

THIS MONTH, the Four Clocks Centre will be celebrating 21 years since it opened as a Community Resource Centre, writes Trustee and Company Secretary, *Robin Easton*.

After the closure of the Methodist Wesley Church in 1993, it was four years later that Bishop Auckland Community Partnership was formed, after a Churches Together survey of community needs in the town.

That survey produced ten recommendations, one of which was the formation of the Partnership, with a view to convert the empty building into a centre for the community.

The five years prior to the opening of the centre, in May 2002, saw a lot of hard work by the original trustees of the partnership, in the planning and fundraising needed to see the aspirations come to fruition.

In total, £1.2m was raised, including a £400,000 Lottery Grant.

Many other national and regional funders also came on board, once the lottery grant was awarded, allowing for the purchase of the building, its conversion, and running costs for the first three years.

In September 2002, Princess Anne visited to officially open the building in her role as Patron of Citizens Advice.



The Four Clocks Centre became a community resource centre in 2002 and will be holding an Open Day on Friday 19 May. Image: Robert Eva.

HAPPY 21ST TO THE FOUR CLOCKS

We are planning to have an Open Day on Friday 19 May from 10am to 2pm, when a plaque will be unveiled to mark the 21st birthday by Sue Snowdon the Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham.

We hope the day will be used by the community to have a look around and

see the various aspects of community work that is undertaken in the centre.

Over the 21 years, trustees and staff have changed, and the nature of the projects have also changed.

A Youth Project sadly closed in 2013 when it became too difficult to

raise the funds to keep it going.

At present, the Partnership run six other projects, as well as the Centre itself:

The Family Contact Centre is for estranged parents to meet with their child(ren) twice a month on a Saturday morning.

A part-time Co-ordinator and a team of eight volunteers keep the project going, and we remain a member of the National Association of Child Contact Centres, who audit us every three years.

It appears we are one of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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ANITA SET FOR KING'S CORONATION

EXCLUSIVE

To mark the coronation
of King Charles III, we got
in touch with our local,
and perhaps one of the
nation's most prominent
fans of the monarchy,
Anita Atkinson. Anita, who
has amassed a vast col-
lection of royal memora-
biliana, told *Bishop Press* her
story:

BORN AT Billy Row, I am a
66-year-old farmer's wife
who now lives on a farm
in Weardale. We have
three grown up children
and five grandchildren.

My mother first got me
interested in the Monar-
chy at a very early age
when, as an enquiring
child, I wanted to know
about the Royal mugs
and plates in her china
cabinet.

She had me enthralled
with stories about the
1935 Silver Jubilee and
the Abdication crisis as
well as the Coronation of
George VI.

I inherited her little col-
lection when she died in
1988 but I began my own
in 1976 when my work
mates in Durham County
Fire Brigade bought me
a double pack of playing
cards for the 1977 Silver
Jubilee (for my birthday
in the November of 76).

Those playing cards
remain in the cellophane.

Anyway, since 1981,
when I appeared in the
Auckland Chronicle and
subsequently *BBC Look
North*, I have appeared in
and on the media.

To date, I have amassed
13,421 different items of
Royal memorabilia dat-
ing back to the reign of
Queen Anne.

But, this collection
doesn't define me. I am
a passionate Monar-
chist, supporting Con-
stitutional Monarchies
around the world, and
that would be my firm
belief even if I didn't have
a single mug!

I have researched the
history of the Monarchy
for 45 years and I firmly
believe that the Monar-
chy protects our free-
dom.

That belief is backed up
by history. Countries who
abolished their Monar-



Anita celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with her Union Jack mini and a tiny part of her vast collection. She will be camping in The Mall as she prepares for the coronation of the king. Photo: Stephen Perry.

chies mostly became evil
dictatorships at one time
or another.

Germany produced the
most evil dictatorship in
the world, but just look at
Afghanistan - a Monarchy
until 1974. Albania, Iran,
Russia, China... they were
all Monarchies and their
people are not free.

...anyway...

