



Help for a right royal challenge



Jonathan Shaw, Kieran Howard, James Dawson, Liam Keeble.

Pupils Bishop Barrington will be able to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award thanks to the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership (AAP). Twelve year ten pupils will participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme,

thanks to funding to pay for camping equipment. Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP activities for Children and Young People Task and Finish Group have awarded £980 from the Children and Young People Small Grants Fund. Nicola Carlton, Duke

of Edinburgh coordinator at the school, said, "We are hugely grateful for the funding that we have received from Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP to assist our students in completing the expedition section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

"The funding has allowed us to buy camping equipment for the students to use to complete their award.

"This has been useful to a number of our students this year and the equipment will also benefit students in the future. Without this funding some of our students may not have been able to complete their award which has allowed them to gain many skills to help them in their futures."

Alan Boddy, Activities for Children and Young People Task and Finish Group lead, said, "We are happy to support Bishop Barrington School with their involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The scheme demonstrates the dedication and commitment of the children and young people to work together as a team and promotes citizenship."

Firework display under threat

A popular community celebration event looks set to be cancelled this year because there is nowhere to stage it.

Bishop Auckland firework display has been held on land owned by the town's rugby club in recent years but, following a programme of improvements to the site, the club says it is no longer able to host the event.

Durham County Council has looked at a number of nearby locations but sadly none which are available meet access and site safety requirements.

One Bishop Auckland resident commented, "The fireworks display is an annual event for the town that children and adults alike look forward to every year. It would be such a shame to lose it."

The council's corporate director of neighbourhood services, Terry Collins, said, "We are really sad to make this announcement. A great

deal of hard work has gone into trying to find an alternative site within proximity to the town centre.

"Unfortunately so far we have not come across a venue which will host a display of this size but which offers safe access and meets site safety needs.

"We have asked local members to keep us informed of any locations which they become aware of, but as things stand it is not looking very hopeful for this event.

"While, despite the financial position the council is in, funds for the event as previously organised have been located, the authority is not in a position to move the display to anywhere where the costs would rise. If however we hear of a suitable venue in time to make the arrangements necessary, we will of course be pleased to make the relevant inspections."

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Pensioners get a cash boost for Christmas party



The ladies from Selby Social Club with their Tesco donation.

Selby Close Social Club in St. Helen Auckland is run for the senior citizens in the area. The club enables people to meet up, make friends and socialise. During the past few months, the club has been running various raffles and tombolas to raise money for

their Christmas party. The new Tesco store at St. Helen Auckland has assisted their fund raising by donating £50 towards their Christmas party. Erika Lucas, Tesco's Community Champion said that this donation re-inforces Tesco's commitment to

support local community initiatives such as this. Christine Wilson, the Secretary of the Selby Close Social Club, said, "We really appreciate all the help Erika and Tesco have given us and we now look forward to organising our Christmas party."

Sentencing deferred

David Cullen, pleaded guilty to stealing women's clothing valued at £134.45 from Internacionale in Bishop Auckland on 25th September. The court at Newton Aycliffe heard that the defendant had an extensive record for theft and was currently serving two orders and undergoing drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes. The District Judge deferred sentencing for 3 months in order to gauge the defendant's progress. Cullen, of Snowdon Crescent, Bishop Auckland will return to Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court on 12th January.

Give blood

A blood donor session will be held at The Scout Centre on Kingsway, Bishop Auckland on Thursday 20th October. Donations can be given between 2.30pm and 3.45pm and from 4.30pm to 7pm. Please call 0300 123 23 23 to make an appointment for this session.

Events at the Town Hall

Folk duo Bram Taylor and Roly Hindmarch will be performing at the Town Hall on Wednesday 19th October from 8pm. Bram and Roly return for a great evening of good humour, banter and song. They are ably supported by Trish McLean and Ian Wright. Tickets are £6. London star Fini Bearman will be singing with her quartet, featuring

Town Hall favourite Rick Simpson. This show is on Wednesday 26th October from 8pm. Fini is one of the UK's leading contemporary jazz vocalists. Tickets are £6. The Fame Factory present Jack and the Beanstalk on Sunday 27th November at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, then on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th November at 10.30am and 1.30pm.

