



Ann Golightly

A message from the outgoing Mayor, Ann Golightly

Over the last year I have had the honour and privilege of serving the people of Bishop Auckland as the 10th Town Mayor.

It has been a great pleasure to meet the Mayors from around the area at such an exciting time for Bishop Auckland. They have all been interested in Kynren and the new projects happening at Auckland Castle Trust.

I feel that I have been very fortunate in the timing of my year in office having reflected the glory others. Some highlights have been when Amy Tinkler won her bronze medal in the Rio Olympics, and I presented her with a Mayor's medal after her open top bus parade and commenting on The Queen of the Jungle, Scarlett Moffat's accent. I also enjoyed being interviewed for the 'Hometown' production

and an appearance as Mayor to go down in posterity.

I would like to thank all of the people who have supported me, in particular my sister, Margaret, and daughters, Nicola and Kirsty who have acted as my consort throughout the year. My eternal gratitude must be given to Councillor David Fleming for stepping in so admirably before Christmas last year when I had to step away from my duties for two months due to a spinal operation and also to the Council Clerk and officers for their kindness and support.

I am very proud to have raised just over £5,000 for my chosen charity, the Butterwick Hospice.

Finally, it is with pleasure that I hand over the insignia of the office of Mayor to Adam Zair and wish him the best of luck for his term in office.

Councillor Adam Zair was chosen as the eleventh Mayor of Bishop Auckland at the Town Council Annual Meeting held on 16th May 2017. Adam, who has been a Town Councillor since 2013, works for the Electrical Recycling Group which is owned by City Electrical Factors. Adam is a keen musician and is an organist at St Wilfrid's Church in Bishop Auckland, he also play piano, electronic organ and the Wurlitzer at Howden Le Wear.

In accepting his role as Mayor Adam said "It is an honour and a privilege to be chosen as Mayor for Bishop Auckland, I will work tirelessly in promoting the town in this most important period of the town's history"

His chosen charity for his term as Mayor will be announced shortly.



Councillor Adam Zair



Wannasee Festivals

Wannasee Live Music Festival is back for its fourth year in Bishop Auckland in 2017, with a stunning line up of world-class tributes, to many of music history's most popular acts, past and present, that you could never dream of seeing all at once.

These bands offer the closest possible live tributes to the artists they represent, in stunning detail, guaranteeing a huge open air live music stadium experience and non-stop hits, from start to finish, in the fantastic setting of Bishop Auckland FC's stadium.

The Council helps to sponsor the festival to help establish it as an annual event. Not only does it provide entertainment for local people, it is also becoming a national event attracting people from far and wide.

VIP TICKETS available from the Town Council at the Four Clocks Centre

All proceeds to Butterwick Hospice

Youth Awards

Recognising and celebrating the achievements of our town's young people



Mayor Ann Golightly with all nominees 2016

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

The popular event is growing year on year. In 2016 thirty-five nominations were received from schools, local groups and parents. One hundred and thirty guests attended a presentation evening held on 6th June 2016 to celebrate a wide range of achievements.

All of the nominees received a certificate from the Mayor. Special Awards were presented to five outstanding nominees. There was also an award for the exceptional Youth Group:

- Sports Achievement – Jack Jacomb from Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club
- Young Volunteer – Luke Holmes from Stockton & Darlington Railway Youth Team
- Triumph Over Adversity – Nathan Mould from St John's School & Sixth Form College
- Young Carer – Natasha Watson from Bridge Young Carers, Bishop Auckland
- Outstanding Achievement – Joshua and Thomas Wraith from Bishop Barrington School
- Youth Group 2016 – The Literacy Leaders of St John's School & Sixth Form College

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 and school achievers here in our Town.

Also new for 2016 was the Coaches/Volunteers category. This was an opportunity to give well earned recognition to the invaluable work that volunteers and coaches do at clubs and organisations in the town. Many clubs and teams could not survive if it wasn't for the huge commitment and dedication of coaches and volunteers. There were five nominations for this category. The Volunteer of the Year 2016 went to David Nicholson, winning £500 for Cultivate for Life.

