



Out of town shopping complex could be refused



Developers are hoping to build the shopping complex at the site of the old Focus store.

Durham County Council's planning officers claim the proposed development at the former Focus DIY site on the outskirts of Bishop Auckland would draw shoppers and businesses away from the town centre. Protestors from the town centre submitted a petition against the development at St. Helen Auckland, amassing over 1,600

signatures. Senior planning officer Chris Baxter said it would be difficult to gauge exactly what the impact would be on Bishop Auckland for a number of reasons. Chiefly, the development company Metric Property has not yet revealed which retailers could move to the proposed site. He said, "While the applicants have confirmed

that the site is targeted at retailers not currently present in Bishop Auckland, there is no certainty that existing retailers would not simply relocate to the proposed development." The site would directly compete with the Newgate Centre in the town, who's owner Ravenhill has recently drawn up plans for a multi-million pound extension. The out-of-town centre would no doubt impact any decisions retailers would make about moving into the extended Newgate Centre. A spokesman for Metric Properties said that there are no suitable premises in Bishop Auckland and that the new site would generate up to 91 jobs. He said, "Through discussions with potential occupiers, there are no sites in Bishop Auckland town centre that could deliver units." Residents of St. Helen Auckland are clearly 'for' the development. Over 300 locals signed a petition in its favour, which would see the derelict Focus site finally redeveloped. The emergency services have also said they would support a scheme, having been called out to a total of 146 incidents at the store since it closed. Councillors will meet next week to discuss matters further.

Firework display cancelled

A community celebration event will not take place 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. Over the past fortnight, Durham County Council officers have been busy visiting a number of sites suggested but unfortunately none which would be large enough, met with the site safety and access guidance. The council's corporate director of neighbourhood services, Terry Collins, said, "We have explored every suggestion and I am really sad to say we are now at the stage whereby we have to say we can't go ahead this year. "I realise this will be really

disappointing for many of the families who have enjoyed the display, but we have no alternative but to cancel it. "I am grateful to everyone involved, including the local members, for all their efforts in trying to help us find an alternative venue. "To compensate as best we can and as a goodwill gesture we have offered each of the three local Area Action Partnerships £3,000 to support other community events in their areas. "While I realise this isn't going to replace what has been lost it will at least mean that residents in the former Wear Valley area still benefit from the funds set aside for the fireworks." The AAPs offered the funds are Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP, Weardale AAP and 3 Towns AAP.

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Claire (owner) of Park Head Hotel with Image Consultant Kathryn Clarke.

Ladies will be given the chance to update their wardrobes in time for a Christmas when a new craze in clothes shopping comes to Bishop Auckland. On Friday 6th November from 6.30pm, the Park Head Country Hotel in Coundon will be hosting a "Swishing Party". Swishing refers to swapping an item or items of clothing, shoes or accessories with friends or acquaintances. It's the latest craze sweeping the country and is ethical, eco-fabulous, social and fun. Local businesswoman Kathryn Clarke, who has been hailed as 'Gok

Wan of the North-East' will also be attending the event. Kathryn, an Image Consultant from Spennymoor, will be offering advice to ladies on flattering styles and how to find the right colours or clothes for you. She says, "I love the feeling of finding that perfect item when I'm out shopping. It suits my colouring, my style, my personality and it's something that I know I'll wear over and over again. I'll show you the colours that suit you, the most flattering styles, the finishing touches and how to put it all together."

There will be further stallholders on hand to help with clothing alterations, selling jewellery, and advising on makeup, hair and beauty. Swishing is often a popular and busy event. Guests are asked to bring up to, but no more than 10 items of new, or nearly new clothing. All guests must be willing to swish and entry is minimum donation of £5. For more information or to pre-book contact Julie Nisbet on 01388 603003 or email julienisbet@butterwick.org.uk. Alternatively, collect tickets from Park Head Hotel.

Remembrance service

Bishop Auckland Town Council, in partnership with Durham County Council and the Royal British Legion, are organising a Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade. The event will be held on Sunday 13th November, commencing at the War Memorial in the Market Place at 10.30am. Following the laying of wreaths, a Service of Remembrance will be held in St. Anne's Church in the Market Place.

