



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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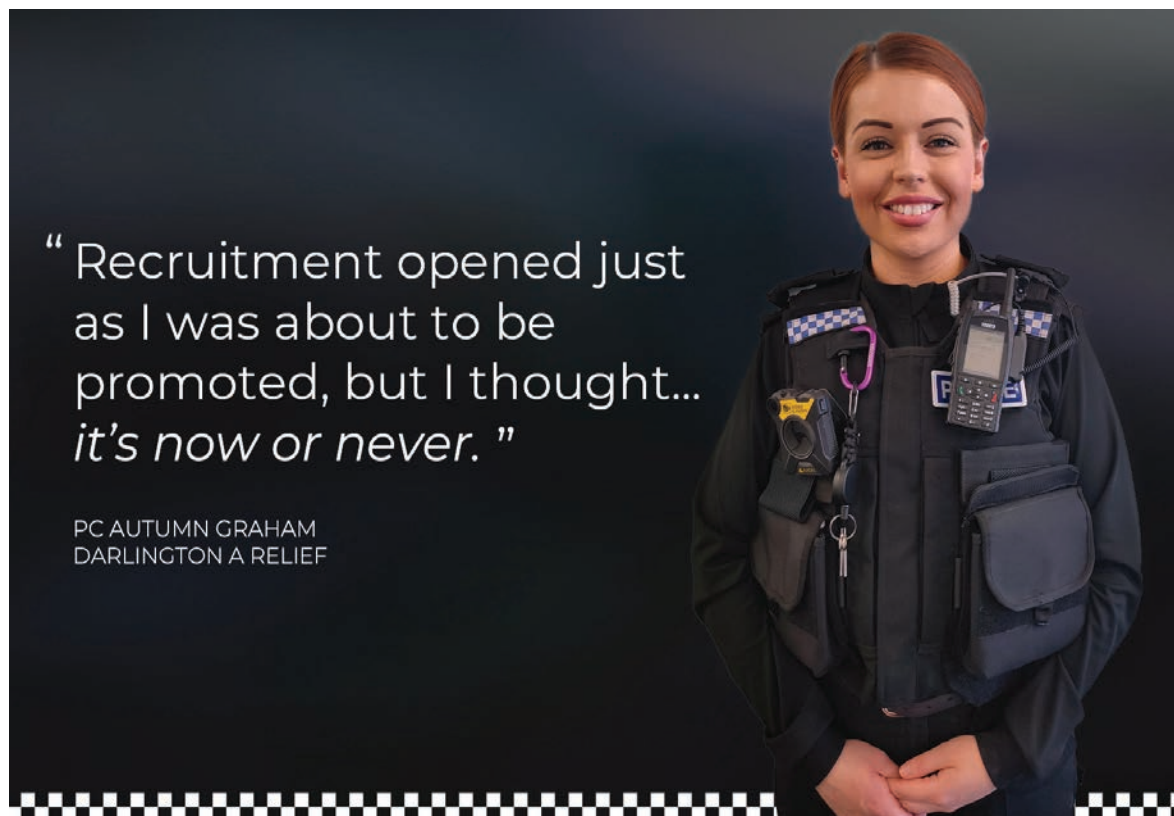
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"Recruitment opened just
as I was about to be
promoted, but I thought...
it's now or never."

PC AUTUMN GRAHAM
DARLINGTON A RELIEF

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT PC AUTUMN GRAHAM?

WHEN AUTUMN Graham
saw an advert for police
constable recruitment,
she just knew she had to
apply.

Despite having been
a secondary school
teacher for six years
and about to be pro-
moted, there was some-
thing about the role that
intrigued the 30-year-old.

"I've always been inter-
ested in the police, but no
one was recruiting when I
finished university.

"When it did open, I was
already doing my mas-
ter's in environmental
science so I went down
that route," she said. "But

in 2021 they opened it
again just as I was about
to be promoted and I
just thought, it's now or
never."

Autumn is now part of
Darlington A Relief after
completing her training
at the force's Meadow-
field training centre as
part of her Degree Holder
Entry Programme course.

The training covers a
multitude of specialist
subjects, and Autumn
said she found the topic
of domestic violence
and safeguarding really
interesting; she hopes
to move into Safeguard-
ing or Roads and Armed

Policing as her career
progresses.