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 2017 Youth Awards are well underway. The closing date for the nominations has now closed. Nominees and special awards will be announced in June by the Mayor at an awards ceremony to be held in the Town Hall, but we can reveal that this year's nominees continue to be inspirational and are truly deserving of the celebration.

Bishop Auckland Cycle Races – Velo 29



The third and final Bishop Auckland cycle race was held in August 2016.

New in 2014, Velo29, Durham County Council, Bishop Auckland Town Council and the Area Action Partnership added the Bishop Auckland Cycle Races to the North East calendar of major road events.

The Town Centre lent it's self perfectly to the 1km circuit. Velo29 designed the course to encourage exciting racing as well as great spectator access. There is a combination of wide open sections, fast corners, technical corners and narrow

more challenging roads. Everything needed to give the riders opportunity to attack and chance a win! It's of course fully closed roads with barriers around all of the circuit.

A family fun race was included in the final two years to give everyone the opportunity to experience the thrills and excitement town centre race and widen the appeal of cycling.

Celebrating Olympic Success

Amy Tinkler was given a fitting reception as she was paraded through the streets of her home town of Bishop Auckland.

The 16-year-old Olympian, was paraded around Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor on an open-top bus which lasted just over two hours.

Despite the rain, hundreds of supporters lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the teenage sensation, who bagged a bronze gymnastics medal at the Rio Olympics in August 2016.

The bus set off from her home in Bracks Farm then made it's way down Durham Road towards the Market Place in Bishop Auckland.

She was met by the Mayor of Bishop Auckland who proudly presented her with a 'Mayor's medal' and a bouquet of flowers.

Amy then re-boarded the open top bus as it headed down Newgate Street before making its way to Spennymoor. The celebrations concluded at Spennymoor Leisure Centre, Amy's home gym in which she has trained for so many years.

The younger generation who turned out to celebrate Amy's achievements will surely be inspired by her medal-winning feat.



Olympic Bronze Medal Winner Amy Tinkler presented with Mayors Medal

Building on Firm Foundations

Bishop Auckland Town Council was awarded the Foundation Award in the new Local Council Award Scheme

The Foundation Award is the first stage of the new Quality Scheme. This has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best parish and town councils and it provides a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their potential.

The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

Cllr. Ann Golightly (Mayor of the Town Council) said: "We are delighted to have achieved the

Foundation Award. This sets a firm basis for the Council moving forward. We are not resting on our laurels and we are now working to achieve the Quality Award".

The Foundation Award was presented to the Town Council by Mr. Dennis Coates, Chairman of the Durham Local Council Award Scheme, At the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th July 2016.



Dennis Coates (left), Mayor Ann Golightly and David Anderson, Town Clerk (right)

Bishop Auckland Horticultural and Produce Show



Quality of the Show was exceptional



Bobby Latcham, one of the Show organisers, looks over the chrysanthemums

Bishop bloomed once again as the Town Council held its second annual Horticultural and Produce during September 2016. Building year on year, the show drew over three hundred entries.

With thirty one different classes in 2016, including various vegetables, flowers, home baked goods and a children's section, Bishop Auckland Town Hall was transformed into a show of very high standards.

Judges were particularly thrilled by the exceptional quality of the exhibitors entries and agreed that it had been a difficult challenge to decide on the winners.

The Council works closely with the local allotment and growers community and formed a 'Show Committee' with the help of Liz Drake, Chris Davidson, Trevor Hogg, Bobby Latcham and Gordon Hodgson, without whom the show would not be possible.

Produce was auctioned at the end of the show and thanks to the generosity of the exhibitors over £200 was raised for the Mayor's charity, Butterwick Hospice. Vegetables that were left over were donated to the Woodhouse Close food bank.

Work has already begun on the 2017 show which will return in September.

Lest we Forget Nov 2016

As the custodians of Remembrance, each year the Royal British Legion calls on the nation to unite in commemorating Remembrance Sunday.

The Cenotaph Service at St Anne's Church in the Market Place is organised annually by Bishop Auckland Town Council, in partnership with Mr Peter Franklin from The Royal British Legion guiding and lending much valued support with the wreath laying order and organisation, which follows a strict protocol.

