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VITAL FUNDS RAISED FOR ANGEL TRUST

AN AMAZING £960 was raised for The Angel Trust at Bishop Auckland Civic Society's Annual Town Quiz, held in the Town Hall.

Glynn Wales, quizmaster extraordinaire, taxed the collective brains of the 22 teams that took part.

Since its inception in the 1990s, the Town Quiz has raised thousands of pounds for local charities.

Civic Society Chair, Bob McManners, would like to thank all those local businesses and individuals who contributed to the grand raffle, members of the local community who took part and the stalwart band of 'gophers' who help each year.

He would also like to thank Operations Manager, Mark Saint, and the staff of the Town Hall for their help and support.

The 2023 Quiz will take place on Monday, 4 December.



Dean Midas with BBC Radio Newcastle presenter Emma Millen.

DEAN IS NAMED 2023 FILM MASTER

WILLINGTON FILM director, Dean Midas has been chosen as BBC Radio Newcastle and BBC Upload's Film Master for 2023 by presenter Emma Millen.

Dean will be remembered by Bishop Auck-

land FC fans as their former head of media.

Listeners can tune in to Emma's show on Wednesday 25 January to hear her talk to Dean.

It is fair to say that 2022 was a life changing time for Dean and his team,

with his characters, Eve Valentine and The Rag Dolly also going from strength to strength.

In December, Dean said: "This has been an amazing and an unforgettable month.

"As well as the latest

accolades, I was also recently named as the North East Film Maker of the Year and I must admit, I am in still in shock."

Dean is already making plans for two new short films with *The Devil's Stone* top of his list.



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The next Walking Club outing is Clayhill/Fridaythorpe to Malton on Saturday 14 January.

AYCLIFFE WALKING CLUB UPDATE

AYCLIFFE FELL Walking
Club enjoyed a tremen-
dous December day of
walks in the North York-
shire area of the Rye Val-
ley, from Chop Gate to
Helmsley.

Whilst many enjoyed
a shorter circular route
from Helmsley visiting
the grounds and build-
ings of Rievaulx Abbey,
others tackled longer
walks from Chop Gate
and places along the
B1257.

A spokesperson said,
"We got off the coach at
Fangdale Beck, passed
by a group of alpacas and
climbed steadily up to the
ridge above Long Hill and
Hawnby Craggs.

"We dropped into
Hawnby, resisting the
temptation to call in at
The Owl, and soldiered

onward towards the Rye
Valley.

"Despite the light dust-
ing of overnight snow,
hardly any fell during the
day but the fog did pres-
ent a little threat as we
went into the afternoon.

"We met up with a group
of walkers from Manches-
ter Children's Hospital.

"And then a large group
of AFWC walkers near
Rievaulx Bridge, before
making our way up Whin-
ney Bank and eventu-
ally dropping into a very
misty Helmsley for a well-
earned drink at Helmsley
Brewery.

"Following that, we all
met up at the Black Swan
for some Christmas food
and the traditional Christ-
mas Quiz organised by
Tim and Geoff."

2023 sees the release

of a new calendar of
walks with a long-awaited
return to the Lake District
in February and the sum-
mer months.

If you are interested in
joining on one or more
of their walks, visit www.aycliffefellwalkingclub.com

and book a seat
on the coach using the
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ing, you can choose a
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ing routes.

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everyone's needs at a
cost (to cover the coach)
of only £15 per person per
outing.

Annual club member-
ship is only £10/ person.

The coach picks up
walkers in South Church
and Bishop Auckland and
frequently Barnard Castle
and the Premier Inn at
Stockton if on route.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM C34 BONE MILL BANK, BISHOP AUCKLAND (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2023

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on a 268 metres length of the C34 Bone Mill Bank, Bishop Auckland from the junction with Riverside in a northerly direction to the junction with Wescott Drive to enable traffic signal refurbishment works to be undertaken. Throughout the period of closure, a diversion will be available to vehicular traffic from south side of closure in a southerly direction on Bone Mill Bank then south westerly on B6282 Auckland Road then north easterly on A688 then easterly on Douglas Crescent and southerly on Bone Mill Bank to northern end of closure and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence at 8am on 30/01/2023 and are anticipated to be completed in 19 Days. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

DATED: 14th January 2023



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

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The Auckland Project helped to support those struggling over the festive period.

PROJECT SUPPORTS LOCAL FAMILIES

A COMMUNITY food project in Bishop Auckland helped families and people struggling to make ends meet over Christmas.

