



Councillor Dave Fleming at the Food Festival 2014

### A Message from the Outgoing Mayor, David Fleming

It has been a great honour and a pleasure to serve as Mayor of Bishop Auckland for the past year. During this time the Council has continued to work in partnership with many organisations to make Bishop Auckland an even better place to live, visit and do business.

As you can see from my diary on page 4, it has been quite a busy year for me. I have met so many wonderful people that give so much of their time and energy in making their, indeed our, communities so special. In many instances without recognition. I would like to pay tribute to these people.

Like many towns in the area Bishop Auckland has suffered in the recent recession, but unlike any other town we have a unique attraction that will bring a wealth of opportunities. I am of course referring to Auckland Castle and developments planned by the Trust.

My year as Mayor comes to an end at a time of exciting opportunities. I for one am optimistic about the future of our town. Local people must however make the most of these opportunities.

Best Wishes,



### Food Festival 2014 Another resounding success!

Bishop Auckland Food Festival was held over 2 days, Saturday April 26th and Sunday April 27th.

More than 34,000 people attended the free two-day event in the town's Market Place and the grounds of Auckland Castle. The numbers attending provided a major boost for local shops and businesses in the town.

Festival-goers enjoyed a range of home-grown and handmade produce from across County Durham and the wider region as well as live cookery demonstrations by celebrity chefs including Sunday Brunch host Simon Rimmer (pictured right). Chef and presenter Simon proved popular with the crowds, cooking up a range of dishes in an open air demonstration kitchen in the castle grounds. Also showing off their culinary skills were fellow chefs Mark Lloyd, Richard Fox and Johnny Pusztai.



This year also saw the festival's first ever Kids' Club, with CBBC star Stefan Gates and CBeebies' Katy Ashworth cooking up some fun for junior chefs. The sessions, which were all fully booked, included a children's cookery school, food lab and eat-along storytelling.

The Town Council is a major sponsor of the Festival and it is hoped that each year the event will grow in popularity and visitors.



## Allotments

The Town Council is responsible for 9 allotment sites within the Council's area. These are located at:-

- Broken Banks
- Edge Hill <sup>(A)</sup>
- The Pollards <sup>(A)</sup>
- South Church Lane
- Toronto
- West Mills
- West Mills Race
- Woodhouse Close <sup>(A)</sup>
- Tindale Crescent <sup>(A)</sup>

Sites marked (A) are run with the help of Allotment Associations. South Church Lane is fully self-managed.

Allotments provide an excellent opportunity for people to grow their own produce and at the same time get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Produce grown can contribute to a healthy balanced diet. It is also a great social activity.

Allotments come in a variety of shapes and sizes.. The size of the plot will determine the amount of rent charged. The standard charge is 50p per square meter, but a 50% discount is applied if over half of the plot is cultivated and maintained.

Allotment sites are run on a self financing basis with income from rents being used to cover running costs such as water rates, occasional skip hire and maintenance of internal infrastructure. A capital scheme is carried out each year at one of the sites to make improvements or to resolve particular problems.

Anyone wishing to rent an allotment should contact the Town Council. Contact details are shown on page 8.



## Allotment Watch - Smartwater Scheme



The Town Council has teamed up with the Police and Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP to introduce a Smartwater scheme as a means of deterring theft from allotments.

Smartwater is a liquid containing a code which can be read under ultraviolet light. It is intended to be applied to valuable items, so that if they were stolen and later seized by the police, their original owner can be determined.

We have rolled out this scheme to our allotment sites which also includes signs that would be placed at the allotments within the scheme to deter potential thieves.

## Bishop in Bloom

The Town Council is again holding a Bishop in Bloom competition this year.

Anyone can get involved in the free to enter competition, whether they are seasoned gardeners or budding beginners. Categories this year are Business Premises, Licensed Premises, Front Garden, Back Garden, Yard and Allotment Garden.

There is a 1st prize of £50, 2nd prize of £30 and 3rd prize of £30 in each category. There is also a grand prize of £100 cash and a £50 Homebase Voucher for the garden judged best overall.

Gary Hillery, an RHS Gold Medal winner, will judge the competition.

