What’s on November to March

Thursday 22 November to Saturday 5 January

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs
Gala Theatre, Durham

Evil has come to the town of Fairyhill. Rupert Von Rottenchops rules the land. After taxing the villagers for everything they have, with the help of henchman Corporal Crosby, he’s about to blow the town to smithereens and take off with all their money. But Snow White, Chester the Jester and their mam Dame Dolly Doodle have a plan to stop him. Can they do it? £6-£17, family £50-£58, group discounts available.
03000 266 600, www.galadurham.co.uk

Thursday 29 November to Sunday 30 December

Once Upon A Christmas
Gala Theatre, Durham

A heart-warming story of the power of kindness at Christmas. For the littlest elves (and their grown ups). Bring your little ones on a magical mission to spread some festive joy, cheer up the toymaker and save Christmas at his shop. £7-£8, family £28-£30.
03000 266 600, www.galadurham.co.uk

Saturday 1 to Monday 3 December

Sleeping Beauty
Bishop Auckland Town Hall

Help Prince Valentine defeat the evil fairy Malevola and wake Sleeping Beauty. Packed with songs, slapstick, silliness, audience participation and all the fairytale magic of traditional pantomime, this fun-filled extravaganza is guaranteed to delight the whole family. Full £9, concessions £7, family £30, group discounts available.
03000 269 524 www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk

Saturday 1 to Monday 31 December

Beauty & The Beast Pantomime
Empire Theatre Consett

Consett’s smash hit family pantomime returns. The Empire Theatre proudly presents in conjunction with Leah Bell – the magical pantomime Beauty & The Beast. Full £16, concessions £14, family £52. Group discounts available.
03000 262 400 www.empireconsett.co.uk
**GALA THEATRE, DURHAM**

**Sunday 11 November, 2.30pm and 7.30pm**

**The Durham Hymns**
With lyrics inspired by the experiences of County Durham during the war years. Performed by the Reg Vardy Brass Band, the Centenary Community Choir, and choral ensemble, Voices of Hope. £25, concessions £23.

**Friday 1 and Saturday 2 February, 7.30pm**

**The Bobby Thompson Story**
A touching, heartfelt and very funny celebration of the life and work of this comic legend. £15, concessions £13.

**Tuesday 26 to Wednesday 27 February, 7.30pm**

**Crimes On The Nile**
A cast of four perform multiple outrageous characters in this hilariously inventive comedy thriller. £15, concessions £13.

**Friday 29 and Saturday 30 March, various times**

**Zog**
Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler’s much-loved Zog comes to life in this magical adaptation. £13, concessions £11.

**BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN HALL**

**Friday 1 February, 8pm**

**Chris Helme**
Former front man of John Squire’s post-Stone Roses band ‘The Seahorses’, Chris is now creating glorious music in his own name. £12, concessions £10.

**Saturday 23 March, 2.30pm**

**There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly**
A great show for all the family. £12, £10 or four for £40.

**Saturday 26 January to Saturday 6 April**

**No Man’s Land**
An exhibition featuring images taken by women who worked as nurses, ambulance drivers, and official photographers during the First World War, as well as contemporary artists directly inspired by the conflict.

**www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk 03000 269 524**

**EMPIRE THEATRE, CONSETT**

**Friday 1 February, 7.30pm**

**The Lionel Richie Songbook**
An award winning tribute show. Full £20, concessions £19.

**Saturday 2 March, 12noon and 3.30pm**

**Milkshake! Live: Milkshake Monkey’s Musical**
Great songs, funky dances and bucket loads of family fun. Adult £15.50, child £13.50, family £54.

**Friday 15 March, 7.30pm**

**The Drifters**
Performing classic hits Saturday Night At the Movies, Up On The Roof and many more. £24.

**www.empireconsett.co.uk 03000 262 400**

**THE WITHAM, BARNARD CASTLE**

**Wednesday 12 December, 7.30pm**

**Christmas with Steptoe and Son**
Catch up with the nation’s favourite rag-and-bone-men for some festive mis-adventures! £10.

