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Issue No. 24



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COLLEGE STUDENTS SAY “DON’T SUFFER IN SILENCE TELL YOUR MATES”



Alison Crammond, James Crathorne, Billy Moore, Wayne Munday, Stephen Jameson, Richard Milburn, Patrick Townsend and Michael Davison.

A group of students at Bishop Auckland College are celebrating after wowing judges and scooping a prize of over £3,000 to help them spread the message against bullying. The Mates@College group (a buddy group at the College) pitched their ideas to a mini Dragon’s Den panel at

Darlington football stadium, as part of a ‘Youth Voice’ event, organised by Youth Work Unit North East and funded by the Keyfund project. The young students beat off stiff opposition from other college and school groups by convincing the mini dragons they had what it takes to organise a large event in their

college, which will tackle one of the number of important current issues, such as anti-social behaviour, economic well-being and bullying. The group chose to tackle the issue of bullying – a topic close to their hearts, as several of them openly admit to having been bullied themselves at one time or another. Catering student and Mates@College group member, Michael Davison, said, “Bullying happens everyday somewhere. It ruins lives and stops people making the most of themselves. We intend to do everything we can to stop it happening.” The Mates@College group are busy raising awareness of the ‘menace’ of bullying. Research is being carried out with their peers to find out how common a problem bullying is and they are organising a Mates@College anti-bullying event in April. Student Support worker, Patrick Townsend, said, “We are delighted the judges have recognised the hard work and dedication of Mates@College. Students are looking forward to being able to make a big splash with their anti-bullying message and the college is looking forward to helping them do so.”

GIVING IT AWAY

A new group in Bishop Auckland is making waves by allowing members of the public to give and receive all manner of household items for free. The group, which is run entirely by volunteers, is part of the Freegle scheme, which encourages people to give useful items to others rather than throw them away. Users of the scheme sign up to an online mailing list, which allows them to advertise items that they wish to give away as well as making it possible to make requests for certain items. All items must be given free of charge and “no strings attached”. Looking on the website today, a wide array of items were being given away; there was a freezer and a pair of Mothercare dungarees. A TV had been given away just the other day. The Bishop Auckland group is moderated by a volunteer, Pauline, who is evangelical about the scheme and its value to the local community. She said, “To say it is just a brilliant idea is an understatement, because as

well as keeping things out of landfill we can also help people who are less fortunate than others, people who perhaps cannot afford something which they really do need, especially now that we have so many people out of work due to the credit crunch.” To give away an unwanted item, a member writes a post which advertises what they are giving away. When someone sees an item they would like to have, they get in touch with the person who is offering it. Members may say why they feel they should get the item, but the final decision lies with the person who is giving it away. Pauline said that people should not try to use the group’s site as a wishlist. Members of the group are limited in how many items they can request and are only able to publish three “wanted” posts in any given month. For further information on the Freegle scheme visit <http://www.ilovefreegle.org>. To join Bishop Auckland Freegle log in to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bishop-Auckland-Freegle>.

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COUNCILLOR BACKS COMPANY CHARITY APPEAL

A local councillor was so impressed by a company's efforts to raise money for Haiti earthquake victims, that he has boosted the cash total by £100.

When County Councillor Tommy Taylor, from Coundon, read that staff at Dale & Valley Homes had organised a dress down day and cake sale to raise money for earthquake victims

he was determined to add more than his five penneth.

Councillor Taylor said, "I saw what they were doing in the paper and wanted to give something myself. As a founder board member of the company I thought I would give my money in with theirs."

With Councillor Taylor's donation the amount raised for the charity totalled £361.34.

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER APPEAL

The organiser of a charity music festival is appealing to children's entertainers for help. Paul Robinson is organising the family friendly festival at Bishop Auckland Rugby Club to raise money for the Great North Air Ambulance.

He has booked 12 bands as well

as caterers for the event, which will take place on March 21st. Paul is looking for people who can provide children's rides, face painting, stalls and other family activities. To contact Paul, call 07735 247 614 or email paulrobinson283@btinternet.com.

MEWS REVISITED

A group of local indie enthusiasts have organised a charity event reminiscent of the mews indie discos which used to be held in The Kings, now the Postchaise, in the 80s and early 90s.

