

FOOD FESTIVAL CHEFS ANNOUNCED

ORGANISERS OF the hugely popular Bishop Auckland Food Festival have confirmed a trio of celebrity chefs will headline the event's Saturday line-up.

The festival, run by Durham County Council, pulled in a record 30,000 visitors last year and returns to the town on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 April.

A weekend of delicious food and fantastic entertainment is in store, with some well-known faces taking to the stage throughout.

First up is chef, presenter and cookery book author, Phil Vickery.

Having been part of the ITV This Morning family for over 22 years, Phil is firmly regarded as one of Britain's favourite chefs.

After starting his career as a commis chef at The Burlington Hotel on Folkestone seafront, Phil worked his way up the kitchen ranks.

Phil has worked in Michael's Nook hotel in Grasmere, the Michelin starred Gravetye Manor in East Grinstead and Ian McAndrew's Michelin starred restaurant, 74, in Canterbury.

As head chef of The Castle hotel in Taunton, Phil won an incredible string of accolades including a Michelin star

WEEKEND HOST |

SATURDAY CHEF APPEARANCES






CHRIS BAVIN
CHEF, TV PRESENTER
+ AUTHOR

PHIL VICKERY
MICHELIN STARRED
CHEF, TV PRESENTER
+ AUTHOR

JANUSZ DOMAGAŁA
BAKE OFF 2022

RACHEL ALLEN
CHEF, TV PRESENTER
+ AUTHOR

Phil Vickery, Janusz Domagala and Rachel Allen will be the Saturday chefs at this year's food festival.

and 4 Rosettes in the AA guide.

He's been a fixture on the nation's television screens too, appearing on Ready Steady Cook, Proof of the Pudding, Phil Vickery's Pudding Club, and Save Money: Good Diet.

As one of the longest standing chefs on ITV This Morning, he presents live and pre-recorded cookery items as

well as his own cookery segments from locations across the globe.

An award-winning author, Phil is also a leading authority on gluten-free products and the National Food Ambassador for Coeliac UK.

Phil will share Saturday's stage with Rachel Allen, a bestselling cookery writer, TV chef and celebrated teacher at the world-famous Bally-

maloe Cookery School in County Cork.

Raised in Dublin, Rachel studied at Ballymaloe from the age of 18, remaining after graduation to cook at the Ballymaloe House Hotel and Restaurant.

She then set off to cook around the world, returning afterwards to Ballymaloe to work at the cookery school. It was there she found her pas-

sion for teaching, where she continues to lecture to this day.

Rachel is a popular figure in the culinary world, with an international audience for her best-selling cookery books and food writing, her live demonstrations, and her much-loved television programmes.

Rachel's first book and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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You can watch the episode now via BBC iPlayer.

DIGGING FOR BRITAIN COMES TO BISHOP

VIEWERS OF the popular BBC2 series *Digging For Britain* will soon be treated to a trip to Auckland Castle to find out more about its medieval history.

Presenter Prof Alice Roberts and the production team spent time with archaeologists from The Auckland Project and Durham University last year to explore the results of a five-year excavation project.

Since the first dig in 2017, around 500 archaeologists and volunteers - led by John Castling, Archaeology Curator at The Auckland Project, and Prof Chris Gerrard, Professor of Archaeology at Durham University - have been involved in making a number of exciting finds, not least the amazing discovery of a long-lost medieval chapel.

The episode, which will be broadcast on BBC2 on Sunday 12 February at 8pm (but which is available now on BBC iPlayer) sees Prof Roberts hear more about Bek's Chapel, a magnificent building constructed during the early 14th century during the rule of Prince Bishop of Durham, Anthony Bek (1284-1310).

Although its existence had been documented,

the chapel's location had remained a mystery since its destruction in the 1650s by Sir Arthur Haselrig, following the English Civil War.

It was uncovered over a number of years beneath the castle's lawns before being revealed to the public in a special exhibition in early 2020.

As well as the story of Bek's Chapel, the archaeologists also took the opportunity to share a number of objects with Prof Roberts, which have been discovered throughout the project.

Among them are a well-used medieval book clasp, an exquisite gold crucifix found between the cobbles; and a little bell, which Prof Gerrard playfully suggests could have belonged to the Bishop of Durham's monkey.

John Castling, who is also a PhD researcher at Durham University, said: "It was great to meet up with Alice and the *Digging for Britain* team and take them through the work we've been doing at Auckland Castle and the discoveries we've made.