**Saturday 16 March, 7.30pm**

**The Lindisfarne Story**
For fans of UK rock groups and the music of the 60s and 70s. £22, £20 in advance.

**www.thewitham.org.uk 01833 631 107**

**Win a family ticket to Milkshake! Live**
For a chance to win a family ticket for Milkshake Monkey’s Musical, simply tell us, what is the capacity of The Empire? See page 2 for details of how to enter.

**www.galadurham.co.uk 03000 266 600**
**BEAMISH MUSEUM**

Saturday 17 November, 10am-4pm
**Christmas at Beamish launch**
Join us for the start of Christmas at Beamish. See a fantastic procession including Beamish vehicles and Mrs Claus in her sleigh make its way to the Christmas tree for the switching-on of the lights by Father Christmas. Visit our website for more information.

Saturday 17 November to Monday 24 December
**Christmas at Beamish**
Discover the sights, sounds, smells and delicious tastes of Christmas past. Visit Father Christmas and his magnificent reindeer and enjoy our Winter Fun Fair. Small extra charge for Father Christmas’ Grotto and the Winter Fun Fair.

**DURHAM COUNTY RECORD OFFICE**

Monday 26 November, 6pm-8pm
**Branching Out talks**
Presented by an archivist and aimed at those already familiar with the family history basics. Talk followed by browsing time with use of the microfilm, computers, library and a chance to explore the Record Office. November’s talk is about how to begin searching for Second World War veterans.

www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk
01833 690 606

Win a family ticket to The Bowes Museum
For a chance to win a family ticket, simply tell us, on which dates does The Bowes Museum Christmas Market take place? See page 2 for details of how to enter.

Christmas Corner
A series of festive stories followed by a Christmas themed trail and craft activity.

**WHARTON PARK, DURHAM**

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 December, 11.30am and 2.30pm
**The Big Snowy Christmas**
A magical theatre experience for little bears aged 3+. Share a Christmas adventure with the Bear family, in their warm and toasty tipi in the park. Receive a personal invitation before the event. Join in sing along songs and games, bop along to Baby Bear’s Christmas Disco and meet Father Christmas. £13.50, family ticket £48, booking essential.

03000 266 600 or www.durham.gov.uk/whartonparkevents

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/libraries
What's on

Sunday 2 December, various times
Wooden Snowman Making
Make your very own snowman using materials collected from the park. Ages 4+. £9.50 per snowman, booking essential.

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December, various times
Wooden Reindeer Making
Make your very own reindeer using natural materials collected from the park. Ages 5+. £24 per reindeer, booking essential.

Saturday 15, Sunday 16, Friday 21 and Saturday 22 December, various times
Father Christmas in the Park
Visit Father Christmas, receive a gift and enjoy a Christmas trail, crafts and story time. For all ages. £10.50 per child, tickets in advance from the gift shop.

Tuesday 19 February
Spy School
Join our Spymaster as they take you on a journey of adventures to become a super spy. Ages 6+. £6 per child, booking essential.

Wednesday 20 February, 10am-11.30am or 1pm–2.30pm
Wildlife CSI
Work as a team to solve the puzzles and help our woodland friends. Ages 5+. £6 per child, booking essential.

Friday 22 February, various times
Cool Science with Professor OneSmith
Try fun activities such as slime making, and watch as the professor demonstrates science with fog, smoke, cannon fire and explosions! Ages 5+. £12 per child, booking essential.

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays during term time, 5pm
Community Choir
Shotton Hall Academy, Peterlee
Everyone welcome. No experience required. No auditions.

Last Saturday of the month, 8pm-11.30pm
50-50 Dance
Castsleside Village Hall
£5.

Saturday 8 December, 12 January, 9 February and 9 March, 10am-12noon
Young Archaeologists’ Club
Various venues in Bishop Auckland
Help dig up the past and learn the skills of archaeology. £2 per session. Booking essential. 01388 743 797
www.aucklandproject.org

Saturday 17 November, 12noon-2.30pm
Christmas Fair
St John’s Church, Meadowfield
Fundraiser with cakes, raffle, tombola and craft stalls. Free.