The 'Mews Revisited' event will take place at Bishop

Auckland Rugby Club on Saturday, April 3rd.

Tickets are £4 and are available from the Tut 'N' Shive or from Lisa Turnbull on 07796260234.

All money raised at the event will be donated to local children's charities.

YOUTH GRANT COMPETITION

Bishop Auckland Town Council is inviting youth groups in the town to enter a competition whereby they could be given a grant of up to £3,000.

The competition is open to established youth groups working within Bishop Auckland Town Council area, and new groups intending to establish themselves with a youth project in mind.

Organisations are invited to apply for a sum of money up to £3,000 to fund a project which will enhance the experience/

skills/creativity/ enjoyment of the young people involved, and will create a lasting benefit.

Up to three awards will be given annually at an Awards Ceremony in May, and one of the conditions will be that the winning groups keep a record of their projects in order to give presentations about their progress the following year. The public will be invited to these awards. In order to qualify for a grant, a project will have to be submitted by two adults from an established organisation for young people

of any age between five and twenty. Applications will have to be fully costed.

Each application will be given equal treatment, whatever the sum applied for, and each will be assessed anonymously.

Applications forms are available from the Town Clerk's Office at The Four Clocks Centre, by calling 01388 609852 or by email at batc@btconnect.com and from the Town Hall.

They should be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by Monday, March 22nd.

LEAD THEFT

Two men from Bishop Auckland and a man from Cockfield have been charged with stealing £3,532 worth of lead from the roof of St. Mary's Church in Barnard Castle, on October 16th, 2009. Peter Barker, 22, of Fleet Street, Kenneth Yorke, 18, of Horsley Grove and Liam

Armstrong, 23, of Manor Grove, Cockfield, appeared at Bishop Auckland Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, February 9th. The three men are jointly charged, alongside James Robson, 21, of Hillbeck Street, South Church. At an earlier

hearing, which took place in December, Mr Barker and Mr Yorke both pleaded not guilty. Mr Armstrong and Robson entered no pleas.

The accused will appear before Durham Crown Court on Tuesday February 23rd.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth | <input type="checkbox"/> Birthday Memories |
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NUMBER OF SEPARATE MESSAGES.....

MESSAGE(S) - (Please write in clear block capitals and
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MP BACKS MEPHEDRONE BAN

Bishop Auckland MP, Helen Goodman, is supporting local Police recommendations to make mephedrone illegal, and is optimistic that the drug may soon be banned.

Helen recently met with Neighbourhood Police teams and, having heard their serious concerns about the recent increase in mephedrone use by local teenagers, wrote to the Home Office to call for the drug to be banned.

The Drug Advisory Council, which makes recommendations to the Home Secretary about drug classification, will shortly publish its assessment on the dangers of various 'legal highs' including mephedrone, and Parliament will then have the opportunity to consider their report.

Helen said, "I was really shocked by the news that five teenagers in Cockfield had recently been hospitalised after taking mephedrone, and I know the local police are also very concerned about the

impact this dangerous drug is having on our community.

"It is quite clear that legal status does make a difference, and that as long as this drug remains legal young people are more likely to use it and the police are less able to tackle the problem.

"I think its really important that this drug becomes illegal as soon as possible, and I am optimistic that we will have an announcement on it before Easter".

Inspector Kevin Tuck of Teesdale police added, "We met with Mrs Goodman last week to express our concerns and to gain her support in trying to have this substance controlled as soon as possible. "She recognises the real harm mephedrone poses to users and communities within the Bishop Auckland Constituency and has acted quickly to raise the issue with the Home Office.

"We are grateful for this quick intervention and understanding."

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Are you interested in researching your family tree? The library at Bishop Auckland Town Hall may be able to help.

On Thursday, February 25th, there will be two sessions, during which genealogists

will give people guidance about how to trace their family tree. The first session will run from 10.00am until 12noon, the second session will run from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. No appointment is necessary, just an interest in family history.