This year it was all change for the Town, there were three new standard bearers from the DLI, Royal British Legion and 2505 Air Cadets, as well as a new Padre, Reverend Stephen Ridley who led the service from St Anne's Church, all of whom performed their duties perfectly.

At the beginning of the year, a call for help was launched by the local Royal British Legion office for valuable assistance with this year's poppy appeal, and thankfully that call was answered by Ann Williams-Maughan, Valerie Armstrong and Andrea Nicol. The ladies from 'The Experience' Kynren team, also called on their fellow team members to help out as a way of keeping the Kynren team spirit going over the closed season.

It was another fantastic turnout by the people of Bishop Auckland which is growing in numbers every year.

Special thanks were extended to everyone involved who made the Act of Remembrance possible for 2016, particularly Mr Peter Franklin, members from the 2505 Air Cadets, Reverend Stephen Ridley, Parade Marshall Daniel Barron and also thanks and much appreciation to Bishop Auckland College, who designed and made a fantastic wooden frame which is situated around the Cenotaph, this has enabled us to fix wreaths, crosses and poppies to the structure to keep the monument looking presentable.



The whole community pulled together for the 2016 Remembrance Service

Christmas Celebrations



Santa Claus and his special friend's, miniature ponies Adora, Mew and Joe officially switched on the tree lights from the Town Hall balcony.

Many people enjoyed the warmth of St Anne's where mulled wine and mince pies were served. Prayer Stations were looked after by children from St Anne's School.

The evening finished where photos could be taken with Santa and the ponies for a donation to the Mayor's charity the Butterwick Hospice, and in the true spirit of giving for Christmas, just over £40 was raised!

The Christmas Spectacular will be held again in December 2017.

A crowd of approximately 1,000 people turned out in the chilly, but dry weather to enjoy the annual festive entertainment organised by Bishop Auckland Town Council.

The 2016 Festival started with a Reindeer parade from five of the primary schools from the Bishop Auckland area who followed two festive stilt walkers, Santa's Sleigh and Ponies from Newgate Street into the Market Place. 'Runaway Samba' warmed up the parade with their fantastic blend of Brazilian rhythms and world beats.

Community Priest Eileen Harrop blessed the event, and then the Town was treated to brilliant Carol singing performances from Woodhouse Community Primary School, St Andrew's Primary School, Escomb Primary School and Cockton Hill Infant School.

Use Our Loos!

Bishop Auckland Community Toilet Scheme was launched in March 2017.

Residents and visitors to Bishop Auckland will find it more convenient to use facilities in the town in future thanks to the support of local businesses and the roll out of the Bishop Auckland Community Toilet Scheme.

Several local businesses have initially signed up to the partnership to increase the availability of clean, safe, free and accessible facilities for use during normal opening hours without the need to make a purchase. Several of the participating premises offer wheelchair access and baby changing facilities too.

This is a great example of the Council working in partnership with Durham County Council and local businesses to provide a simple solution to a lack of available public facilities.

Businesses in the scheme will benefit through more people visiting their premises, showing they are community-minded and that Bishop Auckland is a modern shopping destination that truly welcomes visitors.

First businesses signed up to take part are Asda, Fiteas Tea Room, Newgate Shopping Centre, No.42 (Market Place), Sam Zair's Café and Time For You Tea Room at the Four Clocks Centre.



Bishop Auckland Food Festival



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

Tens of thousands of hungry food fans descended on the town for a bumper Bishop Auckland Food Festival held on 1st and 2nd April 2017.

The two day event is the highlight of the areas culinary calendar and 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.

Held in the Market Place, Town Hall and grounds of Auckland

Castle, the annual showcase of the best in home-grown and handmade produce from County Durham and the wider region attracted 30,000 visitors.

Visitors enjoyed live cookery demonstrations, culinary master classes, a pop-up restaurant street entertainment and live stand-up comedy.

Foodie highlights included produce from the likes of Brown and Blonde bakery, Broom Mill Farm Shop, Durham Distillery, Parlour Made Cheese, Sweet Sally Cinnamon, Weardale and Teesdale Cheese makers, Wiga Wagaa Chili and William Peat Butcher.

Kate James, our festival and events manager, said: "It's been fantastic to see so many people visit or come to trade, not just from the local community, but from far and wide".