A spokesperson for the Town Hall said, "Everybody's in it - from the larger than life Dame, the funniest of village idiots, plus our hero Jack, helped by Buttercup the Cow and Princess Jill. There's lots of singing, booing and hissing. Tickets are £6 or £4 for concessions. To book any of the above shows telephone the Town Hall on 01388 602610.



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Firearm offence

On 22nd July police executed a search warrant at Paul Wilson's flat in Cambridge Court, Tindale Crescent, and in the kitchen they found a Taser Gun and a CS Gas Cannister. The 45 year-old pleaded guilty to their possession at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court recently, but in mitigation it was stated that another occupant of the flat, who has significant mental health problems, had been responsible for

bringing in the items. The District Judge requested pre-sentence reports from the Probation Service and Wilson will return to the court on 3rd November. On a third matter of handling stolen goods, namely an Acer Lap Top valued at £359, Wilson pleaded not guilty and will now face trial at Darlington on 13th December. He was released on unconditional bail.

Drivers escape as cars burst into flames

A Bishop Auckland men is lucky to be alive after a serious collision near a Burtree Inn on Wednesday 12th October at around 5.50pm. A grey Renault Clio was travelling east on the A68, near junction 58 of the A1 motorway, when the driver, a 32 year-old man from Shildon, apparently lost control on a left hand bend near the Burtree Caravans site. The car then headed over the grassed

central area and onto the opposite carriageway where it collided head-on with the Citroen car, which was being driven by a 60 year-old man from Toft Hill. Brave passers-by were quick to act, removing both of the drivers from their cars seconds before the vehicles burst into flames. The Shildon man suffered a fractured spine while the man from Toft Hill suffered fractures to his breastbone, spine and elbow.

Choral society to perform

Bishop Auckland Choral Society will perform Handel's Messiah at St Anne's Church on Friday 21st October at 7.30pm. Tickets, which cost £10 and

£8 for concessions, can be obtained from Jennifer on 01388 747621 or Sophie on 01388 834359. Alternatively, pay on the door.

Green fingered pupils scoop first prize

Green fingered pupils at St Wilfrids R.C.V.A Primary School in Bishop Auckland are celebrating, after scooping a top prize in a national fruit and vegetable growing competition. The pupils, who competed against other schools from across the country in the Persimmon Homes Grow Your Own 2011 competition, submitted diary evidence based on the crops they had been cultivating and growing over a four month period. In that time the children successfully grew everything from green beans to sunflowers at their Woodhouse Close allotment site, and were aptly rewarded with £500 from the house building company for them to continue growing in the future and invest further in a local allotment.

Mr Rudd, head teacher at St Wilfrids Primary School, said, "We are thrilled to have scooped one of the top prizes in this national competition and be rewarded with £500. We are already planning what we will be growing next year and need more equipment and planters so the money will certainly be put to good use. "All of the children thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands dirty and learning how to grow their own vegetables, which has encouraged them to become more aware of their diet as



Head teacher Mr Rudd, gardener George Patterson and pupils from St Wilfrid's with some of their prize-winning produce.

well as where vegetables come from. "It was a great competition to get involved with and we are absolutely thrilled to have been chosen as one of the regional winners. The children worked so hard on this project and it's a great achievement and testimony to their hard work. "I would like to thank our adopted gardener George Patterson, whose great help and dedication has made

this all possible." Christine Cooper, sales director for Persimmon Homes at Teesside, commented, "The school thoroughly deserved their prize as the children showed clear evidence that they had put a great deal of effort into their growing, not to mention creativity with their diary. "We hope that the money will help them continue to improve their garden."

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MRI scanner upgrade

The MRI scanner at Bishop Auckland Hospital will be out of action until the middle of November, as it is worked on to improve its imaging power. The units magnet is being removed and upgraded with a more powerful one, meaning that more patients can stay in Bishop Auckland for more complex scans. Edmund Lovell, spokesman for Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust said, "The MRI scanner is being upgraded with a new, more powerful magnet. This means that we will be able

to provide a fuller range of scans at Bishop Auckland, which is good news for patients. In the past for some more complex scans, some patients have had to travel to Darlington. He continued, saying how the new design will also benefit patients, "MRI scanners can be quite claustrophobic and a tight fit for some patients. While the old scanner was open sided, the new scanner will have a wider tube for the patient to lie in, which will make this easier to cope with."