MUSICAL CHARITY EVENT

A musical charity event in aid of cystic fibrosis charities is to be held at The Tut 'N' Shive on Friday, March 5th. Appearing on stage will be Brother Crow, an acoustic

folk-duo from Weardale, The Mojo Hand Band, Victims of the Fury, and The Bandits. Entry to the event is £3 on the door, which opens at 6.00pm.

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SALES COURSE PROVES A HIT



First cohort of learners on new Sales course.

A free sales course offered jointly by two organisations, Bishop Auckland College's Business Training Services (BTS) and SASDA, the enterprise agency in Newton Aycliffe, has proved a hit with new and existing businesses in County Durham.

Increasingly aware of the difficulties faced by businesses in today's economic climate, the NVQ 2 Sales course, fully funded by the LSC (Learning & Skills Council) will cover the essential elements of selling products and services. As time is crucial to many businesses, the course will run for 4 to 6 months to meet the needs of individual learners.

Thirteen people from nine

businesses have already signed up for the course and learners met each other at the first workshop recently.

Shelley Askwith from Touchstone Leads (cold calling experts) in Shildon and Fred Traice (Sole proprietor) of Traice Marketing in Newton Aycliffe both agreed that the event was very helpful and networking with people from other businesses gave them an overview of how others were dealing with the downturn in the economy.

Course tutor, Geoff Barrass, said, "Today was a getting to know each other session, share experiences and gain an overview of the selling process and practices. We

also discussed that to sell successfully, businesses must focus on quality, benefits and value to customers".

Co-ordinator of the initiative, John Jenkins at Bishop Auckland College Business Training Services, said, "Bishop Auckland College is proud to be working with SASDA to develop a course which meets the number one need of businesses of any size - trying to increase sales and make more money. Initial feedback from this course has been excellent and Bishop Auckland College is delighted that all businesses could share 'best practice' ideas to further enhance the growth of local employees and businesses."

PLANS SCRAPPED

Development plans for the now-demolished bus depot site on North Bondgate have been scrapped due to the recession.

Helioscity, the company involved, has abandoned plans to build 85 apartments, 350 parking spaces and shops, after they failed to sign up enough retailers to go ahead with the project.

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FARMER TAKES FIGHT TO THE HIGH COURT

A Bishop Auckland farmer is set to go to the highest court in the land in a bid to overturn a conviction for breach of cattle regulations.

Raymond Shepherd, 58, lost his appeal at Carlisle Crown Court on Tuesday, February 16th, after he was found guilty of failing to produce farming records relating to bovine cattle.

He was fined £2,500 and ordered to pay £5,000 in costs by Judge Peter Hughes QC.

However Mr. Shepherd, of West Mustgrave Farm, St Helens, accused the court of judicial bias and procedural irregularities and has instructed his solicitor, David Kirwan, a specialist in agricultural cases, to take his fight to the High Court.

Speaking outside Carlisle Crown Court, David Kirwan, of Liverpool-based Kirwans Solicitors, said, "My client is deeply upset at losing his

appeal and is determined to bring his fight for justice to the highest court in the land.

"He stated from the very outset of this investigation by Cumbrian Trading Standards that he was not, and never has been, the keeper of the cattle in question.

"My client was merely a casual farm hand. His case will have significance for farmers up and down the country who employ casual labour."

High Court Advocate, Mr. Kirwan, insisted the case rested on prosecutors on behalf of Cumbrian Trading Standards proving Mr. Shepherd was the keeper of the disputed cattle.

He added, "My client feels very strongly that there were judicial bias and procedural irregularities and the decision was made against the weight of evidence produced.

"And it is for these reasons that I am prepared to take his case to the High Court."

WEDDING BELLES FOR BUTTERWICK

Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland is inviting readers to a fundraising event; Wedding Belles, a History Wardrobe ladies luncheon on Thursday, February 25th.

"Join us in the 1870s to discover how two very different brides prepared for their big day. An absolute delight for anyone who loves bridal refinery, with many revelations about wedding customs and superstitions, and wonderful Victorian clothes," commented a spokesperson for the event.

The George Hotel at

Piercebridge is the venue for the event. The day will commence at 12 noon for 12.30pm when a two course carvery luncheon will be served, followed by an interesting afternoon of entertainment. Tickets are priced at £17.50.

