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9PM | 26 MAY

THE CARARET CLUB:

NANA FUNK

COMEDY BURLESQUE

STAR QUALITY AT PARK HEAD HOTEL

PARK HEAD Hotel & Restaurant, Bishop Auckland, has received a glowing review from Visit England, its first official assessment after reopening in February 2023.

The Visit England team have awarded Park Head Hotel a high Three Star Hotel accreditation and a Breakfast Award in recognition of the hotel's exceptional food offering for guests and use of locally sourced produce.

Andrew Hogg, General Manager of Park Head Hotel, said: "We are thrilled with the recent accreditation from Visit England, which is testament to the wonderful team at Park Head.

"We received fantastic feedback and an incredibly high Three Star accreditation, reflecting our desire to exceed expectations and deliver the best possible experience for our guests."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



RE:GEN Group CEO Lee Francis and believe housing's Director of Development Kate Abson are joined by the wider team at the Tintern Road site.

STATE-OF-THE-ART HOMES SET FOR BISHOP

AFFORDABLE BUNGALOWS being built in St Helen Auckland have been designed with energy efficiency and flexibility in mind, so they work well for customers and the planet into the future.

Housing association, believe housing, is providing the 23 new homes at Tintern Road to help meet demand for bungalows in the Bishop Auckland area, particularly for older people and families with accessibility needs.

All have been designed with state-of-the-art energy efficiency measures built into the fabric of the building, and with layouts that can be adapted to suit future tenants' needs.

The scheme is the first new-build construction project for RE:GEN Group, an established North East company specialising in regeneration projects.

Kate Abson, Director of Development at believe housing, said: "We've worked with RE:GEN Group on numerous successful projects from garage refurbishments to upgrading the energy efficiency of more than 1,000 homes.

"We're pleased to now be working with them on this development as we continue to deliver high-quality homes, where they are needed.

"Almost a third of our customers who want to live in St Helen Auckland

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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RE:GEN Group CEO Lee Francis and believe housing's Director of Development Kate Abson at the Tintern Road development site.

ENERGY EFFICIENT AFFORDABLE BUNGALOWS

FROM PAGE 1

are looking for ground
floor accommodation,
and demand for two-bed
bungalows has risen by
36 per cent just in the last
year.

"When properties do
become available, they
always attract a lot of
bids and new builds are
especially popular.

"Our bungalows at Tint-
ern Road will make beau-
tiful homes, that will suit
customers' needs and
aspirations for years to
come.

"They'll be extremely
energy efficient, con-
structed of materials and
using technology that
makes them comforta-
ble to live in, affordable
to heat, and environmen-

tally friendly."

The development fits
with believe housing's
ambitions for deliver-
ing new homes fit for
the future which are
designed, constructed,
and powered in ways that
reduce the impact on cli-
mate change.

The site is completely
off-gas. Each bungalow
will be fitted with an air
source heat pump which
extracts heat from the
air outside to heat the
property and provide hot
water. The pumps are
quiet and will be located
to have minimal impact
on residents.

The homes will also
have solar panels and
batteries, positioned so
they don't take up stor-
age space, and EV charg-

ing points, private park-
ing, and access to open
space.

Potential tenants will be
shown how easy it is to
manage the technology.

The accessible homes
will be two or three-bed
bungalows with wet
rooms.

Two dormers have been
specially designed with
families in mind. Down-
stairs they will have two
bedrooms and a wet
room, so parents could
sleep alongside a disa-
bled child, and upstairs a
third bedroom and a bath-
room. The layout will ena-
ble them to be converted
to suit the specific needs
of a family, even able to
split the first-floor bed-
room to create a four-bed
property.

Construction started
onsite this month and the
homes are expected to be
available for affordable
rent, via County Durham's
lettings partnership Dur-
ham Key Options, in early
summer 2024.

Lee Francis, CEO of RE-
GEN Group said: "This is
such an exciting time for
the team as we embark
on our first new build
housing project.

"We're a multifaceted
regeneration specialist,
delivering best-in-class
solutions to the social
housing sector across
the North East.

"Thanks to the drive and
expertise of the people
I work with, in just over
two years we have grown
our portfolio from deliver-
ing exceptional refurbish-
ment and green solutions
to now offering new build
services.

"We keep things really
simple for our clients - we
deliver on our promises
- and it's through this
approach that we have
some incredibly high
achieving partnerships,
including this one with
believe housing. To now
be able to extend this
partnership even further
is fantastic - we can't
wait to get started."