"I just want to
try everything
and that's what
really drew me
to respond."

"I had a really good
career and had to take a
pay cut to pursue polic-
ing but I'm so glad I did
because I'm loving it,"
Autumn said.

Autumn, from Teesside,
encourages anyone else

with an interest to apply.

"If you've ever wondered
about it then I'd say just
do it," she added. "I'd
always been fascinated
by the police so I'm so
grateful I now get to be
part of it, especially at
Durham."

Autumn described the
role as unpredictable,
adrenaline-fuelled and
gratifying.

Police officer recruit-
ment is now open. To find
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Recruitment page and
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LARGE CRAFT FAIR AT ETHERLEY

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Peter Robinson has volunteered at Locomotion in Shildon for the past 15 years.

PETER SHORTLISTED FOR TOURISM SUPERSTAR AWARD

A LOCAL man who volunteers at Shildon's Locomotion will find out next week if he is to be crowned County Durham's Tourism Superstar of 2023 as the votes are counted for this year's award, which is run by Visit County Durham.

Peter Robinson has been nominated for the award by the Science Museum Group, which owns Locomotion.

Volunteering Manager, Katrina Ferguson, said: "If anyone represents the spirit of Shildon and the story we try to tell, it is Peter.

"Coming from a railway family, Peter was once employed in Shildon Works, where Locomotion now stands.

"His attachment to the site has cultivated a profound loyalty for the museum – a volunteer for 15 years, he simply never left!

"He readily takes on the responsibility of endearing people to the museum

upon their arrival and will provide tours for various audiences, whether they be staff, representatives from our partnerships, community groups or independent visitors.

"Always putting the visitor first, he endeavours to ensure that everyone has a memorable time at Locomotion.

"More recently, he has sought to bring this enthusiasm to even more people, helping us deliver our outreach sessions in local care homes.

Peter can talk about life in the town and what it was like to work in the world's largest wagon works to every audience.

"He relishes sharing these insights into the past with children and young visitors, and listens attentively to those who have their own tale to tell.

"He embodies our organisation's mission to 'share authentic stories', to embed the human connection into every vis-

itor's experience. Indeed, in our feedback, his name is one that is most mentioned by visitors, and regulars often ask for him.

"Eager to learn more and help us improve, he recently completed his engaging audiences training.

"He also jumped at the opportunity to use iPads and 360-degree photography to give our visitors the chance to see into parts of our vehicles that are normally hidden from view which has been well received.

"Peter's love for Locomotion, his desire to engage with every visitor, and his willingness to train and mentor new volunteers - instilling within them the same ethos - make him our superstar."

Peter is one of five volunteers from across the county who has been shortlisted. With voting now closed, the winner of the award is set to be announced on 18 July.



Just a small sample of the delights of Woodside House garden.

RAISE MARIE CURIE FUNDS WITH GARDEN VISIT

GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS can support Marie Curie by visiting a stunning three-acre, mature, undulating garden full of interesting trees, shrubs and plants later this month.

Woodside House in Witton Park, Bishop Auckland is opening its gates on Sunday 30 July from 1pm until 5pm.

Admission is £5 for adults with children receiving free entry and all monies raised will be used to support end of life care in the Bishop Auckland area.

Superbly landscaped with island beds, flowing herbaceous borders, an old walled garden, rhododendron beds, fernery,

three ponds and a vegetable garden, Woodside House is the labour of love of owner, Jean Crompton.

"Don't miss a rare opportunity to visit this delightful garden full of interesting and unusual features to fire the imagination," said a spokesperson, "while supporting a good cause at the same time".

Woodside House is two miles North of Bishop Auckland. To visit, take the A68 to Witton Park and when you reach the village, do not follow sat nav directions but instead walk down the track next to St. Paul's Church as there is no parking on site.

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PCC Joy Allen launches the fly-tipping campaign in partnership with Durham County Council.

PCC'S £20,000 INVESTMENT IN CCTV WILL CRACKDOWN ON FLY-TIPPING

POLICE AND Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has agreed to invest £20k into state-of-the-art covert CCTV cameras as part of a tough action plan to tackle fly-tipping.

The County Durham and Darlington PCC has set aside cash for 10 new re-deployable CCTV cameras and related equipment in support of Durham County Council's work to target fly-tipping hotspots across the county and bring more offenders to justice.