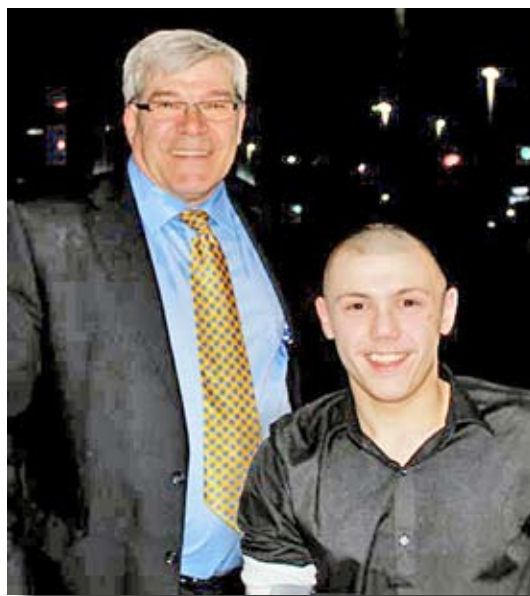
"I do hope you can join us, to ensure your attendance and avoid disappointment please reserve your place as soon as possible," continued the spokesperson.

Telephone 01388 603003 or email lynnalbury@butterwick.org.uk.

FOOTBALL LEGEND HELPS RAISE FUNDS FOR LOCAL CAUSES

A dinner was held at Bishop Auckland College recently, in order to raise funds for the College's Student Hardship Fund and the 'Limbs for Lyndon campaign', the King James student who hopes to compete in the Paralympics. Staff and guests enjoyed a four course meal prepared and served by College catering students and staff, a musical performance by College music students Craig Macpherson and Richard Heron, and an after dinner speech by former Newcastle and England striker, Malcolm Macdonald. A raffle and auction was held at the end of the evening with Mr Macdonald acting as the auctioneer. Malcolm, who is now one of the presenters of The Three Legends show on Real Radio, donated 2 framed photographs of himself and sold both for £110 each.

College Principal, Joanna Tait (who is retiring from her post at the end of March) and a Newcastle season ticket holder, said, "It is a great pleasure to host the College's first fundraising dinner for the two worthy causes. We wish Lyndon all the very best and



Lyndon with Malcolm Macdonald.

hope he realises his dreams. On a personal note, as an avid Newcastle fan, I am delighted to meet the legendary Malcolm Macdonald." Malcolm spoke for an hour about his playing career and managerial experiences, he mentioned with fondness how he was spotted as a youngster

by Bobby Robson and said how he was a great man and a sad loss. He also took time to speak to Lyndon and his family about his campaign for limbs.

The event so far has raised over two thousand pounds, which will go towards both of these good causes.

SPRING INTO ACTION

If you're looking for a new challenge but feel discouraged because of the recession, the advice from one local church is don't give up!

Woodhouse Close Community Church is part of the Your Choice scheme and can help people form positive ideas and plans for the future, and give people

access to volunteering and/or pay for training to help develop skills.

If you, or you know someone, who would like to have a chat about the Your Choice scheme, and have a free tea or coffee and piece of cake, why not call into Woodhouse Close Church on Tuesday, February 23rd, between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. Anyone who goes

along will also be entered into a prize draw, with three chances to win.

"So pop along for a chat, it's Your Choice!" encouraged a spokesperson.

For further information, contact Woodhouse Close Church Office on 01388 602935 or 450838. Alternatively, call 'Your Choice' on 01388 743188.

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CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

Bishop Auckland Choral Society will be performing Faure Requiem, Cantique de Jean Racine and Be Still My Soul on Saturday, April 24th, at Bishop Auckland Town Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £7, £5 for concessions and £3 for children, and are available by calling 01388 747621, 01388 834359 or at the door. The Society is also open to new members, particularly men with tenor and bass voices.

COPPER CABLE THEFT

Keith Richard Nicholson, aged 28 of Ashcroft Gardens, Bishop Auckland, was due to appear before Newton Aycliffe Magistrates recently to face a charge that he stole scrap copper cabling. The theft is alleged to have taken place on October 23rd at the premises of the Thorns Lighting factory in Spennymoor.

