

DURHAM

Spring 2022

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County News

Bishop Auckland Food Festival welcomes John Whaite

£160 million spending plans

Find out how we're budgeting for the county's future

Get out and about this spring

Events, activities and ideas for family fun



Welcome to the spring edition of Durham County News

After an incredibly challenging couple of years for us all, I hope that this spring signals a return to some normality, as we welcome Bishop Auckland Food Festival back to its usual timeslot.

As always, we'll be welcoming a host of famous faces and enjoying tasty treats, live entertainment and more. Read all about what's in store, including, of course, a wide range of delicious produce, on page 3.

Also in this edition, you can find ideas to get the family out and about this Easter, including a new season at our museums (see page 15), a chance to help look after our coastline (pages 22 and 23) and some fantastic family-friendly theatre productions (page 24).

You can also read details of our future spending plans and priorities, support to help residents into employment, and opportunities to start a rewarding career in care, as we work to help the county recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.



Councillor Amanda Hopgood,
Leader of the Council

Amanda Hopgood

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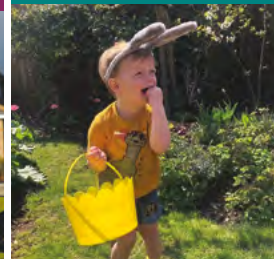
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Front cover: John Whaite, chef, author and TV presenter, will be at Bishop Auckland Food Festival

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To contact the editorial team, call 03000 268 059 or email durhamcountynews@durham.gov.uk

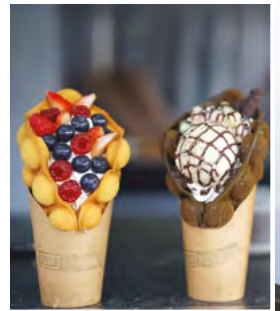


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Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 April

Bishop Auckland Food Festival is back.

Back in its regular springtime slot, the popular annual event brings together the essential ingredients for a fabulous weekend of family fun – celebrity guests; hands-on workshops; the best of the region’s food and drink producers; and a packed programme of family entertainment.

The town’s Market Place and surrounding streets will welcome back many of your favourite County Durham food, drink, and street-food companies as well as some of the best producers from surrounding areas. Plus, there will be some delicious new additions to try.

There will also be live cookery demonstrations from some famous faces, including chef, author, TV presenter and Strictly Come Dancing finalist, **John Whaite** and Great British Bake Off 2021 finalist **Chigs Parmar**.

Karen Wright, Bake Off 2018 contestant, will host a series of adult and children’s Cookery Workshops across the weekend. There will be Stromboli and focaccia-making for the adults and crumble and naan bread sessions for the kids.

There’s also an invitation to **An Evening with Mike Bartley**, Bishop Auckland’s very own MasterChef contender. Mike will offer a three-course evening menu during a pop-up dining experience at Bishop Auckland Town Hall. Tickets are limited and are priced at £35 per person.

And, of course, there will be a jam-packed programme of entertainment across the weekend including street art, live music and performances, guaranteeing a fun family weekend for everyone.



For all the latest news, visit www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk, sign up for the newsletter and follow our social channels. You can also book tickets for Karen Wright’s workshops and An Evening with Mike Bartley.



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Your new council tax bill

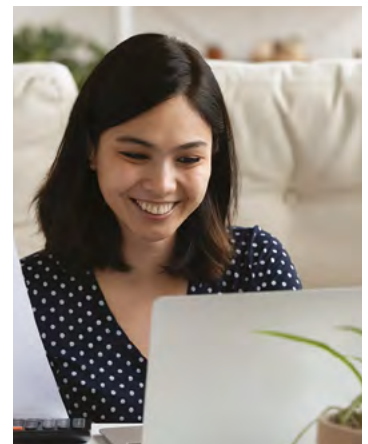
Many residents will have now received their new council tax bill for 2022/3. If you have questions about your bill or how your council tax is used, visit www.durham.gov.uk/counciltaxleaflets where you will find a number of helpful videos.

Council tax reductions for people who suffer from a severe mental impairment

Anyone who has been diagnosed by their doctor as suffering from a condition or illness that is classed as a severe mental impairment may be entitled to receive a reduction or exemption on their council tax. This can include people who suffer from illnesses such as Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's or other similar conditions as well as those with severe learning difficulties. Reductions are also available for those who care for someone with such a condition. People who are eligible and who live alone, do not need to pay any council tax, while those living with another person qualify for a 25 per cent reduction. To find out more visit www.durham.gov.uk/smi

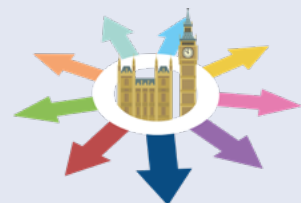
Other discounts and reductions

Discounts are also available for people who live alone, residents with severe disabilities, students, student nurses, apprentices and National Traineeship trainees. If someone has moved out of their home permanently to receive care in a hospital, residential care home or a supported housing scheme or hostel, they may also be entitled to a discount. Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/counciltaxdiscounts



Devolution

Talks are now taking place on a possible devolution deal for County Durham.



A Government White Paper has identified the area as one of nine selected to take forward proposals for devolved powers.

We will now work with the Government, as well as businesses and residents, to establish how devolution would work for the area and to ensure our ambitions for levelling up are supported.

Culture has long been recognised as a force for economic and social change and, in County Durham, we have a track record for delivering cultural-led regeneration.

Festivals such as Lumiere, Brass and the upcoming Bishop Auckland Food Festival (see page 3) boost the economy by millions of pounds, as well as creating enriching experiences and exciting opportunities for people of all ages. A rich cultural offer also enhances the vibrancy of our communities, attracts investors and is a significant part of County Durham's tourism industry, which contributed almost £1 billion to the local economy in 2019.

County Durham is blessed with a rich heritage and diverse landscapes. We have a world-class university, dynamic cultural venues and strive to be an environment where creativity and innovation are nurtured.

- Launched as part of County Durham's bid to be UK City of Culture 2025, the Durham 2025 campaign is led by the council, Durham University and Culture Durham. It aims to build on the county's strengths and further embrace the transformative power of culture to enrich lives.
- We know culture has a key role to play in the levelling up agenda and we want to ensure communities across the county reap the rewards of increased investment in cultural activities.

- Regardless of the success of County Durham's UK City of Culture 2025 bid, the Durham 2025 partners are absolutely committed to delivering an unforgettable year of inclusive cultural activities with a legacy that extends far beyond 2025.



To stay up to date with the latest campaign news visit www.Durham2025.co.uk and don't forget to follow @Durham2025 on Facebook, @Durham_2025 on Twitter and @Durham2025_ on Instagram.



There is still time to have your say on library services

We want your views on library services in County Durham.

Whether you like to visit your community library, access services digitally or currently do not use our libraries, we want to hear from you on how services should be delivered in the future.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/consultation or pick up a paper survey from your local library. The deadline for comments is 5pm on Friday 1 April.

Nominate your pandemic heroes

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond during the pandemic?

Our Recognition of Contribution to Public Health Award has been set up to offer a special thank you for the contribution that groups and individuals have made to the local Covid response.

To nominate someone who made a difference to you, your family, or your community, email PublicHealth@durham.gov.uk with the title Public Health Award. You will need to provide details of the person you are nominating, the reasons for your nomination and an example of their contribution.

A letter and certificate will then be shared with you to present to the nominee.





Supporting families in need

A programme providing tailored support to vulnerable families has been extended.

As part of the £200 million National Supporting Families Programme, the council and its partners are to receive almost £2.2 million to build on the success of the area's **Stronger Families** initiative.

Stronger Families helps families across County Durham access the help they need to address a range of disadvantages. It recognises that children, parents and carers are most able to build resilience when they have support workers on their side who they know and trust.

