



Councillor Lee Brownson

A Message from the Outgoing Mayor, Lee Brownson

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Mayor of Bishop Auckland over the last 12 months. I have attended many events in Bishop Auckland and across the region representing our town and met hundreds of wonderful people.

I've also seen at first hand the hard work that goes on in our community by the armies of volunteers who give their time selflessly all year round to help others or raise money for charities. These are truly wonderful people involved in numerous community groups and charities supporting people of all ages.

Only too often young people get blamed for all of the trouble in the area, but I have had the great honour of attending and presenting awards for young people in this town, including St John's School, BATH and the young Air Cadets. These young people have achieved so much and Bishop Auckland should rightly be proud of them.

My family, like so many, has been affected by recent conflicts and therefore it was an obvious choice to raise funds for Help for Heroes during my term of office. I set out to raise as much as I could for Phoenix House Recover Centre, a Help for Heroes facility based at Catterick. The Centre aims to inspire those who have been wounded, injured or become sick while serving our country and enable them to lead active, independent and fulfilling lives.

I have been humbled by the kindness and generosity shown by so many people that have helped me raise funds for this worthy charity. People have been so kind that I have surpassed my initial fundraising target. At the time of writing fundraising activities are still ongoing so I do not yet have a final figure, but I would like to thank everyone, on behalf of those whose lives are improved by the Phoenix Centre, for your generosity.

2016 will be a very exciting year for Bishop Auckland with all the plans and new developments taking place, and of course the start of Kynren. As I hand over to the new Mayor, who has yet to be formally elected, I would like to wish them all the very best for their year of promoting the town.

Bishop Auckland Food Festival

An estimated 30,000 food fans visited the 11th Food Festival in Bishop Auckland, held on 23rd and 24th April.

The two day event, the highlight of the areas culinary calendar, drew huge crowds as families flocked to taste the delicious dishes on offer from more than 150 local, regional and northern food and drink producers.

Visitors enjoyed live cookery demonstrations, food and drink masterclasses, a pop-up restaurant and street entertainment. From pancake racing to viewing a huge pig in the Town Hall, there was something for everyone over the fun packed weekend.



The Town Council is a major sponsor of the Festival which is worth an estimated £700,000 a year to the local economy. It is hoped that the event will continue to grow each year.

Dementia Friendly Bishop Auckland – It's Official!



The Town Council and Bishop Auckland are now officially Dementia Friendly.

It is the first council in County Durham to achieve “Dementia Friendly” status and to join the larger county wide initiative, County Durham Dementia Action Alliance. It joins two other towns in County Durham to achieve the status officially recognised by the Alzheimer’s Society.

Given that there are 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, the Town Council wanted to raise awareness and greater understanding of the condition that can be devastating for those who live with dementia and their carers. Councillors voted unanimously to work towards a Dementia Friendly status and to be a Council committed to bringing about a society wide response in Bishop Auckland.

The Council has two dementia champions who have created 150 new dementia friends so far in Bishop Auckland by delivering information sessions, and worked

closely with outside bodies such as The Alzheimer’s Society, Durham County Carers Support, Durham County Council Children & Adult Services and Auckland Park Hospital.

The Town Council was delighted to been awarded “Council of the Week” by National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in November 2015 due to the success in achieving “Dementia Friendly” status from the Alzheimer’s Society.

NALC is fully supportive of the work of the Alzheimer Society and of its Dementia Friends initiative and was pleased to see Bishop Auckland leading the way for other councils to follow.

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

Wannasee 2016

The third Wannasee festival took place at Heritage Park over the Spring Bank holiday 27th – 29th May 2016. Some of Europe’s top tribute bands including Prince, Bon Jovi, Elvis, Oasis, Guns N Roses entertained crowds during the three day event.

Local bands including the Scandals, the Ultra 90’s Show and JD and the Woodsmen also featured at the festival.

The Town Council help to sponsor the event which provides entertainment of local people as well as contributing to the town’s tourist offer and boosting the local economy.

Jimmi Love tribute to Prince



Town Show – August 2015

The Town Council held its first Town Show on 8th August 2015. The event which took the form of a traditional village fate was held in the Market Place and Town Hall.

The event featured free entertainment in the Market Place alongside a specialist market organised by the Enterprise Agency. A Horticultural show was held in the Town Hall providing an opportunity for the town’s growers, bakers and preserve makers to show off their vegetables, flowers, baked goods and jams. At the end of the show all produce was auctioned off where proceeds raised a fantastic £142 for the Mayor’s charity.