The Auckland Project co-ordinates the Bishop Auckland Community Food Partnership, which supports around 720 households per week.

The network includes Shildon Alive, Baptist Church Bishop Auckland, Woodhouse Close Community Centre and Church, Little Chef / Big Chef Community Pantry at St Helen Auckland, The Wall West Auckland and Evenwood School.

Each week, The Auckland Project purchases approximately 550kg of

food from its restaurant suppliers, which is then distributed to the various partners using the Shildon Alive electric van.

This food is also supplemented by seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables from Auckland Castle's Walled Garden along with food from supermarkets which cannot be sold.

In addition to the Partnership's usual activity, during the festive period, Evenwood School put together 60 Christmas hampers for families; volunteers and staff at Woodhouse Close Community Centre made free Christmas lunches for 100 people; and the Baptist Church Bishop Auckland welcomed around 35

people for a festive lunch.

Speaking in December, Charlotte Walton, Community Co-ordinator at The Auckland Project, said: "With the continued cost of living challenges people are facing, the Bishop Auckland Community Food Partnership is offering support to as many families as possible."

"At this time of year families and those struggling to pay their bills can feel overwhelmed and the Partnership has been working together to support and help as many people as possible during Christmas holidays."

Find more of the Auckland Project at www.aucklandproject.org



19 year old Elliot Ayre was tragically killed on Tuesday 27 December.

TEENAGER DIES IN TRAGIC CRASH

A FAMILY have paid tribute to a "carefree" teenager who died after being struck by a car.

Pedestrian, Elliot Ayre suffered fatal injuries when he was involved in a collision with a taxi shortly before 2.40am on Tuesday, 27 December.

The 19-year-old was walking along the A689 in the Toronto area when he was struck by the Peugeot vehicle, which was heading towards Bishop Auckland.

Paramedics attended but, sadly, the teenager was pronounced dead at the scene.

In a statement, his loving family said: "It is with immense sadness that we announce the death of our son, Elliot Ayre, 19 years, who was lost in a tragic road traffic collision on the A689 at Bishop Auckland on 27th December 2022."

"Elliot is a much-loved son, brother, grandson and friend, social butterfly and devoted Sunderland fan who touched so many lives with his care-free spirit. We will carry him with us every day."

"We wish to thank all who have sent their support and ask for privacy

as we remember and commemorate his life, together with those who love him."

Police are appealing for witnesses to come forward, particularly anyone with dashcam footage from the area in the moments leading up to the incident.

Sgt Catherine Iley, of Durham Constabulary's Roads and Armed Policing Unit, said: "Our deepest sympathies go out to Elliot's family and friends and all those who have been touched by this tragic incident."

"We would appeal for anyone who witnessed the collision or the moments leading up to it to get in touch with us as soon as possible."

"We would particularly like to hear from anyone who has dashcam footage from the time."

The road was closed for approximately five hours while accident investigators examined the scene.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt Iley of Durham Constabulary's Roads and Armed Policing Unit on 101, quoting incident number 48 of December 27.



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Lauren Field started the transition from PCSO to Detention Officer at Durham City on 9 January.

PCSO LAUREN SAYS GOODBYE

BISHOP AUCKLAND Neighbourhood Team said goodbye to one of their most well-regarded PCSOs, Lauren Field, on Friday 6 January.

Lauren joined the Bishop Auckland team in 2017 and has been looking after the people of West Auckland ever since.

She is well-known in the community and will be a huge miss to not only the team but the residents there too.

On Monday 9 January,

Lauren commenced her training to transition across into the role of a Detention Officer based at Durham City Custody Office.

She will perform the role of keeping everything running smoothly within the custody site, ensuring the safety and well-being of detainees and visitors.

Lauren will be responsible for detainees from the moment they arrive at the station, booking them in, logging possessions, taking fingerprints, photo-

graphs and making sure they're in a secure cell.

Lauren's boss, Sgt Peter Lonsdale said: "Lauren is going to be a huge miss not only from the office but also with the community at West Auckland where she has built a lot of relationships over the years.

"She has helped us with tutoring a number of our newer PCSOs and her experience has been invaluable, but our loss will be the gain of Durham City."



Nominate your favourite constituency attraction now.

BEST ATTRACTION CONTEST

COUNTY DURHAM is becoming an ever-increasingly popular destination for visitors, with Bishop Auckland and its surrounding areas playing an invaluable role in this success.