The programme employs a whole-family approach and is delivered by dedicated key workers from the council and fellow members of the Early Help Partnership, which includes Durham Constabulary, health agencies and the voluntary and community sector.



Could you be a road safety hero?

We're looking for people to join our team of 160 School Crossing Patrols, who provide an invaluable service, escorting children and adults on their way to and from school.

If you've got great people skills, are interested in providing a vital service to your community and want to work outdoors in a rewarding role, we want to hear from you.

Being a School Crossing Patrol can fit perfectly around other commitments, as the role is term-time only and the hours are usually from 8am to 9am and from 2.45pm to 3.45pm. You'll be provided with training and uniform.

Roles are available across the county, and you don't need any formal qualifications, just an awareness of road safety. Vacancies are advertised at www.durham.gov.uk/jobs or you can contact the road safety team at road.safety@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 268168.

Durham Bus Station

Work has now restarted on the construction of a new bus station in Durham City.

Demolition of the old building began last year.

However, during the process it emerged that additional, unanticipated works to support a Grade II listed building adjacent to the site were needed before construction on the new bus station could begin.

Following a pause in the main works so that the additional work could be carried out, construction on the new building has now restarted. It is expected that the new bus station will be open for use by spring next year.

Find out more, including where buses will be stopping while construction work is ongoing, at www.durham.gov.uk/durhambusstation





Easter holiday activities

Families will once again be able to take advantage of our free Fun and Food programme during the Easter holidays.

Last year, the initiative provided holiday activities with healthy food for hundreds of families across the county, funded by a £2.3 million grant from the Department for Education. Further funding of £2.3 million means the programme is set to continue for the next three years.

Activities such as swimming, craft workshops, pantomimes and ice skating are provided through voluntary and community groups, leisure centres, libraries and schools.

Harbour, which works with families affected by domestic abuse, is one of the organisations involved in the scheme.

Andrea, a children and family worker at Harbour, said: *"The funding allowed us to pay for everything that the families needed to take part in activities, from swimming costumes to buckets and spades."*

"It has been amazing to see how the families have built friendships and helped each other, as well as the change in the children's behaviour and in the parent's self-esteem– they were just shining."

"One lady and her son fled abuse in their family home. Our staff made the little boy a lovely cake for his birthday, which he had never celebrated before. It was amazing to see him so excited, he was so grateful."

"We also held a daytime camp, with a pop-up tent, disposable barbeque and fishing activities for a dad who had always dreamed of taking his son camping but couldn't afford to. They were so thankful."

To find out about activities in your area visit www.durham.gov.uk/FunAndFood

Healthy Start goes digital

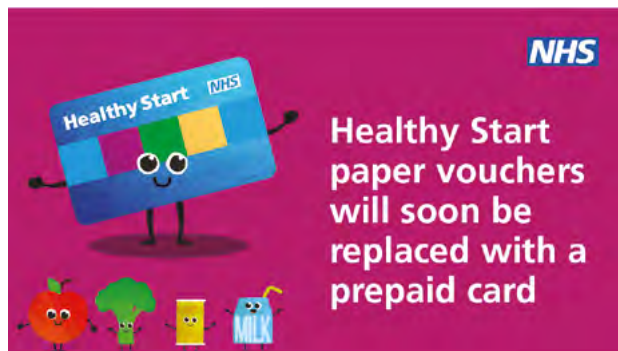
The NHS Healthy Start Scheme for low-income families is moving online, replacing paper application forms and vouchers with a prepaid card.

You can get £4.25 each week of your pregnancy from the 10th week, £8.50 per week for children from birth to 1 and £4.25 per week for children between 1 and 4 to help with the purchase of healthy foods, including fruit, vegetables, pulses, and fresh or formula milk, as well as free vitamins.

New applications must be made online. Those already receiving paper vouchers will soon be invited to apply online for their prepaid card.

For more information and to find out if you're eligible to apply, visit www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply

For more information and advice on how to prepare for, and stay healthy during pregnancy, or care for your children in their early years, visit www.durham.gov.uk/beststartinlife or speak with your midwife or health visitor.



Struggling with your money? Find out about financial support at www.durham.gov.uk/helpwithyourmoney

Budgeting for the county's future

More than £160 million, including £112 million of new additional capital investment is to be spent on major development projects, new schools and frontline services across County Durham, as part of an ambitious £602 million capital programme across the next three years.

The investments are outlined in our Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), which sets out our spending plans and priorities for the next four years.



The council faces significant and unavoidable cost pressures totalling over £45 million next year, with £19.5 million of this being driven by pressures in statutory adult and children's social care services. Despite this, we will be investing £10 million of council reserves in frontline services in the county. This includes upgrades to rural and urban footpaths, investment in public rights of way and local nature reserves as well as investment in our public parks.



Capital investment of £5 million has been allocated towards helping reach our net zero carbon target by making changes to the way we heat council buildings. £1 million is also being set aside to introduce a new loans scheme to help local businesses and community buildings reduce their carbon emissions too.

Meanwhile, improvements will be made to parks and outdoor play areas for children, and we will be investing further in our fleet of electric vehicles.



An investment of £8.6 million has been agreed over the next two years to bring the county's unclassified roads up to standard. Funding towards feasibility studies for Levelling Up bids to Government to regenerate Durham City and the county's towns and villages has also been earmarked. This is alongside investments to unlock sites for housing and employment and support the labour market.



Capital investment of more than £31 million is to be spent on children's and young people's services over the next two years, with the money being invested in new schools, more fit for purpose children's homes and school infrastructure.

We are also continuing with our support for the most vulnerable in society with investments in children and adult services. The Council Tax Reduction scheme, which provides a discount of up to 100 per cent on council tax bills to eligible residents, will continue in 2022/23.

The council has the option to increase the base council tax by a maximum of 1.99 per cent in 2022/23 alongside a 3 per cent adult social care precept which could have resulted in a 4.99 per cent increase. There will however be no increase in the base council tax next year, in recognition of the costs being faced by council tax payers, but to offset the significant cost pressures faced in supporting vulnerable adults, the council has had to utilise the 3 per cent adult social care precept increase in 2022/23.

It remains difficult for the council to plan for the future, due to the significant uncertainty over funding arrangements for local government. However, we are currently in as strong a position as possible to meet the ongoing financial challenges ahead.

We aim to make new additional savings totalling £2.4 million next year, with no reductions in frontline service delivery and no use of reserves to balance the budget, but are estimating that we will need to find savings of around £30 million in future years to balance the books.



New schemes included in our £602 million capital investment programme

£5m

on Net Zero buildings

£22m

on new school sites

£1m

on street lighting column replacement

£33m

on highway maintenance

£2m

to deliver the Local Transport Plan

£5m

disabled facilities

£1m

on flood prevention schemes

£3m

investment in Towns and Villages programme

£1m

Ferryhill Rail Station match funding

£5m

Levelling Up match funding



Helping people find work and gain new skills

If you're looking to find work, change career or learn something new, we have a range of services available to help.



Removing barriers

DurhamEnable helps people aged 18 years or older, who face barriers to entering work because of a learning disability, learning difficulties, autism, mental health needs, or other long term health condition.

Our job coaches offer one-to-one support, tailored to jobseekers' needs. This includes helping to create CVs, building confidence and matching a jobseeker's skills to potential roles so employers get the best candidate for the job.

Shaun Ridley, 37, from Bishop Auckland, has a learning disability that he was told would prevent him finding paid work.

Shaun had little self-confidence and had never had an interview before being referred to DurhamEnable and working with job coach Julie Patterson. Together they were able to make an action plan so Shaun could take his first steps towards employment.