My husband, John, fed
up with the house being
cluttered by memorabilia,
gave me the old dairy
barn to set up my own
private museum, which is
where I display over 7,000
items.

I then acquired the old
pig sty and set up an
annexe to the museum
which includes a Royal
Library housing 1,500
books and 3,500 newspa-
pers and magazines.

I also have around 1,000

items in the house and
even more stored in the
loft in boxes and suit-
cases.

The collection includes
everything bar the kitchen
sink! Just everything you
can ever imagine.

I would estimate that
more than half of the col-
lection has been donated
by people from around
the world.

Not a week goes by
without someone either
bringing me something
personally or posting it
to me.

It is just incredible the
things that turn up on my
doorstep.

I have a Union Jack mini,
which also has pieces of
Royal memorabilia in it.

I don't mind admitting
that I am obsessed and
think about the Monarchy
every single day!

I am leaving my col-
lection to my grandchil-
dren, although a couple
of them are certainly not
interested... yet!

I will be travelling to Lon-
don for the Coronation
and intend being there
early, camping in The Mall
with friends, family and
fellow Monarchists from
around the country and
the world.

I still can't quite believe
the Queen has gone, but
I very much admire and
respect King Charles,
especially for his work
and interest in rural areas.
He is a great supporter of
farming and rural affairs.

I also like Queen Camilla
and see her as the saviour
of the Monarchy because
she saved the King.

Read Penny Junor's
biography of Camilla to
see why!

FOUR CLOCKS CELEBRATES 21 YEARS

FROM PAGE 1

the few contact centres in the North-East who offer free support, as many charge the parents for the contact.

The Friday Club is designed to relieve isolation and loneliness in older persons.

It meets weekly on a Friday afternoon for 2 hours, and the members also have two or three trips a year, usually to the sea-side, and the pantomime at Durham.

The Memory Club is for people with dementia and their carers and meets every two weeks on a Tuesday afternoon.

Time 4 Toddlers is for pre-school children and their parent/s and or other carers and it meets every Friday morning during term time.

A Bump and Beyond is a support group for expectant and young mums which meets weekly on a Thursday morning. It is hosted by an NHS-trained volunteer.

Cultivate 4 Life is a gardening project, which has two allotments on Woodhouse Close Estate.

Originally designed as an holistic service to help people get back into work, it is now moving towards more community gardening for those unable to look after their own gardens.

Meanwhile, the Time For You Cafe, originally run by Bishop Auckland College, is now run by Claire and her mother, Jane, as our tenants.

The cafe continues to be well thought of in the town and is particularly busy at lunch times.

As well as our current tenants, Citizens Advice, Princes Trust and the cafe, we have a range of meeting rooms for hire by the hour.

They are currently used by an NHS Trust for children's speech therapy and the driving test agency for the theory test, amongst many other charities and organisations.

So, having survived for 21 years, through some difficult times, the thanks must go to all the trustees, staff and volunteers involved over that period of time. We can't wait to see what the next 21 years have in store.

And don't forget to come along to our Open Day on the 19th. We look forward to seeing you all and you will be made most welcome.



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St Helen Auckland Community Primary School's pupils formed up to make a huge Union Jack, photographed from the air by drone photographer, Darren Fairclough.

PUPILS FORM GIANT FLAG TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION

STAFF AND children at St Helen Auckland Community Primary School have been working on all things red, white and blue this week to get prepared for the upcoming historic weekend.

Classrooms are awash with paper chains and the school yard is decked in bunting ready for their coronation celebration event.

With the help of the newly formed Friends of the School group, the schoolchildren kicked off the momentous occasion by forming a huge Union Jack on school grounds that was captured by a local drone photographer, Darren Fairclough.

Nursery teacher, Mrs Airey and Year 2 teacher, Mrs Spark-Davies worked hard on the ground to get the children in the right spot.

They said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed making a flag.

"A lot of special memories were made and they were so pleased with the finished product.

"All children and staff showed great teamwork and were a credit to St Helen Auckland Community Primary School."