Wednesday 21 to Saturday 24 November, 7pm and 2pm on Saturday 24 November
Peter Pan - Hook’s Tale
The Civic Hall Stanley and Alun Armstrong Theatre
£8. 01207 299 110
www.civichallstanleytickets.co.uk

Saturday 24 November, 9am-12.30pm
Christmas Fair
Chester-le-Street Methodist Church
A range of stalls plus Santa Claus in his Grotto. Adult 30p, children free. 0191 388 1313
www.cornerstonescentre.com

Friday 16 November, 7pm
Fashion Show
The Fulforth Centre, Sacriston
Includes fashion show, bargain and high street clothes to buy, raffle and refreshments.

John Dalton from Cumbria demonstrates Classical Christmas with tea and mince pies afterwards. 01207 505 576

Thursday 15 November, 7pm

Friday 2 November, 7pm
Durham Bede Rotary Club Charity Concert
Elvet Methodist Church, Durham
Enjoy a new programme of wonderful and varied music. Proceeds to St. Cuthbert’s Hospice, Durham. £10, concessions £4.

Friday 14 December, 7pm
Non Stop 80s Christmas Party Night
Spennymoor Town Hall
Featuring songs by Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Whitney Houston and many more! Includes three course meal and disco. £24.95 per person. 0191 460 5367, www.facebook.com/spennymoortownhallevents

Sundays, 10am-11am
Newton Aycliffe Wildcats
Greenfield Community College
FA girls’ football development programme for 5-8 yrs old. £2 per week. 07939 045 242
www.nayfc.com

What's on
Wednesday 28 November, 5.30pm-8.30pm
Xcel Christmas Fair
Xcel Centre, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6AP
Over 40 stalls selling food, crafts and gifts. Also includes Santa’s grotto and festive refreshments. Free. 0845 450 5871
www.xcelcentre.com

November to March

Wednesday 2 December, 10am-4pm
Christmas at Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve
Oakerside Dene Lodge, Stanhope Chase, Peterlee SR8 1NJ
Visit Santa Claus in his workshop. Refreshments, tombola, home baking, prize raffle, cakes, craft sessions and more. All proceeds go towards conservation projects at the National Nature Reserve.

Monday 3 December, 7pm
Witton Gilbert WI Xmas musical evening
Cooper Hall, Witton Gilbert
£5 includes light refreshments.

Win a free ticket to ‘Fireside Stories with Father Christmas’ at Raby Castle
For a chance to win tickets for two children and two adults at 11am on Saturday 22 December, simply tell us, in which century was Raby Castle built?
See page 2 for details of how to enter.

Selected dates throughout December, 11am-7pm
Tweddle Farm Xmas Grotto and Winter Wonderland
Tweddle Farm, Fillpokke Lane, Blackhall Colliery TS2 4BT
Christmas Grotto and Winter Wonderland. Christmas tractor ride and visit the farm.
Adult £3, child £9.50.
0191 586 3311
www.tweddlefarm.co.uk

Win a family ticket for Tweddle Farm
For a chance to win a family ticket (two adults and two children) to the farm and Christmas grotto, simply tell us, what do you call a baby sheep?
See page 2 for details of how to enter.

Open 11am-7pm on: Saturday 1, Sunday 2, Saturday 8, Sunday 9, Saturday 15, Sunday 16, Friday 21, Saturday 22, Sunday 23 and Monday 24 December.

Open 4pm-7pm on: Monday 17, Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 December.

Wednesday 5 to Saturday 8 December, 7pm with Saturday matinees at 10am and 2pm
Sleeping Beauty
Spennymoor Settlement’s Everyman Theatre, O’Hanlon Street DL16 6RY
www.spennymoorsettlement.co.uk

Win a family pass for Crook Hall and Gardens
For the chance to win a family annual pass to Crook Hall and Gardens simply tell us, what is the name of the hall’s café? See page 2 for details of how to enter.

