



OPEN EVENING
 Tuesday 27th September, 5-8pm
 Headteacher welcome sessions: 5.30pm and 6.30pm

SUMMER FUN AT THE AUCKLAND PROJECT

THE AUCKLAND Project have a wide range of activities and events scheduled over the summer holidays.

No. 42, in the Market Place, are hosting events on Mondays and Wednesdays.

On Mondays, excluding Bank Holidays, from 10am until 12noon, a Creative Forum for families will take place. Get creative on a Monday morning, bring your own works of art or attend and start a new masterpiece.

It costs £5 per family.

On Mondays, from 1.30pm until 3.30pm, No. 42 are hosting a Pregnant to Preschool (0-4 years) session.

Join staff and the NHS feeding team for free peer support, activities and fun.

On Wednesday 17, Thursday 18 and Friday 19 August, from 10am

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Reverend Matt from Bishop Auckland Parish pictured with Morrisons Community Champion, Laura Ward.

PREVENTING SUMMER HOLIDAY HUNGER

MORRISONS HAS announced that it will continue to support its local community by joining the national effort to help prevent holiday hunger this summer.

Over the coming weeks, Morrisons Community Champions, Laura Ward and Julie Knighton at

Bishop Auckland will work closely with Bishop Auckland Parish, helping to provide the food they need most.

On August 8, £150 was awarded to the Parish from the community food programme that Morrisons invests in.

This aims to support

families and children by preventing holiday hunger.

Morrisons 497 stores and 25 manufacturing and logistic sites, will support school holiday activity programmes, arranged by local schools, community groups and HAF (the Hol-

iday Activities and Food Programme).

Morrisons will donate £100,000 of food to local holiday clubs across the country this summer. To help those in need, Morrisons gives surplus food to local causes, such as food banks through its unsold food programme.



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

IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION ON DISPLAY

AN IMMERSIVE and inter-
active 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 Mad-
docks, 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 foli-
age and coloured leaves
which they can touch, lis-
ten, play and add to.

The exhibition's paper
forest is inspired by the
prehistoric 'coal for-
ests' 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 fos-
sil 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 repre-
senting the ancient native
woodland of County Dur-
ham.

The exhibition is accom-
panied by a soundscape
of original sound record-
ings 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 sum-
mer.

Bishop Oakland was

first developed at Wood-
horn Museum in North-
umberland for its Coal
Forest season. It was
selected for display at
Bishop Auckland Town
Hall's Gallery after win-
ning the venue's annual
Open Call Exhibition last
year.

Creator Bethan was
born in Bishop Auckland
and grew up in Wolsing-
ham, spending her child-
hood 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 cele-
brates the wilder places
of County Durham and
the forests that I played
in as a child, particularly
'Bishops Oak', a 400-year-

old tree tucked away in
Baal Hill Woods in Wols-
ingham.

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

"Bishop Oakland was
in part originally con-
ceived for the 'Coal For-
est' season at Woodhorn
Museum in Ashington. It
explored the ancient for-
ests that created the coal
which was so key to our
area.

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

Bishop Oakland will be
on display until Saturday
27 August. The exhibition
is free, and is open Mon-
day to Saturday, exclud-
ing bank holidays, from
10am to 4pm.

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Weardale Railway has released an extended timetable over the summer to cater to the public.

SUMMER FUN AT AUCKLAND CASTLE

FROM PAGE 1

until 3.30pm there is an Art and Enterprise Summer School for ages 11-16 years.

With three days of activity, costing £5 per day, participants will be invited to be inspired by exploring The Auckland Project sites, and sup-

ported to design, make and sell at the Full Moon Market. You book a place via no42@aucklandproject.org or pop into No. 42.

Daily games on the stunning bowling green in the grounds of the historic Auckland Castle will be on offer for visitors, with extra activities

scheduled every Thursday.

Auckland Castle is also hosting a GPS scavenger hunt in the Deer Park.

The scavenger hunt is free for ticket holders and members of the public.

It takes 1-2 hours, and is a great way to take a walk through the fantastic landscape.



Bishop Auckland Music Society is to welcome The Mithras Piano Trio for the Society's final concert of the 2022 season.

NEXT CONCERT FROM BAMS

BAMS FINAL concert of the 2022 season takes place on Friday 2 September at 7.30pm in Bishop Auckland Methodist Church.

Tickets are available in advance from Brother-ton's Music Shop, or by contacting Brian Varley on 01388 606075 for £14.

