



WHATS BEEN GOING ON

TOWN OF CULTURE BID

With almost 400 bids from towns across the country, the level of competition was exceptional. Having the opportunity to tell Bishop Auckland's story on a national stage has been something to celebrate.

Whilst naturally disappointed that Bishop Auckland has not been shortlisted for UK Town of Culture 2028, Bishop Auckland Town Council could not be prouder of what the Expression of Interest (EOI) has achieved.

The town has a remarkable story to tell and has undergone a significant cultural transformation in recent years. From nationally significant heritage sites such as Auckland Palace and Binchester Roman Fort, and internationally acclaimed attractions including the Spanish Gallery and Faith Museum, to the creativity on display at Bishop Auckland Town Hall and the enduring appeal of Kynren, culture has become central to the town's identity and future.

The EOI celebrated the people who make Bishop Auckland such a vibrant place to live, work and visit. Community groups, volunteers, schools, artists, musicians and local organisations came together to showcase the town's creativity, alongside the events that bring thousands of people together each year, including Bishop Auckland Food Festival, Christmas Town, and the many performances, exhibitions and celebrations that take place throughout the year. These events continue to redefine the town, while the passion of local people helps shape its future.

The EOI showed just how quickly the town can come together behind a shared vision. Community groups, businesses, schools, artists, volunteers, cultural organisations and residents all played their part, united by an overwhelming sense of pride in Bishop Auckland and confidence in its future.

Bishop Auckland Town Council would like to thank every person and organisation who helped shape the EOI. Their enthusiasm has once again demonstrated that Bishop Auckland is a town with ambition, resilience and a community that believes in itself. Bishop Auckland will continue writing the next chapter of its own cultural story.



WHATS BEEN GOING ON

YOUTH AWARDS 2026

The Town Hall was filled with pride and celebration on 22nd June as the community came together for the Bishop Auckland Town Youth Awards, recognising the remarkable achievements of young people from across the town.

The event welcomed 150 guests, who all gathered to celebrate the dedication, talent and positive contributions of the towns young people. The awards recognised achievements across 16 individual awards and four group awards highlighting a range of accomplishments including volunteering, leadership, community spirit, sporting excellence, resilience and personal achievement.

Guests were met on the red carpet by Deputy Mayor Mike Harker and Town Clerk Sarah Harris. The Town Council invited local singer and songwriter Channy Thompson, to join them again as compare for the evening. The evening ended on a high with Channy leading the singing and the whole room were up dancing.

Throughout the evening, guests were inspired by stories of young people who have overcome challenges, supported others and made meaningful contributions to their schools, clubs and communities across Bishop Auckland.

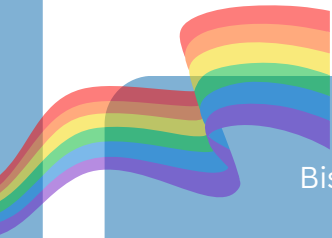
The event showcased not only individual successes but also the strength of youth groups and organisations working together to make a positive impact within Bishop Auckland.

Bishop Auckland Town Council would like to thank everyone involved in making the event such a success, including nominees, families, schools, youth organisations, sponsors, volunteers and all those who submitted nominations.



WHATS BEEN GOING ON

COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER & COMMUNITY SUPPORT



PRIDE

Bishop Auckland Town Council supported Pride 2026 on 13th June.

People flocked to Bishop Auckland College as Bishop Auckland Pride celebrated its third year in the town.

Rainbows and glitter were the norm amongst the lively audience as people watched performers including a Taylor Swift tribute act and star guest, Joe McElderry. The event saw up to 5000 in attendance which is a huge increase from 1500 two years ago when it first started. This Pride event is very family orientated and a lot of families attended and had a great day.

The feedback was amazing and each year the event gets better and better. Its about the community sharing space and having a good time together.

GREENER TOGETHER



A partnership is truly blooming in Bishop Auckland, with a range of organisations and community groups working together to improve the town's environment and enhance its visual appeal.

The Greener Together Working Group has been established by the Town Council's Allotments and Environment Committee to identify, develop and promote initiatives that enhance green spaces across Bishop Auckland. The group focuses on community planting, "In Bloom" activity and floral displays, supporting environmental quality and community pride.

Co-ordinated by Bishop Auckland Town Council, the group brings together representatives from Town Council, Civic Pride, Cultivate 4Life, Green Matters, Wear Rivers Trust, The Auckland Project, Bishop Auckland College, local allotment holders, Bishop Auckland In Bloom, local allotment holders and enthusiastic residents. Members have been meeting monthly since January and have already delivered significant progress on several projects.