Entry forms are available from the Town Council's office or website (see page 8 for details).

Special thanks go to Deco Trophies and Engraving Ltd and Homebase Bishop Auckland for sponsoring this event.

**Key Dates:** **Closing date:** 7th July; **Judging:** August; **Award Evening:** 3rd September, Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.



## Services of Remembrance

The Mayor of Bishop Auckland, Councillor David Fleming laid a wreath along with other organisations and members of the public at the War Memorial in Bishop Auckland Market Place on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November 2013. A two minutes silence was then observed to pay respects to all those that had fallen in two World Wars and many conflicts since. Following the laying of the wreaths, a Service of Remembrance was held in St. Anne's Church in Bishop Auckland Market Place.



A service of remembrance is also planned to be held on 3rd August 2014 at St Anne's Church and the War Memorial to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. Further details will be announced nearer the day.



## Christmas Lights

The Town Council made a financial donation to Bishop Auckland Town Team to help replace the old Christmas decoration that had been displayed in the town centre for many years. In addition to this Members gave up their allowances to help achieve the £20,000 target.

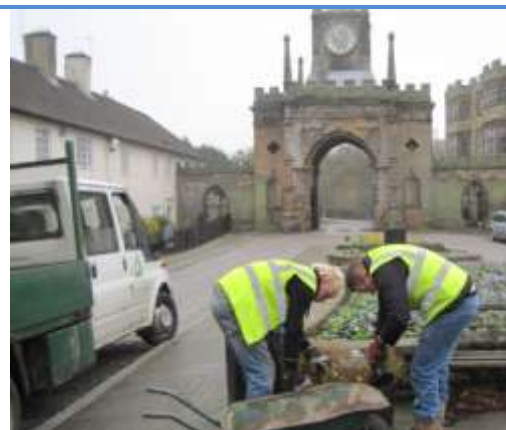
New modern energy saving LED Christmas lights were purchased for Newgate Street, Fore Bondgate and the Town Hall and installed by Durham County Council for the first time for the 2013/14 Christmas period.

## Parks and Environmental Support

The Town Council's Parks and Environmental Support Team (PEST) carried out our environmental support work in the town centre and recreation grounds to supplement the work carried out by Durham County Council.

The Team were contracted from Groundwork Trust and consisted of a supervisor who works with apprentices and trainees to support them in accessing employment by providing work experience and helping them gain qualifications.

The contract has now come to an end and the Council would like to thank in particular Alan Law and all of the trainees who helped to keep the Town clean and tidy.



## Music and Arts Festival 2013

The 2013 Music Festival was held at Bishop Auckland College on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Damage to the school fields caused by torrential downpours prior to the 2012 event meant that the festival could not be held outdoors. Rather than cancel the event a scaled down festival was held indoors at Bishop Auckland College. Bands included Circuit 68 and Playmaker performed.

It had been intended to return to the outdoor format in 2014. However with the establishment of the Wannasee festival it was decided not to hold a rival event.

A Battle of the Bands competition was however planned with a prize for two winning bands to perform at the Wannasee festival.

The Town Council and Bishop Auckland College are hoping to develop partnerships with the organisers of Wannasee to ensure that a quality music festival occurs in the town.

## Doggy Bags

The Town Council works in partnership with Durham County Council to encourage dog owners to act responsibly and clear up after their dogs. We currently issue around 32,000 dog bags a year which are available free of charge from The Four Clocks Centre.

Dog fouling spoils the environment, upsets local residents and visitors and can cause serious health risks particularly to children.

It is an offence if you do not clean up your dog's mess and you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80. If taken to court you could face a maximum fine of £1,000.

It takes very little time and effort to clean up after your dog and it is no defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions. Always carry a "poop-scoop" when walking your dog, a plastic carrier bag is all you need.