NON-UNIFORM FUNDRAISER

Pupils at Cockton Hill Infant School held a non-uniform day in aid of the Haiti Earthquake Appeal recently. The day raised a total of £215 for the fund.

MINISTER ARREST

The former minister of Bishop Auckland's Wear Valley Christian Centre on South Church Road has been arrested on suspicion of indecent assault, which allegedly occurred over thirty years ago in the Lincoln area. John Briton, 72, was released on bail pending further inquiries and is to return to Bishop Auckland Police Station at a later date. Mr Briton, who lives in the town, was Minister at the Centre for more than 25 years, before retiring around seven years ago.

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Patrick William Dowd of 7 Park Avenue, Canny Hill, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL14 8QH, is applying for a licence to use Environment Recycling, 23 South Road, High Etherley, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL14 0HZ, as an operating centre for one goods vehicle.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.



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FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CARE HOMES CONSULTATION

People in County Durham will be able to find out more about a consultation on the future of local authority care homes, including East Green in West Auckland, when council bosses take to the road over the coming months.

Senior managers from Durham County Council will be attending a number of Area Action Partnership (AAP) meetings across the county to share information about the reasons for the current consultation on residential care. The visits are being organised in an effort to give residents, carers, family members and staff as much information as possible to allow them to comment on proposals to close seven council-owned homes. Managers will be visiting AAP meetings already scheduled to take place during the consultation process, which began on 1 February and will run until Friday, 30 April.

Councillor Morris Nicholls, Durham County Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Services, said, "Any decision to change the care the council provides for older people must be carefully considered and fully-informed and it is, therefore, extremely important that we gather the thoughts, feelings and opinions of those who would be affected."

"We want to ensure that anyone who wishes to comment on the proposals has as much information as possible about the care we currently provide and the challenges we are facing. Attending AAP meetings will give us an added opportunity to provide some important background to the consultation."

Care home residents will also be offered face-to-face meetings, which their carers or family members will be able to attend, if their relative is happy for them to do so.

Comments can also be submitted in any of the following ways:

- Email: residentialcarehomesconsultation@durham.gov.uk
 - Telephone: 0191 372 5594
 - Write to: Residential Care Consultation Team, Adults, Wellbeing and Health, Durham County Council, 2/96 County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UG.
- The phone line will not be staffed 24 hours but an answer machine will be in operation. Callers can leave comments or request that a council officer returns their call.

As part of the consultation process, care home staff will also have the opportunity to give their opinions on how residential care should be provided in the future.

For further details of the proposals visit www.durham.gov.uk and click on the Have your Say link.

Any comments received after the closure of the consultation will not be considered.

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CANNABIS BIKER FINED

A 25 year-old man from Bishop Auckland has appeared in court to answer to three motoring offences and a drugs possession charge.

Alastair John Wells Godfrey, 25, pleaded guilty to failing to stop for police, driving without a valid driving licence and having no valid insurance, he also pleaded guilty to possession of cannabis.

Alison Nunn, for the prosecution, told Bishop Auckland magistrates that at 9.20pm on Monday, February 1st, Mr Godfrey was signalled to stop by police, who had noticed that there was no rear light on the bike. Godfrey refused to stop, instead he sped away. Soon afterwards he lost control of the bike and fell off before trying, unsuccessfully,

to flee the scene.

After his arrest, Mr Godfrey was found to be in possession of a small amount of cannabis.

In mitigation Godfrey's solicitor, Rory Todd, said that Godfrey had a full driving licence for a car and a licence for 125cc motorbikes, which only acted as a provisional licence for 250cc bikes.

Mr Todd added that the cannabis was intended for Godfrey's personal use.

When sentenced, Godfrey was fined £200 for driving without a valid licence, driving without insurance and possessing cannabis. He was also given six penalty points on his licence and was ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

BACK SOPHIE FOR THE GRID GIRL CALENDER 2011

A Bishop Auckland beauty is appealing to residents in the town to back her in a national modelling competition.

Twenty year-old Sophie Irving, from Etherley, has reached the second of six rounds in the Grid Girl Calender contest, organised by the Kerri Parker Academy. The top two girls from each round are chosen to feature in the 2011 Grid Girl Calender. They will also follow in the footsteps of Jordan, Melinda Messenger and Kerri Parker, getting the chance to work as Grid Girls.