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM **BRIDLEWAY NUMBER 12 ETHERLEY PARISH.** **BURNSHOUSE LANE, HUMMERBECK.** **ST HELEN AUCKLAND** **(TEMPORARY BRIDLEWAY 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 traffic from proceeding on a 970 metre length of Bridleway no. 12 Etherley Parish that extends south westerly from its junction with Bridleway 11, Hummerbeck, south of St Helen Auckland to enable bridleway resurfacing works to be undertaken. The alternative route is from the eastern side of the closure from Bridleway no. 11 south to Brusselton Wood, then west on Bridleway no. 9, then north on Bridleway no. 4 to Bridleway no. 12 Burnshouse Lane to the western side of the closure, and vice versa. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence on 05/06/23 and are anticipated to be completed in 5 weeks. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed on site accordingly.

DATED: 20 May 2023



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

CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

BISHOP AUCKLAND Cho-
ral Society's next concert
will take place at 7pm
on Saturday 27 May at
Bishop Auckland Town
Hall.

Tickets, which are £12
and £concessions, can
be purchased from Jane
Smith on 01325 360514;
Brothertons Music shop
in Newgate Street, or on
the door on the night of
the concert.

The choir are singing

Stabat Mater by Rossini,
a religious work written in
1873, by nature operatic,
and are premiering the
Kyrie by David Haslam.

David was principal
flautist for Northern Sin-
fonia and conductor of
Newcastle Philharmonic
Orchestra until his retire-
ment.

The choir will be accom-
panied by the Vinovium
Orchestra and conducted
by Venera Bojkova.



Cllr Amanda Hopgood, Leader of Durham County Council, Dame Andrea Leadsom, Naomi Slack and Vinnie Lupton two-years-old from Bishop Auckland, and Cllr Ted Henderson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for children and young people's services.

FAMILY HUB OPENED IN BISHOP

FAMILIES IN County Durham will be able to access additional support services with the launch of new family hubs across the county.

Durham County Council's first family hub was unveiled this week in Bishop Auckland by the Government's Early Years Health Adviser, Dame Andrea Leadsom.

Dame Leadsom officially opened the hub as part of a series of visits to the 14 local authorities selected as trailblazers for the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme.

The programme will see 75 areas benefiting, with the new hubs offering support from conception through to age 19, or up to 25 for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

As a trailblazer, County Durham will fast-track delivery of these services, leading the way and supporting other local authorities to

improve services that are offered to families.

The programme will see County Durham transform its One Point family centres into Family Hubs, providing additional services to families in one place from pregnancy through a child's early years until they reach adulthood.

This includes seeing midwives and health visitors, help with breastfeeding, support for dads, mental health support, parenting support, and help with budgeting, relationships and children's learning and development

During the visit, Dame Leadsom met staff as well as families and organisations who will utilise the services provided. Among these were Anne-Marie Marshall and her son Isaac who is eight months old.

Anne-Marie said: "I usually visit the hubs to come to the free play

groups with my little one Isaac. Its lovely seeing him interacting with the other babies, while I get a chance to chat with the other parents.

"If you ever need to pick anyone's brains on things such as feeding, the family workers are always there. The support you get from the other parents as well is great.

"There is something there for everyone and, as Isaac grows-up, I am confident we will get the support we need through all the different services on offer."

Dame Leadsom said: "It was a huge honour to be invited to attend the launch of the County Durham Family Hubs programme in Bishop Auckland.

"Meeting the gorgeous babies and their parents was a highlight of the visit. So too was seeing the excellent work that was already underway at the hub."

Tony and Alan Pearson

We would just like to inform you that we have now closed down our businesses and are now looking forward to a new life of exciting possibilities. Thank you to all past and present customers for your business. We have had so many really good customers - it has been a pleasure. We wish you all well for the future.

MAY YOU ALWAYS DANCE TO THE BEAT OF LIFE WITH THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH (we will!)

Best wishes, Tony and Alan.

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Mental Health Awareness

Mental health is just like physical health: everybody has it and we need to take care of it. Good mental health means being generally able to think, feel and react in the ways that you need and want to live your life. But if you go through a period of poor mental health you might find the ways you're frequently thinking, feeling or reacting become difficult, or even impossible, to cope with. This can feel just as bad as a physical illness, or even worse. Mental health problems affect around one in four people in any given year. There are a wide range of mental health conditions, it is about speaking out and finding the right support for you.

By following our 5 ways to wellbeing, we can make sure we prioritise good mental health

Connect

1 How can I connect with those around me? It could be family, friends, colleagues, neighbours or our local community. These relationships are the cornerstones of our life, building these connections will support and enrich us everyday.

