Shakespeare at Auckland Castle during half term

It will be a case of As You Like It as Auckland Castle serves up a packed programme of fun-filled activities for families to dip in and out of over the February half-term.

The former home of England’s only Prince Bishops will be throwing open its doors for a week of Shakespeare-inspired events that promise to be “as merry as the day is long!”

A first folio of Shakespeare's Histories and Tragedies dating back to 1623 is currently on display as part of the castle's stunning Plots and Spangles exhibition, which delves into the history of the Gunpowder Plot and Catholic suppression in 17th century Britain.

And the exhibition is the spur for a string of arts and crafts, drama and play events aimed at introducing young and old alike to the man widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language.

Among the activities planned between 13th-21st February, is the chance to not only create your own story page to be added to a special first folio of work collected from visiting families, but to explore the

Danielle Deverell-Smith, her son Edward, 4, and Castle Player, Andrew Stainthorpe, the co-host of ‘What makes Shakespeare Great’ enjoying a book on the famous writer.

Continued on page 3
Love is in the air at Auckland Castle this February half-term!

February half-term coincides with Valentine’s Day, and Auckland Castle has activities for little cupids too! Be My Valentine takes place on Saturday 13th February from 12-3pm. Create a Valentine’s card for the person you love in this arts and crafts session, which is free with admission to the castle. Passion is on Sunday 14th February from 12-3pm. Make a felt heart scented with rose and decorated with gems as a gift or personal keepsake. This event is also free with admission to the castle.

Setting the scene for Valentine’s Day will be The Castle Players who bring their production of a much-loved Jane Austen story to Auckland Castle. Pride and Prejudice takes place on Saturday 6th February at 7.30pm. More than 200 years after Jane Austen’s early 19th century story of grand country estates, beautiful women and eligible young men was first published, it is still regarded as the ultimate comedy romance. Vivid characters, humour and romance abound in Laurence Sach’s new adaptation, which will be shown in the Throne Room.

Cost: £12/£10 for concessions. Booking essential by calling 01388 743 797. Louise Strong said: “With February 2016 including a leap day when women traditionally propose to their loved ones, Valentine’s Day and National Marriage Week running between the 7-14 February, the month is set to officially be the most romantic of the year.

“I can’t think of a more tranquil and romantic spot to be on Valentine’s weekend than Auckland Castle, whether it is families looking to spend precious time together or lovers planning to leap into action and pop the question.”

Cricket reunion

A reunion for all past and present players of Etherley Cricket Club will be held in the clubhouse on Friday 15th April from 7.30pm. A spokesperson said: “We look forward to welcoming back as many players as possible to enjoy an evening of reminiscing about the past, present and future.” “The club is always on the lookout for new players interested in taking part in the new summer season.” “Adult and junior practice begins on Monday 1st February from 7pm at St John’s Sports Hall, Woodhouse Lane. “Simply turn up on the night or if you want more information, contact John Raw by email on jraw2883@aol.com.”
Bishop Auckland couple spice up charity fundraising

Earlier this month, a Bishop Auckland couple raised over £1,000 for the NSPCC from a curry and quiz night in the Spice Lounge restaurant in the town. Nihad Ćehić and Sarah Louise Cook will be trekking across the Great Wall of China in October this year due to support from the NSPCC.

So far, the couple have raised over £1,200 and hope to raise £6,000 for the NSPCC.

Event organiser and community fundraising manager for the NSPCC, Nihad Ćehić said: “As a fundraiser for the NSPCC, I often work with inspirational volunteers who do amazing things to raise money for the charity. “With it being the 30th Anniversary of the NSPCC’s ChildLine Service this year, I wanted to do something really challenging to raise money and awareness for this fantastic charity. “The support from the community has been amazing and we couldn’t have got this far without their help.”

The quiz was sold out due to support from the South West Durham NSPCC Branch and members of the local community, Sarah Islam, a primary teacher at Durham High School for Girls said: “It’s a daunting prospect every time I think about trekking up hundreds of slippery steps on the other side of the world. “However, the work that the NSPCC does in the North East is amazing and I am thrilled to be able to do my bit to support them.”