"Thank you to all the families who came, to all the volunteers and to the people of Bishop Auckland for once again providing such a warm welcome to everyone."

MAYOR 2016/17 A year in pictures

Photos of just a few of the events attended by the Mayor, Councillor Ann Golightly, during her year of office.



Afternoon Tea with the Mayor



Great North Run publicity



Loan Shark Scheme



Launch of Lingford & Gardiner exhibition



Presentation of Mayor's Medal to Amy Tinkler (Olympic Bronze Medallist)



Kynren Volunteers Team Mayors Quiz



Mayor's Ball



With fellow Mayor's at the Mayor's Ball



Bp Auckland and Coundon in Bloom Fundraiser



Official opening of new facilities Bishop Auckland Football Club



Presentation of Cheque Hometown Project



Irish night fundraiser

Supporting our Communities

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.

The following are just some of the community groups that have received grants during 2016/17 financial year showing the variety of projects that can be assisted. A full list of all donations approved during 2016/17 is detailed on page 11.

Bishop Auckland Family Contact Centre enables estranged parents and grandparents to meet their children on a regular basis in a safe and secure environment. The need for such a service is often in the early stages of separation where trust between the parents needs to be re-established.

The service has been operating in the town since 2001 offers supported contact rather than supervised contact. The project is run by a coordinator and a team of volunteers who work on a rota system. It can support up to 5 families at a time. Demand is such that there is often a waiting list. Referrals come from either the courts, solicitors, but a growing number are self referrals as a result of the withdrawal of legal aid a number of years ago.

Parents are supported for several months until they have the confidence and trust to make their own arrangements for contact.

The project was awarded £500 to help the project continue.



Bishop Auckland Station History Group promotes the town's heritage links, with a particular focus on its railway and industrial past.

Part of this endeavour is the permanent exhibition inside of the Four Clocks Centre, with a combination of information boards, photographic display, artwork and exhibits.

The centrepiece of the display is the century year old banner of the Bishop Auckland Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen.

The Group were awarded £100 to help the group with purchase audio/visual equipment.



Bishop Auckland Theatre Society was awarded £300 to assist with the production costs of this year's pantomime – Aladdin.

The Theatre Society support people who have an interest in and want to participate in performance arts and culture. They also work closely with a local stage school to give young people an opportunity to develop their skills and perform on stage.

They have a number of members with disabilities who take on a variety of roles within their team, which allows them to continue their theatrical work and passion after a life altering event.

The Theatre Society also provides the opportunity for those who simply like theatre, especially those who may be unable to afford to take the family to a professional regional theatre pantomime.





Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club was awarded £400 to help facilitate a number of specialist open days to promote the benefits of involvement in sport.

This would include a Community Open day, Women and Girls festival and a Primary School Festival. It provide an opportunity for people to try the sport in a relaxed and supported environment. In particular it provided an opportunity for anyone who wanted to return to physical activity but need a low-intensity sport, a fully-accessible venue, or just a safe environment to improve their confidence, to attend, have a go and see if they want to attend again.

Fellowship of Christian Churches was awarded £150 to support a project to provide a Christmas dinner any person or couple who would otherwise have no company on Christmas Day. Meals will be provided free of charge and hosted by friends at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon on Sunday 25th December.

Volunteers cooked and served meals and provided transport to and from the venue.

Apply for a Grant

Bishop Auckland Town Council's Community Fund budgets an amount each year which is to be used to support organisations working for the benefit of the people of Bishop Auckland. Applications are considered at the Finance Committee meetings held in June and December.

Visit www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk to download an application form or contact the Town Council on 01388 609852 for more information.

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 12).

Supporting Diversity

Following local election held on 4th May 2017 Councillors agreed to renew the following declaration to show public support for diversity in Bishop Auckland.

"We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia, homophobia, religious intolerance and hate crimes have no place in our town.

Bishop Auckland Town Council condemns all such intolerance and hate crimes unequivocally.

We will not allow hate to become acceptable and will work with the Police & Crime Commissioner and others to fight prejudice and hate crimes.

We reassure all people living in the area that they are valued members of our community."