DECEMBER

Saturday 1 December, 10am-2pm
Christmas Fair: Wear Valley Community Action Group
Stanley Crook Village Hall DL15 9SN
Tombola, Christmas raffle, gift stalls, refreshments and a free present for children.
wearvalleycommunityactiongroup@gmail.com

Saturday 1 December, 7.30pm
Weardale Community Choir
St John’s Chapel Town Hall, Weardale
A performance of a newly commissioned work including songs and poems relating to the local area. £5. 07811 221151
Facebook: weardalecommunitychoir

Saturday 1 to Sunday 23 December, Various dates and times
Fireside Stories with Father Christmas
Visit Father Christmas for stories and songs from his fireside chair in the castle’s grand entrance hall. Tickets include a personalised gift and entrance for up to two accompanying adults.
£20 for one child and accompanying adult. £22.50 for one child plus two accompanying adults.
01833 660 202, www.rabycastle.com/shop

Sunday 2 December, 10am-4pm
Christmas at Castle Eden Dene National Nature Reserve
Oakerside Dene Lodge, Stanhope Chase, Peterlee SR8 1NJ
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Open 4pm-7pm on: Monday 17, Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 December.

Wednesday 5 to Saturday 8 December, 7pm with Saturday matinees at 10am and 2pm
Sleeping Beauty
Spennymoor Settlement’s Everyman Theatre, O’Hanlon Street DL16 6RY
www.spennymoorsettlement.co.uk
What's on

Thursday 6 December, 6pm-7pm
Durham City Nativity
Market Place, Durham

Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 December, 7pm with a 2pm Saturday matinee
Lionel Bart’s Oliver by Spennymoor Youth Theatre Group Performing Arts School
Spennymoor Town Hall, High Street
£8. Tickets from the Studio, 75 High Street, Spennymoor or www.ticketsource.co.uk/spennymoor-youth-theatre-group-performing-arts-school
Wheelchair spaces can be booked by contacting 01388 811 364.

Friday 14 December, 8pm
Xmas Quiz Night
School Aycliffe Community Centre
Bring your own drink, supper provided. £8. Booking essential. Facebook: School Aycliffe community news

Saturday 15 December, 4pm
Christmas Carol Service
St Peter’s Chapel, Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland DL14 7NR
A traditional service for the whole family. Booking essential. 01388 743 797 www.aucklandproject.org

Saturday 15 December, 7pm
A Christmas Evening with The Glendale Choir and The Argus Singers
St Patrick’s RC Church Hall, Consett
An evening of Christmas music and carols. £4. Available from Glendale choir members and at the door.

Saturday 15 December, 7pm
Mighty Wurlitzer Traditional Christmas Concert
New Victoria Centre, Howden-le-Wear
Including Christmas lights, sing-along and Christmas refreshments. £8. 01388 762 467 www.netoa.org.uk

Saturday 15 December, 7pm
Christmas with The Argus Singers
Chester-le-Street Methodist Church
Concert of Christmas music and carols £6 inc. refreshments. 07482 749 713 www.argussingers.org.uk

Sunday 9 December, 1pm-3pm
Elves Arts and Crafts workshop
The Fulforth Centre, Sacriston
£3 per child.

Friday 14 December, 7.15pm
Saturday 15 December 2.30pm and 7.15pm
Happy Ever After?
Dawdon Miners Welfare Social Club
All of your favourite panto characters come together in a spellbinding original production. Adult £7, child £5. 0191 581 7231, ticketsource.co.uk/phoenixproductionsnortheast

Saturday 16 December, 7pm
St Cuthbert’s Hospice remembrance service
Durham Cathedral
Remembrance service and a special temporary light display to be shown outside Durham Cathedral on the evening as part of the Light Up a Life campaign. All funds go directly towards helping St Cuthbert’s Hospice. www.stcuthbertshospice.com

Monday 24 December, 10.30am-12.30pm
Crafty wreath making
Greenfield Arts, Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7LF
Make wonderful Christmas wreaths out of recycled materials. 01325 379 048 www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

Win two panto tickets
For a chance to win two tickets to Jack and Jill and the Beanstalk on Thursday 18 December at 6.30pm simply tell us, what does Jack receive as payment for selling the family cow?
See page 2 for details of how to enter.

Win two tickets for the Mighty Wurlitzer
For the chance to win two tickets for the Mighty Wurlitzer traditional Christmas concert featuring Dr Iain McGlinchey on Saturday 15 December at 7pm answer this simple question: In which County Durham village would you find the Mighty Wurlitzer?
See page 2 for details of how to enter.