Issy Islam, restaurant manager at the Spice Lounge said: “We were delighted to host the NSPCC in our restaurant. There was a fantastic atmosphere in the room and I am proud that we were able to help raise so much money for a fantastic cause.”

The couple plan to host another curry and quiz night at the Spice Lounge on Monday 25th July. Anyone wishing to sponsor Nihad and Sarah can do so by visiting their online fundraising page at uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/nihadandsarah.

Give blood in Bishop Auckland

NHS Blood and Transplant services will be hosting two blood donor sessions at the Scout Centre, Kingsway, Bishop Auckland on Thursday 4th February. The first session will take place between 2.05pm and 4pm while there will be a second opportunity to make a donation from 4.05pm to 7.05pm.

The NHS needs over 6,000 blood donations every day to treat patients in need across England and North Wales. For more information, visit the NHS blood donors website at blood.co.uk or call 0300 123 23 23.

Shakespeare at Auckland Castle

From page 1

language and characters featured in Shakespeare’s works in the company of Barnard Castle-based community drama group, The Castle Players. Auckland Castle’s Shakespeare themed events will be rolled out from Monday 15th February and include: Discover Shakespeare on Monday 15th February from 12pm-3pm.

Find out about the man himself with fun facts, colouring and arts and crafts exploring his plays and the time when he lived.

Setting the Scene is on Wednesday 17th February from 12-3pm. The activity invites participants to set a scene for a Shakespeare play with a midsummer fairy or elf garden made with natural materials. And why not dress as a fairy or elf to help set the scene?

What Makes Shakespeare Great? is the question being asked on Thursday 18th February from 12-3pm. The Castle Players will host three, one hour family workshops exploring the language and characters of Shakespeare.

The workshops will look at pre-selected scenes where the action is implied through the dialogue, such as the opening of Hamlet and the lovers in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and will explore how this occurs, where the clues are, and what happens when you find them.

They will be led by lecturer and freelance director Laurence Sach and assisted by Castle Players’ member Andrew Stainthorpe.

All of the above events are free with admission to the castle. Booking is essential and can be arranged by calling 01388 743 797.

Bishop Auckland’s First Folio is an event which will run from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st February from 12-3pm. Shakespeare’s first folio can be seen in the Prints and Spangles exhibition (which runs until April 11th and events are detailed in issue 170 of the Bishop Press, available online at bishoppress.com).

Visitors can help Auckland Castle create its own first folio by penning their own story and decorating it to create something beautiful at these drop-in sessions which are also free with admission to the castle.
Violinist performs at Town Hall

A much loved member of the Parsian jazz scene, violinist, Daniel John Martin, who has played and recorded with gypsy jazz greats such as Angelo Debarre, Tchavolo Schmitt, Romane, Ellos & Boulou Ferre, Patrick Sousseine and Noe Reinhardt, is coming to Bishop Auckland to perform at the Town Hall on Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm.

He has been described as a “unique and charismatic performer” and “one of the most talented violinists of his generation” so residents are in for a treat if they pop along at just £10 a ticket (£8 for concessions).

Chair of governors receives BME for services to education

Clive Hubery, 71, from Woodhouse Close, Bishop Auckland was recently awarded a BEM (British Empire Medal) for his services to learning, welfare and opportunities offered to pupils, many of whom have medical or behavioural difficulties.

The children Clive helps are pupils at The Oaks, now part of The South West Durham Learning Federation after its amalgamation with Evergreen Primary School in September 2015. Mr Hubery belongs to a chair of the governing body overseeing the learning of the pupils at the schools and, as Andrea English, executive headteacher of the federation describes him, is someone who “ensures pupils are at the heart of everything the school does.”

Initially, Clive Hubery drove a bus full of children with behavioural and medical difficulties to and from lessons. This inspired the Bishop Auckland resident to further help such children meet their educational needs. He started off creating certificates with which to reward the good behaviour of young pupils attending the former Whitworth School, in Spennymoor, before becoming school governor to The Oaks Secondary School, a new school, also in Spennymoor, which was the result of a combination of many schools, one of which included the former Whitworth School.

This culminated in the semi-retired transport operator becoming chair of governors in 2005. Clive said: “I love the kids. That is what it is all about. “I don’t want to just attend meetings. I want to get involved in all aspects of school life and hardly ever miss a day there.