Because of this, MP Dehenna Davison is launching another competition entitled *Best Local Attraction in Bishop Auckland constituency*.

Bishop Auckland hosts a number of attractions that locals own, work for, and enjoy themselves.

As the town grows its visitor economy further, Davison is keen to help promote the very best local attractions so that tourists know what to see and do when they visit the area.

Residents are well-equipped to again, show off the best assets the town has to offer, having chosen the best local pub, café and independent business in previous

competitions she has held.

You can nominate your favourite local attraction by visiting dehennadavison.com.

A spokesperson said, "Remember our constituency covers Bishop Auckland, Barnard Castle, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Shildon, Spennymoor along with countless villages that you can see on the constituency map included in the article.

"They are all home to many places, events, and sculptures that could be classed as an 'attraction', so please do take the time to nominate your favourite.

"There will be a vote on the final shortlist once the nominations are in.

"As ever, this will be a great chance to promote the local areas and its businesses, so feel free to shine a light on whatever attraction you like most, however obscure!"

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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 and also between 1pm and 3pm at The Angel Trust, Belvedere House, Kingsway, Bishop Auckland.

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.



Become a member

Help build a stronger community for us all



DOMESTIC ABUSE WORKSHOPS

BISHOP AUCKLAND charity, Changing Relations are co-ordinating with the Auckland Project to run two creative workshops starting this weekend.

They will explore how to express themes of domestic abuse that people usually shy away from.

The workshops will take place on Saturday 14 January at Mrs M's on Market Place, and Saturday 21 January at No. 42 Market Place.

Both workshops will run from 10.30am until 3.30pm.

Part of their 'Don't Look Away' project, the workshops will encourage participants to use different artforms to draw attention to domestic abuse, including textiles, graffiti, painting and creative writing.

Residents will then be able to have their say on how artistry can best be used to help the suffering of victims, having experimented with the various forms of creative expression.

Hot drinks and lunch will be provided.

The first workshop is

entitled *Creative Writing and Textiles*.

The second workshop is entitled *Graffiti and Painting*.

All participants will have the opportunity to take part in the project steering group, contribute to the final artist selection process, and get involved in a project tackling domestic abuse in the community.

If you are interested in getting involved, email lisa@changingrelations.co.uk with your name, email address and contact number.

FUTURE OF ALLOTMENTS

PLANS TO improve allotments across County Durham will be discussed by councillors when they meet next week.

Durham County Council's Cabinet will consider additional support for allotment associations, grant schemes, and updated tenancy agreements to make the most of these important community assets.

Following a review by the authority's environment and sustainable communities overview and scrutiny committee in 2020, there has already been significant investment made to improve how the sites are monitored and to better communicate with tenants.

Additional staff have been employed and an allotments maintenance team has been established.

The team has already got to work making repairs to the sites thanks to an increase in funding made available for maintenance activities. A grant scheme will be introduced to support allotment associations looking to complete improvement works on

the sites they manage.

At its next meeting on Wednesday, 18 January, Cabinet will consider an updated policy and tenancy agreement that will eventually be rolled out to all council allotment tenants, replacing a mix of agreements that were inherited from the district councils in 2009.

While the majority will be unaffected by the updated arrangements, a transition framework will ensure tenants have a reasonable period to make any changes on their plot that are needed to comply with the new tenancy agreement.

For all changes, there will be an option for allotment associations to agree bespoke arrangements for their sites.

Discussions will take place with town and parish councils regarding the transfer of some allotment sites to them.

If Cabinet agrees the proposals, all existing allotment tenants will be informed of the changes in a letter that will explain which of the measures will apply to their site and when they can expect to see them implemented.

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FORE BONDGATE, BISHOP AUCKLAND (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2023

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on a 190 metre length of Fore Bondgate, Bishop Auckland from junction with Finkle Street at western side of closure in an easterly direction to junction with Newgate Street to enable sewer cleanse and CCTV survey works to be undertaken. No alternative route will be available during the closure period. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on 29/1/23 from 6am and are anticipated to be completed in 6 hours. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

DATED: 14th January 2023



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



Primary School applications will close on Sunday 15 January.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS OPEN

YOU CAN apply for a primary school place in County Durham for your child for September 2023 now.

Applications will close on Sunday 15 January 2023.

A late application received after 15 January 2023 greatly reduces your chances of getting into your preferred school.

If you are applying online, as the closing date for applications nears, DCC will download your information from the parent portal.

Once this information has been downloaded to their admissions database you will not be able

to amend your application on the parent portal.