Sophie is currently doing extremely well, ranking in the top ten of the remaining 100 girls, but she needs more votes to make it into the top two.

The apprentice engineer was also a finalist in the recent 'Miss Auckland' charity event, which was held in order to raise money for 'Sophie's Campaign', a foundation for a young mum from Tow Law who died of cervical cancer.

Sophie commented on the contest, saying, "I saw the advert for the competition and thought, on the spur of the moment, I'd give it a go and completely forgot about it.



Sophie Irving needs more votes to win the competition.

I'm very shocked I got picked for the round, let alone doing well so far, and would really appreciate some more votes." Voting ends on February 28th. To cast your vote and back Sophie, text 'Girl 009' to

60040. Texts cost 50p.

For more information about the competition, visit thekerriparkeracademy.com or visit Sophie's facebook page, 'Sophie Irving: Grid Girl Calender 2011'.

COLLEGE STUDENT'S WINNING COUNTDOWN STREAK

A student at Bishop Auckland College has wowed his fellow students, after appearing on tv quiz show, Countdown, and winning six times in a row.

Twenty one year-old Craig Chittenden, from Coundon Grange, was finally defeated on Tuesday, February 16th, losing to a University College London maths student by 6

points.

Craig will have a chance to appear on the show again if he has achieved a total score high enough to make it to the final in June.

Bishop Auckland College Principal, Joanna Tait, said, "Well done to Craig. We are all very proud of this young man."

FREE BIBLE COLLEGE LECTURE

The National Bible College will be holding a free public lecture on the history of our Christian heritage during three British Empires.

The event will be held by Reverend Barrie Williams on Tuesday, March 16th, from 7.00pm at The National Bible College, 121 Low Etherley.

POLICE TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT VIADUCT SUICIDES

Local police are currently looking at taking measures to prevent the possibility of suicide attempts from Newton Cap Viaduct.

Since being converted into a road in 1995, the bridge has seen five suicides, as well as several more people

threatening to jump.

Bishop Auckland Inspector, Martin Peace, said, "People would be surprised if they knew how many incidents we have on the viaduct. It is a huge number and each one requires a lot of officer time. "The bridge is Grade II listed

and doing anything to it would be a long way down the line."

Options currently being considered include large railings, which would prevent people from being able to climb over the side, better lighting and signs providing the Samaritans' phone number.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I attended the highly charged and emotional meeting about the possible closure of seven Durham County Council homes, held at St Mary's RC Church in Newton Aycliffe, on Friday night. The turn out of over 60 relatives, care staff, union representatives, local people and politicians was impressive and showed the strength of feeling against the County Council's plans.

I was very impressed with human rights lawyer Yvonne Hossack, who it appears has signed up 15 families in taking their case to the council and, if necessary, the courts and Number 10.

What really upsets me though, is the number of residents who are not supported, either because they have no family to help them or are not fit to appoint a solicitor.

Mrs. Hossack was quite dismissive of the member of public who raised this issue, failing to give an acceptable answer. She was also dismissive of my efforts to help.

I too have seen an elderly (98 year old) grandmother die in a home, shortly after being moved, when the local council

closed the home she was in.

It is mine (and UKIP's) belief that local authority care home places should be increased and the standards of care raised in all homes to the level set in local authority homes. This does not include putting in the en-suite arrangements that Durham County Council plan, and which is the major cost quoted in improving the homes. After all, who wants a dementia sufferer left in a room with the serious risk of slipping on a wet floor and suffering untold harm?

What the council also seem to have missed is that by removing any competition to private care homes they set up a monopoly that can charge whatever it wants, so will end up being more, not less, expensive, as pointed out by Mrs. Hossack. I echo the words of David Dutch whose 93 year-old mother, Margaret, lives in Newton Aycliffe's Shafto House – one of the homes under threat. "If we don't stand up for the vulnerable, who will?"

Dave Brothers
UKIP Parliamentary
Candidate for Bishop
Auckland, Hastings Avenue,
Durham

FOOTBALL CLUB APPEAL

The town's football club is appealing for club memorabilia in order to preserve the club's illustrious history.