Headteacher, Mrs Elmes explained that children have been invited to celebrate by wearing red, white and blue.

"Lots of activities are

taking place in the classroom where there is a real buzz," she said. "The excitement is building for a garden party-style event to be held on Friday (5 May), where the children will be performing traditional dances and songs, ending with a rendition of the National Anthem.

"We have invited parents and carers along because we feel this moment in our history should be marked with the whole family.

"The day will end with the whole school community enjoying garden games and a Scavenger Hunt with a London theme."

CONSULTATION OPENS ON CHANGES TO LOCAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

A 10-WEEK consultation on proposed new electoral boundaries for County Durham is now underway.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals for the future of Durham County Council's electoral divisions.

The commission, an independent body responsible for drawing boundaries, is propos-

ing that there should be 48 divisions, including nine single-councillor divisions, 28 two-councillor divisions and 11 three-councillor divisions.

The proposals also include:

- The total number of councillors to be reduced from 126 to 98;
- A reduction in the number of divisions to 48 divisions – 15 fewer than the current number;
- Potential changes to the

boundaries of nearly all divisions, with only one remaining the same.

For further details or to take part in the consultation, visit www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/county-durham.

You can also submit your views by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to Review Officer (Durham), LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth, NE24 9FE.

The consultation runs until Monday, 10 July.

Be Sun Safe

While we all enjoy being in the sun with our friends and family, we should still be aware of how we can best protect ourselves for a safer summer. Why should you protect yourself from the sun? There are two types of ultra violet (UV) light in the sun's rays that can damage our skin, UVA and UVB. Both can cause sunburn, be responsible for premature ageing of the skin (resulting in 'age spots' and wrinkles) and in more serious cases, causing skin cancer.

6 Tips for being sun safe!

- 1 Try to spend time in the shade between 11am and 3pm, this is when the sun's rays are at their strongest
- 2 Do not rely on sunscreen alone to protect yourself from the sun. Wear suitable clothing and spend time in the shade when the sun is at its hottest.
- 3 Use at least factor 30 to protect against UVB and at least 4-star protection. UVA protection can also be shown by the letters "UVA" in a circle, which indicates that it meets the EU standard.
- 4 As a guide, adults should aim to apply around 6 to 8 teaspoons of sunscreen if you're covering your entire body.
- 5 It is also recommended to reapply sunscreen every 2 hours, as the sun can dry it off your skin
- 6 The heat from the sun can leave us dehydrated, so remember to have some water with you at all times to keep topped up

Please email cdd-a-tr.cbs@nhs.net or call 01388 455244 for further information on how to book your place.

Please take a look at our FREE online training courses, all delivered by the Wellbeing for Life team.

Healthy Eating: It's a balancing act	Awareness around energy drinks and caffeine
Wednesday 17th May 9.30-12.30	Tuesday 13th June 13.00-16.00

If you would like support from our WBFL Team please contact Bishop Auckland's Community Connector, Bethany

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Alex and Owen with project lead Cameron (centre) redecorated the room at Bishop Auckland Baptist Church.

TRADES4CARE BRIGHTEN UP WARM SPACE

OVER THE last week a young team from Trades4Care have been carrying out the redecoration of a community room at the Baptist Church in Bishop Auckland.

The room is used by a charity that helps people in need by providing a hot meal, a warm space and, if needed, food for their cupboards.

Trades4Care's apprentice, Cameron led the project and was supported by decorating apprentice Alex and Bishop Auckland college decorating student Owen.

The room was in desperate need of decorating with a cream ceiling full of cracks, yellow walls and green woodwork.

But after a great effort from the youngsters, the

room has been transformed for the community to enjoy.

Charlie Wright, co-founder of Trades4Care said: "Cameron, Alex and Owen have done a fantastic job this week, helping a great charity in the town that helps so many local people.

"The finished project is testament to their great attitude to learning and wanting to help people in our community".

Marion Hodgson from the Baptist Church said: "We are highly delighted with the work of a polite and friendly team, who have coped well with the church staying open.