Tickets will be £16 on the door.

The Mithras Piano Trio, composed of Ionel Manciu on violin, Leo

Popplewell on cello, and Dominic Degavino on piano, have played together since 2017 and have won many awards.

They perform in venues throughout the country, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Purcell Room in London.

Now, they are welcomed to Bishop Auckland, though it is a return visit for Ionel who played a memorable concert here last August.

Holiday Club – Mon. 15th to Wed. 17th August

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In Memoriam

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Believe housing are providing over 300 new homes across the county.

NEW HOMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

HUNDREDS OF affordable homes are under construction as a north-east housing association continues to realise its ambitious new build programme.

The not-for-profit housing association, believe housing, has more than 18,000 homes, stretching from Durham's coast to the rural North Pennines. It aims to deliver life

without barriers through innovative support for customers new and old, extensive community funding programmes, plus huge investment in building new homes and upgrading existing ones.

Last year it announced plans to increase its initial new build development plans, seeing it provide more than 2,000 new homes by 2026 in the region.

Nearly 700 new properties have been delivered so far, and bricks and mortar are currently being laid on more than 300 new houses and bungalows across County Durham and beyond.

Kate Abson, Director of Development at believe housing, said: "Our developments range in size, property types and tenures but what they all have in common is that they'll provide good quality affordable homes, in communities right across the region, where they are needed.

"We're working closely

with our development partners to ensure properties are high-quality and extremely energy-efficient, creating opportunities for people to rent, buy or work towards owning homes that meet their needs and aspirations.

The 300+ homes currently under construction include 20 homes in Wolsingham and four wheelchair-adaptable bungalows in Witton Gilbert, which are being built by Imperator Developments.

In Bishop Auckland, local firm T Manners & Sons is building ten bungalows on vacant land, at Ramsey Crescent in Woodhouse Close, and 100 properties have been acquired off-plan at Vistry's Bishops Park site.

"Our priority over the coming years is to ensure we continue to deliver our ambitious programme, maximising the availability of high-quality affordable homes to those who truly need them."



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LOCAL SUPPORTER SCHEME LAUNCHED

A NEW supporter scheme has been launched by regeneration charity, The Auckland Project, to celebrate all that has been achieved in its first 10 years, and to support its big ambitions for Bishop Auckland.

The Prince Bishop Friends Scheme is open to anyone who wishes to be part of The Auckland Project's mission to realise positive, lasting change for the people of Bishop Auckland by establishing the town as a visitor destination.

As well as contributing to the transformative work of the charity, all those who sign up to become a Prince Bishop Friend will enjoy unlimited access to The Auckland Project's attractions, as well as a range of additional benefits such as priority booking, exclusive events and behind-the-scenes tours.

First launched in 2012, The Auckland Project – formerly known as the

Auckland Castle Trust – was established by Jonathan and Jane Ruffer to secure the future of the 900-year-old Auckland Castle and the collection of Zurbarán paintings, *Jacob and His Twelve Sons*, which had hung there for more than 250 years.

Over the past decade, the charity's mission has expanded beyond the Castle walls to focus on the regeneration of the wider town by creating assets and opportunities from the profits generated by its historic attractions, cultural venues and hospitality outlets.

Jane Ruffer said: "The Auckland Project started 10 years ago, with the desire of working with our local community here in Bishop Auckland. I was, as so many others have been, astounded by the town's rich and unique history; the forming of The Auckland Project was a way of celebrating, protecting and sharing

that heritage.

"The Auckland Project is a charity, and the support of members means that we can continue to offer skills and education support, create new jobs and apprenticeship schemes, support local businesses to thrive."

An annual individual membership to the Bishop Friends Scheme is priced at £85 and includes 4 x complimentary tickets for family and friends. An annual joint membership is £120 and comes with 6 x complimentary tickets for family and friends.

All friends enjoy unlimited entry to The Auckland Project's attractions, access to exclusive events and experiences, priority booking and early bird tickets for seasonal events as well as a 10% discount on food, drink and retail prices.

For more information, or to sign up, visit auckland-project.org/about-us/membership.

DISCONTINUATION OF BURIALS

A DISCONTINUATION of burials at St Mark's Churchyard in Eldon has been announced.

In a letter posted by St Mark's Church, it says, "Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for Justice, acting on an application by the incumbent and churchwardens, to apply to the Privy Council for an Order requiring the discontinuance of burials in the churchyard."