MP queries benefit changes

Helen Goodman, Labour MP for Bishop Auckland, is writing to all GPs in her constituency to gauge the effect of changes to benefit assessment rules. New assessments have been brought in by the government to determine whether people currently on Incapacity Benefit are fit to work in some capacity. Since the new procedure was put in place, a significant number of constituents have contacted Ms Goodman with concerns about their cases. Now the Bishop Auckland MP is contacting doctors across the area to determine whether the problem is widespread. Helen Goodman said, "I think everyone accepts that the benefit system needs to be reformed and that people fit for work should be supported into work. "When in office the last Labour government brought

in tougher rules to help people off benefit and into work. However a number of my constituents have approached me to share their quite harrowing experiences of the new Work Capabilities Assessments. "One constituent who is currently off work battling cancer has been told to find a different job by the Department for Work and Pensions despite the fact they are still undergoing treatment and they have a job to go back to when they are fit. "I am writing to GPs in Bishop Auckland to find out how widespread this type of experience is. I'm concerned that in its dash to cut this Tory-led government is hurting some of the most vulnerable people in society." If you have concerns regarding incapacity benefits, write to Helen at 1 Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6EN.

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Halloween horrors in town centre

Ghosts and ghouls will be walking the streets of a Bishop Auckland this weekend as shoppers get into the Halloween spirit. The town's annual celebration of all things spooky on Saturday 29th October will include street entertainment, a face painter and caricaturist. Activities take place in Fore Bondgate between 11.30am and 3.30pm, when the air

will also be filled with scary music. Steve McCormick, Durham County Council town centre manager said, "Our last Halloween event was a big success and this year we're promising even more fun for all the family. "As well the chance to have a ghostly portrait or have your face painted, there will also be creepy music and lots of ghoulish activities."

New session for new mums

A new five week session for mums-to-be is being held at St Helen Auckland Children's Centre. The session, which starts on 17 November 2011, will focus on a different topic each week and is available to ladies who are over 14 weeks pregnant. Jackie Staff, principal family support worker, said: "Sure Start children's centres in Bishop Auckland are working closely with the Health Improvement Team to offer this service. "We hope the mums will

come along and have fun, learn more about their health during pregnancy and make use of the advice and support available to them within this session. "We will cover issues such as healthy eating, keeping healthy, and emotions during the pregnancy - how you may feel during this special time". If you are over 14 weeks pregnant and want to take part in these sessions or find out more, contact Jackie Staff at St Helen Auckland Children's Centre

Charity night for animal sanctuary

A Christmas party night is to be held at Cockton Hill Club this month, in aid of Kays Hill Animal Sanctuary. The event will take place on Saturday 26th November, from 6pm to 11pm, and there will be

a buffet, disco, karaoke, tombola, raffle, games and a quiz. Tickets are £6 each and can be purchased by contacting Becky on 07972268420. Alternatively, you can buy tickets on the door.

Young joiners visit the world of work



FHM Site Manager Martin Robson shows the Bishop Auckland College students around one of the apartments currently being built at Park Avenue Court, in Crook.

Trainee joiners from Bishop Auckland College have visited professionals at work on a major Crook housing scheme. The 15 youngsters all began their training in September and had the chance to see what life was like on a large and busy building site at the newly re-named Park Avenue Court.

Staff from Dale & Valley Homes, which will manage the homes, and constructors FHM, showed the trainees around the site, where work is pressing ahead for the first residents to move in this December. Experts explained construction techniques, materials and the way different trades work

together on the building. Amy Hamilton, project manager for Dale & Valley Homes said, "We have worked closely with the college for many years and this is just another way the partnership can help people in Wear Valley. "This building is packed with energy-saving designs and adaptations to the elderly and disabled."

Couple entered no pleas

Terrence Alexander Hutchinson and Lesley Elizabeth Young entered no pleas when they appeared at Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court recently, and the two will return to the court on

14th December when the case will be committed to Crown Court. On 14th April police executed a search warrant at the couple's home in Bridge Street, Bishop Auckland.

There they found a sophisticated growth of 48 cannabis plants in the attic. Hutchinson, aged 51 and Young aged 49, entered no pleas and were released on unconditional bail.

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Local business supports hospice



The charity event will be held at Ramside Hall.

Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland is about to benefit from a charity ball that will be staged in The Bishop Suite at Ramside Hall on Friday the 4th November, from 7.30pm until 12.30am. Organiser Clair McGregor of local Bishop Auckland business Party Godmother said, "It is a pleasure to organise this fun event when I know all proceeds are going to such a worthy

cause. I have been overwhelmed with the response so far from individuals, businesses and local companies who have come forward to book tables." The evening begins with a Diamonds and Pearls theme and after a sumptuous 3 course dinner, guests will be entertained by top male vocalist Shane Ritchie Jnr and comedienne Sue Sweeney, as well as resident disco Sound

Solutions. You may also want to try your luck on the casino tables. Throughout the evening there will be the traditional fundraising tombola and raffle with all proceeds going to the Hospice. Only a few places still remain and can be booked by emailing clair@partygodmother.com or by calling 01388 454000. Tickets are £35.

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executed a search warrant at the couple's home in Bridge Street, Bishop Auckland. There they found a sophisticated growth of 48 cannabis plants in the attic. Hutchinson, aged 51 and Young aged 49, entered no pleas and were released on unconditional bail.

Annual charity town quiz

Bishop Auckland Civic Society will be hosting the town's annual quiz once again this December. The proceeds from this year's event will be donated to Durham Deafened Support, a charity which promotes the relief, integration, rehabilitation, welfare and education of people who have become isolated because of hearing loss. The quiz will take place at Bishop Auckland Town

Hall on Wednesday 7th December from 7pm. Tickets are £10 per team and a bar service and refreshments will be available. A spokesperson for the event said, "Get a team together to fight it out in the toughest quiz around, all for a good cause." Entry forms are available now from the Town Hall and entries must be received by Thursday 1st December.

Hairstressers Reunited...



After 7 years apart, the Dream Team of Hairdressing are back together!

Richard Moore, Amanda (Mandy) Dolan and Rachel Jackson have been reunited, after Amanda & Rachel joined the expanding team at Escape Hairdressing in Crook from their previous Bishop Auckland salon, where they all trained together.

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Richard has 15 years experience and also holds a Loreal Colour Degree. Amanda is a colour specialist with 15 years experience and Rachel has 12 years experience.

Salon owner & manager Mark said, "Customers have now realised that they no longer need to pay over-inflated prices for a 'High Street name' above the door, when they can get great service in a relaxed, friendly environment."

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Witches and ghouls at Barrington



Sarah Robinson, Sarah Ritchie and Mayor John Lethbridge.

Students at Bishop Barrington certainly entered into the seasonal atmosphere by donning fancy dress recently - all for a good cause. When the Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Councillor John Lethbridge took office, he declared that his chosen charity was to be Butterwick Hospice. Further, he invited schools to join in a fund raising campaign by taking part in a Halloween "dress down day."

Students all paid one pound to arrive in a wide range of costumes and the winner was judged by Councillor Lethbridge.

Head of Technology, Sarah Robinson organised the event and also supervised students who baked Halloween cakes and biscuits for sale at break time. Presenting the prize to winner, Sarah Ritchie, Councillor Lethbridge said, "It was a pleasure for me as Mayor of Bishop Auckland to be invited to judge from such splendid and creative efforts from the students. Bishop Barrington deserves the highest praise."

In the afternoon, Head of Music, Lisa Bain took a group of students to Butterwick Hospice. The students sang a variety

of solo and duet pieces and music was provided by pupils who played keyboards, viola and flute. They also took with them a cheque for the money raised from the day's events.

Accepting the cheque for £700, founder Mary Butterwick said, "Having students from Bishop Barrington visit the hospice is a great pleasure, and it makes all the difference to the people here and their families. It helps them cope with living and provides a form of normality. Donations make all the difference in the world, as we couldn't do what we do without the generosity of others, and all money goes towards keeping this place running."

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The brand new Women's Institute at West Auckland is inviting new members to go along. The group meets on the first Monday of every month at 7pm in the function room of the Eden Arms, West Auckland. The group involves interesting speakers and trips, theatre visits, dining events

and access to a variety of classes and workshops. A spokesperson for the group said, "Whatever your hobbies, interests of age, the Women's Institute welcomes you to join us for some fun, friendship and food!" The next meeting will be held on Monday 7th November.

