



Cllr Colin Race

A Message from the Outgoing Mayor, Colin Race

Over the last year I have had the honour and privilege of serving the people of Bishop Auckland as the 8th Town Mayor.

At the beginning of the year I announced that I would be raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society as my chosen charity and also help to raise the profile of dementia. I had set myself the target of raising £2,000 for the Society and although fundraising efforts are still taking place I am confident that this target will be achieved. I would like to thank everyone that has helped achieve this target. So many people have helped by giving their time, arranging fundraising events, donated gifts, attending charity events and giving so generously to the charity. Without their help this target would not have been achieved.

During my term of office I have opened new shops, presented awards, certificates and even bouquets to centenarians. I have met so many amazing people that make our community so wonderful. I have also attended events held outside Bishop Auckland to help raise the profile of our town.

Working towards a Dementia Friendly Town

The Town Council are leading the way in working towards Bishop Auckland becoming a Dementia Friendly Town.

An Action Alliance has been established, which will work together to help improve the lives of people with dementia and their carers by working towards making Bishop Auckland a Dementia Friendly Community.



The Alliance is made up of volunteers from Bishop Auckland Town Council, Auckland Park, Durham County Carers Support, Barrington Lodge Care Home, Eden House Care Home, Church View Nursing and Residential Home, Bishop Auckland College and supported by Durham County Council.

The Town Council is delighted that we have been able to form an Alliance Group for Bishop Auckland. In 2015 there will be 850,000 people with dementia in the UK. This number is set to rise to over 1 million people by 2025. Our aim is to focus on key areas and bring about changes that will support people who live with Dementia in Bishop Auckland and would like to visit Bishop Auckland.

Dementia Friends sessions have already taken place at Bishop Auckland Town Council, Butterwick Hospice, Church View Nursing and Residential Home and Bishop Auckland College.

The Alliance is encouraging local businesses, traders and organisation to be involved with working towards making Bishop Auckland a Dementia Friendly Town.

For more information please contact: Bishop Auckland Town Council (Contact details on page 8)

More information about dementia and the Alzheimer's Society can be found at www.alzheimers.org.uk

Velo 29 returns to Bishop Auckland – see page 5 for details



Food Festival 2015

Bishop Auckland Food Festival was held over 2 days, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April.

It was estimated that over 38,000 people attended the free two-day event in the town's Market Place and the grounds of Auckland Castle. The numbers attending show a substantial increase on last year's event and provides 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 and a Battle of the Bakers, Glenn Cosby, Kimberley Wilson and Cat Dresser, stars of The Great British Bake Off!

The popular Kids' Club made a return with CBBC star Stefan Gates and CBeebies' Katy Ashworth cooking up some fun for junior chefs. The Urban Rajah's Great Indian Food Feast provided a pop up restaurant in the grounds of Auckland Castle in partnership with Bishop Auckland College and supported by Sainsbury's

There was also fantastic street entertainment to keep the crowds entertained.

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



Pride of Bishop Auckland

The Town Council is to hold its inaugural awards ceremony to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievement of young people of Bishop Auckland.

Following the launch of the project 30 local young people have been nominated for recognition of their particular achievements. All nominees will receive a certificate in recognition of their own personal success. A number of youngsters will be given a special award for their outstanding achievement in such things as overcoming personal difficulties, supporting the local community, volunteering and sporting achievement.

An awards ceremony will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 3rd June to announce the awards for special achievement.

These achievements will be celebrated in the local press following the awards evening.

Wannasee

The Town Council is helping to sponsor this year's Wannasee Festival to help extend the festival to include the Friday evening and help it to become established in the festival calendar.

The Festival, which will take place over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend 22nd – 24th May 2015 at the football stadium, Herritage Park, will include some of Europe's top tribute bands including Michael Jackson by Ben, Complete Madness, Rolling Stones by The Stones, Take That and Robbie by Rule the World, Beautiful South and The Housemartins by The South Martins.