"They were punctual, clean and tidy. We highly highly recommend Trades4Care".

Trades4Care, which has received support from Gaunless Gateway Big Local, is a project dedicated to bridging the trade and maintenance gaps for health care, social care, the education sector, local community projects, charities and trusts.

Additionally they provide a dedicated home service for the vulnerable and elderly, who may be unable to do their own decorating due to age, illness or disability.

If you would like to know more about Trades4Care you can visit their website at www.trades4care.co.uk or you can call 07905 027074.

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SHILDON

Shildon Railway Institute (shildonrailway.institute)
Fri 12 May, 10.30am - 2pm. Fundraising Cuppa and Cake Day for families facing dementia.

Elm Road WMC Sun 7 May: Coronation Event - Children's Afternoon, 12-30 till 3pm. Evening: Great Show Band, Betcha By Golly Wow, £5.

Shildon Civic Hall

Fri 26 May: Looney Bingo, 7pm. Tickets, £7.50 from Shildon Civic Hall and Shildon Town Council Offices.

BISHOP AUCKLAND

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Until 13 May: Being Inbetween by Carolyn Mendelsohn and Missing Women exhibitions. Gallery.

The Auckland Project

 (aucklandproject.org)

Mon 29 May, 10.30am-4pm. Planting activity. Free with an annual pass or Castle and Gardens ticket.

FERRYHILL

St Luke's Parish Centre

Thu 11 May, from 6pm: Annual Town Meeting. Presentations from local community groups.

Ferryhill Town Hall

Fri 5 May: Advice Drop-in. 9am - 12 noon. Support and advice from Ladder Centre staff.

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With Durham County Council apprentices are the council's deputy leader and Cabinet member for finance, Cllr Richard Bell (centre), leader, Cllr Amanda Hopgood, and chief executive, John Hewitt.

OVER 40 APPRENTICESHIPS UP FOR GRABS AT DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

ELECTRICIANS, PLASTERERS, civil engineers and business administrators are among more than 40 apprenticeships roles on offer at Durham County Council.

Applications are open now, with a closing date of Sunday 21 May, and successful applicants will take up their posts in September.

The apprenticeships are open to people of all ages and backgrounds, from school leavers to career changers.

Cllr Richard Bell, the council's deputy leader

and Cabinet member for finance, said: "We're delighted to launch this recruitment drive for our latest intake of apprentices."

"Apprenticeships provide people with a great pathway into employment and enable people to earn while they learn."

"We've recruited more than 400 apprentices since 2017/18 and have built a strong national reputation in this field."

"Last year, we were one of only two councils to feature among the UK's 100 best apprenticeship

employers by the Department for Education."

"This ranked us in the same bracket as a number of FTSE 100 companies and all kinds of other famous businesses and organisations."

"It also recognised the diversity of our apprentices and the number who successfully achieve their apprenticeships."

"We've got some great opportunities on offer here and people can help us get the word out there by passing on details to anyone they think might be interested."

GOVERNORS SOUGHT FOR COLLEGE BOARD

BUSINESS OR community leaders are being sought as Bishop Auckland College looks to add additional expertise to its Corporate Board.

Applicants with a background in further or higher education or Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) would be especially welcomed.

Expertise in funding, financial management and audit or estates, property management, energy and sustainability would

also be advantageous.

All applicants also need to be passionate about transforming lives through learning and building long term prosperity in South Durham, to help the Board achieve its vision of providing exceptional learning opportunities and facilitating local economic regeneration.

Governor roles are voluntary but highly rewarding, broadening experience and offering regular training and professional development opportunities.

Successful applicants will play a leadership role in local economic development initiatives, help deliver growth in key industry sectors and generate further improvements in the quality of education the college offers.

More information can be obtained from Clerk to the Corporate Board Ann Robinson-Ruddock at ann.robinson-ruddock@bacoll.ac.uk. The deadline for applications is Friday 12 May.



Bassoonist, Laurence Perkins will feature at BAMS' June concert.