Win

Win two panto tickets
For a chance to win two tickets to Jack and Jill and the Beanstalk on Saturday 22 December at 7pm simply tell us, what does Jack receive as payment for selling the family cow?
See page 2 for details of how to enter.

Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 December, 6.30pm
and Saturday 22 December 1pm
Jack and Jill and the Beanstalk
Seaham Town Hall
Advance tickets £6, on the door £8. 07754 590 047, www.iyfts.co.uk

Wednesday 19 December, 7pm-9.30pm
A Christmas Concert
Bishop Auckland Town Hall
Bishop Auckland choral society sings a selection of modern and traditional Christmas music. £7, concession £5. Tickets from Bishop Auckland Town Hall, or S Hassall on 01388 834359 and J Smith on 01325 360 514, www.bachoral.org.uk

Saturday 22 December, 7pm
A Christmas Evening with The Argus Singers
Chester-le-Street Methodist Church
Concert of Christmas music and carols £6 inc. refreshments. 07482 749 713 www.argussingers.org.uk
**JANUARY**

**Wednesday 2 to Sunday 6 January, 11am-3pm**

**Seasonal Crafts**

Mining Art Gallery, Market Place, Bishop Auckland DL14 7NP

Create winter-themed crafts inspired by paintings in the gallery. Ideal for ages 5-12. [Gallery admission applies](#). 01388 743 750

www.aucklandproject.org

**Saturday 5 January, 7pm**

**Durham Singers: Bach’s Christmas Oratorio**

Durham Cathedral

Performed with period instrument orchestra. From £10. 07790 148 062

www.durham-singers.org

**Saturday 26 January, 11am-3pm**

**Tales From the Heart of Winter**

Durham University Botanic Garden

Join Elizabeth Baker, from Tillytoo Tales Storytelling, to celebrate National Storytelling Week with some frosty fables and snowy stories. There’ll be some winter crafts too. Normal admission applies. 0191 334 2887

www.dur.ac.uk/botanic.garden/

**FEBRUARY**

**Sunday 3 (matinee only at 2.30pm) to Saturday 9 February, 7.30pm**

**Love From A Stranger**

City Theatre, Fowlers Yard, Back Silver Street, Durham DH1 3RA

An adaptation of the Agatha Christie thriller. £7.50, concessions £5.50, matinee and Monday evening.

Tickets: 03000 266 600 or www.galadurham.co.uk

**Saturday 9 March**

**Strictly St Cuthbert’s**

Lancastrian Suite, Gateshead

Call for contestants! Twelve couples. Four judges. One Glitter Ball Trophy. We are now recruiting couples to dance the night away for a good cause! Professional dance lessons will start in January 2019 – spaces are limited to just 12 couples, so apply now!

www.stcuthbertshospice.com

**Saturday 9 March, 10am-5pm**

**Rotary Club Model Railway Exhibition**

Youth Centre, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4HT

Supporting Heel and Toe and The Railway Children charities. Adult £5, child 50p, concessions £4, family £10. Free parking, full disabled access, refreshments all day.

07870 210 269

www.newtonayclifferotary.org.uk

**MARCH**

**Tuesday 19 February, 6pm-8pm**

**Lunar New Year Lantern Festival**

Durham University Oriental Museum, Elvet Hill, Durham DH1 3TH

See the museum lit only by lanterns. Try fantastic crafts, sample delicious New Year food and drink, listen to stories and enjoy a gallery hunt. Museum charges apply. 0191 334 5694

www.dur.ac.uk/oriental.museum/

**Tuesday 19 February, 7.30pm**

**Ferryhill, Sedgefield & District Flower Club**

Parish Hall, Sedgefield

Val Guest will demonstrate flower arrangements titled Just around the corner. Non-members £5. 07533 752 870

**Win two top price tickets for Bach Concert**

The concert retells the Christmas story from the birth of Christ and the visit of the shepherds, through to the arrival of the Three Kings at Epiphany, all in a dazzling array of musical colours, ending in a blaze of trumpets. To enter, answer this simple question: The feast of Epiphany celebrates the visit of who?

a) The shepherds  
  b) An angel  
  c) The Three Kings

See page 2 for details of how to enter.