Please note that this closure is only to prohibit further burials, apart from those that meet the exceptions, it does not physically close the churchyard itself and does not prevent visitors to the cemetery. There are some exceptions.

More information can be found via the St Mark's Church Facebook page.

Comments can be sent to coroners@justice.gov.uk (quoting reference CC/MAR22/035).

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Leisure Transformation Programme

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We are seeking your views on a proposed new leisure centre building in Bishop Auckland.

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FUNDING AVAILABLE FROM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP

BISHOP AUCKLAND and **Shildon AAP** has funding available for not-for-profit organisations and groups to support projects that address their priorities of: Community/Covid Recovery, Healthy Relationships and Community/Covid Recovery.

The Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP would like to invite organisations and groups to submit potential project proposals based on the themes highlighted below:

- Employability initiatives
- Advice and Guidance
- Mental Health & Well-being
- Organisational sustainability
- Food provision and support
- Social Isolation
- Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector, or

•Support to small businesses (through a third party, not-for-profit).

Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP has also received £10,000 to support community led initiatives that improve

support to children and young people around sensitive topics such as domestic abuse and ensure that there is a greater focus on prevention and early intervention.

The HRF can be used to fund projects that satisfy the following criteria:

They directly benefit young people aged 11 to 18 years (up to 25 for SEND/Care Leavers).

Applications would be considered for projects who work with the whole family.

They meet a clear identified need, they do not undermine Council or partners' policies or service delivery, they are lawful, they do not incur ongoing revenue costs without the approval of the relevant service provider.

The deadline for receiving applications is 12 September at 12noon.

To obtain an application form please use the contact 03000 268 664/03000 268 075/03000 268 663 or email bishopshildonaa@durham.gov.uk.



A Bishop Auckland woman has been ordered to pay over £1000.

COUNTERFEIT CIGARETTES SEIZED

A COUNTY Durham woman has been ordered to pay over £1,000 after counterfeit cigarettes and tobacco were found in her shop.

Durham County Council's Trading Standards team took legal action against Jennifer Spensley, of Cheesmond Avenue, Bishop Auckland, after officers inspected News and Homeware Convenience Store in St Helen Auckland.

Behind the counter and in the shop's store room, investigators found a number of what appeared to be Kent, Richmond, JPS, and Lambert & Butler cigarettes, and Turner tobacco.

All of the products lacked the standardised packaging and health warnings and, following a trademark inspection, the Richmond, JPS and

Lambert & Butler cigarettes were found to be counterfeit.

In total, officers found 6,260 illicit cigarettes and 350 grams of illicit hand rolling tobacco.

Trading Standards officers also noticed the shop was not displaying the legislated tobacco warning notice, which declares: 'It is an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.'

During an interview, Spensley, 35, admitted selling the illicit products and confirmed she had purchased them knowing they were illegal.

She appeared at Peterlee Magistrates Court and pleaded guilty to selling illicit cigarettes and tobacco from her shop premises.

She was ordered to pay a fine of £200, a victim

surcharge of £34 and £850 costs - totalling £1,084.

Owen Cleugh, Durham County Council's public protection manager, said: "Selling illegal tobacco affects communities on many levels.

"All tobacco is harmful as it can compromise the health of the public and should be sold with the required warnings. Cheap and illegal tobacco makes it easier for children to get hold of the products and can undermine efforts of stop smoking services.

"This case is an example of how our Trading Standards team is committed to dealing with illicit tobacco at all levels of the supply chain, and that we will take action against those who are found to be trading illegally."

SHILDON AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS, Area Demonstrator from Bolton, will present an evening of flower arranging entitled *Poetry in Motion*, on Monday, 5th September at 7.30pm in Shildon Civic Hall. Entry is free to members, and £5 for visitors.

There will be various stalls and refreshments will be available to buy.

Members are reminded that Annual Membership, costing £26 will be collected at the September meeting, together with subscriptions to the Flower Arranger maga-

zine at £15, as applicable.

Regular visitors and lovers of flowers are most welcome and are encouraged to join this friendly group.

For further details and information, please contact Pauline Wadge, Chair on (01388) 417145.





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Wear Valley Crematorium is holding an open day on Saturday 3 September.

WEAR VALLEY CREMATORIUM OPEN DAY

WEAR VALLEY Crematorium will be opening its doors to members of the local community for an Open Day on Saturday 3 September between 10am and 1pm.