If your application has the status 'Received by the LA' then you will not be able to make any further changes by using the parent portal.

If you do still wish to make changes then you must contact the team at schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk to advise of these changes.

You must include your child's name, date of birth, address and outline the changes needed in any correspondence sent to us.

The offer of a school place will be made on 17 April 2023.

Children born between

1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 will be eligible to start in reception year.

Children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 are eligible to transfer from infant to junior schools.

If you are unable to apply online you can contact Durham County Council by email or phone and they will send you an application form.

If possible, you should return your completed form by email to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk.

Apply by visiting <https://education.durham.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

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RESIDENT OPINIONS WANTED

RESIDENTS ARE being invited to have their say and shape a new strategy to help reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in County Durham.

To further meet the needs of residents and their communities, Durham County Council is looking to refresh its Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy which will cover the next five years to 2028.

The new strategy will focus on four main priorities.

These include preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place; increasing the number of affordable homes available and improving access to them; ensuring the appropriate support is available for people who are homeless; and ending rough sleeping for good.

Cllr Alan Shield, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for equality and inclusion, said: "As a local authority, we are extremely committed to preventing people from ending up on the street.

"Our homelessness strategy sets out how we

are tackling the issues that lead to rough sleeping and includes a range of issues including financial, employment and mental health support as well as assistance with housing issues when relationships break down.

"We are working hard to sustain the reduction in the number of rough sleepers across the county, in particular in Durham City Centre, with the reports of homelessness and rough sleeping being relatively low in comparison to previous times.

"We are asking for everyone's help to develop and progress this new strategy, so please let us know what priorities you believe that we should focus our efforts on."

Feedback will be used to shape the draft strategy and action plan, which will be available for a further round of consultation later in 2023.

The closing date for comments is Sunday, 5 March. For more information, visit www.durham.gov.uk/consultation



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COUNCIL CONTINUES EXTRA SUPPORT

AMID THE cost-of-living crisis, Durham County Council have committed to continue assisting residents, after challenges including child poverty and reliance on benefits, were outlined at a conference.

The event, organised by the County Durham Partnership (CDP), heard of the support the council and other agencies are already providing to people.

This includes the local authority committing more than £3m to tackle poverty in the last year and a half.

Cllr Amanda Hopgood, Chair of the CDP and Leader of the Council, said: "We are in difficult times at the moment and we are naturally concerned by the levels of child poverty and families reliant on benefits across the North East, including here in County Durham.

"We are committed to continuing to do everything we can to help people, continuing our council tax reduction and welfare assistance schemes and the Fun and Food programme.

"We will also continue to work with partners where we can and it was great to see other organisations at the CDP event making similar commitments."

The event, was organised jointly with the part council-funded Advice in County Durham, a voluntary sector-led partnership. Presentations outlined the current situation in the region, including figures from the North East Child Poverty Commission. These showed almost 38 per cent of children in the region were living in poverty in 2021/22.

Figures from the commission also showed 52 per cent of all North East

children are in families which rely on Universal Credit or legacy benefits.

The event was told that the council has had a poverty action strategy and action plan for County Durham since 2014 which is reviewed regularly and how its scope was expanded in 2020 to include the immediate impacts of the Covid pandemic and the now evident energy and cost-of-living crisis.

The council is also using £4.6m it was given from the government's Household Support Fund to work with partners to provide food, essential household items and vouchers to residents, as well as allowing grant schemes to operate.

Information on the various forms of support provided by the council for residents is available online at www.durham.gov.uk/



Resident Gladys Young and Sandra Baynham, activities coordinator.

CARE HOMES WIN AWARD

DURHAM COUNTY Council and care homes it support have won two accolades at the national Reminiscence Interactive Therapy Activities (RITA) awards 2022.

The council and homes piloting RITA were presented with the silver award in the RITA Star Award category, and Redworth House Care Home in Shildon won the bronze award for Best Use of RITA to Prevent Falls.

The RITA equipment has been trialled in 12 care homes in the county where user-friendly interactive screens and tablets are used to assist residents, particularly those with memory impairments.

The equipment can be used to help residents in recalling and sharing events from their past through listening to music, watching news reports of significant historical events, listening to war-time speeches, playing games, watching films, and karaoke.

Cllr Chris Hood, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for adult and health services, said: "We are delighted to have been recognised in two

categories for our local care homes' use of the RITA equipment to support residents.

"County Durham care home staff do a fantastic job in caring for residents, many of whom have a range of complex needs.