Plans are underway to host a Horticultural and Produce Show in the

Town Hall on Saturday 24th September 2016 which will be open to the public. Due to the date of the show, it is not planned to have outdoor entertainment. It is hoped that the show can grow in numbers and become an established date in the local horticultural shows calendar.

Photos and a list of last year’s winners, along with this year’s schedule, can be seen on the Town Council’s website www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk.



Lest we Forget

Hundreds of people attended the town's Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 8th November 2015 to commemorate those that fought in the First and Second World Wars and many conflicts since.

The war memorial had recently been repaired, restored and cleaned. Following the formal end of the Afghanistan conflict in 2014 and with the agreement of the Ministry of Defence, an inscription had been added to the memorial dedicated to the brave soldiers who died during the conflict between 2001 and 2014.

Bishop Auckland war memorial is different from many such tributes as it lists wars and conflicts rather than naming the fallen. It is believed that this is due to the high numbers of people from Bishop Auckland who were killed during the First World War.

Following the laying of the wreaths, a Service of Remembrance was held in St. Anne's Church in Bishop Auckland Market Place.



Christmas Spectacular



The Town Council held its second Christmas Spectacular on 20th November 2015. Festivities began with a children's parade down Newgate Street into the Market Place which featured representatives from seven primary schools from the Bishop Auckland area. The parade was led by two festive stilt walkers.

Entertainment held on a stage in the Market Place featured characters from the hit movie 'Inside Out' who sang Christmas songs with the children. Characters from a local pantomime also performed on the stage.

Crowds welcomed Bishop Auckland gymnast Amy Tinkler to the stage sporting the bronze medal she had recently won at the World Gymnastics Championships held in Glasgow. Moments later Santa Claus arrived in style on the back of a specially-commissioned Christmas Sleigh, a Rewaco Motor Trike, before both Santa and Amy officially switched on the tree lights from the Town Hall balcony.

The evening finished with a spectacular live Fire show which warmed the crowds up. The Christmas Spectacular will be held again in November 2016.

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)

‘Council of the Week’

Bishop Auckland Town Council gained national recognition in November last year by being awarded the National Association of Local Councils ‘Council of the Week’

The award was in recognition of the Council’s efforts to promote dementia awareness and working towards making Bishop Auckland a Dementia Friendly Town.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) established the award to celebrate and promote good work being done by local councils.

The Town Council was very proud to be recognised by the national association.



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, 10th June 2016.

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 60,000 dog bags a year which are available free of charge for residents 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 an invaluable and active member of this important partnership, key aims are to create a vibrant, attractive and thriving town centre.

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

The main priority is to encourage local businesses to make the most of the opportunities presented by Kynren. With an expected 8,000 visitors to each of the 14 shows there is huge potential for the local economy, which may also bring employment opportunities. Representatives from partner organisations are currently visiting businesses to give background information on Kynren and other attractions. They are also advising how to make the most of the opportunities.

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.bishopaucklandtownteam.org.



**BISHOP AUCKLAND
TOWN TEAM**

Youth Awards 2015



The Town Council held its first individual Youth Awards in 2015.

The purpose of the Awards is to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the town's young people.

Far too often the focus is on negative stories about young people which means that their achievements are sometimes forgotten or overlooked. These awards focus on the good things that young people contribute to our communities.

Thirty young people were nominated by schools, organisations and parents in 2015. The awards ceremony held in June 2015 was attended by the nominees and over 100 guests.

All of the nominees received a certificate from the Mayor. Special Awards were presented to eight outstanding nominees to recognise their achievements, as follows

- Alex Tighe, awarded for Supporting the Community
- John Hook, Stockton & Darlington Railway Youth Team, awarded as Young Volunteer
- Reece Robson, Cultivate 4 Life, awarded for Personal Achievement
- Bethany Smithfield-Davison, awarded as Young Carer
- Steven Taylor, St John's School & Sixth Form, awarded for Outstanding Achievement
- Blaine Richardson, Richardson's Dance Studio, awarded for Contribution to The Arts
- Ellie Barker and Connor Keeble, Bishop Barrington, awarded for Sports Achievement

As a Council we wanted to celebrate the fantastic young people we have here in Bishop Auckland. The quality of the nominations exceeded all expectations and we are really proud of the amazing young sports people, volunteers, carers, dancers and school achievers here in our Town.

The full list of nominees names and photographs from the evening can be seen on the Council's website at www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk.

Arrangements for the 2016 Youth Awards are well underway. The closing date for nominations has now closed. Nominees and winners will be announced in June at an awards ceremony to be held in the Town Hall.