NEWSLETTER



**BISHOP
AUCKLAND
TOWN COUNCIL**

JULY 2026

WHATS TO COME

SUMMER TIME



SUMMER HOLIDAYS ACTIVITIES



SCAN FOR
MORE DETAILS



JULY - AUGUST 2026

WHEN	EVENT	WHERE	TIME	COST	WHEN	EVENT	WHERE	TIME	COST
19 Jul - 28 Aug	Summer at Binchester	Binchester Roman Fort	10am - 4.30pm	Included with admission	7 Aug	Street Food Carousel	Bishop Auckland Market Place	4pm - 9pm	Free
21 Jul - 26 Aug	Tales on Tuesday	Auckland Palace, Old Library	11am - 3pm	Free	7 - 8 Aug	Uniform Bank	St Anne's Church	10am - 11am	Free
22 Jul - 26 Aug	Wednesdays in the Garden	Auckland Palace Gardens & Grounds	11am - 3pm	Free	12 - 16 Aug	Knight School	Auckland Palace	See venue for session times	£10.50 per child (booking required)
24 Jul - 28 Aug	Family Fridays	Auckland Project Sites & Spaces	11am - 3pm	Free	15 Aug	Bishop Auckland Family Festival	Jane Armstrong Park (opposite Aldi)	11am - 4pm	Free
27 - 31 Jul	Play in a Week (Ages 4-11)	Bishop Auckland Town Hall	10am - 3pm	£125 per person booking essential	16 - 29 Aug	Brick Fairytale Trail	Bishop Auckland	During business opening times	Free
30 Jul - 1 Aug	Open Art Space: Flower Power!	The Artist Hub	11am - 3pm	More info available at the Artist Hub	18 - 19 Aug	Brick Racing Sessions	Bishop Auckland Town Hall	10:30am - 11:30am 12:30pm - 1:30pm (1 hour sessions)	£1 booking essential
31 Jul & Fridays 7, 14, 21 & 28 Aug	Spin Art with Daisy Arts	The Artist Hub	11am - 3pm	£2	20 - 22 Aug	Brick Printing and Play!	The Artist Hub	11am - 3pm	More info available at the Artist Hub
1 Aug	Comedy Club for Kids (Ages 6+)	Bishop Auckland Town Hall	2pm	£11 per person	22 Aug	Medieval Mayhem	Auckland Palace Grounds	10.30am - 3.30pm	Included with admission
6 Aug	AYCC Communities Fun Day	Walker Drive, Bishop Auckland	10am - 3pm	Free	26 - 27 Aug	Disney Sing-Along	Bishop Auckland Town Hall	10am & 2pm (90 mins sessions)	£1
6 Aug	Dr Seuss' The Lorax	Bishop Auckland Town Hall	2pm & 6pm	£7 per person	27, 29 & 30 Aug	Open Art Space: Brick Animation	The Artist Hub	11am - 3pm	More info available at the Artist Hub
6, 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15 Aug	Open Art Space: Let's Play	The Artist Hub	11am - 3pm	More info available at the Artist Hub	29 - 31 Aug	Roman Commotion	Binchester Roman Fort	10am - 4.30pm	Included with admission
					Throughout Summer	Animation Studio & Film Screening	Auckland Palace Grounds	10:30am - 4pm	Included with admission



SCAN TO BOOK
PLAY IN A WEEK



SCAN TO BOOK
COMEDY CLUB



SCAN TO BOOK
DR SEUSS' THE
LORAX



SCAN TO BOOK
KNIGHT SCHOOL



SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON
BRICK RACING AND
DISNEY SING-ALONG



SCAN FOR MORE
DETAILS FOR
THE ARTIST HUB



WHATS TO COME

FREEDOM OF THE TOWN

Freedom of the Town is an honorary status historically granting special rights and privileges to certain citizens, now largely ceremonial.

The freedom is connected to the medieval concept of "free status", early freedom ceremonies had great importance in affirming that the recipient enjoyed privileges such as the right to trade and own property, and protection within the town.

In modern society, the award of honorary freedom of the city or borough tends to be entirely ceremonial, given by the local government in many towns on those who have served in some exceptional way, an honour bestowed by a municipality upon a valued member of the community arising from the medieval practice of granting respected citizens freedom.

THESE HONOURS WILL BE BESTOWED UPON DAME SUSAN SNOWDON DR BOB MCMANNERS

The private service will take place on the 4th August 2026 at St Peters Chapel, Auckland Palace at 6pm but the public are welcome to come and line the boardwalk from the Auckland Palace clock tower entrance (Robinson's Arch).

WHATS TO COME

FAMILY FESTIVAL

The Town Council is proud to once again support the very popular Family Festival. Why not come along and join in the free family fun day including the Jr Big Top, workshops, performances and plenty more. 11am - 4pm 15th August 2026 at Jane Armstrong Park (opposite Aldi).