## MAYOR'S DIARY 2013/14

### May 2013

- Elected Mayor - announced Butterwick Hospice, Bishop Auckland as nominated charity

### June 2013

- Officiated at the Town Council's Youth Awards Presentation night
- Mayors Sunday Service and Parade, Stockton-on-Tees
- Mayor 'at Home', Seaham Town Council
- Chairman's Civic Reception and Dinner, Durham County Council

### July 2013

- Opening ceremony, The King's Balti
- Tee & Tea 2013, Mayoral mini golf challenge, Barnard Castle Town Council
- Officiated at opening of Xtreme Dance Fuzion
- Civic Service, St. Edmund's Church, Sedgefield
- Civic reception, Seaham Town Council

### August 2013

- Officiated at opening of Alma Lounge, Church View Care Home
- Local Motion MEGA Summer Festival
- Town Team Car Show 2013
- Great Aycliffe Show 2013

### September 2014

- Civic and Community Parade & Celebration Service, Hartlepool Borough Council
- Civic Service, Spennymoor Town Council
- Flower Show Presentations, Bishop Auckland Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society
- Officiated at opening of Lloyds Bank, Bishop Auckland
- Coffee Morning, Sandringham Care Home

### October 2013

- Judging of Photo Competition, Sandringham Care Homes
- Preview Evening of an Exhibition, Eric Thompson, Bondgate Gallery
- 50's and 60's Charity Evening, Spennymoor Town Council
- Chairman's Civic Service, Durham County Council

### November 2013

- Mayor's Civic Service, Greater Willington Town Council
- Remembrance of Councillor Bannister, Deputy Mayor of Shildon Town Council, St. John's Church, Shildon
- Judge Children's Photo Competition, Hays Travel, Newgate Street

### December 2013

- Santa Run, Bishop Auckland Town Council
- Mayor's Civic Dinner, Spennymoor Town Council
- Civic Carol Service, Shildon Town Council
- Civic Carol Service, Ferryhill Town Council
- Bishop FM - Interview with the Mayor
- Civic Carol Service, Greater Willington Town Council
- Civic Carol Service, Spennymoor Town Council
- Civic Carol Service, Chilton Town Council
- Officially open Lounge, Sandringham Care Homes
- Mayor's Christmas Carol Service, Hartlepool Borough Council
- Ecumenical Service, Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland

### February 2014

- iSingPOP Performance, Wear Valley Christian Centre
- Mayor's Valentine Charity Night, Chilton Town Council
- Charity Civic Dinner, Great Aycliffe Town Council

- The Sid Chaplin Short Story Competition 2013 Presentation Evening, Shildon Town Council

### March 2014

- Charity Quiz, Ferryhill Town Council
- Civic Ball, Sedgefield Town Council
- Mayor's Charity Night, Seaham Town Council

### April 2014

- Concert Evening, Breathe Easy Durham Dales
- Mayors Band Concert, Ferryhill Town Council
- Mayor's Farewell Charity Quiz, Shildon Town Council
- Mayors Civic Dinner, Ferryhill Town Council
- Officiate at opening of Home Bargains, St Helens Auckland
- Officiate at opening of Scope, Newgate Street
- Allotment Watch campaign (Smart water) South Church Allotments
- Presentation of certificates, Venture Out
- Mayor's Civic Dinner, Chilton Town Council
- Knighting ceremony, Escomb Primary School
- Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2014
- Mayor's Choral Spectacular, Hartlepool Borough Council

### May 2014

- Charity Cabaret Night, Great Aycliffe Town Council
- Charity Netball Match, Bishop Barrington School
- Kids Alive, Wear Valley Christian Centre
- 'A Bit of a Do' Mayor's Charity Event, Barnard Castle Town Council
- Farewell Charity Night, Bishop Auckland College
- Officiate at opening of Simply Bathrooms
- Sing for Life Choir and Thorpe Thewles Pop Choir, Breathe Easy Durham Dales

## Youth Awards

The Town Council's Youth Award is now in its seventh year. The competition, which is held on an annual basis, is aimed at helping new or established groups fund projects that will enhance the experience, skills and creativity of young people aged between 5 and 20 within the town.

### 2013 Competition

Winners of the 2013 competition were Jack Drum Arts, Venture Out and Wear Valley Christian Centre, each winning £1,500 to help fund their projects.