The Friday evening will include the Long Tall Beatles with support from local bands.



Town Show – August 2015

The Town Council will hold its first Annual Town Show on Saturday 8th August 2015.

The Show will be along the lines of a traditional village fete and will combine traditional flower/vegetable show for keen gardeners along with competitions such as baking, flower arranging and jam making.

A specialist market and street food vendors will also be present to supplement the renewed Saturday market. Entertainment will also be arranged in the market place to provide a family based fun day.

Further information will be announced closer to the event.

Christmas Spectacular



Last Year (21st November 2014) the Town Council held its Christmas Lights Switch-on as part of Bishop Auckland Christmas Spectacular.

Pupils from the town's primary schools took part in a parade from Bondgate into the Market Place, where it is estimated a crowd of approximately 1,000 people had arrived to see the entertainment which included pantomime characters from Sleeping Beauty, Frosty Magic Show with songs from the hit movie Frozen and a fire and sparks show.

Santa Claus arrived in style on the back of his new specially commissioned Christmas Sleigh, a Rewaco Motor Trike, "*I decided to give the Reindeer a rest before Christmas Eve*" said Mr Claus.

The event was supported by South Durham Enterprise Agency who organised a Christmas Food Market in the Market Place, and Auckland Castle Trust who held a Georgian Theme Market in the castle grounds.

The Christmas Spectacular will be held again in November 2015.

Summer Streets Festival

The Town Council brought the Durham Streets Summer Festival to Bishop Auckland in August 2014. International street performers visited the town to put on a show combining humour, acrobatics and slapstick comedy.

The Festival was a real crowd pleaser with juggling, acrobatics, contortionism and loads of laughs and entertainment for all ages.

The Festival, which is centred in Durham City, is in its eighth year and was brought to Bishop Auckland as a one off event to provide something a little different for local people.



Bishop Auckland in Bloom Competition 2014

The Town Council held its Bishop in Bloom competition in the summer of 2014.

Despite there being fewer entries than in previous years the judging was no less difficult due to the high level of superb gardens, yards and business premises. Entries were judged by Mr Gary Hillery, a horticulture lecturer at Finchale College in Durham, who has exhibited at over 20 shows as a designer, contractor and grower, winning over 10 gold medals including 1 Royal Horticultural Society gold medal.

The overall winner was Mrs Louise Murphy from Cockton Hill Road.

There was also a Tallest Sunflower competition for primary schools, which was won by Etherley Lane Primary School.

Due to the limited numbers applying in recent years the Town Council has decided to discontinue the competition.



Lest we Forget

Two Services of Remembrance were held during the last year.

Poems, hymns and readings reflecting the courage and suffering of the First World War feature in a poignant service held on Sunday 3rd August at the war memorial and St. Anne's Church to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.



A Service was also held on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November. 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.

It was estimated that over 250 had attended each Service.

Calling All Budding Gardeners



Are you interested in growing your own fruit and vegetables, but need more garden space? If so, have you ever considered an allotment?

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.

The Town Council is responsible for 9 allotment sites within the Council's area which 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. Anyone wishing to rent an allotment should contact the Town Council (Contact details on page 8)

Bishop Auckland Community Fund

Bishop Auckland Town Council has allocated up to £5,000 to support local organisations working for the benefit of the residents of Bishop Auckland. Community groups and local charities are invited to apply for grants of up to £500.

Grants are limited and are made available to organisations that can demonstrate a need for assistance. Grants cannot be awarded to Individuals, commercial businesses, political organisations or for the promotion of religious activities.

Applications will be considered twice a year. The deadline for the first round of applications is 12.00 midday on Friday, 12th June 2015

Visit www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk or contact the Town Council on 01388 609 852 for further information and application forms.

Be a Responsible Dog Owner – Scoop That Poop!

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 55,000 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.