Wear Valley Crematorium is a modern, state-of-the-art building, which opened on 2 March 2009 and is set in eight acres of well-maintained grounds.

Wear Valley Crematorium is ideally placed to serve the communities of Bishop Auckland, Newton Aycliffe and County Durham.

The crematorium is owned and operated by end-of-life services provider, Dignity.

Visitors to the Open Day will have the opportunity to ask staff any questions they may have

about the crematorium or the cremation process, speak with the crematorium's Memorial Consultant, and guests will also be offered guided tours of the crematorium and its grounds.

Andrea Todd, Wear Valley Crematorium's Business Leader and organiser of the Open Day said:

"On Saturday 3 September between 10am and 1pm we will be welcoming members of the public along to visit Wear Valley Crematorium. We will be providing refreshments – teas, coffees and a buffet – and we will be offering guided walking tours of the crematorium, including the Chapel where we hold services and the gardens of remembrance, which

features a beautiful lake and many flower beds.

"Members of the team will be on hand to answer any questions visitors may have about the crematorium, the memorials available or the cremation process.

"There's no need to register attendance.

Visitors can turn up to the crematorium and our team will be more than happy to welcome them.

There is plenty of free parking available to visitors on site.

"We look forward to welcoming members of our local community along on the 3 September."

To find out more about the Crematorium and Memorial Group visit www.dignityfunerals.co.uk.



Michael Francis will be sentenced for his offences on September 12.

LOCAL ABUSER FOUND GUILTY

"HE WON me over with his charm and seemed to be everything I could ask for but within days it just became a living nightmare, and I did not think I would get out alive."

These are the words of Emily, who survived years of horrific domestic abuse at the hands of Michael Francis.

Emily is not her real name but her story is and sadly she won't be alone.

Emily met Francis in 2015 and at first everything seemed to be going well. However, Francis soon turned nasty and subjected Emily to a barrage of abuse both mentally, physically and sexually.

Francis, now 31, subjected Emily to several attacks over months with some incidents so horrific they disturbed detectives.

One incident involved Francis dragging Emily from a car and pushing her face into muddy puddles repeatedly, holding it under for seconds at a time, repeatedly kicking and punching her as he did.

He told her that he intended to infect her lip which he had split in an earlier assault so nobody else would look at her.

"I thought a number of times that I was going to be dead," Emily said. "I took the beatings and assaults and sexual assaults. At one point I thought I was never going to escape and I just thought 'kill me and at least it will all be over' but

when I didn't die, it was like I wasn't meant to and I knew I had to get out."

Emily did manage to escape and report the abuse but felt pressured to retract her statement.

But when Francis, of Escomb Villas, Escomb, was jailed for seven years after abusing another victim, she reached out to resurrect her case.

Emily was supported by Safeguarding Detective Constable Helen Towns and Witness Care Officer Mel Elliott every step of the way.

Despite the abuse leaving Emily with complex PTSD, she bravely resurrected her case and Francis was charged with two counts of assault causing actual bodily harm, two counts of sexual assault by penetration and two counts of criminal damage in 2019.

After several delays, the case finally went to trial, with a jury finding Francis guilty of all offences after just 2.5 hours. He will be sentenced on September 12.

DC Towns, who led the investigation, said: "Emily suffered horrendously at the hands of Francis so it showed true grit and determination to resurrect her case especially when she was experiencing such fear and trauma.

"I have so much admiration for her tenacity and find her hope that she would be able to prevent what happened to her from happening to someone else, incredibly inspiring."

NEXT BOARD MEETING FOR BASH

THE NEXT Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 15 September from 4pm until 6pm at Bishop Auckland Football Club.

If you have any Neighbourhood Issues that you would like to be raised at the meeting please contact the team by Thursday 8 September 2022 by emailing bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk

If you would like to attend the meeting please inform a member of the BASH AAP team

by emailing bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk.

Funding is also available for activities for children, young people and families during the October half term holidays.

Application forms can be requested from Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP by calling 03000 268 663 or emailing bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk.

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BISHOPS ARRIVE BACK ON TOP

BACC 1XI returned to the top of the NYSD Div.1 on Saturday courtesy of a comprehensive 6 wicket victory at Kingsway over league form side Sedgefield.

Upon winning the toss on a good-looking pitch, the visitors had little hesitation batting first in the glorious afternoon sunshine.