Light up a life

Take the time to remember your loved ones, at a special Christmas service being held at St Anne's Church in the town's Market Place. During the service, which

will be held at 3pm on Sunday 18th December, you can dedicate a message to be hung on the Light up a Life tree. The service consists of carols, readings and the lighting of the tree.

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It's panto time again!

It's that time of year again and this year, Bishop Auckland Town Hall's pantomime of choice is Jack and the Beanstalk. The traditional panto, starring the larger than life Dame and Buttercup the Cow, includes lots of singing, booing and hissing! The show will be performed

on Sunday 27th November at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, and on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th November at 10.30am and 1.30pm. Tickets cost £6 or £4 for concessions. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact the Town Hall on 01388 602610.

Christmas shop now open

Harry's Farm, a charity-run farm just outside of Spring Gardens in Bishop Auckland, will be opening its annual Christmas Shop and Tea Room on Tuesday 1st November. The shop will be open every day until 23rd December, between 10am and 4pm, with late night opening on Thursday when the doors will be open until 8pm. In store you will find everything from wreaths and trees, to jams, sweets gifts and even your

Christmas pork! Around 95% of the goods are produced on the farm, with all proceeds from the shop being donated to local homeless charity 3:13. "Come along, visit the animals on the farm, have a cuppa and purchase your unique Christmas gifts," said a spokesperson. For more information, call 07761826512 or find Harry's Farm on Facebook. The farm is just off the A68 past Frank Hudson Transport, DL14 0NA.



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Hunt for Wear Valley's good neighbours



Last year's winners with Lyndon Longthorne, who presented the awards.

Bishop Auckland residents are being asked to nominate their neighbours for awards which recognise their generous spirit. For the second year running housing company Dale & Valley Homes is seeking out the area's best neighbours for its annual awards. People will have until 2nd December to nominate people who do a little bit extra for their community. Peter Chaffer, chief executive of Dale & Valley Homes, said, "Last year we heard some really moving stories of people who could only live in their own homes because their neighbours were taking such good care of them. "We were also bowled over by the commitment shown by those who have given everything to their community over the years. "I know these people are often a bit backward in coming forward, thinking that what they do does

not deserve recognition, but without them we would have lost something valuable to our communities, and their work should be celebrated. "I hope many people are moved to nominate someone they know who is doing a valuable job." Again we are really please to be working with the local papers who are another vital piece of the jigsaw in Wear Valley." The four categories are open to anyone in Wear Valley and people can nominate as many people as they want. The categories are: *Good Neighbour of the Year* - An individual who has gone the extra mile to help others *Young Neighbour of the Year* - A person under the age of 25 years who has gone the extra mile to help others *Getting involved in the Community* - An individual

who has really got involved in the community *Outstanding contribution to the fight against anti-social behaviour* - An individual or organisation that has successfully tackled anti-social behaviour in the community. The closing date for nominations is Friday, December 2nd, 2011. Judging will be in the new year, followed by a glittering award ceremony in February. If you would like to nominate someone for one of these awards simply send your name, address and telephone number and the name, address, telephone number and category for your nominee, along with an explanation of why you think they should receive an award, to: Good Neighbour Awards 2011, Dale & Valley House, 27 Longfield Road, South Church Enterprise Park, Bishop Auckland DL14 6XB.

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PACT meetings

Local police will be holding several PACT meetings in upcoming weeks, giving residents a chance to share any concerns they may have with the authorities. The meeting for Henknowle, Cockton Hill and South Church will be held on Wednesday 2nd November at 6pm in Henknowle Community Centre. The Town Centre and Toronto meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th November from 6.30pm in Wetherspoons, while West Auckland, St Helen's and Tindale's meeting will take place on the same night, from 7pm in Tesco. The meeting for Woodhouse Close Estate and Etherley Dene will also take place on Wednesday 9th, and will be held in Woodhouse Close Church from 6.30pm.

Recycling centres in the spotlight

Residents in County Durham are being invited to have their say on the way Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), including that at Romanway Industrial Estate in Tindale Crescent, are provided in the county in the future.

Durham County Council's Cabinet agreed this week to start a public consultation exercise offering people the chance to tell the authority how potential changes to the service could impact on them.