"What *Digging for Britain* does really well is that it captures the excitement of archaeology by showing you the discoveries, while also offering a real-

istic picture of what it's like to dig a site, framing the real work archaeologists are doing in a really engaging way.

"Programmes like that are really important as they bring the subject and discoveries of archaeology to that interested public audience - and can capture and summarise an excavation, which may have taken five or six years, in 10 minutes."

Since the filming took place, excavation work on Bek's Chapel has concluded with the site being covered over for preservation. Once covered, the site will be transformed into a new Faith Garden, which visitors will be able to explore when the much-anticipated Faith Museum opens in autumn 2023.

This summer, the archaeology team will be turning their attentions to the parkland which surrounds Auckland Castle.

Mr Castling said: "We're

hoping that we will be able to locate the Roman road which goes through the park as well as exploring the lodges, fishponds and bridges, which date from between 1100 to 1500.

"There are also potentially some prehistoric monuments in the park - although they could also be medieval rabbit warrens. We'll have to wait and see what we find, and of course visitors to the Auckland Castle and its Deer Park are welcome to come to and find us while we're digging in June and ask what we've uncovered."

Series 10 of *Digging for Britain* can be found on BBC iPlayer in full, with episodes being shown on Sunday nights on BBC2 at 8pm.

Episode 6, which features Auckland Castle will be broadcast on February 12th. Visit www.aucklandproject.org for more information.

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An area of the Bishops Park site which is under development.

LAND UNLOCKED FOR MORE HOMES

A LAND deal has paved the way for a further 70 homes at a popular Bishop Auckland development.

The purchase of a 6 acre plot to the south east of Countryside Partnerships North East's Bishops Park Development, near to Auckland Park, opens the door for a third phase of construction on a site where planning consent for around 500 homes was granted back in 2011.

This final parcel of land, acquired from Durham County Council – and which was once home to old railway sidings – was brokered with the support of Ward Hadaway. It is expected that work on the £15M third phase of 70 properties could potentially commence as soon as 2024.

The land had been earmarked for housing since 2007. However, no construction took place until Countryside Partnerships North East (Previously named Vistry Partnerships North East) utilised a grant secured from Homes England's Affordable Homes Programme 2016/21, to create a financially viable scheme and unlock the potential of the site.

Countryside Partnerships North East has already constructed 99 new homes – 49 for private sale, 20 for shared ownership and 30 for affordable rent – during the first phase of works on the £89.5M project.

Delivered with an aim to increase both the housing choice and quality available to local people, the development proved popular – with all properties marketed for sale selling within just two years, despite the challenges that Covid-19 regulations posed.

Work began on a second phase of housing in May last year, which will see the delivery of 331 properties.

County Durham based, not-for-profit housing association, believe housing, is in the process of acquiring 100 of the properties for affordable rent and rent to buy, with an option on a further 100, under the same tenures.

The remaining 131 homes will be available to purchase soon through Countryside Partnerships' Linden Homes brand.

When underway, the third phase will create four new apprenticeships and safeguard nine more, whilst also providing training and vocational skills courses and placements for local young people.

Negotiated as part of the whole project, Countryside Partnerships North East will contribute over £325,000 towards infrastructure improvements to Countdown Gate Roundabout – the junction of the A689 and A688.

Andrew Rennie, Development Director with

Countryside Partnerships North East, said: "We are pleased to have unlocked this final parcel of land that will allow us to continue delivering high quality new homes that meet the varying housing needs of local people.

"We have a proven track record of working in partnership with local authorities, Homes England and housing associations, to bring a fresh approach to sites that have previously been deemed too difficult or costly to bring back into use.

"Here at Bishops Park, our expertise – and a good working relationship with Durham County Council – has resulted in a new and sustainable community that is improving both the choice and quality of homes in the area."

Countryside Partnerships North East is currently active on 12 construction sites around the North East region with a gross development value of just over £500 million and is working with eight housing associations and seven local authorities.

Formerly known locally as Vistry Partnerships North East, a national merger between Vistry Group and Countryside Partnerships last year, saw a rebrand and change of name. Work on North East projects has continued unaffected and it is very much business as usual.



Local author, Lee Maroney.

LEE RELEASES SECOND BOOK

LOCAL AUTHOR, Lee Maroney has a new book entitled *The Evil Inside II*, – a direct sequel to the original, and a continuation of the book's characters and storylines.

