THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS TO THE TOWN’S FOOD FESTIVAL

Bishop Auckland Food Festival in the Durham Dales is all about bringing people together to celebrate the wonders of food. The Festival aims to attract thousands of visitors to Auckland Castle on Saturday, April 17th, as part of one of the North East’s biggest free food events.

The Food Festival also acts as a priceless platform for small businesses to sell locally-made produce to a wider audience, enabling those people to treat their taste buds to new experiences - there will be over 100 stall holders in attendance.

The event isn’t all about food. The Festival also aims to attract thousands of visitors to Auckland Castle on Saturday, April 17th, as part of one of the North East’s biggest free food events.

The Festival is all about kneading the culture of Bishop Auckland and the Durham Dales such a special experience. It is hoped that the food festival will be as popular as previous years.

Sarah-Jane Szikora, a clog dancing chef and the beautiful sounds of live Brass Band music, Bishop Auckland Food Festival is being presented by Bishop Auckland Town Centre Forum in partnership with Durham County Council and sponsored by Bishop Auckland Town Council.

The funding is being made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union and is managed by One North East in the North East region with additional support by the Co-operative and Northern Rail.

Barbara Laurie, Chair of Bishop Auckland Town Centre Forum, said, “The Food Festival is all about kneading together all of the amazing ingredients that makes visiting Bishop Auckland and the Durham Dales such a special experience.

“It promises to be a feast to behold; where food, drink and culture will combine to create an event that not only tantalises peoples’ taste buds but will also leave them wanting more year upon year. We hope the Festival becomes a favourite on the annual food calendar and brings an abundance of people to County Durham enabling visitors to eat, drink and absorb the wonders of North East England.”

Bishop Auckland Food Festival in the Durham Dales is taking place between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Saturday, April 17th, at Auckland Castle. For further information, visit www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk.

A Park & Ride scheme will be in operation on the grounds of Bishop Auckland College during the Food Festival proceedings.

PUPILS & STAFF OVER THE MOON WITH NEW BUS

Staff, pupils and parents at Evergreen Primary School, a school for children with physical disabilities and special educational needs, are delighted to have successfully completed a massive fundraising effort.

For over four years the school, located on Warwick Road, has been trying to amass the funds to buy a new, accessible bus which would enhance the educational experience of pupils.

The school raised £15,500 towards the 17-seater, wheelchair accessible coach. A further £11,500 was donated by the Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust, and the remainder of the cost was provided by The Variety Club.

The school was presented with one of The Variety Club’s Sunshine buses on Thursday, March 25th, with the help of Middlesbrough footballer, Tony McMahon.

The school’s Headteacher, Tracey Hutchinson, said, “The children are ecstatic. It means everyone can go out on trips and a class of mixed physical abilities can travel together. “Trips really make for an interesting curriculum. Going out and enjoying physical and visual experiences in new places is really important for our children and makes them come alive.”

“We didn’t think we could raise as much money as we did, but the local community has been amazing, from relatively small individual contributions and from companies.

“We’re so grateful to them all and to the charities we received support from.”

The school is working with the Education and Training Board, which has been supporting the project, and One North East, which is jointly administering funds received from the European Union and is also providing funding.

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SIBLING DUO TAKE PART IN NATIONAL SPORTS EVENT

Hayley and Matthew Bradley of Bishop Auckland had an exciting weekend on March 20th and 21st, when they competed in two National Schools Sports events. On Saturday, March 20th, Hayley aged 15, competed at the ESSA Schools Biathlon. They were to take part in the National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace in London on the following day. Hayley was part of the Durham County Intermediate Girls team at the event.

In adverse conditions, she ran a 2.4 kilometres. Heavy rain had made the course a quagmire of mud.mathew

On the following day, Hayley finished 7th overall in his age group having improved her position by 5 places on her entry position. Matthew was representing St. Johns R.C Sixth Form Centre of Bishop Auckland. He swam a 50 meters freestyle and then ran 500 metres. Matthew finished 7th overall in his age group improving his entry position by eleven places.

ENTREPRENEUR RESORTED TO THEFT

A budding entrepreneur sought to get ahead in business by resorting to theft, Bishop Auckland Magistrates Court heard. David Cullen, 33, appeared in court after he was thwarted in an attempt to steal great reviver from Wilkinson’s on Monday, March 15th. Mr Cullen was made subject to a curfew, between 8.00pm and 7.00am, and given a six-month conditional discharge.

GET IN A SPIN TO GET FIT

Fitness experts are urging members of the public to get in a spin by getting to grips with a new craze. Spinning is the new, fun way of toning up and getting into shape and Bishop’s Leisure Centre is offering classes during the week. Spinning is a high intensity aerobic exercise that takes place on specially-designed stationary bikes and strengthens muscles in the lower body. Classes take place at Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre on the following dates and times but places are limited.