Shaun built up his confidence, working on his interview skills and even received support to manage his finances and travel independently. When Shaun got an interview offer, Julie worked with the employer to ensure reasonable adjustments were made, which allowed Shaun to shine on the day and get the job.

Shaun said: "DurhamEnable is a brilliant service which has really helped me. I have a close relationship with Julie, and she really understands me."

Shaun was determined to work and, with DurhamEnable's help, he was able to realise his potential. He now uses his experience to help others as a citizenship leader with Inclusion North.

Businesses can benefit from working with DurhamEnable too, with access to free expert advice and jobseekers whose skills and aspirations are matched to vacancies. Employers gain access to a wider recruitment pool, in-work support helps to reduce turnover, and hiring disabled or neurodiverse colleagues can increase company morale.

Jobseekers can be referred to DurhamEnable through council services, referral partners or via JobCentrePlus or Durham County Carers Support.

To find out more, visit www.durham.gov.uk/DurhamEnable



Learning for everyone

Whether you want to change your job or help your family with their learning, DurhamLearn has hundreds of distance learning courses starting every week, ranging from Entry Level to Level 3 qualifications.

35-year-old mother-of-four, Clare Stebbings, from Newton Aycliffe, was initially nervous at the thought of returning to education and worried about the time she would have to commit to her learning. But after signing up and receiving help from her tutor she hasn't looked back.

After completing a Level 2 Autism distance learning course, Clare decided to take on further studies, with courses in learning disabilities, English and maths and gained Level 1 qualifications as well as newfound confidence.

She added: "My tutors have been brilliant; I couldn't have done it without their support. Studying by distance learning has been great as it fits around my family."

Clare, who volunteers at her son's school, is planning to start working towards her Level 2 English and maths, followed by a Teaching Assistant course, as her ambition is to support children in a special educational needs school.

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/durhamlearn or call 03000 266 115.

“ My tutors have been brilliant; I couldn't have done it without their support. ”



Help for young people

DurhamWorks helps unemployed young people, aged 16-24, to progress into jobs, training and education.

Tailored support can be provided on a one-to-one basis or in small groups, with a choice of face-to-face or online sessions. Help can include advice; support to access jobs vacancies, training opportunities and qualifications; help to complete applications or improve interview skills; and help with childcare, transport or work clothing costs.

Peer Mentors who have had recent experience of being young and unemployed themselves can also offer support.

To find out more, speak to one of the team on **03000 262 930** or visit www.durhamworks.info, where you can also chat to an advisor online.



DurhamWorks
To improve your future

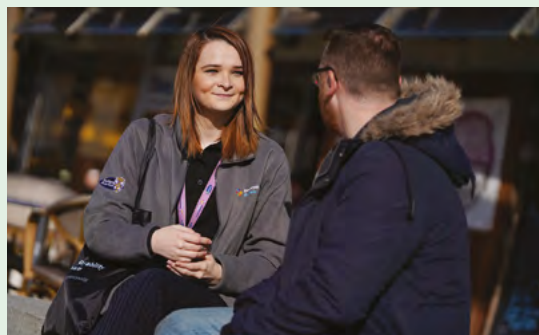
 **European Union**
European
Social Fund
'Supported by the Youth Employment Initiative'

Help for people aged 25 and over

If you're aged 25 or over and unemployed, Employability Durham could help you back into work or to set you on the path to starting your own business.

Looking for work can be difficult, especially if you have been out of work for a while. Employability Durham provides information, advice and support at every stage. If you're not yet ready to find a job, help is available to ensure that when the time comes, you're ready, prepared and confident.

Support is also on offer for those who are newly unemployed and don't know where to start as well as anyone who would like a change of direction or who wants to secure a new job as soon as possible.



Employability Durham also supports businesses. Shildon based company Birds Taxis Limited sought help to take on more staff.

The small, family-run business was looking to expand into different sectors and secure new contracts.

Employability Durham's Debbie Watson and Lynne Groves helped the team recruit more employees, providing the company with suitable candidates for vacancies and support with training costs as well as helping new staff settle in.

Andrew Bird, of Birds Taxis, said: "I would like to thank the team at Employability Durham for helping us achieve our goals – recruiting not only one new employee but a number. This has enabled us to provide employment for people in our community, ensuring the growth and development of a long-standing company within the Shildon area."

Employers and jobseekers can find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/employability or by calling **03000 262 009**.



 **Employability
Durham**

Get active with personalised support

Being physically active has many benefits, improving our fitness and helping to lift our mood. Moving more releases feel good hormones that actually give us more energy. It also improves sleep and can help manage anxiety and stress.

However, sometimes we need a little motivation to get started or some advice on how to get the best out of moving more – but help is at hand.

Move your way to a healthier you

You don't need to start running marathons to feel the benefits of getting active; taking part in a fitness class at the local leisure centre, getting on your bike or going for a walk in the park can all make a difference. The key is finding something you enjoy and building up gradually. Any activity is better than none, even if you just get moving for five minutes. Some activity is good, more is better.



We're here to help

Keen to get moving and don't know where to start? Perhaps you're struggling to get back into fitness. Our specialist **Move** advisors are here to help. Book a free appointment to receive personalised and confidential advice to get

moving. We can provide information on suitable activities at leisure centres and community facilities, from guided walks or fitness classes. Follow-up appointments can be arranged to provide ongoing support to keep you on track.

To find out about the help available and to book an appointment visit www.durham.gov.uk/move or call the Move team on 03000 262 539.

move



Hassan gets walking

A fall at home resulted in a fractured lumbar spine and a two-week hospital stay for 77-year-old Hassan, from Durham City, but our **Gentle Steps to Walking** programme helped him on the road to recovery.



When his injuries healed, Hassan still experienced pain and was anxious about falling again. Joining Gentle Steps to Walking at the Riverside Sports pavilion, in Chester-le-Street, boosted his confidence and gave him a new lease of life.

"I was determined to walk again. I look forward to Tuesday every week so I can meet and walk with the group," he said.

"It is a day out of the house where I meet and talk with very friendly people. I feel that this helps and improves greatly both my mental health and physical health."

Gentle Steps to Walking sessions are delivered on running tracks. The tracks are flat and in a safe and enclosed space, where you can walk at your own pace and rest whenever you need to.

For more information about Gentle Steps to Walking sessions and other walking groups, visit www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham



We Are Undefeatable

People in east Durham with long-term health conditions will soon be able to benefit from specialist support to get active.

Following a successful launch in Ferryhill and Chilton last year, the **We Are Undefeatable Project**, will move on to the east of the county from this spring, focusing its efforts in Easington, Blackhall, Peterlee and Horden.

The scheme, part of a wider national movement funded by Sport England, saw teams working with residents, healthcare professionals and the voluntary sector to explore the opportunities available to people in Ferryhill, Chilton and the surrounding areas to become more physically active.

The result was a range of opportunities including a seated exercise class at the Ferryhill Ladder Centre, as well as the promotion for existing programmes, such as the Gentle Steps to Walking group at Sunnydale Shildon and Homegroup's Green Horizons gardening group in Ferryhill.

Healthcare professionals also received training to continue the team's work when they move on to a new area, while the sharing of residents' stories enabled others with similar long-term conditions to see the wide-ranging benefits of moving more.

Find out about fitness classes, clubs and leisure facilities in your area by visiting www.durhamlocate.org.uk where you will also find information about programmes aimed at improving wellbeing.

If you would like more information or would like to support the campaign, email weareundefeatable@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 262 539.

For more information visit: www.durham.gov.uk/weareundefeatable

Moving more for body and mind

Gardening is a great way to help you move more and feel better. Gardens can also be relaxing places where the effort you put in can result in a real sense of achievement, boosting confidence and self-esteem and having positive effects on how you feel.