Openers, Luke Henderson (14) and captain Tom Young (16) started their innings positively taking the score to 29 before a horror shot from Young saw him bowled by the again impressive Ben Roosenboom (4/30). Wickets began to fall at regular intervals as the Bishop bowling attack grabbed the Sedgefield innings by the throat.

Henderson fell, caught behind, and when Martin Lower (16) was bowled by Roosenboom after a gritty stay at the crease, there was real danger the visitors might not reach three figures.

Left hander David Budd (20) held the innings together batting with the tail.

He played straight and looked organised.

But the Bishop bowlers weren't to be outdone.

Ian Grainger (1/20) has started to find some pace from his rhythm and Steve Chapman chipped in with 3/23 from a dozen overs, but it was skipper Nathan Rimmington who returned to claim the final two wickets to see the visitors bowled out for 128 from 43.3 overs.

In return, the home

side stuttered initially losing Chapman and Rutherford early as David Budd found a length and caused some early problems for the batsmen.

When the in-form Scott Oldfield (17) was dubiously given out caught behind their was real optimism amongst the visiting team as the home side fell to 52/3.

The fall of Oldfield brought together Craig George (43) and a seemingly rare opportunity for Nathan Rimmington (34no). Unassuming George was again fluent scoring his runs from only 35 balls including 7 x 4's and 1 x 6 demonstrating his significant value to the Bishop top order.

At the same time, Rim-

mington played a stellar role of support, smashing his 34no from just 27 balls with 5 x 4's and 1 x 6.

Allowing the home side to chase down the needed runs comfortably in the 23rd over to win by 6 wickets.

With the season conclusion racing towards them, they look forward to the forthcoming weekend blockbuster, where the 1XI visit second placed Darlington RA for a game which even this far out will have significant bearing on the outcome of both sides season.

The scorecard is available by visiting <https://bishopauckland.play-cricket.com/website/results/5134649>.



The U8 Kings recently supported the UK Strongest Man competition.

U8S MEET UK'S STRONGEST MAN

THE U8 Kings had a great day supporting the UK Strongest Man competition at Bishop AFC last week, organised by Mark Lawson.

The Little Stars are still training every Sat 10-11 with the U6 9-10 if anyone wants to bring their children along, please turn up at the BA College.

BISHOPS FALL SHORT AGAINST STOCKTON

BISHOP AUCKLAND 3XI entertained Stockton 3rds at Kingsway on a pleasant sunny Sunday. Winning the toss Bishops invited Stockton to bat and made immediate inroads into the Stockton top order with Hinds skirling opener Savill (10) and James Holliday trapping No3 Rehman (12) LBW. However experienced opener Lee Ward and young prospect Dominic O'Neill then put the Bishops attack to the sword compiling a hundred partnership before Ward fell to Paul Immerson for a well-constructed 74. O'Neill continued his innings showing a maturity beyond his years eventually falling

to David Robinson for 87. Stockton eventually reaching 229-4 off their allotted 40 overs. Pick of the Bishop Auckland bowlers been Wally Hinds 8-2-18-1 and James Holliday 8-0-27-1.

The daunting target was approached with a high degree of improvisation by openers Jacob Dinger and David Taylor who raced to a century opening stand unfortunately Dinger had to retire out due to a pre match arrangement for personnel reasons. The momentum of the innings was maintained with David Robinson's arrival. However, David Taylor holed out when in full swing for an entertaining 60.

The arrival of flamboyant Omawale Hinds continued the drive for victory and a rapid 25 took Bishops past the 150 in the 21st over.

Unfortunately, the exit of Hinds proved the undoing of the Bishops run chase with the middle order failing miserably to support Robinson who was playing an excellent anchor role. The game was still in the balance but played in great spirit personified when Stockton lost a player to injury Bishops immediately provided a substitute fielder. With six quick wickets falling Bishops found themselves at 186-9. Into the breach stepped new acquisition Mark Murphy

and young Ethan Dowson playing with patience but putting the bad ball away the target crept closer and closer, then disaster strikes Murphy is sniped taking a quick single with a hamstring strain. Despite being in great discomfort Murphy carried on and rather settling for the draw Ethan and Mark continued to strive for victory however, the chase fell just short when Murphy was bowled for a gallant 19.

This, after a valiant tenth wicket partnership of 29 with Ethan ended with Bishops 215 all out just ten runs short.

A hard fought game but played in the true spirit of the game.

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