In light of both overprovision and large scale reductions in Government grant, the consultation will gauge opinions on questions including how many sites should be provided, where they should be and how a mobile service could improve options in some more rural areas. The public will also be able to comment on some changes to the current policy, which would prevent large wagons and vans using the centres to dispose of big amounts of waste.

The aim of the proposed review would be to ensure fair access across the county which provides a high level

of customer service and the savings required as part of the council's Medium Term Financial Plan. (The MTFP manages the delivery of the council's requirement to reduce spending by £123.5m over the next four years). Cabinet member for strategic environment, Cllr Bob Young, said, "The prospect of change to any service area naturally raises concerns and we want to use the consultation exercise to hear those concerns and to respond in the most appropriate way."

"It's well publicised that we have to make major financial savings, but just as importantly, we must ensure that the services we provide serve all our residents in a way that is fair to everyone."

"This means that while we propose closure in some places, where there is still a local need we are also suggesting viable alternatives, like a mobile service in the dales."

Corporate director of neighbourhood services, Terry Collins, said, "The consultation is your chance to let us know how the changes proposed would

impact on you. When we have that knowledge we can put it to good use and design our future provision around meeting local needs within the budget available."

The paper to Cabinet proposes consultation on the following.

Retaining HWRCs at: Potterhouse, Seaham, Horden, Coxhoe, Tudhoe, Heighington Lane, Romanway, Annfield Plain and Middleton-in-Teesdale.

Closing HWRCs at: Broomdsene, Cragwood, Thornley, Todhills, Hett Hills and Stainton Grove.

Introducing new mobile service provision to cover: Upper and Lower Weardale and Barnard Castle communities as well as Crook and Willington.

The consultation will start on Friday 28th October and will run for six weeks, ending on Friday 9th December. Anyone interested can take part via their local Area Action Partnership or online at www.durham.gov.uk/consultation.

For further information on the consultation call 0191 383 5674.

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UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 29th October
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Wednesday 2nd November
Home v West Auckland Town

Saturday 5th November
Away v Dunston UTS

Saturday 12th November
Home v Penrith

Saturday 19th November
Away v West Auckland Town

Saturday 26th November
Home v Whitley Bay

Illegal firework hotline

A new hotline is available for residents to report illegal sales of fireworks.

In conjunction with the Safe Durham Partnership, Durham County Council's trading standards team has launched the number in a bid to tackle an increase in unregistered sellers, the supply of banned fireworks and illegal sales to children.

As bonfire night approaches flyers promoting the hotline will be delivered to homes in problem hotspots, asking for help to identify anyone selling fireworks from houses, pubs, mobile shops

and car boot sales.

Last year the council seized a large quantity of illegal bangers, that when tested on a dummy, were shown capable of blowing someone's hand off.

Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and consumer protection, said, "With the recession the offer of cheap fireworks may be tempting but people must be very careful as they might not comply with strict safety standards and can be very dangerous."

Cllr Bob Young, Cabinet member for strategic en-

vironment, added, "The community can play a big part in tackling the issues associated with the supply of illegal goods and sales to youngsters."

"Aside from the nuisance caused by misuse, none of us want unsafe fireworks to fall into the hands of our children and put them at risk."

All illegal fireworks seized by the council are being destroyed by professionals. The hotline number is 03000 260913. An answering machine service operates outside office hours.

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Have a laugh for charity with tv comic

A charity comedy night will take place at Shildon Civic Hall on Thursday, 10th November.

Alfie Moore, Danny Pensive and Dave Twentyman will take to the stage to help support Butterwick Hospice.

As seen on ITV's "Show Me The Funny" with Jason Manford, Alfie Moore is an original and distinctive comedian with a unique twist, as he's also a serving police sergeant.

Danny Pensive's offbeat comedy has made him a popular act across the UK and Dave Twentyman's cheeky, chatty style will keep the crowds entertained.

North-East comedy club "Hilarity Bites" have supported Butterwick Hospice for the last few years, and hopes that this comedy night will be a big



Alfie Moore has appeared on tv alongside Jason Manford.

success for the charity. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Advance tickets can be purchased by calling Julie

Nisbet on 01388 603003, visiting Shildon Civic Hall, or online at www.hilaritybites.co.uk. Doors open at 7pm.