“Most of the kids know me by my first name and high-five me. “My main aim is to be there for the school and the kids. “It is wonderful and very rewarding.”

Andrea English added: “He is passionate about the school and its pupils, attends every school event and takes great pride in the achievements of both individual pupils and the school as a whole. He genuinely cares about the learning offered to young people with special educational needs. He acts as a role model for students, who respond well to his calm and caring approach. He has a big personality, is exceptionally generous and is very popular with students at the school.”

Myra Smith, vice chair of The Oaks governing body added: “We are all delighted that Clive has been honoured with this award which is richly deserved.”

Civic Society chair to give art talk

The work by pitmen painters of the North East, including Norman Cornish, Tom McGuinness and Ted Holloway, will be shown and discussed by Dr Robert McManners, author of books on the subject, when he speaks to Darlington Lecture Society at Carmel RC College in Darlington on Monday, 8th February at 7.30pm.

Dr McManners is chairman of Bishop Auckland Civic Society and it is hoped he will also give an update on plans for the town to become a centre for great Spanish art. For more details, call 01325 363350 or visit www.darlingtonlecture.org.uk.

CAB looking for volunteers

Citizens Advice County Durham is asking if residents are looking for a new challenge in the new year.

“Why not volunteer with us?” asked a spokesperson.

“We are looking to recruit volunteers in the following areas and more: reception, gateway, generalist advice, administration and digital money coaches.”

If you are interested and want more information, contact Helen Wightman on 0191 372 6741 or email helen.wightman@cccab.org.uk.

Oasis raising funds for Butterwick Hospice

Oasis dental care at Cockton Hill Road in Bishop Auckland is organising a charity fundraising event for Bridge2Aid - a dental charity providing vital dental pain relief and training for healthcare workers to deliver sustainable dentistry in the developing world - and for its nominated local charity, Butterwick Hospice.

A spokesperson said: “The event will take place on Saturday, 27th February from 9am until 2pm and will consist of a day of fun activities for families.

Previous events have always proved very popular. “We have lots going on, including cakes stalls, tea and coffee being served, raffles prizes to be won, free oral health advice, a colouring competition, goodie bags, nail painting and lots more.

“Thirty percent of the money will go to Bridge2Aid and seventy percent of the funds raised will stay local at Butterwick Hospice, so come along and support these worthwhile causes.”

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Big Enough to Cope, Small Enough to Care
Mayor’s quiz and carvery night raises £400

The Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Cllr Lee Brownson hosted a quiz and carvery night at the Pavilion in Bishop Auckland, where a total of £400 was raised for his chosen charity Help for Heroes. Mayors from across the region joined members of the public who all enjoyed a brilliant evening. The quiz was made up of eight different themed rounds including celebrity pictures and a ‘guess the song’ round. Team Sadii’s won the quiz and kindly donated the winning cash prize back to the chosen charity.

Cllr Lee Brownson said: “I’ve always enjoyed writing and hosting quizzes and thought it would be good to host a quiz night as one of my fundraising events during my year as the Mayor. “Everyone seemed to have found the questions fun and interesting, but not too challenging and to raise £400 to add to my charity is fantastic. “I would also like to thank the Pavilion for the use of the club and praise the staff who were all fantastic.”

The Mayor’s next event is his Civic Ball which will be held at Auckland Castle on Saturday 9th April.

Donate furniture to help poorly pets

Staff and volunteers at a Bishop Auckland charity shop are urging local supporters to donate furniture to help raise vital funds for the UK’s leading veterinary charity, PDSA.

Supporters with good quality furniture, including settees, desks and chairs should contact the shop on 01388 607844 to arrange a free collection.

For health and safety reasons, PDSA can only accept furniture that has the fire-warning label relating to the 1988 regulations.

Shop Manager, Bev, said: “If you’ve recently re-decorated, had a clearout or moved house and have unwanted furniture taking up your valuable space, then why not donate your items to PDSA? “Sofas and bookcases, as well as small items such as dressers, tables and chairs, are very popular with our customers who are looking to furnish their homes at bargain prices. “All donations will help us raise valuable funds to care for the sick and injured pets of local people in need.”