It comes as the government announced tougher penalties to tackle the growing menace of fly-tipping following a campaign by PCCs and the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN).

The changes will see the minimum fine increase from £400 to £1,000 and new legislation to remove the need to have the regulator present when a police officer seizes a vehicle unlawfully carrying waste. It will also bring additional support for local authorities to enable them to hand out more fines and see the launch of a new league table for local authorities based on fly-tipping performance.

Data shows between 1 February 2022 and 31 January 2023, 71.3 per cent of fly-tipping waste across the Durham force area was cleared without investigation due to

a lack of evidence – this amounts to 3,497 separate incidents.

In many cases of fly-tipping, the only opportunity of identifying perpetrators is through witnesses, private CCTV covering the area by chance and the council's own CCTV cameras deployed to hot-spot areas as and when cases appear.

The new covert cameras funded by the PCC will expand the council's current stock of 16 overt CCTV cameras and 22 environmental (covert) cameras and increase opportunities to capture evidence. It will also increase the council's CCTV footprint in areas where fly-tipping signage is proving ineffective, and investigations are producing negative results.

Commissioner Allen has promised to tackle the issues that matter most to residents including fly-tipping, vandalism and dog-fouling.

Under the Safer Communities theme of her Police and Crime Plan, the PCC has prioritised action against all forms of anti-social behaviour. She has also pledged to take robust steps to tackle fly-tipping in rural areas.

Commissioner Allen said: "Fly-tipping blights our communities and drains public funds. It is simply unacceptable that local people should have

to put up with this nuisance and costly behaviour.

"I've spoken to many residents and understand the impact that fly-tipping has on their lives. This is why I promised in my Police and Crime Plan to treat it seriously. This investment is one of the many ways I am delivering on my promise. I am determined to increase opportunities to gather evidence against the perpetrators of these crimes and ensure our partners have every tool possible to bring offenders to justice.

"With the addition of these covert cameras to step up enforcement activity in our county, criminals should take heed that their actions could be exposed at any given moment."

All fly-tips which may contain evidence are reported to the county council's Neighbourhood Warden service for investigation. In cases where there is unlikely to be any evidence, such as illegal dumping of building or green waste, they are referred to the Clean and Green (C&G) department for initial investigation and then removal.

The council is match-funding the Commissioner's grant through the funding of additional CCTV units and staff time to maintain and deploy the new equipment.

WHAT'S ON

Submit your listing

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.

SHILDON

Shildon Railway Institute (shildonrailway.institute)
Fri 15 July, 7pm - 11pm. **End Of Term 80s Disco (For The Grown Ups)** - finest 80s hits - dig out your old school uniform. Main Hall £4 door.

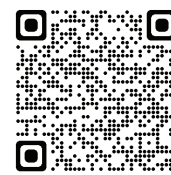
Shildon Elm Road WMC
Fri 4 Aug, doors open 7pm: **The New Jersey Tones**. Tickets £8. Available behind the bar.

Shildon Civic Hall
Sat 23 Sep: **90s FLOORFILLER Vs 00s CLUBLAND**. Special live guest, Karen Parry (Flip N Fill), guest DJs, lasers, glowsticks. Tickets £6.

Shildon Civic Hall
Sat 28 Oct, 7pm - 12am: **SKAPONES** with support bands, The Lend & The Ransoms. "Please dance irresponsibly". Tickets £5.



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Italy's only all-female street band, *Girlesque* performing at Shildon's Big Brass Bash earlier this week.

BRASS FESTIVAL PREPARES FOR HIGH ENERGY CONCLUSION

FROM PAGE 1

welcome new faces to the streets of Durham.

On Saturday there will be a fabulous, free party bringing the bands together in Wharton Park from 5.30pm.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "Streets of Brass is a highlight of Durham Brass Festival where the city will be filled with the lively energy of bands from across the world.

"Durham Brass Festival is famed for bringing its high-energy party atmosphere to the county."

Helping to bring the

dynamic atmosphere are favourites from Spain, *Artistas del Gremio*, offering their own mix of music and style with popular and traditional songs.

Durham Brass favourites *Back Chat Brass* are also set to bring an explosive beat to the streets with their signature take on go-to hits that are rooted in pop, funk and hip hop.