The sales from the first have grown steadily over the last year and has had excellent reviews which can be read on sites like Amazon, Goodreads and all major stockists.

As with the first, the sequel has been released by Austin Macauley Publishers, who have given Lee great support and help with promotion.

Lee is a 47-year-old married man and has been a carer of his disabled wife for almost 30 years.

He has a 20-year-old daughter and two crazy cockapoos, so writing

had always just been a hobby.

Lee said: "Becoming a published author came as much of a surprise to me as to anyone else.

"It took some persuading for me to even try to get the book out there and I was amazed when there was so much interest in it being released.

"Obviously I don't know what the future holds, and how much, or little, success the book may attain, but just having my name on two books still seems surreal."

The Evil Inside II is available from the Austin Macauley website, or Amazon, Waterstones, and most other online book sellers.

It's also available in ebook format.

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Bishop Auckland Food Festival returns on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 April.

FOOD FESTIVAL CHEFS ANNOUNCED

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accompanying TV series, Rachel's Favourite Food, was published and broadcast in 2004. Her books have sold more than one million copies worldwide.

She currently co-hosts The Restaurant alongside Marco Pierre White for RTE and writes a weekly food column for the Sunday Independent.

Saturday's fun will continue with Janusz Domagala, aka "Janusz", the stand-out star of 2022's Great British Bake Off.

Having moved to the UK from Poland 11 years ago, the 34-year-old baker not only achieved his dream of appearing on the show but also went through to the semi-finals.

Janusz's popularity with the British and international public has grown throughout his journey, and he was named one of Heat magazine's 2022 Stars of the Year.

A keen LGBT+ activist, Janusz has featured on CBBC's Saturday Mashup and was a guest in the Christmas special of Channel 4's The Last Leg.

All three celebrity chefs will be wowing visitors with their mouth-watering food demonstrations on Saturday 22 April.

And they'll be joined by crowd favourite and TV presenter Chris Bavin,

who returns as host.

Chris co-presents BBC One's popular series Eat Well for Less? alongside Jordan Banjo and is a regular on The One Show.

He's also presented Tomorrow's Food with Dara O'Brian, Food: Truth or Scare with Gloria Hunniford, and was a judge on Britain's Best Home Cook with Mary Berry.

Sunday's celebrity guests are set to be announced very soon, along with details of all of the food traders, family entertainment, and cookery workshops.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "The Bishop Auckland Food Festival is one of the most popular in the region and it's a real highlight of our annual events calendar."

"Last year was the biggest yet, with glorious weather helping us attract around 30,000 visitors across the weekend. That's a record high and it shows there's clearly a huge appetite for it!"

"To pull in those kinds of numbers is a massive boost for the town."

"Of course, the presence of the celebrity chefs is always a big draw and today's announcement confirming the first three lined-up for this year

means the countdown to the weekend of 22 and 23 April is well and truly under way.

"There are more big names still to come but it's not all about the big names – we've got all kinds of wonderful food traders, workshops and entertainment up our sleeves too."

"It's definitely a case of 'watch this space'."

Bishop Auckland Food Festival is just one of the many cultural events taking place in County Durham this year, cementing Durham's position as the 'culture county' and demonstrating the county council's ongoing commitment to cultural-led regeneration.

This includes delivering key projects within County Durham's short-listed UK City of Culture bid; progressing major capital projects and raising the county's profile as a fantastic place to live, work, visit and invest.

Bishop Auckland Food Festival is supported by Bishop Auckland Town Council and Durham County Council's Towns & Villages programme.

To keep updated on all the latest Bishop Auckland Food Festival news visit the event's website www.bishopauckland-foodfestival.co.uk and follow its social media channels.



John and Kath took to the freezing waters at the end of January.

ROTARIANS TAKE CHARITABLE PLUNGE

FOR THE past ten years, Bishop Auckland Rotarian, John Yeomans and his wife Kath have swum in the North Sea on New Year's Day to boost Bishop Auckland Rotary Club's Christmas fundraising. However, this year's dip was delayed until the end of January.

John and Kath donned their wet-suits and plunged into the waters of Cullercoats Bay when the sea was a balmy 3°C.

Thanks have been expressed to fellow Rotarians, family and friends who sponsored the intrepid couple.

The pair hope to raise over £400 as a result of their efforts.

