save lives," she added.

To apply, visit www.jobs.nhs.uk and search for North East Ambulance Service.



New build facilities have been proposed at Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre site.

NEW LOCAL LEISURE CENTRE PROPOSED

PEOPLE ARE invited to view and have their say on proposals to create two new leisure centres in County Durham and carry out a major refurbishment of a third.

Plans to build new leisure centres in Bishop Auckland and Chester-le-Street and refurbish The Louisa Centre in Stanley are a key part of Durham County Council's leisure transformation programme.

The programme aims to improve the physical and mental health of residents, promote physical activity and help people to live long and independent lives.

New build facilities are proposed at the Woodhouse Close site in Bishop Auckland and the former Civic Centre site in Chester-le-Street. These new centres will replace the current buildings, which are no longer fit for purpose. Facilities will also improve opportunities for physical activity and be more accessible and inclusive.

Cllr James Rowlandson, Cabinet Member for resources, investments and assets, said: "The current facilities at Bishop Auckland and Chester-le-Street have served their communi-

ties well for a long time, but they now need to be replaced. Doing this will help us meet current and future needs of residents, provide the right spaces for existing and new activities and support our people to live long, healthy and independent lives.

"As part of our plans to ensure that we offer a range of modern, well equipped, and welcoming facilities, we would urge all residents and users to share their views. Telling us what would encourage you to become more active more often, have fun and get moving more, will allow us to deliver the best possible facilities and activities for people of all ages and abilities."

Plans for each site include two new pools with moveable floors and improved accessibility, as well as new state of the art fitness suites, group exercise studios, wellbeing suites and a café, children's soft play and outdoor space.

Meanwhile, at The Louisa Centre, refurbishment plans would see the existing sports hall divided to create space for a new Clip and Climb facility, a dedicated space for wellbeing, group exercise and toning and the addition of

healthy food and drinks to a new soft play area and activity space.

Current users of all three sites, including clubs and groups, are invited to share their views and help to develop the plans.

People have until 5pm on Friday 12 August to have their say on refurbishment plans for The Louisa Centre and until 5pm on Friday 26 August to share their views on new build plans for Bishop Auckland and Chester-le-Street.

Views can be shared by calling customer services on 03000 260 000, by visiting a drop-in session in Bishop Auckland, Chester-le-Street and The Louisa Centre. A full list of dates and times for each of these can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/leisuretransformation, where feedback can also be left online.

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The Barrington Way

Where Everyone Succeeds

Bishop Barrington Academy is committed to ensuring that all students master the knowledge, understanding and skills to be academically successful. They believe that anyone who is successful in the broadest sense of the word must develop self-discipline and be given autonomy to make the right choices.

The Academy has taken the opportunity to ask parents and carers for their support in ensuring that they can continue to have high expectations and work towards helping everyone to succeed.

The Barrington Way is to support students to sustain the learning habits, day in, day out, to ensure that teachers can teach and students can learn.

Deputy Headteacher, Stuart Dixon, has asked parents/carers to support students to maintain the five learning habits of: Always on time, Be prepared for learning – uniform, Be prepared for learning – equipment, Always on task and Follow instructions first time, every time.

Mr Dixon said: "We provide all of our students with the equipment that they need for each learning day. It is then up to our students to follow our drivers of **Mastery, Autonomy and Purpose** to use their equipment, knowledge and understanding to be the very best students that they can be, so that the doors will be open to their future and they can access university or any credible alternative of their choice in the future. We are launching a number of new systems and structures in the new academic year to continue to develop an outstanding culture based around our RISE values of Respect, Inspiration, Resilience and Excellence."

Bishop Barrington Academy asks that students are focused on their learning. Lessons at the academy are expertly planned to maximise every minute. **The Barrington Way** judges every moment in learning as precious. Students should recognise the purpose of being on task no matter what is being asked of them in that moment. The Academy asks that students carry out every action of their school day with pace and purpose.

Year 11 students are invited to take part in Bishop Barrington Academy Summer School during the last week of the summer holidays.

bishopbarrington.org.uk

Woodhouse Lane, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6LA
Tel: 01388 603 307; E-mail: admin@bishopbarrington.net



ANNUAL CANVASS TO CHECK VOTER INFORMATION

HOUSEHOLDS IN County Durham are being asked to check their voter information.

As part of Durham County Council's annual canvass, households in the county will soon receive a form asking them to check the information which is currently held for them on the electoral register.

The canvass ensures that the council can keep the electoral register up to date.

It also helps the authority identify any residents who are not registered to vote so they can be reminded as to how they can register.

The majority of households will not have to take action this year, if their details are correct.