HORTICULTURE & PRODUCE SHOW



A free event held in the Auckland Palace grounds on the 26th & 27th September 2026. The show tent will open from 12noon.

As well as a traditional show from 11am there will be hands on activities and family friendly challenges.

Food and drink will be available to purchase in the grounds.

Don't forget if you planted potato seeds at the Food Festival to bring your yield back to the Horticulture Fayre on Saturday 26th September for judging. Prizes to be won.



BISHOP WORD FEST

Bishop Word Fest 'Turn the Page'
Exhibition from the 7th - 20th September 2026 and free festival activities for all on the 11th, 12th and 13th September.
More information coming soon.



WHATS TO COME

BRICK TRAIL

WIN AMAZING PRIZES!

- 1 £250 VOUCHER
- 2 £150 VOUCHER
- 3 £100 VOUCHER

BRICK FAIRYTALES

ENCHANTED BISHOP AUCKLAND

MORE FUN!

- BRICK RACING CHALLENGE
- FAMILY LEGO ACTIVITIES

A MAGICAL TRAIL BUILT FROM LEGO® BRICKS
COLLECT YOUR TRAIL CARD FROM THE TOWN HALL OR THE ARTIST HUB.

17 – 30 AUGUST



**SCAN TO:
DISCOVER ALL
THE ACTIVITIES
AND EVENT INFO.**

COMPLETE THE TRAIL FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!



Bishop Auckland
Town Hall

Bishop Auckland Town Council in collaboration with Durham County Council have arranged for the installation of 13 giant brick structures around town. Trail cards can be picked up at The Artist Hub and the Town Hall with entry boxes in the same locations.

The Town Council has also arranged some additional brick and fairy-tale themed activities in Bishop Auckland Town Hall to complement the trail.

These include a 60-minute brick racing session at
10:30am and 12:30pm on Tuesday 18th
Wednesday 19th august 2026,
and a 90-minute enchanted princess session at
10am and 2pm on Friday 28th August 2026.

Places are limited to 30 children per session and cost £1 each, with parents required to stay throughout the sessions.

To book onto a session, visit the Bishop Auckland Town Hall website.

NEWSLETTER



**BISHOP
AUCLAND
TOWN COUNCIL**

JULY 2026



WHATS TO COME

HERITAGE FAYRE

THE SUN INN

High Bondgate
Bishop Auckland



THE SUN INN

Early History

The earliest recorded ownership was 21st January 1806 when it was owned by James Thompson. Until the 1950's it was known as The Tiger Inn.

19th & Early 20th Century

1857-1899 the pub was run by the Leng family. Miners from nearby collieries used to frequent the establishment as their local watering hole. In the early 20th century it became under a brewery control James Deuchar Ltd (which became Scottish & Newcastle Breweries).

Late 20th Century

The pub finally closeded and was reconstructed at Beamish open Air Museum. It was dismantled brick by brick in the mid 1980's and rebuilt to form part of the museums 1900s town.

FACEBOOK ARTICLE: PUBS & CLUBS OF THE NORTH EAST

Local Memories

A Gimes - I was the person that numbered the front storework and the wooden frontage.

A Hender - I remember working on Beamish in 1983/4 rebuilding it.

R. Clambers - By unity as the last person to pull a pint in 1983 before it closed.

S. Lous - Watched them take it down on a bed.

C. Duden - As a child I remember my grandfather used to visit the Sun Inn on a Thursday lunchtime. My mum would call at the fish shop in Bondgate and then they would catch the Bendi bus to travel to have their lunch together.

T. Henry - My grandfather took my father for his first pint to there after his first shift at the pit.

G. Bardsley - They have Callen's local for a while.

R. SLATER - MY GRANDPA USED TO PLAY DARTS IN THE HE. HE VISITED IT AT BEAMISH ONCE AND SAID THE DART BOARD WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE!

THE SUN INN

Moved to Beamish brick by brick in the 1980's



Come along to the free Heritage Fayre which will take place on Saturday 26th September 10am - 3pm in The Artist Hub and The Hearth. The County Durham Forum for History and Heritage among others will showcase their wares and share their local knowledge of years gone by.

Displays will be hung around the hub for all to see and talk about. Guest speakers will include local historian Tom Hutchinson.

Northern Bygone Society will host their classic car show in Bishop Auckland Market Place on the 26th September 2026 from 10am - 2pm



Wilson's Forge was a major steel and engineering works in Bishop Auckland from 1849 to 2000. The forge produced steel castings and forgings, mining and colliery equipment as well as railway and heavy engineering components.

The company was established by David Hope but later passed to Robert Wilson & Sons in 1882. The site was known as Auckland Engine Works. At the height of the industry the forge employed around 400 people. Asda now sits on the site location.