Green Horizons in Ferryhill is a community allotment group managed by Homegroup and run by a group of volunteers. Becca and her dad Jeff, who has Huntingdon's disease, discovered the benefits of joining the gardening group.

"It is a lovely safe place, so open and welcoming," said Becca. "I feel happier, and it has helped me to manage my own mental health."

All aspects of gardening can increase positive feelings and offer a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Green Horizons is open to all adults in the area. If you would like to help, or just want to find out more, please contact contactus@homegroup.org.uk or visit www.homegroup.org.uk



The Durham Big Econ-versation

Research suggests that just one in ten of us understands the way politicians and the media talk about the economy even though it has a huge influence on our lives.

Our Big Econ-versation is encouraging everyone to get involved in shaping County Durham's economic future.

The economy means different things to different people, but it affects the money we take home, the quality of our high streets, the opportunities available to our children and the kinds of jobs that are on offer.

It also matters for our businesses, influencing whether we have the right people with the right skills to fill jobs, and ensuring that businesses themselves are able to flourish.

Our Big Econ-versation is happening right now



We're currently looking at how the economy can help us ensure County Durham is home to happier, healthier and wealthier residents and as part of this process we want to hear from everyone who lives and works here.

Through our Big Econ-versation, we're asking people to tell us about their experience of getting a job, running a business, accessing training and all sorts of other issues.

The feedback we receive will help us develop a new economic strategy for the county.

County Durham is home to more than 530,000 residents and in excess of 14,000 businesses employing 183,000 people.

Our Inclusive Economic Strategy will aim to ensure everyone has opportunities for development, access to higher paid and skilled jobs, and a better quality of living. Your views, experiences, and ambitions will help us develop the economy in ways that are important to you.



Bite-sized

Because the economy can be complicated, we've broken the conversation down into a series of smaller, bite-sized conversations around the themes of:

People

Prosperity

Places

Promotion

Partnerships

Inclusivity is a key priority for us, so we want to have this econ-versation with our communities, businesses and residents at its focus.

It's going to bring big changes

A draft strategy will be presented back to residents and businesses in the summer, offering the chance for further feedback. We'll be asking if you think it will help you and if you feel it will make County Durham better place to live, work and do business.

Join the conversation before April 22



Get involved

Our Big Econ-versation runs until Friday 22 April.

Make sure you have your say and fill in your survey here: www.durhamecon-versation.co.uk

For more information, call 03000 260 000 or email Econ-versation@durham.gov.uk

Museums open for spring

See the past come to life this spring when our museums reopen for a new season.



Killhope

Killhope Lead Mining Museum, winner of The Best Told Story Award from Visit England 2021-2022, reopens on Friday 1 April.

Visitors can enjoy an underground mine trip, view the museum's fascinating Spa Box collection and learn about the Weardale Tub. There's also the chance to look for lead ore and minerals on the washing floor or explore the historic buildings and machinery.

Set in a stunning location, Killhope is the perfect spot to experience the great outdoors. Why not try bird watching or squirrel spotting or have fun in the play park? The attraction boasts a gift shop and café but there are plenty of spots to enjoy a picnic.

This summer, there will be a full programme of free outdoor events, including theatre performances and an installation by award-winning local artist Steve Messam.

And if you fancy trying a new hobby, there will be workshops and demonstrations with resident blacksmith Alex Snowdon throughout the season.

The museum will be open daily from 10.30am to 4.30pm and the café from 10am to 4pm. Free entry.

The visitor centre is accessible by wheelchair and the museum provides free parking, designated parking for disabled visitors, accessible toilets and baby changing facilities.

Killhope, The North of England Lead Mining Museum
Near Cowshill
Upper Weardale
County Durham
DL13 1AR
www.killhope.org.uk



Binchester Roman Fort

Visitors to Binchester Roman Fort can discover what life was like for the Romans in County Durham when the museum reopens on Friday 1 April.

Find out why taking a bath in Roman times was about more than just getting clean; walk in the footsteps of Roman soldiers within the remains of the commanding officer's house; and see if you can find the Beast of Binchester among the ruins.

The site has been specially arranged to provide level access for people in wheelchairs and those with prams. An accessible toilet and parking bays are provided. The site has a shop, toilet and some refreshment facilities.

The museum will be open daily until 31 October, from 10am to 4pm. Tickets, priced at £5 for adults, £4 concessions and £3 for children (under 4s go free) are available to buy in person.

Binchester
Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL14 8DJ
www.durham.gov.uk/binchester

Please note: venue opening is subject to change, please check before you visit. » **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO** »

Freedom to live your life

When illness struck 63-year-old Andrew Battman, he found he was unable to care for himself. After a period in hospital, he was referred to a care home until his health improved.

However, Andrew values his independence and decided that our Extra Care service would be a more suitable option as soon as he was fit enough to look after himself.

It's been a few months since Andrew arrived at Maple Court, in Consett, and he's settled in well. He enjoys watching TV in the relaxation area and playing bingo with the other residents. He's also able to enjoy breakfast with his sister in the comfort of the communal dining room.

The staff at Maple Court have played a huge part in helping Andrew feel at home and he describes them as professional, warm and friendly.

He said: *"I am so happy I decided to move. Extra Care has everything that I need, and a great community feel. I can come and go as I please, invite guests over and have made friends with the other residents. My dog lives with me too which would never have been possible in the care home."*

"To me, Extra Care means the freedom to live my life how I want to, but also the reassurance of knowing that help is available if I need it."

Extra Care gives you the independence of having your own home in a specially designed complex, with the benefits of onsite personal care and support to meet your needs.

You can furnish your flat to your own taste and make the most of facilities such as a communal lounge and restaurant, landscaped gardens, and a guest suite for family or friends to stay over.

Some sites even offer an onsite shop, a hair and beauty salon and social events.

Anyone moving into Extra Care will be assessed by a social worker, who

will create a care plan. Care staff are also on hand to provide emergency care which can be summoned by an alarm system.



“Extra Care has everything that I need, and a great community feel.”

Where are Extra Care developments?

Extra Care offers an alternative to moving into a care home for people aged 55 or over and those with needs associated with a specific condition.

There are seven Extra Care schemes in County Durham: Charles Dickens Lodge in Barnard Castle; Chester View in Ouston; Harbour Lodge in Seaham; Maple Court in Consett; The Orchards in Brandon; and Sycamore Lodge in Spennymoor. We also support a scheme at Southfield House in Crook.

For more information, call **01915 740 323** or visit www.anchor.org.uk/durhamcare

Join our care team

We are currently recruiting Extra Care staff. No specific training or experience is necessary, just a caring personality, as full training will be given. If you are interested in finding out more email durhamcountycareand support@durham.gov.uk

“It’s a demanding job but it’s also incredibly rewarding.”



Could a career in adult social care be right for you?

If you want to make a real difference to people’s lives, a career in care could be for you.

County Durham Care Academy has opportunities for people who are new to care as well as those with previous experience.

Whether you’re interested in working in a care home or helping someone with a disability live more independently, the Care Academy can support you into securing your dream job.

Free practical help and support is available to anyone aged 18 or over. It doesn’t matter if you don’t have previous experience, as long as you’re passionate about helping others, a career in care could be for you.

Mum-of-two Sophie is now well on the way to the career she has always wanted after signing up with the Care Academy.

The support she received, including a guaranteed job interview and guidance on interview techniques, helped her land a job at Lindisfarne Care Home, close to where she lives in Chester le Street.



“Apart from having my children, it’s 100 per cent the best thing I ever did because I know it’s what I was always meant to do,” she said. “It’s a demanding job but it’s also incredibly rewarding.”

“It’s being able to go home at the end of a shift, knowing that I’ve made a difference to the residents’ lives; knowing I’ve brought a smile to their day.”