Woodhouse: Monday 6.00pm - 6.45pm Tuesday 7.30pm - 8.15pm Wednesday 6.15pm - 7.00pm Thursday 7.30pm - 8.15pm Friday 12.00pm - 12.45pm Friday 6.00pm - 6.45pm

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EMPTY SHOP BOOST FOR BISHOP AUCKLAND

Bishop Auckland is being earmarked as the first key town in County Durham to benefit from a new business boosting initiative. Durham County Council will deliver, and part fund, the ‘Empty Shops Initiative’ (ESI), which begins late spring / early summer 2010 and will help small or fledgling creative and cultural businesses into vacant premises.

The purpose of the ‘Empty Shops Initiative’ is to reduce the high levels of vacant retail space in key town centres across County Durham, and it will start in Bishop Auckland.

Peter McDowell, Business Services Manager for the council, says the historic Fore Bondgate area will be the first to benefit, “We want to use this initiative to support the development of this historic area of Bishop Auckland as creative and cultural quarter. “There are some 15 empty shops in this area and we want to match the right businesses to the right premises and then help them get started.”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, Councillor Neil Foster, said, “We have £52,000 from Central Government and have promised a further £48,000 from our business space capital programme. In addition, we have applied for, and very hopefully of getting, match funding from One North East to support a whole range of initiatives to re-use empty shops. This programme has so many benefits, not just reducing the number of empty premises. It will also benefit the current shopkeepers of Fore Bondate by generating new business through increased footfall.”

Durham County Council is now working to raise awareness of the project with the existing business support networks, helping them to find suitable occupants.

LIFE DRAWING CLASSES

Organisers of a life drawing class are inviting budding artists to join their group. A spokesperson said, “Join us for a fun and friendly life drawing course. From complete novices to professionals, all are welcome to join us.” Sessions will take place at West Auckland Memorial Hall, Darlington Road, West Auckland, from Wednesday April 28th, between 7.00pm and 9.00pm. Entry costs £5 which includes refreshments.

CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

A charity craft and gift fair is to take place on Easter Sunday, April 4th, between 10.00am and 4.00pm at The Manor House Hotel in West Auckland.

There will be handmade crafts, gifts and collectables, as well as a tombola, cake and bottle stall. Entrance to the event, which is in aid of the Mara Unit at Bishop Auckland Hospital and the Mines Advisory Group, is 50p per person or free for children.

LIBRARY CLOSURE

Bishop Auckland Town Hall Library will be closed from Friday, April 2nd, until Monday, April 5th, when Bishop Auckland will be closed across County Durham, and will start in Bishop Auckland.

SAILORS PASS ROYAL NAVY BASIC TRAINING

Two recruits from the area went on parade on Friday, March 26th, to celebrate the successful completion of their basic training during a ceremony attended by the Royal Navy’s highest ranking officer.

Trainee Engineering Technician, Christopher Davison, and trainee Naval Airman, Kyle Murgatroyd, arrived at the gates of HMS Raleigh, in Cornwall in January to undergo nine weeks of intensive training designed to transform them from civilians into sailors.

The course culminated in the passing-out-parade, attended by families and friends, when the successful recruits were inspected by Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, the First Sea Lord. Christopher, aged 34, hailed from Shildon. He attended Bishop Barrington School and previously worked for an engineering company.

Kyle, aged 17, comes from Bishop Auckland. The former pupil of King James 1st Community Arts College said, “One of the best parts of training has been making so many new friends. I have enjoyed the training. It’s been tough, but I know my hard work will pay dividends in the future.”

Christopher will now transfer to HMS Sultan in Hampshire, while Kyle’s next port of call is the Royal Naval Air Station in Cornwall.

FLATS TO LET

NEWLY REFURBISHED FLATS ABOVE BAR NONE IN TOWN CENTRE, FROM £425 PCM FOR DETAILS CONTACT ANDREW ON 07855 972 965

Re: Marjorie Turner Deceased, late of Newlands Nursing Home, Stow-on-the-Wold.

MR ANDREW WALTON of Bishop Auckland

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LIGHT THEFTS PUT LIVES AT RISK

Thieves are putting their lives at risk by stealing overhead cable from street lighting. Durham County Council has issued the warning after a large amount of copper cabling was removed from lights in the Conдон and Leeohome area. The council now faces a bill of £4,500 to replace a total of 800 metres of cable affected by the theft.

Thieves are believed to have been disturbed during a second incident in the Esh Winning area and left empty-handed.

Steve Keeley, Durham County Council’s Head of Technical Services, said, “Removing copper cabling from street lights is extremely dangerous and the thieves really are playing with their lives by taking it.”

“I would urge anyone involved in this type of activity to stop now. Not only are they putting themselves at serious risk, they are also costing the taxpayer money.”

“I would also ask anyone who thinks they may know something about the thefts or who sees someone acting suspiciously to contact the police.”

GOLDEN COUPLE CELEBRATE 50 HAPPY YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Alf and Ann Waggett received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Councillor David Wilson. When they returned home, Alf worked for Wear Valley District Council on housing maintenance as a foreman until he retired in 1993.

Ann worked at Butterknowle Co-op Society for five years, before moving on to Page’s Gown Shop in Newgate Street.