Active

2 How can I be more active? Physical activity is all about moving, whether it be walking, cycling, dancing, gardening. Find an activity that you enjoy and look forward to, it could be some time to yourself or being apart of a group.

Take notice

3 How can I take more notice? Life passes us by quickly and we can be busy focusing on the bigger events when we could take a step back and just be more aware. Reflecting on your feelings and experiences will help you to appreciate what matters to you.

Keep learning

4 How can I continue to learn? Is there a hobby you've always wanted to try or an old interest you didn't have the time for? It could be cooking, fixing a bike or playing an instrument. Learning new skills will make you more confident whilst enjoying yourself.

Give

5 How can I give back? A gesture of giving does not need to be grand, it could be as simple as a smile. If we had more time on our hands, is there a community group we could volunteer at or a friend we could see more of? Seeing yourself, and your happiness, as linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding.

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

Basic Mental Health Awareness	Building Personal Resilience
Thursday 25th May 9.00-12.00	Tuesday 30th May 9.30-12.30

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

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

07901113009
bethany.holly@nhs.net

For all other enquires

0800 8766887
County Durham Wellbeing For Life Service
[@wbfl_cdurham](https://www.wbfl.co.uk)
[@WBFL_Durham](https://www.wbfl.co.uk)



Bishop Auckland Marie Curie Fundraising Group celebrate reaching their £150,000 target.

MARIE CURIE GROUP REACH £150,000

THE BISHOP Auckland Fundraising Group of Marie Curie celebrated reaching their £150,000 target at their May meeting.

The group formed in December 2013 after a chance conversation during a supermarket collection highlighted the lack of a Marie Curie funding support group at that time in South West Durham.

Since then, the Bishop Auckland Group has gone from strength to strength, organising a host of initiatives

to raise the profile of Marie Curie nursing in the area.

Activities have included garden openings, themed music evenings, concerts, afternoon teas and, of course, numerous supermarket collections - all of which have resulted in a massive total of £156,000 having been raised to date.

The group wishes to acknowledge the generosity of people in the area, particularly at this time when household budgets are stretched.

Without that kindness, none of this would have been possible.

All monies raised is used to support end of life care in the Bishop Auckland area.

The group has now set a new target of £180,000 and is already busily working towards it.

They meet on the first Tuesday of the month in St Mary's Church at 1.30pm and new members are most welcome.

For further details contact Elizabeth Varley on 01388 606075.

YELLOW WELLIES ARE GOOD

YELLOW WELLIES Nursery staff were delighted to share their latest Ofsted report recently.

Nursery Managers, Sam Turvey and Vikki Mitchell said: "We can now confirm that we are graded as "a Good Provider" across all areas of the framework."

"We are absolutely delighted with the out-

come and feel great pride in the care we provide here at Yellow Wellies Nursery.

"The staff are dedicated, passionate professionals who go above and beyond every day to provide a safe and stimulating environment where the children feel secure and loved. This has been a whole team effort."

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WHAT'S ON

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List your event in all our publications for up to a month in advance for just £5 per event per week. Email your event information to advertising@swd.news by no later than Friday to be included in next week's papers.

BISHOP AUCKLAND

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Fri 26 May, 1pm. Lunchtime Concert Series. Rick Laughlin Trio. Tickets £7.

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Sat 27 May, 7pm. Bishop Auckland Choral Society concert. Tickets £12, from Brothertons or on the door.

SHILDON

Shildon Railway Institute (shildonrailway.institute)

Fri 26 May, 17pm - 11pm. Fun Race Night with Royal British Legion Shildon Branch. Free admission.

Shildon Civic Hall

Thu 25 May, 8.30pm - 10.15pm. Quiz Night. Join us at the Civic for the monthly quiz. Free entry.

Shildon Civic Hall

Fri 2 Jun, 7.30pm - 1am. Roy Chubby Brown. Over 18's only. If easily offended, please stay away! £26.

Oakleaf Sports Complex, Newton Aycliffe

Sat 3, Sun 4 Jun, 10am - 5pm. Shildon Model Railway Club exhibition. £6 adults, £12 family (2+2).

Shildon Civic Hall

Sat 23 Sep, 7pm-11.30pm. 90s Floorfiller Vs 00s Clubland. Ticket £6 on sale now at the Civic.

FERRYHILL

Ferryhill Town Hall

Fri 2 June: Advice Drop-in. 9am - 12 noon. Support and advice from Ladder Centre staff.