The money raised will support the club's two main Christmas charities, the Great North Air Ambulance Service and Dementia UK, as well as other worthy charitable causes.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM OAKLEY GREEN, WEST AUCKLAND (TEMPORARY FOOTPATH 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 pedestrian traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of footway at Oakley Green:-

- a 62 metre length of footway to the rear of numbers 148 to 152,
- a 58 metre length of footway to the rear of numbers 139 to 147,
- a 28 metre length of footway to the rear of numbers 135 to 138,
- a 69 metre length of footway to the rear of numbers 93 to 104,
- a 21 metre length of footway to the side of number 104,
- a 76 metre length of footway to the front of numbers 93 to 104,
- a 35 metre length of footway to the front of numbers 153 to 156,
- a 25 metre length of footway to the front of numbers 87 to 90,
- a 22 metre length of footway to the side of number 87,
- a 47 metre length of footway to the rear of numbers 105 to 110,
- a 46 metre length of footway to the front of numbers 111 to 117,
- a 16 metre length of footway to the side of number 118,
- a 24 metre length of footway to the front of numbers 118 to 121 and
- a 20 metre length of footway between the side of numbers 121 and 122 to enable gas main replacement works to be undertaken.

Throughout the period of closure, a diversion will be available to pedestrian traffic an alternative route, where available, will be signed on site. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence at 8am on 6 March 2023 and are anticipated to be completed in 4 weeks. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

DATED: 11th February 2023



Helen Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
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CLIMBING THE THREE PEAKS IN MEMORY OF OLIVIA MAE

SHILDON RAW pet food business, The Heart of Raw are proud to be sponsoring The Petty's as they take on the Yorkshire Three Peaks.

The challenge aims to raise funds in memory of Co Director Jayne Petty's niece, Olivia Mae Petty who sadly passed away when she was 11 weeks old.

It would have been her 16th birthday this year and the family are coming together to raise funds and celebrate her short life.

Jayne said, "The foundation was set up after my brother and sister-in-law.

"Richard and Pamela Petty, spent nine weeks in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at the Freeman hospital in Newcastle with Olivia Mae.

"They were fortunate enough to be in a position to spend every day with Olivia Mae and they stayed in the hospital accommodation.

"Trying to juggle home life, and spending days

or months at a time with a child in hospital, can really stretch a family, both emotionally and financially."

The Olivia Mae Foundation was set up by parents for parents, to keep families together during difficult times.

The Foundation offers grants and support to families with either emergency cash when they arrive unexpect-

edly in hospital, or with expenses when they have a child in long term hospital care.

The Petty families are taking on the Yorkshire 3 Peaks on Saturday 17 June with sponsorship from The Heart of Raw.

Adam, George, Jack, James, Jane, Jayne, Jill, Hannah, Kev, Mark, Nicole, Pamela, Richard, Samantha will be taking on the challenge in memory of Olivia.

Donate by visiting <https://givi.ng/u0ak>



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GAMETIME THIS HALF TERM

A FREE family-friendly fun event is coming to town this half-term.

Gametime will mix fun runs, breakdance, Quid-ditch, games and family brass rave workouts.

All ages and all fitness levels will be catered for.

It all kicks off on Wednesday 22 February, from 11am until 2pm.

Gametime is a pilot event from The Culture County, bringing together sport, art, wellbeing and culture.

You can attend the session at Sunnydale Leisure Centre by booking via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>

[e/gametime-shildon-tickets-510822141777](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gametime-shildon-tickets-510822141777)

Ticket numbers are limited so advance booking is recommended.

The project is hosted by Events of The North, Families on Track, Durham County Council, Durham University, Culture Durham Partnership.

A free lunch bag will be provided, but it is requested that you inform the team if you have particular dietary requirements.

You should also inform the team if you have access requirements.

For any queries, email durham2025@durham.gov.uk



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The course starts on Wednesday 1 March at Bishop Auckland College.

INTRODUCTION TO CAKE DECORATING

BISHOP AUCKLAND College are hosting an introduction to cake decorating course starting Wednesday 1 March from 5.30pm to 8.30pm for five weeks.

By undertaking the course, you will gain an awareness and understanding of:

- Sharing ideas and social integration;
- Exploring being creative and developing new baking skills in a safe, relaxed environment;

- Use of equipment, utensils, tools and preparations;
- How to colour and shape sugarpaste to create a cupcake that looks like a burger;
- How to decorate a flow-erpot cupcake;
- How to use Royal icing to pipe biscuits;
- How to create a cake topper using the art of sugarcraft;
- How to decorate a 'faultline cake' for Easter;

- How making and decorating a cake can be an enjoyable way to promote positive thoughts, behaviours and emotions.