"Staff have been able to utilise the RITA technology to provide tailored assistance based on each individual's needs."

Hazel Hill, activities manager at Redworth House, who started her career in social care through the County Durham Care Academy, said: "We are so happy to win this award.

"RITA has had a massive impact on both staff and residents.

"It's now part of our daily support for residents. We couldn't imagine life without it."

The County Durham Care Academy, part of the County Durham Care Partnership, aims to support the development of a well-led, skilled and valued social care workforce, from entry level to senior management, through a range of training and qualification opportunities.

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and the team wish you a Happy New Year.

The Bishop Press wouldn't be where it is without our readers and advertisers, so thank you.

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News & Sport



Dean Thexton celebrates his goal against Crook Town. Image: Joseph Gorman Photography.

BISHOPS BOW OUT OF COUNTY CUP BUT MAINTAIN PROMOTION DRIVE

BISHOP AUCKLAND FC have exited the Durham Challenge Cup at the quarter finals stage after a 3-1 defeat to neighbours, Spennymoor Town at the Brewery Field in midweek.

The National League North side proved too strong for a plucky Bishop side who halved a 2-0 deficit through Wayne Witfield to set up a grandstand finish, but it was Moors who had the final say, scoring in the final minute to complete the win.

However, it was better news for the Two Blues in the league as they continued their freescore form of last year to complete a 5-0 home win against Crook Town last weekend.

There was only one goal between the sides at the interval, courtesy of a Craig Gott free kick on 33 minutes, but Bishops ran

riot in the second half.

Dean Thexton increased the lead soon after the break before Giles converted a quick-fire double and Johnson completed the rout four minutes from time.

With 15 games remaining, Bishops remain top of the Northern League, three points ahead of Newton Aycliffe.

This weekend, the leaders travel to strugglers, Pickering Town for a 3pm kick off and will entertain Guisborough Town at home the following Saturday afternoon.

In a round up of the other games, Steve Coulthard reports that BA Ladies enjoyed a 5-1 win over Guisborough last Sunday with goals from Emma Wright (2), Natasha Napier, Ellie Geary and Katie Smith.

The BA Reserves went down 2-1 to Coxhoe in a

very entertaining game at the St John's 3G with Ashley Adams scoring.

The U18s also lost out 2-1, to Norton & Stockton in an end to end game with plenty of chances.

At St Mary's Juniors, the U15s lost 5-1 to Hardwick Juniors with Jake Bell scoring.

Like the seniors, the U14 Kings also lost out in the County Cup quarter finals with a Jackson Raitt double not enough to see them through.

The U11 Kings drew 1-1 away at Norton with Alfie French scoring.

The U11 Aces lost out at home with Riley Howard scoring for St Mary's.

The U10 Aces had a great win over Cleveland Reds with goals from Harry Coulthard, Josh Wren and Oliver Chambers, whilst the U9 Bishops lost out against Stockton in a good game.



Dr Chris Ferguson will give a talk on *Ad Gefrin*, an exciting new project based in Wooler, Northumberland.

NEXT BISHOP AUCKLAND CIVIC SOCIETY TALK

A PUBLIC meeting of Bishop Auckland Civic Society will be held on Monday 23 January from 7.30pm until 9pm in Bishop Auckland Town Hall, which is open to members and non-members.

Dr Chris Ferguson will tell us of *Ad Gefrin*, an exciting new project based in Wooler, Northumberland.

The talk is free to BACS members and at £2 to non-members.

Chris, a Newcastle and Oxford archaeology graduate, is no stranger to Bishop Auckland, having worked as Curatorial Director for The Auckland Project.

He is now Visitor Experience Director of the imaginative and visionary project *Ad Gefrin*, which is based on the Anglo-Saxon history of Bernicia ('Northumbria') and its 'Royal Court' at Yeavering, which was situated between Wooler and Bamburgh.

With the financial backing of the family haulage company, Fergusons of Blyth, a huge nationwide concern, the Great Hall of the Royal Court of Yeavering has been recreated as a tourist attraction but with an additional unique selling point – it is also Northumberland's first legal whisky distillery to be commissioned in over 200 years.

The site will open to the public in the spring of 2023 and although the distilling process takes four years of maturation before the product can be called whisky, a premium Corenkyn Blend is available now.

With his background steeped in history and the arts and with his passion for the locality Chris seems ideally suited to his new role.

Chris's talk will not only introduce us to the *Ad Gefrin* project, but will range through the historical background to the whole concept.

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