Well loved local society changes its name

After more than 60 years, Bishop Auckland Amateur Operatic Society has changed its name to Wear Valley Musical Theatre Company, with a view to attracting new members who can act or dance, as well as sing. They would also welcome anyone interested in working behind the scenes.

In November they will be performing a concert, "Thank you for the music"

from 10th to 11th at 7pm, in Bishop Auckland Methodist church.

Tickets are priced £7 and under 14s are £5. They are available by calling 01388 604285 or 01325 374714. This is an opportunity for the group to celebrate the name change and showcase their excellent singing, with a selection of songs, ranging from easy listening to Gilbert and Sullivan, from Abba to songs from

their next show "When the lights go on again".

The storyline follows the lives of two families as they cope with the highs and lows of living in World War II; intertwined with well-known songs from the period.

It will be performed from May 15th to 19th 2012 at the Civic Hall Shildon. Tickets are available nearer the time from 01388 604285.

Operation Christmas Child

Wear Valley Christian Centre on South Church Road is hoping to make as many children as possible smile this Christmas, and they need your help!

The centre is taking part in Operation Christmas Child, collecting shoe boxes filled with treats to send to underprivileged children around the world who otherwise wouldn't receive a gift. You can donate ready-filled shoe

boxes, empty boxes or gifts which can be placed in boxes.

Ideal items include small toys, educational supplies such as pens and paper, hygiene items like a toothbrush & toothpaste and other items such as sweets, jewellery, scarves, hats etc.

The shoeboxes will be counted on Sunday 6th November during a 'Shoobox Sunday' service.

WoW!

The next WoW session at Woodhouse Close Library will take place on Wednesday 2nd November, between 1pm and 2.30pm.

This week's session will be an illustrated talk on the

restoration of Hardwick Hall Park.

The following week, 9th November, the session will be entitled 'Dip into the Past', and those attending can learn about how to trace their family tree.

Christmas cards on sale

The Four Clocks Centre on Newgate Street is currently selling multi-charity Christmas cards.

At least 75p from every pound from the Cards

for Good Causes will be donated to one of over 25 charities. Cards can be purchased during the centre's opening times, between 9am and 5pm

Town Hall movies

Bishop Auckland Town Hall will be showing several movies next month.

On Thursday 3rd November 'Just go with it', starring Jennifer Aniston will

be screened, while on Thursday 10th November 'Hanna' will be the film of choice.

Movies start at 7.30pm and tickets cost £3.


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Firms offer free taster sessions for job inspiration

People in County Durham looking for a new job or change in career are being invited to a day of free taster sessions with local employers.

Twenty firms have joined forces with Bishop Auckland College for the "Have a Go" event, being held on Friday 4th November. Each is offering a free hour-long introductory workshop using the first class training facilities at the college's £32m main campus.

Over 2,000 places are available on the day and, in addition to learning a new skill, participants will also get the opportunity to speak to employers and find out firsthand what it is like working in a particular trade or industry.

The sessions include brick-laying, where instructors from Mears Group will demonstrate basic techniques and give participants hands-on experience of how to build straight walls that won't fall down.

Warburtons are sending staff from their Stockton bakery to teach people

how to bake bread, while Farm Fresh Direct will offer a flavour of work as a chef in a business commercial kitchen, preparing high quality, healthy food within a budget.

Matt Boyd, a partner in Jones Boyd Chartered Accountants, will give an introduction covering the key elements of bookkeeping and exploring the opportunities for a career in accountancy.

Meanwhile dog lovers can meet qualified canine behaviourist Becky Armstrong from Bright Paws, and learn how to communicate and work with animals.

For those looking to apply for jobs, the CfBT education trust will offer advice on preparing a CV and, if you want to start your own business, entrepreneurship consultancy Actif will be giving tips.

Other firms taking part include web developers Wish Design, print design agency Print North East, personal fitness and physiotherapy experts Platinum Physiotherapy, the Mobile Tile Company, Aycliffe Fab-



Anne Isherwood, Principal of Bishop Auckland College.

rications and Alan Clarke Photography.

Bishop FM will allow budding DJs to have a go at working in commercial radio, Touchstone Leads MD Kevin Ireson will deliver a session on effective selling, and Butterwick Hospice will offer tips on fundraising.