SPENNYMOOR

St Paul's Centre

Sat 3 June, 2pm. Summer Fashion Show. Ladieswear and accessories. Tickets £7. Call 01388 813404.

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facebook.com/CareConnectDCC





Chris Hunt's ride from Land's End to John O'Groats will see him clock up over 1,000 miles.

CHRIS EMBARKS ON EPIC BIKE RIDE

SEVENTY YEARS after Samaritans was founded, a Darlington & District Samaritan listening volunteer from Bishop Auckland is undertaking an epic bike ride from Land's End, to John O'Groats in order to raise funds for the local branch.

The challenge is very much a personal one for Chris Hunt, and is something which he has wanted to do for a long time.

But as a volunteer, he has also undertaken to raise vital funds for his Samaritans branch.

Chris is one of 40 listening volunteers, who answer calls 24/7, 365 days a year, for emotional support, whatever you are going through.

Samaritans vision is that fewer people die by suicide. The mission is to make sure that there's someone there for anyone who needs someone, to be there for others, and to campaign to make suicide prevention a national and local priority. Together they make changes that saves lives.

Chris will not be taking the most direct route either, preferring to stick to quieter roads which, once completed, will be over 1,000 gruelling miles, in all manner of weather and landscape.

Accompanied by a friend, Chris is aiming to average 75 miles per day, setting off on 3 June with the intention of completing by the 17th.

With a couple of weeks still to go until he sets off, Chris has already blown through his initial £500 fundraising target which, even in these financially challenging times, shows the wide support for Chris and Samaritans.

With over £1,200 in donations now raised, from family, friends and colleagues, Chris and his fellow branch volunteers, are very grateful for any and all support. He has now revised his fundraising target to £2,000.

Chris's fellow volunteers from Darlington & District Samaritans, will be meeting him at the near halfway point of his journey, in Penrith

on Saturday 10 June, to cheer their hero on for the second half of his journey.

He can then expect another hero's welcome on his return to Darlington on 18 June.

He is covering his own accommodation and food costs to ensure all donations go directly to fund his branch, which has been affected by the rising utility and energy costs.

If you would like to donate to 'Chris's Epic Bike Ride' to raise vital funds for the Darlington & District Samaritans branch you can visit his fundraising page at [samaritanscommunity.co.uk/p/f/chris-hunt/](https://www.samaritanscommunity.co.uk/p/f/chris-hunt/)

"If you or anyone you know can spare even just a small amount, this would be greatly appreciated," said Chris.

If you or someone you know could benefit from receiving emotional support, you can call Samaritans on 116 123 for free, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Andrew Hogg, General Manager, and Park Head Hotel team members Callum Rutherford and Tierney Lowe.

PARK HEAD HOTEL AWARD

FROM PAGE 1

Non-residents are welcome to visit Park Head Hotel for breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as brunch which is served from 11am – 2pm every Saturday.

Park Head Hotel & Restaurant is part of The

Auckland Project and much of the food served in the restaurant is sourced from the Walled Garden at Auckland Castle.

To find out more about Park Head Hotel and book a table at the Oak Room Restaurant, please visit [parkheadhotel.co.uk](https://www.parkheadhotel.co.uk)

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and
Cllr Cathy Hunt

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Angel Trust's distinctive new collection van can be seen around the town.

NEW PROJECT FOR ANGEL TRUST

BISHOP AUCKLAND charity, Angel Trust is branching out to support the local community once more, this time with clothing collections, and they need your help.

The charity is asking for donations of unwanted textiles.

"This includes clothes, towels, household linens, shoes, belts, handbags, and more," explained marketing assistant, Bobbi Stephenson.

"With the increase in homeless people coming to us for help, it is vital that we have a supply of clothes and sleeping bags so we can ensure they stay clean and warm.

"All you need to do to book a collection, is call us on 01388 737270.

"You will then be contacted by a member of our team and allocated a date

to leave your bags outside for our driver to collect in our Angel Trust van.

"We will also be creating pop-up shops, both online and in towns, as well as recycling some of the items donated, to raise money for the local community.

"All of the money raised from the clothes we sell will be used to generate food for Angel Trust Food Bank, working with The

Trussell Trust, as well as to grant wishes for those in County Durham and Darlington.

"We opened the first foodbank in Bishop Auckland in response to the needs of our local community, many of whom are in crisis and struggling to buy food for themselves and their families.

"The foodbank is accessible via referrals from official agencies."