However, it is important that everyone follows the instructions on the form which will be arriving through the post over the next week.

Residents should check

their form so that the council has the correct details on the electoral register for every address in County Durham.

For those people who are not currently registered, their name will not appear on the form that is sent to their home.

The easiest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Resident who do not register online will need to request a registration form to be sent to them in the post.

Those people who have recently moved or those whose details are not included on the form can register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

For more information, please contact 03000 261 212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can visit the Durham County Council website for more information and further resources.



At the Dinner Dance, Graham Barsby passed on the Presidential Chain of Office to Tony Sanderson.

ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENTIAL NIGHT

BISHOP AUCKLAND Rotary Club recently held a Presidential Handover Dinner Dance at Bishop Auckland Golf Club.

Graham Barsby handed over the Presidential Chain of Office to Tony Sanderson during the special event.

The club meets every Tuesday from 6.15pm at

Bishop Auckland Golf Club.

In the next few weeks speakers at the meetings are confirmed as follows:

On 26 July, Dr Brian Pike held a talk about *The Shetlands*.

On 2 August, John Pine explains *Sanskrit Culture*.

On 9 August, Derek Priestman recalls his

Athletic Memories, and on 23 August, John Yeomans will present his talk on *The Old County Durham Coastline*.

Anyone interested in going along to one or all of the meetings should contact the Rotary Club Secretary Dave Fletcher-Smith on 07491 685060.

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The view of Whernside looking across to Inglebrough on one of the walks.

WALKING CLUB'S PLANNED WALKS

FROM PAGE 1

always on the second Saturday of each month, we have Pateley Bridge to Grassington (YD), Rothbury to Warkworth (N), Bowes to Middleton-in-Teesdale and Chop Gate to Helmsley (NYM).

Travel is by luxury coach

and still at a cost of £10 per head per visit. The coach picks up walkers from Darlington, Newton Aycliffe, Middridge, Shildon and Bishop Auckland and sometimes Barnard Castle if on route to the destination.

If you are interested in fell, hill or lowland walk-

ing with a friendly bunch of like-minded walkers, then this is the club for you.

Information is posted on our website aycliffefellwalkingclub.com and new walkers can apply for a seat on the coach by filling in the online form on the website.

FELLOWSHIP FOR FORMER PUPIL

PAUL YEOMANS, Managing Director of MA Architects of Newcastle and London, has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in recognition of his work in the field of medical architecture and healthcare design.

Paul and his wife Stacey, are both former pupils of King James 1st School in Bishop Auck-

land and currently live near Cullercoats Bay with their children, Connie and Charlie.

In an interview after the presentation of his FRSA, Paul encouraged young students of architecture to follow their dreams, just as he did after taking GCSE and A level exams at the Bishop Auckland school.



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Sport

Local leagues, competitions and events...



UPDATED SQUAD PHOTO FOR BISHOP AUCKLAND FC 2022/23



Bishop Auckland FC 1st team start their season on Saturday at home vs Pickering Town. Only five of last years squad remain at the club, and they are hoping for a better season.

BOXING GYM GIVEN A HELPING HAND

SOARING POWER bills left West Auckland Amateur Boxing Gym firmly on the ropes until one of its sponsors offered a helping hand.

Bishop Auckland-based FT Electrical Services carried out £1,500 worth of work free-of-charge to ensure the community facility could reduce its overheads.

The firm, run by Billy Teesdale and Steven Ferguson, supplied and fit-

ted six economical electric wall panel heaters and replaced the building's ineffective lighting, replacing it with an efficient LED system.

The gym had already resorted to turning its previous outdated and costly heaters off in a bid to reduce spiralling energy bills.

Billy heard of its plight and offered to provide the heating and lighting systems and install them for

free.

He said: "FT Electrical Services already donates £500 a year to support this fantastic facility and I'm happy to lend a hand to ensure it continues to be a safe and welcoming place for the area's youngsters to come."

Ernest Spowart added, "Everyone connected with the gym is extremely grateful to Billy and FT Electrical Services for their ongoing support."

UNDER 9S CELEBRATE THEIR WIN



U9Kings celebrate coming out on top at the Tournament.

ST MARY'S U9Kings had a great day at the Willington Tournament coming out on top winning the final on penalties.

The U8Kings had a great day also getting to the final.

The U7 Aces and Kings

were also playing and had some fantastic games.

Wanted

Bishop Press paper deliverers wanted for various rounds. If interested, please contact Jeff on 07909 992731.

RETURN OF SUPPORTERS CLUB COACH

THE CLOSE House/Bishop Auckland branch of Sunderland AFC Supporters coach, will be operating again for all

home matches, as well as some away.

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