Located at 57 Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland, PDSA shop raises funds to provide PDSA-funded veterinary treatment in the local area.

Donations can also be taken to the shop from Monday to Saturday, from 9am to 5pm.

For more information about Bishop Auckland PDSA shop, contact Bev, 01388 607844. For more information about PDSA, visit pdsa.org.uk.

RBL branch outreach

The Royal British Legion will be visiting Bishop Auckland Town Hall on Thursday 4th February from 10am - 12.30pm as part of its Outreach Programme. Information, advice and guidance will be available for serving members of the Armed Forces, Reservists, veterans and their families.

A spokesperson for the Legion said: “Please pop in to see us, you will be made very welcome.”

For more information or to find out more about the Legion’s activities, call 0808 802 8080 or visit the organisation online at www.britishlegion.org.uk.

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Crackdown on smoking in County Durham bus stations

A crackdown is under way on smoking in County Durham bus stations, including Bishop Auckland Bus Station.

Durham County Council officers are teaming up with bus companies Arriva and Go North East to send out the message that smoking will not be tolerated in the county’s stations.

The campaign, which runs until February, will see County Council staff visiting bus stations and issuing fines to anyone caught smoking.

Since 2007, almost all indoor public places and workplaces, including vehicles, have been required to be smoke free by law.

Smoking is also prohibited in all enclosed or ‘substantially enclosed’ public places and workplaces, including bus stations.

But despite the law, some people continue to smoke in and around county stations.

A survey was recently carried out at some of the county’s bus stations which revealed that over 71% of people surveyed have seen smoking in or around the sites.

Public Protection Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens will be visiting stations in County Durham, including Bishop Auckland, while the campaign is running.

They will be reminding people that it is against the law to smoke in bus stations, issuing fixed penalty notices to anyone caught doing so and providing advice and guidance on smoke free issues.

Information posters will also be displayed in the stations.

Arriva and Go North East are supporting the campaign by spreading the message among their staff, especially those who work in county stations.

Joanne Waller, Head of Consumer Protection at Durham County Council, said: “Smoking in bus stations is illegal and yet some people continue to do it.

“It is a health hazard and a nuisance to other station users and we will be taking action against anyone we catch flouting the law.”

MP’s Constituency Surgeries

Helen Goodman, MP, is holding a range of Constituency Surgeries throughout the month of February.

There’s a surgery on Friday 5th February at 5.30pm at The Witham, 3 Horse Market, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY.

This is followed by a surgery on Thursday 11th February at 12pm at Spennymoor Town Hall, High Street, Spennymoor, DL16 6DG.

The last surgery of the month is on Friday 26th February at 12.30pm at Auckland Youth and Community Centre, Walker Drive, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6QJ.

You can contact Helen Goodman, MP, by visiting her at one of her advice surgeries (see above), writing to Helen’s Constituency Office at 1, Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 6EN, phoning the office on 01388 603075 or emailing Helen at goodmanh@parliament.uk.

Alternatively, you can obtain more information by visiting Helen’s Constituency website at helengoodman.org.uk.

Town Team public meeting

The next public meeting of the Bishop Auckland Town Team will take place at the 4 Clocks Centre, 154a Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland on Thursday 18th February 2016.

Guest speakers will also be in attendance giving updates on what is happening in the town.

Light refreshments served from 5.30pm and the meeting will start at 6pm.

All members of the public are invited to attend, so if you are passionate about our beautiful town then come along and show your support.

Anyone requiring more information can email info@bishopaucklandtownteam.org

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Police re-appeal for witnesses to crash

Road near the Tindale crossed West Auckland on 23rd December as he hit by a red Suzuki Swift. Graham Brown, 55, was witnesses to crash.

Police are renewing an appeal for witnesses following a serious road collision just before Christmas which left a Bishop Auckland man seriously injured in hospital.

The accident happened at around 6pm on Wednesday, 23rd December on the A6072 West Auckland Road near to the Tindale Crossing public house.

A local man, Graham Brown aged 55, was struck by a red coloured Suzuki Swift as he crossed the road. Mr Brown remains in hospital where his condition is described as ‘poorly but stable’.