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THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that Park Head Leisure Ltd has applied to Durham County Council in respect of the premises known as:

PARK HEAD HOTEL, 13 PARK VIEW TERRACE, NEW COUNDON, BISHOP AUCKLAND, DL14 9QB

For the variation of a Premises Licence to permit the following:

To vary the internal layout of the premises and to include the addition of outside areas for alcohol consumption in accordance with the submitted plans.

A record of this application may be inspected at the Council's offices at Annand House, John Street North, Meadowfield, Durham. DH7 8RS by appointment on weekdays between 9.30am and 4.00pm.

Any representations about this application must be made in writing by the **13th June 2023** and sent to:

Durham County Council, Licensing, PO Box 617, Durham DH1 9HZ or email to: licensing@durham.gov.uk

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.



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.



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South Church Car Boot Sales UK

Sport

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RUGBY CLUB HOSTS PRESENTATIONS

BISHOP AUCKLAND Rugby Club hosted their annual Mini and Junior Section Presentation events last weekend.

The day started with a prompt 11am team photo call in the clubhouse for the Mini Section with the BLT (Bishop Little Try-ers) aged three right up to the Under 12's team.

Each team processed in to their team anthem and rapturous applause from the proud families before enjoying a dinner served by the coaches and team managers.

After a delicious meal of roast beef and Yorkshire puddings, followed chocolate fudge cake, the Mini's Chairman then took to the stage to introduce the awards.

Each team had a special award for Most Improved Player, Coach's Player of the Season and the sought-after Players' Player, voted for by their fellow team mates.

Each team was invited onto the stage by the MC for the day, senior club official, Andrew Farlow, to receive a club medal for their efforts in the sport over the past season.

Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Cllr Michael Siddle assisted with the medals for the Minis.

Gareth John, Minis Chairman said: "I love our club presentation day.

"It's a coming together of all our age groups to celebrate as a large family.

"Whether you are 18 months or 18 years old, we sit together and acknowledge each other's achievements.



BLT member, Grace Holiday with her medal.

"We don't celebrate the wins or the most tries scored, we celebrate the improvements, the almos and the what might have beens.

"That's the reason I volunteer. I love to see the enjoyment, the smiles and the laughter.

"As a club, we take pride in knowing so many of our local community want to enjoy the game we love."

The junior section event kicked off at 4pm and followed a similar format, with the U13s to U16's Boys teams being joined, by the U13s and U15's Girls Teams and the Age 17+ Academy 'the Colts'.

Kind words, funny stories and achievements were shared by each manager as they took to the stage to address the proud families.

Awards were given for Coaches 'Forward' and 'Back' player of the season and again the prestigious 'players player' award.

Additional recognition was also given to academy players who have been selected to represent the county.

Across the day, 20 teams were celebrated, over 500 young people attended, and over 900 roast dinners were served in the 'grand' marquee next to the first team pitch.

The sun also came out, meaning that the families, teams and players gathered and celebrated late into the evening on as the players and their siblings spilled out on to the grass for impromptu games once the formalities were over.



Bishop Reserves celebrate after lifting the Second Division League Cup, while St Mary's U9 Bishops also won the Flamingoland tournament.

CUP WINNERS CELEBRATE

BISHOP RESERVES are Cup winners after a 1-0 win over Wynyard in the 2nd Division League Cup final at Seaton Carew.

Reed Malloy got the all-important goal to spark the celebrations.

Meanwhile, St Mary's U9 Bishops had a great weekend at the Flamingoland tournament also coming back with a trophy.

The U18s played their final game, unfortunately losing out to Norton & Stockton in the semi-final of the DFA League Cup.

As the season comes to an end, St Mary's Chairman, Steve Coulthard is also hanging up his boots to focus on his role as chairman of Bishop AFC.

"I would like to say a massive thank you to all the volunteer managers,

coaches and secretaries, along with the players and parents for their support over the last 25 years," said Steve.

"I will treasure some fantastic memories, including trips to Barcelona, Holland and Belgium.

"I also want to give a special mention to the other retiring volunteer secretaries, coaches and managers for some fantastic volunteer work over the years.

"However, it is now time to hand the reigns over to fresh younger blood to try and keep the 18 teams playing for as long as possible.

"Thank you also Fred Anderson RIP for getting me involved at St Mary's and helping me make some lifelong friends over the years."

NEW SHILDON ANGLING SOCIETY EGM

"FOLLOWING THE sad and sudden loss of our extremely well thought of Club Secretary, Ephraim "Ephy" Bunting, the New Shildon Angling Club will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting at

Elm Road Club on Friday 26th May at 7pm," writes Chairman, Fred Wright.

"If you are a member of our club it will be in your interest to attend as there are some important matters to decide."

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