Bishop Auckland Cycle Races

Velo 29 will be returning to Bishop Auckland on 18th August 2016.

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

The Town Centre lends it's self perfectly to this type of race. The course is 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.



A 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 community races introduced in 2015 were a great success. It is hoped that these can again take place in 2016.

MAYOR 2015/16

A year in pictures

Photos of just a few of the events attended by the Mayor, Councillor Lee Brownson, during his year of office.



Mayor with Special Award winners at Youth Awards 2015 Presentation (June '15)



'At Home' with the Mayor in Auckland Castle (June '15)



Mayor re-opens the Dorset Place Community Centre with the 'Friends of Dorset Place' (July '15)



Sunderland AFC visit Heritage Park in pre-season friendly (July '15)



Mayor visits Help for Heroes Phoenix House Recovery Centre in Catterick (July '15)



Mayor participates in the 'Ride Bishop' recreational race at Velo29 in the Market Place (August '15)



Mayor at the Bishop Auckland Town Show in the Market Place (August '15)



Mayor with comedians Rudi West and Tony Washington at Mayor's Comedy Night (September '15)



Newgate Centre's new look unveiled (October '15)



Mayor at Royal Air Force Air Cadets annual presentation evening (December '15)



Mayor hosts Quiz and Carvery Charity Night at the Pavilion in Bishop Auckland (January '16)



Mayor's Charity Ball at Auckland Castle (April '16)

Financial Summary

Council Tax 2016/17

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Cost Per Year	£26.55	£30.98	£35.40	£39.83	£48.68	£57.53	£66.38	£79.66
Cost per Month	£2.21	£2.58	£2.95	£3.32	£4.06	£4.79	£5.53	£6.64
Properties in each band*	4840	923	1227	532	236	37	30	3
(* as at Oct 2015)	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H

Budget 2016/17

Service	Budget 2015/16 £	Actual 2015/16 £	Budget 2016/17 £
Where the money comes from			
Council Tax Payers	149,471	149,471	160,411
Local Council Tax Support Grant	18,629	18,629	17,016
Allotment Rent	15,000	17,923	15,000
Other Income		892	
	183,100	186,915	192,427
Where the money goes			
Accommodation (including utilities)	8,789	9,370	8,386
Admin	4,000	4,692	4,000
Allotments (Ringfenced/Self financing)	15,000	7,475	15,000
Capital Programme (Office Building)		3,000	10,000
Civic & Approved Duties	1,000	806	1,000
Community Fund / Donation	5,000	1,581	5,000
Council Elections 2017	4,000	0	4,000
Floral Displays	2,000	1,740	2,000
Members' Allowances	6,000	5,280	6,000
Membership/Training	2,500	2,599	2,500
Newsletter/Publicity	2,500	0	2,000
Parish Plan	5,000	4,503	2,500
Salaries, Superannuation, NI	79,100	78,181	82,761
School Council	2,000	0	2,000
Skatepark lighting bills	500	0	500
Events			
Bishop in Bloom - Town Show	1,000	3,304	3,500
Bishop Proms	6,000	0	0
Christmas	6,000	5,638	6,000
Food Festival	10,000	10,000	10,000
Music Festival (Wannasee)	5,011	5,011	3,580
Remembrance Day Ceremony	700	309	700
Youth Awards	6,000	933	6,000
Velo 29	5,000	5,000	5,000
Contingency Events	6,000	4,000	10,000
<i>Transferred to earmarked funds</i>		33,493	
TOTAL SPEND	183,100	186,915	192,427

Councillors Allowances Claimed

In accordance with the Local Authorities (England) Regulations 2003 actual allowances paid to Councillors for the 2015/16 financial year are:-

Councillor	Basic Allowance	Mayor's Allowance	Travel Expenses
Anderson, A	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Blackburn, J	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Brownson, L	£440.04	£403.37	£0.00
Fleming, D.	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Golightly, A	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Lethbridge, J	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Race, C	£440.04	£36.67	£0.00
Wilson, D	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Zair, A	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Zair, L	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Zair, S	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00

Community Grant Awards 2015/16

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. The following Community Grants were awarded during 2015/16.

Durham Miners Association	£24.00
Great North Air Ambulance	£200.00
Bishop Auckland St Mary's Junior FC	£100.00
Cultivate 4 Life	£100.00
Four Clocks Club	£171.50
Woodhouse Church Community Centre	£500.00
Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club	£200.00
Henknowle Community Centre	£250.00
South Church Allotment Association	£165.00
Bishop Auckland Theatre Society	£500.00
Four Clocks Heritage Project	£485.00
	£2,695.50

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