Meals on Wheels

Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, situated on Proudfoot Drive, has been providing a Luncheon Club and Meals on Wheels service every Tuesday and Thursday for over 25 years. All meals are fresh and wholesome and cooked on the premises for a reasonable price of £2.50. If you are residing in Bishop Auckland or the surrounding area, you are over 50 or

have medical problems that prevent you from leaving the house, then the church is urging you to contact them for more details on this service. Call 01388 450838. Meals on Wheels has been supported throughout the country by the recent BBC programme "The Hairy Bikers." For more information, visit www.woodhouseclosechurch.org.

Wednesdays are WoW!



Gayle Sutton (left) and Abi Sutton-Flynn.

Wednesdays have got the WoW factor in Bishop Auckland thanks to funding for a new library project from the Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership (AAP). The Library Service, in association with the AAP, is launching a brand new family social event for the people of Woodhouse Close and the surrounding area. Woodhouse on Wednesdays (WoW) sessions take place every Wednesday afternoon at Woodhouse Close Library between 1pm and 2.30pm and all ages are welcome. The library team have come up with a series of fun events for autumn but are asking families to take control and come up with ideas after that. A textile workshop kicked


off the sessions last week and future activities will include Christmas craft sessions and how to use the internet to delve into your family tree. Sessions coming up include: 2nd November - An illustrated talk on the restoration of Hardwick Park. 9th November - Dip into the Past, A taster of how to trace your family tree using the internet. 16th November - A talk about life as an auctioneer entitled 'Under the hammer.' 23rd November - A Royal event with Anita Atkinson, a royalist who will talk about her passionate subject. There will be no meeting on the 26th October (school half term). The funding will come from

Councillors Lethbridge and Lee's Neighbourhood budget, £3,800 from each. A spokesperson for the library said, "If you have suggestions for activities, they can be informative, supportive or just good fun, we'd love to hear from you." For more details and a leaflet ask at Woodhouse Close Library on 01388 604612 or Bishop Auckland Town Hall on 01388 602610. Angelina Maddison, AAP coordinator, said, "This project will allow residents to access a range of activities. "This initiative was borne out of requests from members of the community, and Councillors are happy to support grass roots initiatives."

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Have your say on our community

Throughout November, the County's Area Action Partnerships are holding forum events to help people find out what's happening in their local communities.

The events are open to everyone that live and work in County Durham, and give people the chance to find about what's going on in their area. They also allow people to have a say on projects that take place in their AAP area.

The November forums will see people helping to set the annual priorities for each AAP. Attendees will be asked to rank 10 priorities in order of preference to develop a

list of the most important local topics. These will then go forward to the AAP boards for them to decide on the priorities for 2012/13.

The Bishop Auckland and Shildon forum will be held on Thursday 24th November at King James Community College. To attend, call 01388 761 563.

Cllr Brian Stephens, cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said, "The forums are unique in County Durham as they bring together people from every sphere of work for the benefit of the AAP area.

"About 5,000 people are

already members of their AAP and regularly come along to the forum events to keep updated on what's happening in their area.

"Each AAP works on projects to meet its list of priorities, and forum meetings give people the chance to find out about how the projects are progressing. They also give people the chance to set those priorities, which is going to be a major part of the upcoming meetings.

"Not only that, but the meetings are also great ways to catch up with others in the community and share ideas about projects."

Group finds new home

The Stan Laurel Community Building group has found a permanent home for its meetings at Bishop Auckland Community Fire Station.

The group will meet every

4th Tuesday at 7pm in the conference room - the next meeting being on 25th October.

A spokesperson for the group, which is trying to save the Stan Laurel

building at King James School, said, "I would like to thank everyone at Bishop Auckland Community Fire Station for letting our group use their facilities free of charge."

Poundstretcher theft

Michael Stanley Hodgson, of Johnson Street, Eldon Lane, pleaded guilty to stealing carpet cleaner valued at £59.99 from Poundstretcher in Bishop Auckland on 13th September, when he appeared at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court recently. The 32 year-old requested the court to take into consideration another matter of attempted theft of a pair of trainers from Sports Direct on 8th September. Staff in Poundstretcher saw the defendant select the carpet cleaner and make off from the store. They gave chase and upon reaching the town's bus station, he abandoned the item.

In police interview Hodgson

stated that he would have sold the Carpet Cleaner for £20 in order to buy food as he was short of cash.