The event will also transport festival-goers to the streets of New Orleans, with *Heavy Beat Brass Band* bringing the city's authentic party atmosphere alongside *The Original Pinettes*, the world's only all-female New Orleans brass band.

Carrying on the Louisiana flavour is the *New York Brass Band*, a New Orleans inspired eight-piece brass band from North Yorkshire.

Mr Wilson's Second Liners take their inspiration from the second line of a traditional funeral procession, where people

follow the band to dance and enjoy the music.

Streets of Brass will also welcome the first and only all-female Italian street band, *Girlesque*, who perform with a nod to burlesque and a combination of sound, movement and fun.

Bringing a new sound to the festival will be *Badcore Horns*, a futuristic trio who have created their own drum and brass sound through 'cyber' saxophones and 'techno' trumpets. They will be joined by London-based *DAT Bass* whose sound combines bass energy, turntables, and a detailed horn section.

Finally, continuing the brass bonanza is *Loud Noises*, a high-energy band from Leeds whose music combines contemporary brass with dance, and *FAT Brass*, a brass tour de force which splices tunes together from Disclosure to ABBA.

For tickets and further information, visit www.brassfestival.co.uk.

LEISURE CENTRE PROPOSALS

FROM PAGE 1

gle, new build site, it is hoped that the new centre will also help support the ongoing regeneration of Bishop Auckland.

Cllr James Rowlandson, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for resources, investment, and assets, said: "Woodhouse Close has been popular with residents since it opened.

"However, after serving the community for more than 50 years, the building is no longer fit for purpose.

"We remain committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents through the delivery of leisure services and our plans are to create a new, modern facility which will support the health and wellbeing of our communities.

"The plans at Woodhouse Close will support our vision to provide a

range of employment opportunities as the centre expands its offer and range of products and services.

"A variety of leisure products will create a physical environment that contributes to good health and supports residents to live long and independent lives.

"It will also mean we are operating from a lower emission building with carbon-saving measures incorporated into the design, supporting our environmental commitment to tackling climate change."

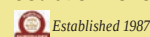
Residents and stakeholders were consulted on the proposals which have helped shape the design of leisure services.

If approved, the planning and design process will be carefully arranged to minimise disruption to the current centre's services wherever possible.

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Cllr Mark Wilkes, left, with countryside volunteers.

INVESTMENT SUPPORTS COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERING

PEOPLE IN County Durham are being encouraged to volunteer to help look after their countryside.

Durham County Council has invested £2.3 million into its parks and countryside sites across County Durham, including nature reserves, local wildlife sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Part of the investment is supporting new officers who will manage sites and support community engagement, volunteering, and educational programmes in order to encourage people of all ages to look after their environment.

The extra staff are allowing more work to be done across the 1,300 hectares of land the Parks and Countryside

Service cares for, including working with volunteers on a variety of countryside maintenance activities.

Cllr Mark Wilkes, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and climate change, said: "Our new volunteer, community, education, and nature reserve officers are having a hugely positive impact within the county.

"We have seen a significant increase in the number of active volunteers supporting the estate since the additional investment was made.

"Our volunteers don't just get involved in site management tasks, but also lead guided walks and other community initiatives, helping to strengthen local connections to nature.

"Our oldest volunteer is 94 with our youngest community helpers being of school age.

"Countryside volunteering is a great chance to get out and about, have a chat, do some exercise, and help improve our nature reserves, country parks, railway paths and picnic areas."

The new investment has been made in response to the climate and ecological emergencies declared by the council and supports the delivery of its Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Climate Emergency Response Plan.

For further information about volunteering, contact the countryside service at countryside@durham.gov.uk or by calling 03000 264 589.

BASH AAP CALLS FOR PROJECTS

THE BISHOP Auckland and Shildon AAP has funding available for not-for-profit organisations and groups to support projects that address the AAP's priority of Community/Covid Recovery.

They would like to invite organisations and groups to submit potential project proposals based on the themes highlighted below:

- Health and wellbeing: improving mental and physical health as well as building the confidence of individuals;
- Employability and training: including volunteering and other upskilling activities;
- Increasing household income: activities including debt and benefit advice, feeding families and employability;
- Tackling inequalities as a result of the cost-of-living crisis: including advice and guidance, food provision, support and social isolation;
- Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and there may be other issues that need to be taken into consideration.