Bishop Auckland Town Team



The Town Council was a founding partner of the Town Team and continues to be key player in this important partnership which key aim is to create a vibrant, attractive and thriving town centre.

The Town Team is an open group of local people, businesses, public sector bodies and other interested parties with the objective of working in partnership to regenerate our town.

Anyone with an interest in improving the town centre can attend meetings and become a member of the Town Team. Further details can be found on the Town Teams website www.bishopaucklandownteam.org

Youth Awards Competition 2014

2014 saw the final year of the Youth Awards Competition. Set up in 2008 the competition had been held on an annual basis to help new or established groups fund new projects to increase the availability of activities for young people in Bishop Auckland. Over the length of the project the Town Council had awarded over £45,500 to local youth groups.

Winners of the 2014 competition were as follows:-

Daisy Arts were awarded £1,500 to help create 'Febfest', an art festival held in February 2015. The festival was an opportunity to increase visitors to Bishop Auckland and to encourage schools in the area to take part. Artists visited schools to help them to create a new work of art on the theme of the Magna Carta, which would be exhibited in the Town Hall.

The funding was used to employ local professional self-employed artists.

Bishop Auckland Amateur Boxing Club were awarded £1,500 to help with their programme to increase positive activity, involving exercise, healthy diets and healthy living, for females and young people.

Funding was used to help purchase additional equipment more suited to the new groups ages 12-25.

Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans (BATH) were awarded £1,500 for their contemporary dance project which catered for 11-19 year olds. The funds were used to develop employment opportunities in the arts industry and voluntary sectors in the community. It was also used to help promote physical activity, build confidence and teamwork.

The remaining 9 groups that applied were awarded £100 each for their projects and efforts.

Bishop Auckland Cycle Races

Velo 29 will be returning to Bishop Auckland on 12th August 2015.

Following the success of last year's event the Town Council will again be helping to sponsor the major cycle race in the town centre when it returns to Bishop Auckland on 12th August 2015.

The Town Centre it's self perfectly to this type of race. The course has been designed to encourage exciting racing as well as great spectator access. There was 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.

For further details visit www.velo29events.com

MAYOR'S DIARY 2014/15

May 2015

- Elected Mayor. Alzheimer's Association announced as chosen charity
- Opened new Vodafone store
- Attended concert by the Amsterdam Staff Band of the Salvation Army at Durham County Council

June 2015

- Presented awards at Town Council's Youth Awards Presentation Evening
- Attended Mayoress at Home, Darlington Borough Council
- Attended Mayor's Charity Night, Chilton Town Council
- Attended Mayoress at Home, Spennymoor Town Council

July 2015

- Attended dance show King James I Academy
- Launch of the Four Clocks Club Bishop Auckland Community Partnership
- Held 'at home with the Mayor', Town Hall Bishop Auckland
- Opening of Store Twenty One, Bishop Auckland
- Presented certificates at Princes Trust event
- Attended Charity Evening at Shildon Town Council
- Attended VIP pizza menu launch, Marston's - March Hare

August 2015

- Officiated at World War 1 Centenary event, Bishop Auckland
- Attended Velo-29 Cycling Event
- Attended Coffee Morning at Kelly Ann's
- Attended Car Show, Bishop Auckland Market Place
- Attended Mayor's Family Fun Day, Hartlepool Borough Council
- Attended Great Aycliffe Show

September 2015

- Attended launch of new Travel Hub and waiting facility Local Motion, Bishop Auckland
- Officiated at Bishop Auckland in Bloom Presentation Evening, Town Hall, Bishop Auckland
- Attended Children, Hidden Harm,

Interventions and Recovery Project (CHIRP) Art & Photography Exhibition, Auckland Castle

- Attended ceremony to honour exceptional service of the Aycliffe Angels during WWII,
St. John's School & Sixth Form College
- Present trophies at annual Bishop Auckland Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society Show
- Held charity evening with the Captain of the Golf Club, Bishop Auckland Golf Club