Hodgson had been released from a two year custodial sentence for supplying heroin in November 2010, but had been recalled for 28 days last August. He was released on 11th September on licence until 18th October.

Hodgson, who is currently on a methadone treatment programme, lives with his mother and, due to a problem with his benefits, was finding life to be a struggle. The District Judge sentenced him to a six months conditional discharge, but awarded no costs or compensation.

Steam special at Bishop

A Newcastle to Stanhope 'Steam Special' will pass through Bishop Auckland on Saturday at 12.19pm on its outward leg and

again on its return journey at 3.58pm. The steam locomotive is No. 5690 and is top and tailed with another diesel locomotive.



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Charged under the vagrancy act

Peter Littlefair appeared before magistrates at Newton Aycliffe and pleaded guilty to two charges before being released on conditional bail. The 30 year-old, who currently resides with his mother in Peel Street but is due to be re-housed, must return to the court on 28th October. He was placed under a curfew from 7pm to 7am and told to comply with the Probation Service,

who will prepare a full pre-sentence report. On 22nd July Littlefair had attended his mother's rented home with a friend and jointly stole lead flashing from the roof valued at £450. On 20th September he was found in an enclosed yard at the back of the Coop Chemist in Newgate Street, where he was said to be searching for tablets in a waste skip and was charged under the Vagrancy Act.

B&Q thefts

Two men from the Middlesbrough area pleaded guilty to stealing two JCB angle grinders and a ceiling light valued at £235 from the B&Q stores in Bishop Auckland on the 17th September. John James Seed and Christopher Johnson, both aged 43 years, were captured on CCTV footage which showed them later making two journeys to the Garden Centre Compound and passing items over the fence. These items were placed in a vehicle which was registered to Mr Seed, which was later found in the car park at the B&Q store in Hartlepool, where the items

were recovered. Later that day, Seed contacted the police to report that his vehicle had been stolen. The court heard that Seed was currently subject to a Probation Order but that Johnson had not been in trouble with the courts for nine years. The District Judge stated that the offences crossed the custody threshold and therefore requested pre-sentence reports from the Probation Service. The two were released on unconditional bail and will return to the court at Newton Aycliffe on 2nd November.

Charity tea at Wynyard

Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland are hosting a sumptuous ladies afternoon tea in the palatial surroundings of Wynyard Hall. The event will be staged on Wednesday 2nd November, from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. With only weeks to go to the festive season there are a range of crafts and stalls where you can get the most ornate and intricate gifts that include cards, jewellery, patchwork crafts, door hangers handbags, and Christmas decorations, to name but a few. Ladies will also have the chance to purchase tailored fashions for that special Christmas party or function after viewing a Festive Fantasia Fashion Show. Tickets are on sale now and it is advisable to book early, any special dietary requirements can be catered for. Tickets cost £18.50 per person (groups welcome), and credit or debit card payments are accepted. Call the Butterwick Hospice at



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Bishop gains first Sunderland service for over fifty years

Go North East bus services are introducing changes from Sunday 30th October 2011. Bishop Auckland has lost one half-hour service to Newcastle, but has gained an hourly service to Sunderland. Services 21 and X23 from Bishop Auckland to Newcastle have been withdrawn and replaced by a new service, the X21, which will run from Bishop Auckland to Newcastle with limited stops between

Durham and Newcastle. This bus will run at the following times; Monday to Friday, 5.49, 6.49, 7.49, 8.59 and then hourly until 14.59. There will then be a bus at 16.04 and the last bus if the day will be 17.04. Saturday, 7.04, 8.04, 8.59 and then hourly until 15.59. 17.04 is the last bus. No service on a Sunday. A new service X20 will run hourly from Monday to Saturday between Bishop Auckland and Sunderland.

Services run from 6.19 to 14.19, then at 15.34. and 16.34, which is the last bus. Afterwards buses only run hourly from Bishop Auckland to Durham. On Sundays and Bank Holidays the X20 will run hourly from 7.38 to 22.38 from Bishop Auckland to Durham only. The X20 is the first direct bus from Bishop Auckland to Sunderland for over 50 years. New timetables will be available shortly from the town's libraries.