Parish Plan

Your Town, Your Views, Your Future

The Town Council has carried out a community consultation exercise to identify issues of concern to local people, together with their aspirations for the future in order to put together a Parish Plan. It has been a community led planning process which will help develop priorities so that the Council can respond to the needs of local communities.

Two surveys have been undertaken to give local people the opportunity to let the Town Council know what they like about living in Bishop Auckland and what they think could be improved. One survey was aimed at young people, whilst the other was aimed at adults. More than 700 surveys were completed and pupils from local schools took part in focus groups to make sure their voices were also heard.

The Plan's steering group will use the results to highlight key issues raised during the consultation exercise. The Town Council will then consider their report and put together an action plan to work towards tackling these issues, in many cases in partnership with relevant agencies.

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 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 Our Town Centre'***.

The main priority is to encourage local businesses to make the most of the exciting opportunities presented by Auckland Castle Trust and Eleven Arches Trust.

Durham County Council is also key regeneration partner who is working closely with the Trusts and local businesses to improve the town centre environment and working hard to attract new business into the Bishop Auckland.

Meeting of the Town Team are held on a quarterly basis. 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**

Financial Summary

Council Tax 2017/18

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Cost Per Year	£27.52	£32.11	£36.69	£41.28	£50.45	£59.62	£68.80	£82.56
Cost per Month	£2.29	£2.68	£3.06	£3.44	£4.20	£4.97	£5.73	£6.88
Properties in each band*	4845	923	1233	529	235	38	28	7
(* as at Oct 2015)	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H

Budget 2016/17 – 2017/18

Service	Budget 2016/17	Actual 2016/17	Budget 2017/18
Where the money comes from			
Council Tax Payers	160,411	160,411	168,539
Local Council Tax Support Grant	17,016	17,016	13,746
Allotment Rent	15,000	17,540	15,000
Other Income		8,718	
Transfer from earmarked funds		13,101	
	192,427	216,786	197,285
Where the money goes			
Accommodation (including utilities)	8,386	8,499	8,805
Admin	4,000	4,598	4,000
Allotments (Ringfenced/Self financing)	15,000	11,698	15,000
Capital Programme (Office Building)	10,000	7,445	8,218
Civic & Approved Duties	1,000	990	1,000
Community Fund / Donation	5,000	2,830	5,000
Council Elections 2017	4,000	0	4,000
Floral Displays	2,000	1,741	2,000
Members' Allowances	6,000	5,317	6,000
Membership/Training	2,500	2,986	2,500
Newsletter/Publicity	2,000	0	2,000
Parish Plan	2,500	301	0
Salaries, Superannuation, NI	82,761	82,038	86,648
School Council	2,000	0	2,000
Skatepark lighting bills	500	0	500
Skatepark (Lighting project)		12,344	
Parish Plan (Projects)			9,000
Community Toilet Scheme			1,080
Events			
Horticultural Show	3,500	1,750	3,500
Christmas	6,000	4,334	6,000
Food Festival	10,000	10,000	10,000
Music Festival (Wannasee)	3,580	3,580	2,864
Remembrance Day Ceremony	700	719	750
Youth Awards	6,000	2,084	5,000
Velo 29	5,000	5,000	5,000
Contingency Events	10,000	890	7,500
Transferred to earmarked funds		17,469	
Transferred to Capital Programme		24,331	
Transferred to Allotments		5,842	
TOTAL SPEND	192,427	216,786	198,365

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	£36.67	£0.00
Fleming, D.	£440.04	£101.01	£0.00
Golightly, A	£440.04	£293.36	£0.00
Lethbridge, J	£440.04	£0.00	£0.00
Race, C	£440.04	£0.00	£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 Awarded 2016/17

The following Community Grants were awarded during 2015/16.

Bishop Auckland College, Games for the Brain Group	£150
Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches	£150
Bishop Auckland Station History Group	£100
Bishop Auckland Table Tennis Club	£400
Bishop Auckland Theatre Society	£300
Children's Foundation	£100
Family Contact Centre	£500
Four Clocks Club	£100
Great North Air Ambulance	£100
Holocaust Memorial Day.	£200
St John's Catholic Academy's sport and literacy project	£104

Total £2,204

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