

Wednesday 7th May 2025

Visit to Auckland Castle, Gardens and Galleries

This is the first garden visit of the year and included is a visit to Auckland Castle, The Faith Museum, and a range of gardens within the Castle grounds.

Auckland Castle is the former home of the Prince Bishops of Durham and it has a rich history spanning of 2000 years and is described as one of the best-preserved bishop's palaces in the whole of Europe. Highlights include the splendid Georgian Gothic state rooms, and one of the largest private chapels in Europe.

Gardens include:

- The Walled Garden*
- Bowling Green
- North Terrace
- Wilderness Gardens
- Faith Garden
- Great Garden (new for 2025)

Unfortunately the Walled Garden does not have level access. There are steps at the entrance due to the layout of the gardens. All the other other gardens are step free.

After visiting the Castle and Gardens, visitors are then free to walk around Bishop Auckland. The Mining Gallery is situated in the Market Square and contains a collection of mining art which gives a true insight into the lives and souls of County Durham coal miners and their communities. Also in the Market Square UK's first gallery dedicated to the art, history and culture of Spain.

The cost of the outing is £30 which includes £14 for transport and £17 entrance fee. People can upgrade their tickets on an individual basis for £10 to gain access to the mining gallery and Spanish gallery for a 12 month period. Two minibuses are available (32 seats) and they will leave behind Costa Coffee, in Seaham Harbour at 10 am. Names will be taken for this outing at the Monthly Meeting on the 26th March as well as a £5 deposit.