Bishop Auckland FC and Durham County Council have entered a partnership which will see the council house the club's collection at County Hall.

Although Bishop are currently without a home, their new ground is under construction and the club hope to house their collection in a purpose-built facility once the new ground is completed.

Terry Jackson, club chairman, said, "Things have got lost over the years, and with

regards to artefacts, I don't think we've got the heritage we should have.

"We are very conscious that unless we do something soon, things are going to start degrading, especially paperwork.

"It is very important that we keep our heritage in a safe and secure place.

"We are part of the social and sporting fabric of the region, and the county council was keen to help."

Speaking of the items that the club is seeking to preserve, Tony Duffy, vice chairman, added, "We have notes, paperwork and artefacts,

but we know there is a lot more around the town and elsewhere, and we are asking people if they would like to return them to the club.

"We are a famous club with a colourful past, and we need to preserve that history for future generations.

"Every year more stuff disappears, especially paperwork, but we do not want that to keep happening.

"This is going to be a fantastic year for the football club, especially moving back to Bishop Auckland."

To view progress on the club's new home, visit <http://www.bishopafc.com/>.

TOUGH WARNING TO PARKING BADGE CHEATS

Durham County Council is clamping down on parking cheats in the wake of a rise in the number of complaints about the misuse of blue disabled parking badges in the area.

Recently the police have worked alongside the council's enforcement partners, NSL Ltd., to seize badges from motorists caught flouting the rules. The penalty for parking in the

bays illegally can be as much as £1,000.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, Cllr Neil Foster, says the Council won't tolerate it, "I think what people who breach the rules forget is that by taking up a bay designated for disabled use they are making life more difficult for other people who may be in greater need.

"Displaying a fake or stolen

badge, or one which is not designated for use by the person using the car, is a criminal offence and it concerns both the public at large and us, as the Council.

"You could face a fine of up to £1,000."

Anyone wanting more information about parking rules or blue badge regulations should call the council's Parking Services Team on 0191 383 3442.

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BISHOP AUCKLAND TAGS PLAY RUGBY AT DURHAM CITY

Bishop Auckland Tags U7's and U8's took on opposition from Durham last weekend. Bishop's U7's were slow to start, which allowed Durham to find their form and the try line very quickly. Using this as a wake-up call, Bishop fought back and picked the pace up with the game going try for try. Durham seemed to defend more and win more tags, with the six tag rule this meant the turnover of ball, Durham seized the opportunity several times to score the winning try.

Bishop's U8's were raring to go from the start, with new players in the team they soon started to play well. Although, at times, some forgot they were not allowed to tackle, they put on a great show of tag rugby. Bishop dropped their defence a little, allowing Durham to push forward and score the winning try. The lack of training over the weeks took its toll on Bishop.

A spokesperson for the club was delighted with the commitment and enthusiasm of the young charges, he said, "With the weather against us for so many weeks it was great to see so many young players who still had so much enthusiasm in them. We've sixteen players, none of whom have lost interest."

"Well done to U7's Ethan, Nathan P., Connor, Joseph, Jack B., Ethan, James, Alex, U8's Luke, James G, Liam, Jimmy, Nathan K., Jack W., Owen and Daniel all whom gave a great display of tag rugby that did not disappoint the ever increasing crowds. "A big thank you to Durham City for their hospitality."

TOWN HALL TREAT FOR MUSIC LOVERS

Bishop Auckland Town Hall is hosting two musical extravaganzas on the first weekend of March. Lovers of the music of Elvis Presley are in for a treat on Saturday, March 6th, when Paul Prestley and The E.P. Band present "Elvis on Tour". At the concert, which starts at 8.00pm, Paul will perform a number of Elvis' biggest hits with the backing of the fabulous E.P. Band. Tickets to the show cost £14.00 each.

On Sunday, March 7th, George Hetherington invites you to visit the Town Hall to listen to "Music from the Big Screen". From 7.30pm George will be joined by Olly Burton, Eileen Glenton, Eddie Gratton, Rachel Orr, and the AK Corale choir. Tickets to the event are £8.00, or £6.00 for concessions. For further information, or to book a ticket, call 01388 602610.