October 2015

- Judged First World War Memorial painting competition

November 2015

- Present trophies at performance at Extreme Dance Fuzion
- Attended Remembrance Day Service, Market Place, Bishop Auckland
- Attended Remembrance Service and Exhibition to mark the Centenary of the First World War, St. John's School & Sixth Form College
- Present flowers for 105th Birthday, Eden House Care Home
- Attended Christmas Tree Switch-on event
- Attended English Heritage Urban Panel Visit and Guest Dinner

December 2015

- Open the 'Race to the North Pole' event in aid of Diabetes UK, Tesco Extra
- Attended Carol Service at Auckland Castle

January 2015

- Attended Leadership Academy Status Celebrations, St John's School

February 2015

- Attended Junior Table Tennis Tournament Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club
- Attended John O'Groats to Lands End Bike ride, Tesco Extra

March 2015

- Attended Bishop Auckland Leaders of Excellence (BALE) event

April 2015

- Held Wurlitzer Charity Event, Howden-le-Wear

Financial Summary

Council Tax 2015/16

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Cost Per Year	£25.35	£29.58	£33.80	£38.03	£46.48	£54.93	£63.38	£76.06
Cost per Month	£2.11	£2.46	£2.82	£3.17	£3.87	£4.58	£5.28	£6.34
Properties in each band	4845	923	1233	529	235	38	28	7
	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H

Budget 2015/16

Service	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2014/15	2014/15	2015/16
	£	£	£
Where the money comes from			
Council Tax Payers	142,027	142,027	149,471
Use of reserves	0	0	0
Local Council Tax Support Grant	20,740	20,740	18,629
Allotments	15,000	18,117	15,000
Other income		6,799	
Total Income	177,767	187,683	183,100
Where the money goes			
Salaries, Superannuation, NI	76,857	74,042	79,100
Members' Allowances	6,000	5,295	6,000
Council Elections 2017	4,000	4,000	4,000
Rent (including utilities)	8,610	8,419	8,789
Admin	4,000	4,195	4,000
Allotments (self financing)	15,000	12,501	15,000
Civic & Approved Duties	1,000	147.83	1,000
Community Fund / Donation	5,000	1,591	5,000
Floral Displays	1,800	180	2,000
Membership/Training	2,500	2,988	2,500
Skatepark lighting bills	500	0	500
Parish Plan	5,000	0	5,000
Newsletter/Publicity	3,000	0	2,500
School Council		0	2000
Bishop in Bloom	1,000	914.64	1,000
Bishop Proms	6,000	0	6,000
Christmas Event	5,000	9,354	6,000
Events (Markets) Budget	5,000	0	0
Food Festival	10,000	10,000	10,000
Music Festival	6,000	4,000	5,011
Remembrance Day	500	1120.45	700
Youth Awards	6,000	6,110	6,000
Velo 29	5,000	5000	5,000
Contingency (Events)			6000
TOTAL SPEND	177,767	149,859	183,100

Councillors Allowances Claimed

In accordance with the Local Authorities (England) Regulations 2003 actual allowances paid to Councillors for the 2014/15 financial year are:-

Councillor	Basic Allowance	Mayor's Allowance	Travel Expenses
Anderson, A	£440.04		
Blackburn, J	£440.04		
Brownson, L	£440.04		14.90
Fleming, D.	£440.04	35.67	
Golightly, A	£440.04		
Lethbridge, J	£440.04		
Race, C	£440.04	403.37	
Wilson, D	£440.04		
Zair, A	£440.04		
Zair, L	£440.04		
Zair, S	£440.04		

Community Grant Awards 2014/15

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 2014/15.

Bishop Auckland Theatre Society	£500
Cultivate 4 Life (B.A.C.P.)	£300
Four Clocks Club - B.A.C.P.	£205
Henknowle Community Association	£200
South Church Allotment Association	£186
Wear Valley Christian Centre	£100

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