Bishop Auckland College Principal Anne Isherwood said, "This event is an ideal opportunity for people looking for a new job or change of career to meet employers and have a go at something new.

"I'd urge people to register early to secure their place via our website at www.bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk where they can find a full list of employers and activities."

The "Have a Go" event is part of the Regional Skills Festival World Skills 2011, and has been funded by the European Social Fund.

For more information visit the college's website.

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Helping History



Barbara Laurie (right) hands over her donated books to Head of History Sarah Hirst.

Local history author, Barbara Laurie was so impressed with Bishop Barrington students' GCSE results that she decided to donate over one hundred copies her books to the History Department at the school. Barbara has written several books, but the ones that she has donated are primarily about the local history of Bishop Auckland. The books deal with oral history recorded by local people and cover the war years and onwards to the 1950s. Another title called, "The Changing Face of Bishop Auckland" traces key local events back to its Roman

roots. Barbara Laurie said, "I was so impressed to see that History was being well taught in the school I thought that by donating these books I could encourage young people to actively discover the history that is all around them." Receiving the books on behalf of the school, Head of History Sarah Hirst said, "This is a very generous gift by an author who is immersed in listening to local people and their rich source of memories. "Our students will certainly be motivated to read these books and then try their hand at recording local events and

traditions." Barbara has been a governor at Bishop Barrington School for over twenty years and a chairperson for ten of them.

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Bishop mother jailed

Magistrates at Newton Aycliffe recently described Maureen Marie Spensley as a prolific offender who showed total disregard for the court before sentencing her to 26 weeks in custody. The 36 year-old mother of two, from Snowdon Crescent, had earlier pleaded guilty to stealing cosmetics, valued at £92, from Boots in Crook on 5th October. Spensley asked for three

other similar offences to be taken into consideration, each for stealing cosmetics from the same store. The court heard that the defendant was currently serving a community order and that she had sold some of the stolen items to help with family finances which were said to be in a terrible state. She is a former heroin addict and is currently on a methadone programme.

Samurai sword seized

On 2nd August at around 10am, police stopped a vehicle in Watling Road, Bishop Auckland. Inside the vehicle, along with other males, was 48 year-old Michael Yorke, who was seen trying to conceal something. Police discovered a Samurai Sword and sheath which Yorke claimed to have bought for £5 from David Wright a

couple of days earlier. This was confirmed by Mr. Wright but forgetfulness was not an acceptable reason for the defendant not to have removed the item from the vehicle. Yorke, of St. John's Walk, Escomb, was fined a total of £200 by Magistrates at Newton Aycliffe, and the forfeiture and destruction of the sword was ordered.

Natalie would like to advise all of her clients, old and new, that she is now back at the New

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This week in History		
<p>27 October 1904</p> <p>The first underground New York City Subway line opened; the system became the biggest in the United States.</p>	<p>28 October 1971</p> <p>Britain launched its first satellite, Prospero, into low Earth orbit.</p>	<p>29 October 1986</p> <p>British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher opened the last stretch of the M25 motorway.</p>
<p>30 October 1944</p> <p>Anne Frank was deported from Auschwitz to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.</p>	<p>31 October 1997</p> <p>19-year-old British au pair Louise Woodward, was sentenced to life in prison.</p>	<p>1 November 1604</p> <p>Shakespeare's tragedy Othello was presented for the first time, at Whitehall Palace in London.</p>

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St Mary's roundup

St Mary's Under 7 Aces won 3-1 away at Richmond in their latest fixture, with goals from Jake Heighington and Danny Shaw (2). The Under 7 Kings drew 2-2 against Spraire Lads with goals from Bailey Wainwright and Joe Spark. The Under 8 Aces won 2-1 over Stockton Town Blues with two goals from Dylan Nicholson and Robson Clarey being handed man-of-the-match. The Under 9s had a great 2-1 win over Greatham with goals from Oliver Johnson and Owen Goal with Thomas Hindmarch earning man-of-the-match. The Under 10 Aces had an excellent 2-0 win over Hardwick Youth, with goals from Tom Aldsworth and Jack Hobbs with man-of-the-match going to Lewis Pearson. The Under 10 Kings won 2-0 against Ferryhill Town with both goals coming from man-of-the-match Jack Glasper. The Under 11s drew 2-2 with Nunthorpe with goals from Adam Hall and Peter Gillis.