Sgt Andy Sutherland, from the road policing unit said; “At the time of the accident there was a queue of slow-moving or stationary traffic leading to the roundabout between the A6072 and A688, near to the Tindale Crossing pub. We are very keen to speak to any occupants of these vehicles who may have witnessed the collision.”

Witnesses are requested to contact the collision investigation unit on 101 ext 75.

Residents’ meeting

The next meeting of the Henknowle Residents’ Association will be on Monday 1st February at 2pm in the Dorset Place Community Centre.

Help Foxy escape a harsh shelter and find a loving home

Foxy has never been out of this pen; it is all she has known for the past five years and the shelter behind makes life unbearably hot in the summer and freezing in the winter.

Foxy was caught by one of the dog catchers in Romania when she was a small puppy, wandering the streets.

Since Foxy has had hardly any exercise or interaction with other dogs, she is overweight and in a poor condition.

Better Life Dog Rescue is a charity dedicated to providing foster care for suffering dogs like Foxy, where they can begin to learn to adapt to the kind of safe and caring life a dog should have, until they are ready for a new home.

Christine Kipling, who works for the charity said; “We can’t do that until we find someone selfless enough to give up their time and patience to give Foxy the healing that she rightly deserves.

“If we can’t find anyone to help her, she will undoubtedly rot in this infested pit of a life in which she has been incarcerated.

“ If there is a caring person who thinks they can help Foxy, we may be able to offer her to a great new life, and how rewarding would that be, knowing that she would be safe and happy for the first time in five years.”

In more positive news, Arthur, the dog mentioned in the last issue of the Bishop Press (issue 175) has now found a great home and will be travelling to his new family on January 31st.
Bishop Auckland club ‘Blitz’ new tournament

Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club (TTC) sent five players to compete in the first ever “Blitz TTC” two star in Gainsborough on Sunday 24th January.

The day started well with Anya Milne reaching the final of the u11 girls, where she did things the hard way coming back from 2-0 down to win 3-2.

The Junior Boys saw Jack Dobson and Crinion, James Whales and Ethan McLoughlin.

Overall Junior Boys Plate Winner, Lee Tinkler, found himself in the plate event before going down. Older brother Luca Pontone reached the final stages. Leo Pontone reached the semi finals of the u11 plate event after just losing out 11-9 in the 5th to much higher ranked Kieran Wardell.

Lee maintained his form and scored two unexpected wins over higher ranked players to reach the final, where he did things the hard way coming back from 2-0 down to win 3-2.

St Mary’s round up

St Mary’s coaches, Joe Mason, Matthew Ellison, Mitch Cowper, Garen Berry, Chris Gill, Gary Whittaker, Mark Crinion and Jonathan Dixon are celebrating after recently passed their Youth Module 2 football coaching course.

In this week’s matches, the Under 7 Aces started the weekend off on St John’s School 3G pitch with a great win over Middleton Rangers. Goals came from Luca McMahon, Jay Grant, Daniel Robertson and Charlie Cranston.

Under 7 Kings also had a great performance against Billingham with goals from Dylan Cook and Jake Wilkinson (5). The U8 Kings had a tremendous win over Seaton Carew with Tyler Richardson scoring two great goals and the players playing superb football.

The U9 Kings also had a great win over Greatham with goals from Ben Crinion, James Whales and Ethan McLoughlin.

The U10 Aces had a good game against Newton Aycliffe Juniors with goals from Finlay Thomas and Jake Meek.

The U11 Kings played great football against Stockton Town with goals from Luke Linkney, Harrison Taylor and Mason Hardy.

The U12 Aces also had a great 2-1 win away at Normanby with goals from Declan Trotter and Ryan Byrne.

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The U12 Kings won 5-1 over Greatham with two goals from Kyle Blacklock, who has recently returned from Newcastle trials, Kya Crawford, Jack Dobson and Isaac Emmerson.

The U14 Aces lost for the first time this season in the semi finals of the u13 girls at the quarter finals of the u13’s and the last 16 of the cadet boys, in the 5th game to seeded ranked Kieran Wardell.

Lee maintained his form and scored two unexpected wins over higher ranked players to reach the final, where he did things the hard way coming back from 2-0 down to win 3-2.

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