**Jack Drum Arts** - A drama/music project inspired by the history and heritage of football in the town, which led to a performance at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. The project worked closely with the Northern League as part of the events to celebrate the 150th Anniversary in 2014. The project was open to young people aged 10-19 who had an interest in football and/or drama.

**Venture Out** - A new environmental award group targeting no more than 15 young people each season totalling 60 young people aged 16 – 20 per year from various backgrounds, aiming to promote a healthy motivated interest in the natural habitats of Bishop Auckland.

**Wear Valley Christian Centre** - The project is called iSingPOP which is an exciting primary school singing

project that brings together school, church and community by using the entire school to produce its very own pop CD and perform two concerts.

Representatives from each group will be at this year's ceremony to give feedback on their projects.

### 2014 competition

Three awards of up to £1,500 are again available in 2014. Applications have been received from 12 organisations putting forward a variety of interesting and exciting projects to benefit young people of Bishop Auckland.

This year's ceremony will be held on Wednesday 4th June at the Town Hall when the 2014 winners will be announced.

Entries have been received from the following organisation (alphabetical order):-

Area Activities Committee; AYCC - After Schools Club; AYCC - Out of School Care; Bishop Auckland Boxing Club; Bishop Auckland Community Netball Club; Bishop Auckland St Marys Juniors F.C. Angels; Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans; Cultivate 4 Life; Daisy Arts; Henknowle Community Association; King James Community Bubblebath; King James Community School Holiday Club

## Bishop Auckland Cycle Races

The Town Council is to help sponsor a major new cycle race event in the centre of Bishop Auckland.

Velo29, specialist race organisers, and Durham County Council have added Bishop Auckland Cycle Races to the North East calendar of major road events. Although the race event is not yet part of the Elite Criterium Series, it is expected that all the top teams will attend.

The town centre course has been designed to encourage exciting racing as well as great spectator access. There will be a combination of wide open sections, fast corners, technical corners and narrow more challenging roads.

At 1km Elite riders will lap the circuit in around 90 seconds, with amateur racers taking only slightly longer. Spectators will therefore be able to enjoy riders sweeping past very frequently. Professional commentators will keep spectators informed of the action. For those not totally focused on the racing there will be a variety of cycle related activities.

The first race will see local amateurs competing in a race lasting around 1 hour for a generous prize pot. The second race will see all the best professional and Elite riders in the Country.

It is expected that some of our London Olympians, international stars and local hero's will battle for victory on the streets of Bishop Auckland.

It's the first year of a great new event on a really exciting circuit in a perfect setting.

For further details visit [www.velo29events.com](http://www.velo29events.com)



## Financial Summary

Service	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2013/14 £	2013/14 £	2014/15 £
<b>Where the money comes from</b>			
Council Tax Payers	111,078	111,078	142,027
Use of reserves	9,100	9,100	0
Local Council Tax Support Grant	23,969	23,969	20,740
Allotments	15,000	15,504	15,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>159,147</b>	<b>159,651</b>	<b>177,767</b>
<b>Where the money goes</b>			
Salaries, Superannuation, NI	61,000	69,897	76,857
Members' Allowances	6,000	6,118	6,000
Council Elections 2017	0	11,622	4,000
Rent (including utilities)	8,400	8,802	8,610
Admin	3,600	6,170	4,000
Allotments (Ringfenced/Self financing)	15,000	13,774	15,000
Bishop in Bloom	1,000	833	1,000
Bishop Proms	6,000	1,330	6,000
C.A.B.	3,000	3,000	0
Christmas Costs	10,000	7,780	5,000
Civic & Approved Duties	1,000	503	1,000
Community Fund / Donation	5,000	2,169	5,000
Events (Markets) Budget	5,000	130	5,000
Floral Displays	300	1,310	1,800
Food Festival	10,000	10,000	10,000
Membership/Training	2,200	2,505	2,500
Music Festival	6,000	2,000	6,000
Parks & Environmental Support Team	8,200	12,225	0
Remembrance Day Ceremony	500	216	500
Skatepark lighting bills	500	0	500
Youth Awards	6,000	5,494	6,000
Velo 29	0	0	5,000
Parish Plan	0	0	5,000
Newsletter/Publicity	0	0	3,000
Miscellaneous	0	3,529	0
<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>158,700</b>	<b>165,878</b>	<b>177,767</b>