After they were wed fifty years to the day on their wedding anniversary on July 5, 1959, the happy couple have two daughters, Dawn and Tracey, who both live locally, as well as four grandchildren.

Alf has been a pigeon fancier since he was three. He said of his marriage to Ann, “We have been married fifty years, if you take off the time I’ve spent with the pigeons, it’d be three years!”

Alf also loves football, and was a referee while he lived in South Africa. He describes himself as a sports fanatic, and loves all sports.

Ann loves watching soap operas. She also enjoys knitting and particularly likes spending time with her family.

Alf and Ann celebrated their anniversary with family and friends; they all enjoyed a lovely meal at the Saxon in Escomb. Later in the year, they plan to go to Tenerife to celebrate in style.
Richie Guy didn’t, he got in touch with Be Franchising - Be Enterprising’s specialist franchise unit. They gave him plenty of support and advice, helping him set up his LockRite Locksmith franchise.

Be Enterprising has helped set up over 1000 new businesses with people across County Durham and has a network of 13 Coaches & Advisors working with people across the South Durham area.

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We will be closed Easter Weekend for refurbishment, we re-open 6th April.

CLASSICS IN THE CASTLE

The 2010 summer season of concerts at Auckland Castle gets off to a rousing start on April 23rd at 7.30 pm, with the renowned percussion ensemble, O Duo. Owen Gunnell and Oliver Cox play on two marimbas, vibraphone and a huge array of percussion instruments. Their programmes mix transcriptions of well-known classics by Bach, Mendelssohn, Chopin and Albeniz among modern but accessible pieces written specifically for percussion.

Tickets for all concerts are free for young people aged between 8 and 25. Tickets and a brochure for the season can be obtained from 0191 386 3600. Following the audit, Hodgson took £7,832 at a time when the company was struggling to pay wages. It was also revealed that the company had been unable to make an annual charity donation or pay staff their annual share of profits. Hodgson of Middlehope Grove, Bishop Auckland, admitted charges of theft and fraud. In mitigation, Dan Cordey pointed out she had no previous convictions and had 18 years unblemished service for the bank.

A man had to be freed from a horse suffering from neck, back and shoulder injuries after two people were attacked in separate incidents. The first took place at St Helen’s Children’s Centre on Tuesday, April 6th, between 9.15am and 11.15am. The next will take place at Taylor Road Children’s Centre on Wednesday, April 7th between 12.45pm and 2.45pm, while Woodhouse Close will hold an event the following day, Thursday, April 8th, also between 12.45pm and 2.45pm.

Police are appealing for witnesses after two people were attacked in separate incidents. The first occurred at around 3.00pm on Saturday, March 27th, when a 25-year-old man was approached by two men who proceeded to knock him to the ground before kicking and punching him.

EASTER FAMILY FUN

Several Easter Family Sessions will be taking place this month in the Bishop Auckland area, when families can spend time together decorating eggs. The first will take place at St Helen’s Children’s Centre on Tuesday, April 6th, between 9.15am and 11.15am. The next will take place at Taylor Road Children’s Centre on Wednesday, April 7th between 12.45pm and 2.45pm, while Woodhouse Close will hold an event the following day, Thursday, April 8th, also between 12.45pm and 2.45pm.

Local PACT meetings

April’s PACT meeting for Bishop Auckland Town Centre and Toronto will take place at the Four Clocks Centre, Newgate Street, on Tuesday, April 13th from 6.30pm. Current priorities for the area include: Speeding vehicles around the implications of the road and rail closures for the general public, local businesses and residents, believe the measures we have in place will keep disruption to a minimum. Bishop Auckland will be very much open for business.”

Steve Keetley, Head of Technical Services with Durham County Council, said, “We fully recognise the implications of the road and rail closures for the general public, local businesses and residents, believe the measures we have in place will keep disruption to a minimum. Bishop Auckland will be very much open for business.”

Crime diversions are in place and pedestrians are able to use the nearby temporary footbridge. The closure period will include the Easter school holidays to minimise disruption. The railway at Bishop Auckland will also be closed between April 2nd and 14th, and a replacement shuttle bus service will run between Bishop Auckland and Shildon.

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WITNESSES SOUGHT

Anyone with relevant information to either of the attacks can contact the Bishop Auckland CID on 0345 60 60 365 or Crimestopper on 0800 555 111.

Horse killed

Monday, March 29th.

The horse was killed and the man suffered neck, back and chest injuries.
Bishop Auckland hosted Ryton at the weekend, hoping to continue their fine run of form which has propelled them up the Northern League Premier Division.

The game started brightly, but it was Ryton who nearly took an early lead. After some great build up play, Ryton stretched the home defence before a ball found striker Logan who headed a powerful goal-bound header from close range, only to be thwarted by a brilliant save by Jeffries, who tipped the ball onto the post beforesave by Jeffries, who tipped the ball on the post before.

Moments later, Ryton had another chance when another cross from the left was met by cutting back to a half volley, which was saved by Jeffries.

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