Find out more

If you’re interested in a career in care, visit www.durham.gov.uk/careacademyrecruitment or call **03000 260 222**.

You’ll be asked to complete a short application form. The Care Academy team will then contact you to discuss the options available.



It's time to get our health back on track

Now that spring has arrived and lighter nights and warmer days are on the way, it's the perfect time to consider getting yourself in better shape and improving your wellbeing.

Making healthier choices

More than one in four of us have put on weight since the first lockdown at the beginning of 2020, according to recent research. We've been doing more comfort eating and snacking, alongside staying at home due to restrictions.

A new Better Health campaign has been launched to motivate people to make healthier choices, focussing on the small steps that can be taken to lose weight and feel healthier.

Making small changes can make a big difference in the long term.

Try these tips for maintaining a healthy weight:

- ✓ Swap sugary drinks for water or ditch the sugar from your tea
- ✓ Aim for two or more portions of veg in each meal – that's half your plate
- ✓ Eat beans, pulses, fish, eggs meat or other proteins
- ✓ Watch out for carbs such as bread, rice or pasta – choose wholegrain and make sure they take up no more than a third of your plate
- ✓ If you're having dairy, choose low-fat options
- ✓ Choose unsaturated oils such as rapeseed, sunflower and olive oil
- ✓ Drink six to eight cups of water a day

Find free tools and support to help you lead a healthier lifestyle at www.nhs.uk/better-health or for further support www.durham.gov.uk/healthyweight



Alcohol causes cancer

Drinking alcohol is a risk factor that contributes to seven types of cancer and the more alcohol you drink, the greater the risk. Alcohol causes around 11,900 cases of cancer per year in the UK.

For some cancers, any amount of alcohol increases the risk. For other types of cancer, the risk only increases after drinking two or three drinks per day – around 26 to 35 units per week.

To keep your risk of alcohol-related harm low, the NHS recommends:

If you drink as much as 14 units a week, it's best to spread this evenly over three or more days.

If you're trying to reduce the amount of alcohol you drink, it's a good idea to have several alcohol-free days each week.

You can now take a free and confidential Alcohol Test to find out how risky your drinking really is. To take the test and get tips on how to reduce your drinking, download the DrinkCoach app from: www.drinkcoach.org.uk/drinkcoach-app

If you are concerned about your drinking or worried about a friend or family member, help and support is available from **County Durham Drug and Alcohol Service** www.codurhamdrugalcoholrecovery.co.uk



More energy is my big reason to quit smoking

Get free support



More money is my big reason to quit smoking

Get free support



Healthier lungs are my big reason to quit smoking

Get free support

Support to stop smoking

Research shows that smokers are more vulnerable to Covid, meaning there has never been a more important time to quit.

Stopping smoking also:

- ✓ Reduces your risk of developing other diseases and illness, such as COPD, cancer, heart disease and stroke
- ✓ Improves your energy levels and reduces stress
- ✓ Protects your loved ones, and even your pets, from the effect of second-hand smoke
- ✓ Is healthier for your wallet

You are three times more likely to quit with support from Stop Smoking services.

Get in touch on 0800 772 0565 or visit www.smokefreecountydurham.co.uk

Looking after your mental health

Almost a third of adults in the UK have felt so stressed over the last year that they were overwhelmed or unable to cope, according to the Mental Health Foundation.

Stress is something we all suffer from and there are all kinds of stressful situations that can be a part of daily life. Low-level stress can even be helpful or motivational, but it is important to try and manage it.

Stress is the body's reaction to feeling threatened or under pressure. It's very common and can help us meet the demands of home, work and family life. But too much stress can affect our mood, our body and our relationships – especially when it feels out of our control. It can make us feel anxious and irritable and affect our self-esteem.

Ahead of Stress Awareness Month in April, we've got some simple tips to help you cope with stressful situations.

Split up big tasks

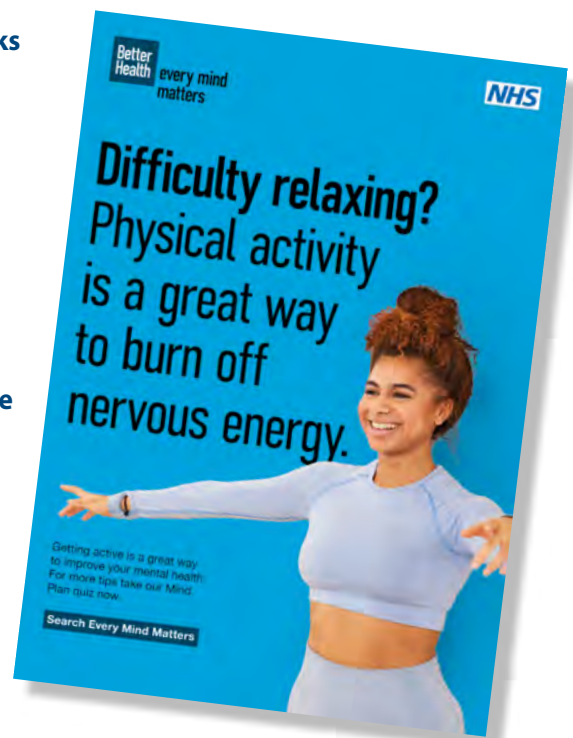
Allow yourself some positivity

Challenge your thoughts

Be more active

Talk to someone

Plan ahead



More information is available www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues

or you can access local and national support services at www.durham.gov.uk/mentalhealth





Garden waste 2022

There is still time to sign up to our garden waste scheme for 2022.

More than 190,000 properties across the county are eligible for the scheme, which sees garden waste collected (in bins) from your home and recycled into compost.

Don't forget our garden waste service is due to start at the end of March/early April. To subscribe and receive as many collections as possible, visit

www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste

In the Barnard Castle area, a bag scheme is operated by Rotters www.rotters.org



Bank Holiday bins

There will be no changes to bin collections this Easter and Spring Bank Holiday.

Our crews will be working Thursdays and Fridays as usual, regardless of whether it's a national holiday, so please leave bins kerbside before 7am on your usual collection day.

New to the area?

Find out your collection day by logging on to www.durham.gov.uk/doitonline



Send us your litter picking selfies

If you're out and about this spring doing your bit for your community then why not send us your litter picking selfies and snaps?

Our Civic Pride team would love to see what you are up to, and you may be featured on their Instagram account.

Every year, we run a **Big Spring Clean** across County Durham and Darlington with our partners at Darlington Borough Council and Litter Free Durham. The initiative, which this year runs until Friday 1 April, celebrates the excellent work of volunteers who help keep our communities clean and tidy and aims to encourage more people to do their bit.

Send your photos to litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk or get in touch if you want to volunteer to keep your area clean and litter free. Find out more about Big Spring Clean at www.durham.gov.uk/bigspringclean

New Climate County Durham website

It's important that we all work together to make our county carbon neutral.

Our newly launched Climate County Durham website offers lots of useful information to help people to make changes to reduce their carbon footprint, whether they're a resident, community group or business.

The site is also a place to share good practice and ideas, and to find tips and inspiration to turn climate talk into climate action. You can also sign up to the countywide climate and carbon reduction climate pledge and submit information for our event listings.

Find out more at www.climatecountydurham.org.uk

climate
County Durham



CAT heads to Easington Colliery

Our Community Action Team (CAT) is heading to Easington Colliery.

The team will spend two weeks in the area from **Monday 21 March**, working with local residents and businesses to identify issues of concern.

This will be followed by seven weeks of action tackling the things that matter most to those who live and work in the village.

The team recently visited Dean Bank, Ferryhill, where they issued **76 legal notices** to people who failed to tidy up their properties.