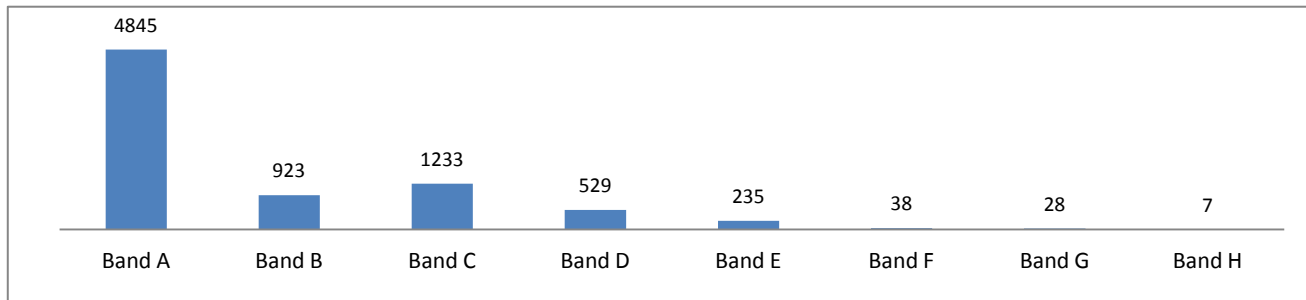
### Council Employees

	2013/14	2014/15
Total at the beginning of each year (Full Time Equivalent)	2.25	2.61

## Council Tax 2014/15

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Cost per Year	£24.15	£28.18	£32.20	£36.23	£44.28	£52.33	£60.38	£72.46
Cost per Month	£2.01	£2.35	£2.68	£3.02	£3.69	£4.36	£5.03	£6.04

### Properties in each Council Tax Band



### Community Grant Awards

Community Grants are available from Bishop Auckland Town Council to help support organisations working for the benefit of the people of Bishop Auckland.

Grants can be awarded to help fund projects and activities which can be shown to benefit Bishop Auckland people, however, the Council are unable, by law, to award grants to aid individuals. Application forms can be obtained from the Town Council Offices.

The following Community Grants were approved during 2013/14.

Bishop Auckland Sports Bar F.C.	£150
Bishop Auckland Theatre Society	£200
Bishop Auckland Town	
- Ladies F.C. Over 16's	£250
Bishop Diamonds Jazz Band	£100
Bishop F.M.	£500
Butterwick Hospice - Twilight Walk	£250
Cockton Hill Bowling Club	£50
Cultivate 4 Life	£300
Durham Miners Gala Association	£69
Great North Air Ambulance	£50
Learning Library	<u>£50</u>
	<b>£1,969</b>

### Councillors Allowances Claimed

In accordance with the Local Authorities (England) Regulations 2003 actual allowances paid to Councillors for the 2013/14 financial year are shown below.

Councillor	Basic Allowance	Mayor's Allowance	Travel Expenses
<b>Current Councillors</b>			
Anderson, Alan	£36.67		
Blackburn, Jamie	£0.00		
Brownson, Lee	£0.00		
Fleming, David A.	36.67	403.37	
Golightly, Ann	36.67		
Lethbridge, John	36.67		
Race, Colin	£0.00		
Wilson, David	36.67		
Zair, Adam J.	£0.00		
Zair, Lesley G.	36.67		
Zair, Samuel	36.67		
<b>Former Councillors</b>			
Huntington, Richard	£0.00		
Kay, Charlie	36.67	36.67	
Laurie, Barbara A.	36.67		
Lee, June	36.67		

The Members Allowances scheme was suspended from May 2013 to March 2014. Funds were donated to the Town Team's Christmas Lights Appeal.

## TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

The Town Council has a total of three employees.

David Anderson (Town Clerk);  
 Sheila Horner (Assistant Town Clerk);  
 Michael Armstrong (Administrative Assistant)

# TOWN COUNCILLORS

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