The Under 12s lost away at Marton with Jamie Redfern scoring and Adam Dobson man-of-the-match. The Under 13 Aces won 2-1 in the County Cup against Sunderland West End, with goals from Kieran Alderson and Steven Taylor. The Under 13 Kings won 7-1 also in the county cup against Cumby Rovers with goals from Sam Parnaby (4), Thomas Wilkinson (2) and man-of-the-match Gareth McMahon (1). The Under 14 Aces remain unbeaten with a 5-3 win away at Redcar. Goals were scored by James Marley, Alex Quinn, Matthew Raisbeck and Jack Pollard with Kyle Frizzell producing some fine saves and Jacob Collins earning man-of-the-match. The Under 14 Kings lost against Trimdon with Kieran Maddison scoring, while the Under 15 Aces won 2-0 over Leven in a very close game. Goals came from Nathan Wall and Ben Pickering, starring along with shared goalkeepers Tim Hargreaves and Ethan

Shanks, who produced some fine saves. The Under 16s lost 3-1 against Billingham Town with James Lupton scoring. The Under 18 Aces lost 3-1 against Stockton Town with Danny Howard scoring and Aidan Warburton winning man-of-the-match. The Under 18 Kings also lost 3-1 against Redcar Town with a goal from Patrick Stephenson and James Cleminson producing some fine saves. The Under 13 Angels had a great 4-1 win over Hartlepool, with goals from Kimberley Dodds (2), Shannon Reed and Enya Clark. The Under 15s also had a great 6-1 win against Middlesboro Lionesses, with goals from Bianca Owens (3), Paige Roxby (2) and Anna Colwell. The Under 16 boys are holding a Cabaret Night at the Belvedere WMC on Saturday 10th December to raise funds for their Barcelona trip next year. Contact Emma for tickets on 07738 084181.

Under 10s take on Sunderland



A Bishop player makes a break past two Sunderland teammates.

It was a great morning of rugby for Bishop's Under 10s team, as they hosted a well-supported and strong Sunderland team at home. The game started with Bishop standing half asleep waiting for the whistle that had already gone, a few shouts from the sideline soon had some of the Bishop players more focussed. A break on from Sunderland saw Will and Jack stand their ground with good solid defensive tackles put in by both. The game seemed to be played in the centre of the field with neither team making any ground in the scrums, then as if by magic, Bishop came to life. A break on from Jack, dragging players with him, soon had Luke on the attack and the tryline. Heads lifted, smiles on their faces and eager to start the initial hard work had paid off. All players were now keen to find the tryline and gave their all. James

was tackling player after player, Luke was trying to run through everyone as if he was invisible, Jack and Will were the hard hitters in the middle, and Liam and Nathan waiting for the ball on the wings. Bishop were really starting to spread themselves out, passing the ball along the nicely formed line and using the whole pitch to the delight of the coach. Liam and Nathan were working well together, stopping the Sunderland players attacking down the sidelines. With further tries from Luke, James, Will and Jack, the team seemed to go from strength to strength, then all their hard work wasn't as rewarding as it should have been as Sunderland pulled tries back. The final score was 45 v 25 in Bishop's favour. Jack Wiffen was awarded player-of-the-week for his outstanding play and sheer defensive determination in the centre of the pitch.

Tag rugby competition

Young Rugby Stars of the future braved the windy and wet conditions for the Bishop Auckland Tag Rugby Competition recently. Organised by King James I Academy in partnership with Bishop Auckland Rugby Club and Wear Valley and Teesdale School Sport Partnership, the competition was a great success. The teams, made up of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils from eight primary

schools, competed in a very intense competition and the standard of rugby was extremely high. After some fiercely fought games in the group stages, two schools emerged for the final, Escomb Primary and Tofthill Primary. The game ended four tries each after full time so two minutes extra time had to be played, with Tofthill scoring the decisive try with 30 seconds to go.

Tofthill will now go the district final to play schools from the Staindrop and Teesdale areas with a place in the county finals up for grabs. Schools which entered the competition were, St Anne's Primary, Escomb Primary, Prince Bishops Primary, Oakley Cross Primary, Tofthill Primary, Cockton Hill Juniors, Copeland Road Primary and St Helen's Primary.

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