Find out more www.durham.gov.uk/CAT



Be more energy efficient and get help with your bills

With energy prices rising, we're all looking for ways to save on our bills.

Our **Managing Money Better Service** offers free help to identify where savings can be made on energy bills and how households can be energy efficient.

The team can provide support in switching to another supplier, help you understand your heating system and arrange practical support, such as help to install home insulation. You should check your energy bills regularly to ensure payments are up to date and in line with your energy use to ensure you do not fall into fuel debt.

Energy Company Obligation is the government's scheme to help householders, particularly those on low incomes, meet the upfront costs of making energy saving improvements to their properties such as gas boilers, heat pumps, cavity wall, solid wall and loft insulation.

To find out more about both schemes you can log onto www.durham.gov.uk/doitonline and complete either the Managing Money Better or Warm Homes forms, call us on **03000 268 000** or email warmhomes@durham.gov.uk



You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2021/2022 under the **Warm Home Discount Scheme**. The money is a one-off discount paid to your electricity account, between October and March. Contact your energy supplier directly to find out if they are still taking applications and if you qualify.

You could save money on your energy bills by trying some of the **top 20 energy saving tips** shown in our advice leaflet available at www.durham.gov.uk/warmhomescampaign

Priority Services Register is a free support service, offered by Energy Suppliers to help people in vulnerable situations due to age, health or disability. Contact your energy supplier or Northern Gas Networks to find out more.

Are you worried or struggling to pay your energy bills? Contact your energy supplier as soon as possible. Energy companies must support you in any way they can. You can ask for **payment plans** or you may qualify for **extra help** through grants and services.



Abbey Leisure Centre gets energy efficient

An improvement scheme at Abbey Leisure Centre is helping to reduce carbon emissions.

The £500,000 initiative, funded by the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, has seen the installation of new solar panels and improved ventilation systems. Ageing gas boilers have been replaced with modern air source heat pumps and two new electric vehicle charging points have been installed.

It is estimated that the work will reduce emissions at the leisure centre by over 50 tonnes of CO2 per annum.



Get out and about this spring

There are plenty of ways to enjoy the great outdoors in County Durham. From walking, cycling, water sports or simply a refreshing walk, the county is the perfect place to get out and about.

Help protect our wildlife

Volunteering is a great way to spend more time outdoors while giving back to the community.

The SeaScapes initiative has been set up to preserve and protect our coastline, from the Tyne to the Tees, and is calling on residents to help.

There are a number of ways to get involved, from monitoring our fragile coastal habitats for unique species to taking part in or leading a beach clean. You could also get involved in researching our maritime heritage or joining in an archaeology dig. There's plenty to do to stay involved in the community while helping our local outdoor spaces and heritage.

Working in collaboration with National Trust Rangers at White Lea Farm in Easington Colliery, the team is currently carrying out a wide range of tasks and activities that residents can get involved in.

The **'Our Coast, Our Wildlife'** project aims to study the coastline and its many different habitats, from grasslands to wildflower areas. Rangers and volunteers are currently carrying out wildlife surveys and recording key species that live along the cliffs, including the rare Durham Argus butterfly, which is only found along the East Durham coast.

Rangers have also started work on the meadows to improve habitat sites, including propagating rockrose, wild thyme, red clover and Birds Foot Trefoil at White Lea Farm to plant out in the summer. Through maintaining, improving and increasing the grassland habitats, Our Coast Our Wildlife will help local wildlife thrive.

For more information visit www.exploreseascapes.co.uk or call 03000 266 678



SeaScapes
Tyne to Tees, shores and seas



Guided walks

Countryside guided walks are a great way to enjoy the outdoors in the company of others and learn some interesting facts along the way.

Walks are open to everyone and range from easy to difficult, with short and longer options available.

Unless stated ahead of the walk, simply turn up as there is no need to book.

For more information about upcoming walks, visit www.durham.gov.uk/guidedwalks or call 03000 264 589



Enjoy the view at Red Acre Point

Red Acre Point in Seaham was the site of the port's first lighthouse and later became a defensive gun emplacement during the Second World War. This landmark has a fascinating history behind it and now serves as a viewing platform where visitors can enjoy the coastline.



The steps leading up to the viewing platform are currently being replaced thanks to SeaScapes, Seaham Marina Community Interest Company and National Lottery players through the National Lottery Heritage Fund programme.

The new steps, which will allow more visitors to enjoy the landmark, will lead to a breath-taking view taking in the coastline from Blyth to Whitby on a clear day.

The next phase of the project will be the addition of interpretation panels telling the story of the monument's unique history, the seascape, and what is hidden beneath the waves.

Parks and green spaces

Hop along to our parks next month for spring-themed trails and Easter adventures.

Hardwick Park, in Sedgfield, and Wharton Park, in Durham, will both be hosting family events and activities that can be booked online in advance.

There's plenty more to enjoy in the wider countryside too. From Pow Hill and Waldrige Fell, to the Hurworth Burn Railway Path, the opportunities to get outdoors are endless – take a relaxing walk, tuck into a picnic, watch the wildlife or simply enjoy some fresh air and fantastic views.

County Durham is also home to a large number of nature reserves, which are ideal for spotting birds, butterflies, and a variety of other wildlife.

Our nature reserves boast habitats from woodland to wetland, heathland to wildflower meadow, so whatever you are interested in, there is somewhere suitable to visit.

Find out more www.durham.gov.uk/enjoyoutdoors



Get outdoors

Still need some inspiration? This is Durham has some great ideas for places to explore.

Why not try walking the Northern Saints Trails or stargazing at one of the Durham Dark Sky Discovery Sites? Explore High Force, Hamsterley Forest or the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and UNESCO Global Geopark, whatever you choose, you will find wonderful wildlife and fascinating geology around every corner.

For more outdoor ideas in County Durham, visit www.thisisdurham.com/outdoors

This is **durham**

What's on

Easter family theatre

Wednesday 13 April, 2pm

The Not So Ugly Sisters

Presented by Wrongsemble

Gala Durham

You've heard the fairytale, now here's the whole hair-raising truth. This brand new musical re-telling of Cinderella from the perspective of the 'Not So' Ugly Sisters, is a magical adventure for the whole family. Packed full of original music and magic for all ages, *The Not So Ugly Sisters* is a theatrical treat not to be missed.

Tickets: £12 (£44 family ticket)

03000 266 600

www.galadurham.co.uk



Friday 8 April, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm

Northern Ballet: Pinocchio

Gala Durham

With sell-out performances and a string of hugely successful CBeebies TV adaptations, Northern Ballet returns to Gala Durham with an original retelling of the classic children's story, *Pinocchio*. This child-friendly performance is the perfect opportunity for your little ones to enjoy live ballet, music and theatre and, as we look to ensure theatre is accessible for all, the 4pm show is a relaxed performance.

Tickets: £8 (£6 concession)

03000 266 600 www.galadurham.co.uk

Saturday 9 April, 12noon and 3.30pm

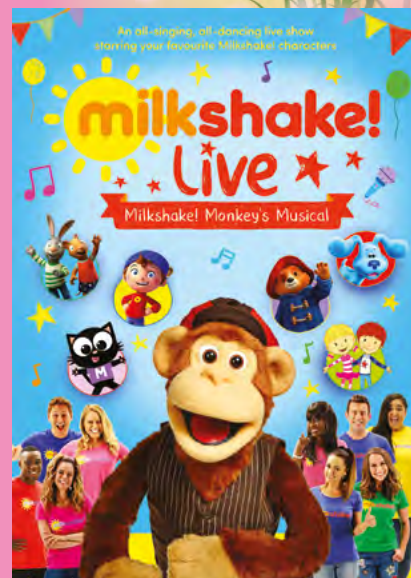
Milkshake! LIVE

Empire Consett

Milkshake Monkey is back and can't wait to put on a spectacular new show for you all. He will be joined by some of his favourite Milkshake friends, plus two Milkshake presenters, for what promises to be a dazzling show. Learn songs and dances with your favourite Milkshake friends and watch as the music, the lights, the costumes and the stage bring Milkshake! to life.