NEXT BAMS SUMMER CONCERT

BISHOP AUCKLAND Music Society's (BAMS) next concert will be on Friday 2 June at 7.30pm, in Bishop Auckland Methodist Church and will feature Laurence Perkins on bassoon and Yoshiko Endo on piano.

Laurence Perkins is well known worldwide for his concert work, both as a soloist and in orchestra.

He has also led national and international projects promoting the bassoon to young musicians.

He is joined by pianist, Yoshiko Endo.

Their concert begins

with a sonata by local 18th century composer, Charles Avison, followed by 19th and 20th century works including pieces by Vaughan Williams and Elgar.

Arrangements by Perkins himself will also feature.

Advance tickets at £16 are available from Brian Varley by telephone on 01388 606075 or by email at brianvarley@orpheusmail.co.uk, or from Brothertons Music shop at 205 Newgate Street. Tickets will cost £18 on the door but under 18s are free.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM UNC ROAD 34.4 WEAR CHARE & DIAL STOB HILL, BISHOP AUCKLAND (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2023

The Council on 3/5/2023 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on a 3.25 kilometre length of Unclassified road 34.4 Wear Chare and Dial Stob Hill that extends between Market Place and Unc road 34.5 to Newfield, Bishop Auckland to enable carriageway patching prior to surface dressing and surface dressing works to be undertaken. An alternative route will be available to vehicular traffic from the northern side of the closure from Binchester Crag Farm north easterly to Long Lane crossroads then south easterly along Long Lane passing Binchester to A688 (and north easterly to and around Middlestone Moor Roundabout) then south westerly along A688 to A689 Roundabout, westerly onto C130 Durham Road and onto C188 Castle Chare leading to Bishop Auckland Market Place to the southern side of the closure, and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence on 9/5/2023 and for the duration of the works anticipated to be up to 2 weeks with surface dressing undertaken for 1 day later date. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

DATED: 6 May 2023



Helyn Lynch
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
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Sport

Local leagues, competitions and events...



LATEST FROM ST MARY'S JUNIORS

IT WAS a great weekend for the players away at tournaments and playing their last games of the season, reports Steve Coulthard.

The U9 Kings returned from the Filey tournament as winners while the U8 Kings were run-

ners-up at the ESF Butlins Skegness tournament losing narrowly 1-0 in the final.

Meanwhile, there were final games for the U7 Kings - who keep improving all the time - against Boro Rangers, while the U14 Kings enjoyed a 2-0

win in their last game.

The U13 Kings lost 1-0 to a last minute penalty to league winners Boro Rangers before holding their presentation and giving thanks and gifts to retiring manager, Stuart Campbell for the great job he has done with the team.



All five reached the finals with Joseph Dowson becoming No.1 in England.

BOXERS REACH NATIONAL FINALS

BISHOP AUCKLAND ABC's fighters have excelled themselves, with five from the club recently reaching the England Boxing National Finals.

All five, who had already been crowned regional champions, boxed in the pre-quarter-finals in Nottingham, progressing to the quarter-finals in Birmingham.

They all then progressed to the semi-finals and finals weekend in Wigan, making them the only club in the north of England with five boxers in the semi-finals and just one of two clubs in the country to achieve the feat.

Joseph Dowson, boxing in the u42kg category, Max Pickering (u48kg), Sam Rutherford (u44kg) and Brad Smith (u60kg).

All boxed in their semi-finals and won, while John Greenwell recieved a bye into the final.

On finals day, Joseph put in an excellent performance to win and be

crowned Number One in England.

Unfortunately the other boys narrowly lost out in close contests.

Head coach, Matthew Stephenson said: "To have five boys competing in national finals is a great achievement.

"They've done everyone at the club proud and proved that hard work really does pay off.

"They've been an inspiration to the younger members of the club who will look to follow in their footsteps over the next couple of years.

"The boys have been in the gym seven days a week since Christmas, living the life, travelling up and down the country for relevant sparring.

"In a world where most kids spend their time on Playstations or scrolling social media, these boys have dedicated every second of their spare time to their craft.

"They deserve every bit of success they get."

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