AAP funding should plug gaps in mainstream provision and add value to other funds and programmes wherever possible and projects should therefore complement existing activity.

Match funding is expected and will be looked upon favourably.

A minimum of £5,000 funding can be applied for. Funding can be applied for both revenue and capital projects.

A maximum grant per project has not been set but every application will need to show that projects have been costed and calculated to represent value for money.

"We would encourage and welcome a discussion about your proposals prior to submission and we look forward to hearing from you," said a spokesperson.

The deadline for receiving applications is 12pm on Friday 4 August.

To obtain an application form, call 03000 268 664, 03000 268 075 or 03000 268 663, or email: bishopshildonaap@durham.gov.uk

You can also find out more at durham.gov.uk/bishopandshildonaap.

Drop in Session

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Sport

Local leagues, competitions and events...



U11 Minis A team of Lana, Isla, Olivia, Charlie and Annabel. Missing from the photo are Eila and Ginny.

BISHOP AUCKLAND NETBALL CLUB U11S GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

BISHOP AUCKLAND Netball Club have been established since 2011 and currently have around 80 players.

They have played in the Durham Junior Netball League since the first ever season in 2011 and now have teams in nearly all age groups.

On Saturday 17th June, each U11 team had a match and all three won.

U11 Minis A played a strong Grangetown A team. They ended the 1st half 6-3 down and after a strong pep talk, they worked hard to win 12-9, with Charlie Sawczyn getting a well-deserved player of the match!

"I love netball, it's the best sport ever! Playing for Bishop Auckland Netball Club has made me feel more confident, not just in netball but everyday!" - Beaux Allison, U11.

U11 Minis B played a

confident Darlington Headlanders team. There were many ups and downs during the game, but they finished on top with a tight win of 4-3. Bea Ashcroft received player of the match, working hard in her centre position.

The U11 Y6 team beat Darlington Headlanders B 24-6, their highest score of the season so far.

Goal shooter, Isla Collinson received player of the match for her top shooting accuracy scoring over 75% of the goals, supported by her goal attack, North Durham County player, Bea Wilks.

North Durham County players, Isla Gowland and Lydia Shutt worked as a fantastic defensive unit to turn the ball over when the team was not in possession.

Overall, a brilliant game where all players worked

hard in their positions to secure a solid win.

"As coaches, we are so proud of not just the U11 teams but of all our teams in all their matches and leagues.

"We hope to continue the strong development of our club and continue to see all our players achieve!" says Jess Bell, Head Coach. "They are all playing well as a team, they are resilient, and work hard. I could not ask anything more of them.

"And we are always looking for new players to come and play for us and train with us. We have spaces in all training sessions for juniors of all ages and abilities."

To find out more, email banetballclub@hotmail.com or follow us on Facebook - Bishop Auckland Netball Club - Juniors or Instagram - [ba_netball_club](https://www.instagram.com/ba_netball_club).



West Auckland Boxing Club joined an international cast in Marbella.

WEST AUCKLAND BOXING CLUB TRIP TO MARBELLA

WEST AUCKLAND Boxing Club took twelve of their boxers to Marbella - some of whom have never left West Auckland before.

The club members headed to southern Spain to train with some of the best boxing coaches in Europe.

They all took part in sparring, tech work, beach runs and strength and conditioning.

Then they competed in a show against the best of the Costa del Sol alongside boxers from Spain, Russia, Belgium, France, Cuba and Ireland.

TWO BLUES BEGIN FIVE HOME GAME SEQUENCE ON SATURDAY

WITH THE football season fast approaching, Bishop Auckland Football Club have five home Saturday home games in a row beginning with a friendly against Marske on Saturday 15 July.

The following weekend, The Two Blues will welcome Whitby in the Tony Lee Memorial Cup.

The new Northern League campaign will then kick off on Saturday 28 July with Crook Town the visitors for the season's opener.

It's then on to FA Cup action on Saturday 5

August with Bishop's being drawn at home against v Bridlington.

Boro Rangers will be the next visitors to Heritage Park on Saturday 12 August as the league campaign enters its second round of fixtures.

Bishops will also have a new mascot entertaining the crowds at home match days.

Thanks to the Bishop Auckland Town Team, Bobby the Bishops Boar will be joining us to cheer on the Two Blues at Heritage Park throughout the season.

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