The course is free to those in receipt of a means tested benefit. If not, there is a charge of £25.

For further information, or to book a place on the course please phone Denise Hopps at Bishop Auckland College on 01388 443078.



Willington Film Director, Dean Midas.

FILM FRANCHISE REACHES 250,000 VIEWS

A HORROR film franchise made for under £1,000 has now hit the quarter of a million mark on social media.

It marks a good month for Willington Film Director, Dean Midas, as he was awarded the North East Film-Maker of the year and was also recently featured on BBC Upload as their Film Master for 2023.

This weekend, Dean's latest film, *All Hallows Eve Rebirth* will be shown at American online film festival Our Bloody Valentines after being officially selected.

The festival is being hosted by George

Mihalka, the Director of 80's horror classic *My Bloody Valentine*.

Dean's short horror films are all shot on mobile phones and have been shown around the world and won numerous awards.

In terms of the *Eve Valentine* and *Rag Dolly* franchise, Dean and his team only expected around 4,000 views in total, this weekend, they have just hit a quarter of a million.

Dean said: "This is a huge achievement for everyone involved and it just shows what can be done with minimal equipment and lots of hard work."

Roadshow

Come along to our Wellbeing for Life Roadshows in Bishop Auckland!

There will be a number of services and organisations available to offer free support and advice

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Sport

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Louis Johnson doubles Bishops' lead before Guisborough fight back to draw. Image: Joe Gorman Photography.

BISHOPS SLIP BACK IN TITLE RACE

A SHOCK defeat a fortnight ago at lowly Pickering Town, followed by two draws from commanding positions have seen Bishop Auckland FC slip to second in Northern League Division One.

The Two Blues are now four points behind leaders Newton Aycliffe and have third and fourth placed Whitley Bay and Ashington respectively, hot on their heels.

Bishops, still leading the division after that unexpected loss, hosted Seaham Red Star on 31 January.

A double from Dean Thexton, in the 15th and 55th minutes, saw the hosts comfortably ahead, but two late goals - an 82nd minute penalty converted by Joseph Hailes and a leveller deep into stoppage time from Bradley Chisholm - saw the visitors steal an unlikely point.

And it was a similar story this midweek when Guisborough Town left Heritage Park with a draw

after coming back from 2-0 down early in the game.

Bishops were two goals to the good within twelve minutes when Danni Lay opened the scoring in the 5th minute and Louis Johnson doubled the lead seven minutes later.

It looked like Bishops were back to winning ways, but Joseph Bartliff had other ideas, halving the deficit on the stroke of half time before notching his second and the decisive tying goal just before the hour.

The Two Blues will look to get back on track with a trip to Whickham on Saturday before another road trip to Tow Law the following weekend.

Meanwhile, Bishop Auckland Reserves had a great win over Birtley in the Wearside 2nd Division, reports *Steve Coulthard*, with a goal from Tom Aldsworth.

The U13 Kings played in the semi-finals of the County Cup at Darlington RA. With the scores

level at full time, the team unfortunately lost out on penalties.

Well done to the players, Stuart Campbell and Mo for getting them so close to the final.

St Mary's U11 Kings won 4-2 at home to Boro Rangers City with a double from Alistair as well as goals from Alfie and Matty, which was really pleasing as they beat us 3-0 last week.

The side wish to thank the Arnold Clark Group for the generous donation to kit out the players and coaches in new track suits for the season.

The U10 Aces drew 2-2 at a good Guisborough side with Bobby and Tyler scoring. The U10 Kings were very unlucky in a great end to end game.

The U9 Aces had an excellent game.

The U8 Kings won 3-2 against Cleveland while the U8 Aces lost to Hartlepool Rangers with a much improved performance.

U7 Bishops drew 5-5 at Billingham Juniors.

'WEMBLEY WALK' UNDERWAY



BISHOP AUCKLAND Girls FC U10s (above) are raising much needed funds for their team by walking the virtual 258 miles from their home ground at Hunwick to Wembley Stadium throughout February and March.

Money raised will go

towards training kit and tournaments for the girls over the next year.

You can help this group of fantastic girls reach their target by visiting their [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com/page) page by searching for 'BGFC Under 10s Walk to Wembley'.

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