Tickets: £15 (£56 family ticket)

03000 262 400 www.empireconsett.co.uk



Please note: venue opening is subject to change, please check before you visit. » **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO** »

Durham County Record Office Online talks



**Thursday 28
April,
10am-11am
and 6pm-7pm**
**Branching
Out:
Domestic
Servants**

Domestic service was once the most common occupation in Great Britain, so it's highly likely that at least some of your ancestors were employed in this way – find out more in this talk. This session is hosted on Zoom. **£5 per person**

**Tuesday 3, 10
and 17 May,
choice of
10am or 6pm
sessions**

**Beginners'
Family
History
course**

Find out how to get started tracing your ancestors in this series of three talks, on Civil Registration, the Census and Parish Registers, all bookable individually. Explore some of the sources that family historians use and where to find them. These talks are hosted on Zoom.
£5 per person per session



Thursday 12 May, 10am-11am and 6pm-7pm

Branching Out: Nineteenth and 20th Century Housing

This talk will look at what our ancestors' homes were like and how home ownership changed over time. We will also explore what records were created, where they can be found and what they can reveal about our ancestors. This session is hosted on Zoom. **£5 per person**

**Thursday 19 May,
10.30am-11.30am**

**'Business,
Employment and
Communities –
a theme from
A Tyneside Heritage'
by Peter Chapman, author**



Spanning 150 years of South Shields' changing fortunes, this talk is a pioneering work of interwoven local and family history. Peter explores the history of the area through the lives of three generations of his family, including a draper and sailing collier owner, a chartered accountant and a borough councillor, MP who later became chairman of North-Eastern Trading Estates. This **free** event talk will be held via Zoom.

Places for all talks must be booked in advance. 03000 267 619 <https://recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk/pgEventResult>

Discover Seaham Digital App

A new app is encouraging locals and visitors alike to explore Seaham's history and heritage in an interactive way.

Discover Seaham offers a range of guided walking trails around the town, which tell the story of buildings and sites of interest and their role in the development of the town.

The app, which also promotes activities and events in the town, has been developed as part of the Seaham Townscape Heritage Project, with help from local residents and representatives from local history organisations.

The Discover Seaham app is free to download for both Android and Apple device users via the App store or Google Play or using the following QR code.



Users of the app can also log on to the 'Connected Seaham' system, a free public WiFi network, accessible between the west end of Church Street to the Marina, and from the north end of North Terrace to Byron Place Shopping Centre.

'Discover Seaham' is supported by funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Empire Consett



Tuesday 29 March, 7.30pm

Friends! The Musical Comedy

Celebrating the wacky misadventures of the group of 20-something pals we love from the hit TV show, *Friends! The Musical Parody* is an hilarious good-hearted romp through our favourite Friends moments in an uncensored, hilarious, fast-paced and music-filled production. You'll laugh! You'll cry! You'll Unagi! **Tickets: £28**



Friday 8 April, 7.30pm

The Fureys

Having entertained audiences worldwide for 43 years, legends of Irish music and song The Fureys, renowned for their hit songs *I Will Love You*, *When You Were Sweet 16* and *The Green Fields of France* return to Empire Consett. **Tickets: £22**

Friday 22 April, 7.30pm

The Comedy Store



Showcasing the best and brightest comedy talent, the London club that gave a leg-up to the likes of Eddie Izzard and Rhod Gilbert offers a night out like no other – and now you don't even have to leave Consett to experience it. Each show will provide two hours of laughter featuring four of the best stand-up comedians currently working in the UK.

Tickets: £11 (£9 concession)

03000 262 400
www.empireconsett.co.uk

Gala Durham



Friday 8 April, 8pm

Yours Sincerely

Will Jackson has accidentally stolen 300-second-class stamps from the post office. But he's making them count. He's going to write letters. From reconnecting with old friends and ex-boyfriends to run-ins with the marketing department at John Lewis, stamp collecting has never looked so sexy. Based on real-life correspondences; storytelling and lipsync cabaret collide in this queer coming-of-age comedy about the complications of 21st-century communication. **Tickets: £12**



Friday 22 April, 8pm

Jonny & the Baptists Dance Like It Never Happened

Oh wow, the last two years have been awful haven't they? In *Dance Like It Never Happened*, musical comedians Jonny & The Baptists are gonna try to do it all. Through their trademark blend of joyful songs, silly stand-up and riotous storytelling Jonny & The Baptists should help you find meaning, humour and beauty in the worst years of the century (so far). **Tickets: £15**

English Touring Opera

Monday 9 May, 7.30pm

La Bohème

Tuesday 10 May, 7.30pm

The Golden Cockerel

English Touring Opera return to Gala Durham with two popular operas. Puccini's *La Bohème* is a story of young love, starting on Christmas Eve in a Parisian garret.

The *Golden Cockerel* was the final – and favourite – opera of Rimsky-Korsakov, the brilliant Russian whose exotic orchestration has made similar works such as *Scheherazade* so popular.

Tickets: £16-£30 (£50 double ticket offer when booking for both performances)



03000 266 600 www.galadurham.co.uk

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Until Saturday 23 April

First Women UK exhibition

A unique collection of 100 portraits capturing women in the UK who were "first" in their field of achievement. **Free entry**



03000 269 524 www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk



Libraries

More fun with Featherbed Tales



The free digital story sharing service has added lots more stories and nursery rhymes to its collection.



There is also a range of recordable greetings cards, allowing you to create a card or a gift that will stand out with the magical addition of your own personal audio message. Anyone with a County Durham Libraries account can record themselves reading a beautifully illustrated story, short rhyme or greetings card to share with their loved ones.



Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/featherbedtales



ONGOING EVENTS

Durham History Hunt (digital activity)

Discover why Durham City is here and take in all that it offers today. Hear tales of heroes and villains, ducks and dragons, and of kings and bishops as you explore 26 locations. Suitable for all ages. www.thisisdurham.com/digital/durham-history-hunt

Woodland Fairy Trail

The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP

Next to the Lodge, by the gates you will see... some little steps take you to Sparkle and Shine hiding under a tree. See how many fairy houses you can find around the grounds in this fun trail. Free. 01833 690606 www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk



Monday to Sunday, 10am-5pm

Signs of Spring

Botanic Garden, Durham, DH1 3TN

Pick up a spotter sheet from the visitor centre and see what you can discover in the garden in this fun, self-led trail. Free with general admission (from free to £4). 0191 334 2887 www.dur.ac.uk/botanic.garden

Until Saturday 9 April, Monday to Sunday 11am-3pm

TEXTS: Words and Images, Books and Films

The Art Block, Seaham, SR7 7HF

An exhibition bringing together words and images relating to books and film and also the launch of Seascapes film and book. Please telephone before travelling a long distance. Covid permitting. Free entry. 0191 649 9431 edanart@live.com



Until Monday 25 April

Regeneration by Martin Kinnear

The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP

A powerful and moving take on the year the world came to a halt. Produced by international award-winning Northern artist Martin Kinnear in response to the COVID pandemic. General museum admission applies (£5-£15.50). 01833 690606 www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk



Until Sunday 15 May

Monogatari: The Art of Storytelling in Japanese Woodblock Prints

Durham University Oriental Museum, Durham, DH1 3TH

An exhibition, created in partnership with the National Museum of Japanese History, exploring how images of famous tales of samurai, travellers and heroes during the 18th and 19th centuries in Japan inspired art created during the real life conflicts at the end of the 19th century and early 20th century. Free, please book online. 0191 334 5691 www.dur.ac.uk/oriental.museum