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Halloween happenings

Two stories and crafts session entitled 'Halloween Happenings' are on Friday 28th October, from 10.30am till 12noon at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. Join in with spooky stories, gruesome games and creepy crafts. Tickets are £1 per child. For more information call 01388 602610. The same event is also on at Woodhouse Close Library on the same day from 2pm till 3pm. Call 01388 604612 for tickets, which also cost £1.

The Town Hall is running a 'Halloween Competition'. They are asking children to call into the library pick, up a sheet, and colour in the picture of the witch to win one of their great Halloween prizes. Closing date for entries is Friday 21st October.

Celebrations for chapel reopening

The Crook and Weardale Choral Society will be sounding their praises on Tuesday 18th October, at the reopening of Hamsterley's Methodist Chapel. The chapel has been closed for four months while work has been carried out to transform the outdated premises, as part of the Heart of Hamsterley project. The building will now be used as a multi-purpose Churches Together

centre for use by both the church and the community. The chapel will also open its doors to the public on Saturday 15th October between 10am to 4pm, when you can go along and look around the comprehensively upgraded building and enjoy a coffee. The choral society event on Tuesday 18th will take place from 7.30pm. The concert is free and tickets are not required.

Breakfast for heroes

Local company Dale & Valley Homes is remembering a good friend and raising money for heroes at the same time.

The South Church housing company is arranging a series of fundraising events in memory of Norman Button, the company's founding chairman and a resident of Woodhouse Close, who died earlier this year.

All money raised will go to Help for Heroes, Norman's favourite charity. Fundraising began with a company barbecue breakfast which raised £110 in donations.

More events are planned for future weeks, including a Halloween fun day.

Director of development Jack Hurst said, "Staff have been asking what we could do to remember Norman and we thought this was a positive way to commemorate a man who was a huge influence on the development of this company and a great friend to the staff who work here."

"As a former member of the Parachute Regiment,



Jack Hurst dons a chef's hat to raise money for Help for Heroes.

Norman was a big supporter of the armed forces and of charities caring for them. We hope he would approve of what we are trying to do.

Our last charity campaign raised more than £1,000 so we should be able to do some good at the same time."

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Angels get new kit thanks to local hairdressers



St Mary's Angels Under 12s in their new kit at Trimmers Hair Design.

St Mary's Angels Under 10s were delighted to receive new strips this week thanks to Trimmers Hair Design on Newgate Street, who have kindly sponsored the team. The girls from the club were also offered complimentary hair cuts at the salon.

The girls are having a fantastic start to their season, being unbeaten so

far. In a recent match they took on St Cuthbert's, winning 5-0. Goals came from Amber Tait-Hopps, Charlotte Lowes, Girly Spensley and Beth, with player of the match going to Nicole Waterworth.

On Saturday 8th October they played against Washington Wildcats, drawing 11, with Beth Black

scoring and Amber Hopps starring. They later got a 2-2 draw against Boldon with goals from Charlotte Lowes and Mia Cooper.

The Under 11 girls drew 1-1 against Birtley, while the Under 15 girls had a fantastic 4-3 win over Misslesbrough Ladies.

The Under 13s were very unlucky to lose 4-3 against Washington.

Test star is dinner guest

By John Phelan

A former England Test star has been invited to speak at a Sportsmans dinner. Guest speaker Derek Randall, the former Nottinghamshire and England cricketer, will appear at Bishop Auckland Cricket Club's Sportsmans evening on Friday November 25th

at 7.30pm.

Former Bishop Auckland cricketer Alan Edgar is also expected to attend. Tickets cost £20 which includes a pie and peas supper from Keith Oldfield 01388-450205 or 0774-8297-295 or from the club on 01388-603371.

U11's rugby team take on Yarm

Bishop had 9 players to field against Yarm this week in what turned out to be a very exciting match.

From the kick off, Bishop looked to have been taking note of the summer training sessions (or the World Cup coverage).

Ethan, Jacob and Liam secured the ball in the majority of the scrums leaving Ewan to get it out to Leon and Callum.

Quick early tackles from all the players prevented Yarm from getting into their stride with Liam, Jackson

and Tom excelling time and time again.

Some good runs and big tackles from Ethan gave Yarm some concerns and the team passing was much improved.

Jackson and Ewan kicked a few well placed balls over the top which worked well, allowing the boys to put pressure on. The tries came from Leon, Callum and Sam Windass who will still be smiling now.

The final score was Bishop 45 - Yarm 26, and Bishop 14 - Yarm 0.

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