SOUL BAND

The Teesdale School Soul Band will be performing at Butterknowle Village Hall on Thursday, February 25th from 7.00pm. Tickets are priced at £7 for adults and £5 for juniors and concessions and include supper. To book, call 01388 718448.

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MIXED BAG FOR ST MARY'S TEAMS

St Mary's U13A's entertained Billingham Town and earned a convincing 6-0 win. Saints' first goal came from Jake Findlay who slotted the ball home from a Jake Dixon cross. Findlay also got the second, following a long range free-kick from man of the match Lewis Scarr. Callum Smith got himself on the score-sheet with a super free-kick of his own. Substitute Paul Jordan then scored with his first touch of the ball following a cross from Findlay. Findlay rounded off his hat-trick in the 2nd half and Smith got his 2nd to seal the 6-0 win.

St. Mary's U13C's lost 6-2 at Greatham, Marzanu Miah scored St. Marys' two goals. The U13B's drew 2-2 with South Park Rangers with goals from Penal and Mackley. St. Marys Under 12's went down 5-0 at second place

Norton and Stockton. A number of defensive and goalkeeping mix ups gifted Norton three goals. Despite some pressure early in the second half and some excellent work from Sherwen, St Marys couldn't break through. A shot from Pugh midway through the second half was as close as they came to scoring. The under 12's captain, Dixon, was named man of the match.

The U11A's played Leven at home and, after good work from Swift, Saints won a free kick on the edge of the box, which Hart smashed into the top corner. Wigley superbly flicked on a fantastic Taylor cross past the diving Leven 'keeper to make the score 2-0 and the game safe. Final Score 2-0 to St. Marys. Man of the match was awarded to Goundry for an excellent display of wing play.

The U14's played Richmond Town at home and drew 4-4. St. Marys' goals were scored by Tony Hindmarch, James Lupton, Kieran Fish and Liam Mather. Man of the match went to Jack Taylor.

The U15A's played Stockton town losing 3-1, with Peart grabbing St. Marys' goal. The U9A's had a terrific 4-0 win at Greatham, a hat-trick from Carl Stout and 1 from Ben Mason ensured victory. St. Marys is holding another Sports Night with Paul Walsh. Walsh is an ex-Liverpool, Spurs and Manchester City player, and he is currently a Sky Sports commentator. He will be telling a few tales with comedian Leslie Gibson to follow. Tickets are £20 each including a Pie and Peas supper and are available from Steve Coulthard on 07968 426817.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY... FEBRUARY 20TH

1472 - Orkney and Shetland were left by Norway to Scotland, due to a dowry payment.
1547 - Edward VI of England was crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey.
1811 - Austria declared itself bankrupt.

1898: Enzo Ferrari, Italian car manufacturer, was born.
1985 - The Irish government defied the powerful Catholic Church and approved the sale of contraceptives.
1986 - The Channel Tunnel project was given the official go ahead.

1986 - Mike Tyson sexually harassed a woman in Albany, New York.
1989 - An IRA bomb destroyed a section of a British Army barracks in Ternhill, England.
1994 - Pope John Paul II demanded juristic discrimination of homosexuals.

BISHOP AUCKLAND AFC Upcoming Fixtures

Friday 26th February:
HOME to West Allotment Celtic (NL1)

Wednesday 3rd March:
AWAY to Horden C.W. (NL1)

Saturday 6th March:
AWAY to Bedlington Terriers (NL1)

Tuesday 9th March:
HOME to Spennymoor Town (NL1)

Saturday 13th March:
HOME to Consett (NL1)

Saturday 20th March:
AWAY to Newcastle Benfield (NL1)

Saturday 27th March:
HOME to Ryton (NL1)

Saturday 27th March:
HOME to Ryton (NL1)

Tuesday 30th March:
HOME to Billingham Synthonia (NL1)

Saturday 3rd April:
AWAY to Penrith (NL1)

Saturday 10th April:
HOME to Norton & Stockton Ancients (NL1)

Saturday 24th April:
HOME to Morpeth Town (NL1)