First Saturday of every month, 9am

The Causey Dog Walk Breakfast

The South Causey Inn, Stanley, DH9 0LS

A dog walk through the Beamish Valley, followed by hot drinks and a full English Breakfast. £15 (book in advance). 01207 235 555 www.southcausey.co.uk





Until 26 June, last Sunday of the month from 12noon-3pm

Skiffle Sessions at Beamish

Beamish The Living Museum of the North, Stanley, DH9 0RG

Enjoy authentic music from the 50s played on tea chest bass, washboard, guitar and fiddle. **General admission applies (from £11.50+).** 0191 370 4000 www.beamish.org.uk/whats-on



Until September

Room On The Broom Activity Trail

Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, Durham, DH7 9RH

Hold onto your (witch's) hat as this fun, family adventure takes you through magical woods, meadows, gardens and by the lake at Ushaw. **Free for Ushaw Annual Pass holders and included with general admission (from £4).** 0191 334 5119 www.ushaw.org/whats-on/room-on-the-broom-trail

From mid-April to late September
Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1.30pm

Croquet Durham

Chester-le-Street Bowls Club, Riverside, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3PW

Visitors are welcome. All equipment provided, but please come in flat-soled shoes.

First two sessions free. www.croquetdurham.org.uk

Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays
2pm-4pm (weather permitting)

Auckland Chilton Croquet Club

Miners Recreation Ground, Chilton Way, Chilton, DL17 0PD

All are welcome. A great way to get outdoor exercise. Join a friendly and inclusive group, eager to help you learn and enjoy the game. **Free taster session.** 07835 103332



From mid-April to September

Get Into Bowls – north west Durham

Lawn bowls is an inexpensive sport, good for physical and mental health.

Annfield Plain: 01207 234215,
Consett Park: 07477 493739,
Dipton: 07393 686612,
Lanchester: 01207 521088,
Leadgate: 01207 581486,
Sherburn Park, Consett: 01207 501938,
South Moor: 01207 232664,
View Lane, Stanley: 07572 242304,
White-le Head: 01207 271655.



Third Thursday of each month,
9am-4.30pm

Durham Food Producers' and Crafters' Market

Market Place, Durham City, DH1 3NJ

Shop for food and drink, jewellery, art and photography, plants, clothing, gifts and homewares and more.

0191 384 6153
www.durhammarkets.co.uk

MARCH EVENTS

Friday 25 March, 4pm-9pm

Full Moon Street Food Market

Market Place, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7NJ

With street food chefs from across the North East serving fabulous food, both savoury and sweet, and drinks suppliers, there's something for everyone. Plus live music, to add to the atmosphere. A real family evening out in the heart of Bishop Auckland. **Free entry.** 0191 384 6253 www.durhammarkets.co.uk

APRIL EVENTS

Friday 1 April, 10am-11.30am

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District flower club coffee morning

Parish Hall, Sedgefield, TS21 3AT

£2 for tea or coffee and scone or cake.

Sunday 3 April, 2.30pm and Monday 4 to Saturday 9 April, 7.30pm

Dangerous Obsession a Play by N.J.Crisp

The City Theatre, Back Silver Street, Fowler's Yard, Durham, DH1 3RA

Mark Driscoll is obsessed with pinning the blame for his wife's accident on an intruder who enters the couple's home. Can their marriage survive?

£8.50, £7.50 concessions. 0120 752 1149 www.durhamdramatic.co.uk



Wednesday 6 April, 7.30pm

Calan: Kistvaen

The Witham, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

In their first major post-lockdown tour, one of Britain's most innovative and thrilling folk bands will showcase their critically acclaimed new album - 'Kistvaen'. Recorded just before the pandemic, live performances of the album were suspended... until now.

£16.50. 01833 631 107
www.thewitham.org.uk



Sunday 10 April, 1.30pm-4.30pm

Drama in the Dale Open Event

Harehope Quarry Project, Frosterley,
DL13 2SG

Open event for all actors, costume creators, back stage hands, musicians and any other interested participants who would like to be involved in their next production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. 07811 221 151
www.dramadale.co.uk



Monday 11 April, 5pm and 7.30pm

Easter Wreath Workshop

South Causey Inn, Stanley, DH9 0LS
Welcome the new season by crafting a fresh wreath to hang on your door.
£35. 01207 235 555
www.southcausey.co.uk

Tuesday 12 April, 7pm

Bach: St John Passion

Durham Cathedral, Durham City,
DH1 3EH

A performance of Handel's St John Passion by Durham Cathedral Choir.
Prices TBC. 0191 338 7178
www.durhamcathedral.co.uk

Friday 22 April, 11am-4pm

Children's Science and Fun Day

Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ

Bring the kids along for a day of pop, whizzes and bangs... A chance to discover and learn, an opportunity to enthuse about science. Free.
0191 384 6253
www.durhammarkets.co.uk

Saturday 23 April, 9.30am-4.30pm

The Northern Dales Richard III Group Study Day - open to all

St Mary's Parish Church, Barnard Castle,
DL12 8NQ

Speakers are Dr Sandra Pendlington - *'Richard III and St Ninian: Spiritual or Political?'* Lesley Lambert - *'Perkin?'*, Prof Richard Gameson - *'The Pigments of Fifteenth-Century Illuminators'* and Annette Carson - *'Six Months in 1483'*.
£25 (£20 full-time education), additional £5 buffet lunch. 01833 637018 or kirklandergirl@googlemail.com
Deadline to book lunch is Sat 16 April.



Saturday 23 April, 1.30pm-4pm

Rapunzel

Spectrum Leisure Centre, Willington,
DL15 0JA

Join Rapunzel as she escapes the tower from the evil Witch Gothel and has the most amazing day ever. A tangled tale featuring pop songs, magic and puppets.
£5. 01388 745588 www.empirecrook.co.uk

Friday 29 April, 7.30pm

Two Mr P's In A Podcast Live

The Witham, Barnard Castle, DL12 8LY

Sharing funny stories from the front line of teaching, this live show will see the podcast stars Two Mr P's reminiscing on their own school days and looking at the wonderful and hilarious world of education. Anyone who went to school will enjoy and relate to this brilliant new show. £20. 01833 650930
www.thewitham.org.uk

Friday 29 April to Sunday 1 May

Northern Kin Festival

Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels and Gardens, Durham, DH7 9RH

Folk, Blues and Rock music with a few musical surprises. Tickets from £7.55.
www.northernkinfestival.co.uk

MAY EVENTS

Sunday 1 May, 11am-11pm

Crookfest 2022 10th Anniversary

Crook Football Ground, Crook,
DL15 9PW

One day rock music festival featuring tribute and cover bands. £22.25.

07507 452806 www.crookfest.co.uk

Friday 13 May, 7pm

Bishop Auckland Choral Society Spring Concert

Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Bishop
Auckland, DL14 7NP

A concert of light classical seasonal songs. £8, £6 concessions, free for children. 01388 834359

www.bachoral.org.uk



Saturday 14 May to Sunday 22 May

Wolsingham Flower Festival

St. Mary and St. Stephen Parish Church,
Wolsingham, DL13 3AN

A celebration of spectacular floral arrangements. Free entry. Contact Weardale Action Partnership: 07753779975

Tuesday 17 May, 7.30pm

Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District flower club flower demonstration

Parish Hall, Sedgefield, TS21 3AT

A flower demonstration by Jean McClure, titled *Frameworks*. £5 for non-members.

this is durham
Find more events and activities at
www.thisisdurham.com/whats-on

Please note: venue opening is subject to change, please check before you visit.

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