

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 13

Lanchester, April 2012

For contact information, see page 2

HERITAGE WALKS LAUNCH



The launch of the Heritage Walks, ribbon cut by Ossie Johnson and local historian, John Gall

The hot 'summer' weather had cooled when a good crowd of people (and a few dogs) gathered on the village green on 31st March for the launch of these leaflets which had been put together by Sue Charlton, the Development Officer for Wildlife, Agriculture and

the Environment. The six leaflets give directions for each walk, together with a map and interesting

facts about the history of the Parish encountered en route. Each walk, too, has its own logo, shown on markers along the way, for example a fishing fly, 'Greenwell's Glory' for the Greenwell walk. Refreshments had been laid on by Sue and Parish Council Lead Officer Sally Laverick, and the proceedings began when Council Chairman Ossie Johnston thanked everyone for attending the launch of the fabulous Heritage Walks. They were made possible through funding from the Rural Development programme, Heritage Lottery Fund, Parish Paths Partnership and Lanchester Parish and Durham County Councils.

continued on page 8

SURPRISE APRIL SNOW



Probably a rare, if not unique photograph of snow on the crosses on the Village Green during Tuesday evening, Holy Week.



Dear Village....

The views expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the newspaper, the editor or persons working for the newspaper. The editor retains the right to cut or otherwise amend any letter published. Letters must contain your name, address and telephone no., all of which may be withheld at your request.

Dear Editor

I read with interest the letter from Mr Dave Shotton printed in the March edition of the Village Voice. Mr Shotton comments that the book 'The Eagle of the Ninth' by Rosemary Sutcliff, and the film based on this book, 'The Eagle', takes place in Lanchester. This was a great surprise to me since I have read and reread this book many times over the last forty years and have never come across a reference to Lanchester or Longovicium before. There are several Roman sites mentioned by name in Rosemary Sutcliff's book, however, most of the story is set in Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) and Caledonia (Scotland). Several sites on Hadrian's

wall are mentioned, but sadly not Lanchester!

With regards

Eleanor Johnson

Dear Village Voice,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the kind concern and help given to me when I fell in Front Street on Tuesday 27th March. A special thank you to Susan Minto who called the ambulance and stayed with my husband and myself, and also to Wendy Gibson who offered comfort to us both.

Thank you to all who have sent cards and best wishes whilst I am recovering in Hospital. Thank you all.

Doreen and Jimmy Maguire

Dear Village Voice

The family of the late Kelly Kasher, who recently passed away, would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and kind words.

We would also like to thank staff at University Hospital North Durham and Freeman Hospital

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

JACK GEDDES

The Village Voice was saddened to learn of the death of Jack Geddes who died on 14th April, aged 91, in hospital where he had been for the last three weeks after a long illness. Jack was a renowned farmer, raconteur and author. Many readers will remember that a story about Jack and his book entitled 'Memories of Lanchester Boyhood' appeared in the October issue 2011.

Jack was born in Ford Street, Lanchester on 27th July 1920. He attended the Parochial Church School

and All Saints Parish Church. Although he moved to Witton Gilbert in 1932 he always had a strong affection for Lanchester, hence the reason for writing the book of his boyhood memories, which were fascinating. There are still people in the village who remember Jack and they too will be saddened to learn of his passing. He is survived by his wife, Jean, daughters Jacqueline Towl who lives in the Midlands, Janet Dixon now at Brandon and brother John who resides in Witton Gilbert.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for March 2012 is 81. The draw was made by Mrs S Kelly of the Thursday Art Group.

VILLAGE E-VOICE

The above is a bulletin distributed by Durham Rural Community Council. Previously they produced a publication called Community News which was discontinued. In July 2011 they started distributing by email the Village E-Voice which was not a replacement of the Community News but contains some similar information in it. When

the Village Voice Management Committee found out about this, we contacted the DRCC and requested that they change the name of their publication. Negotiations have dragged on since last August and we are given to understand that the DRCC are unable even to consider this until next August. Whilst the two publications are not similar in their

objectives, we feel that our name has been established for 12 years and that another organisation based in Lanchester, publishing under a similar banner, could and should have been avoided. We hope that our readers and advertisers will understand our reasons for writing this and will not be confused in any way should they log on to the Village E-Voice.

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GOLD AWARD PRESENTATION AT ST JAMES'S PALACE

Hundreds of young achievers from across the UK, including Beth Lloyd from Lanchester, had a date in the prestigious setting of St James's Palace on Wednesday 14th March.

Beth attended St Bede's Catholic School and Durham Johnston Sixth Form and with guidance and leadership from Billy and Jo from Stanhope Community Centre she achieved her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. She travelled to London to receive her certificate from the DofE's Patron and Founder - HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Beth was incredibly dedicated when working through the 5 sections of her DofE programme over 12 months to achieve her Gold Award. Her diverse activities included two weeks working in The Haven Hospice, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, a month spent on The Africa Mercy in Sierra Leone, as well as completing a 5-day expedition in the North Yorkshire Moors.

Beth said of her experience "At first a 5-day expedition with a full pack, a map and some emergency rations in the middle of nowhere was certainly a daunting experience. However after completing the 115km

walk, it felt like such a great achievement I could have done it all over again! The time I spent in Africa was incredibly rewarding but also very humbling. I've no doubt that at some time in the future I will return." The Gold Award Programme definitely enabled Beth to develop the skills needed for her to pursue a career in medicine which she is presently studying at The University of Aberdeen.

For further information on The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme please contact Kim Rowling at Stanhope Community Centre 01388 528955.



Beth Lloyd with her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award certificate in front of St James's Palace

ALAN AND ANN REED CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING



On Saturday 31st March Alan and Ann Reed celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the Lanchester Social Club.

The festivities were attended by family and friends. No presents were requested but donations in lieu to Willow Burn Hospice.

Left, Alan and Ann Reed at their Golden Wedding Celebration

A Hog Roast was provided and a relative, Steph Thompson, provided the entertainment, both of which went down extremely well.

Ann and Alan would like to thank all who

attended for making it into a great night.

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended and some who could not but sent donations, a grand total of £490 was raised and has been given to Willow Burn Hospice.

BUSES ARE BACK

Sunday and weekend late evening buses have returned to Lanchester after a prolonged campaign by local people. Please use them or they will be gone, never to return.

Additional buses leave the village at 21.44 and 22.54 for Durham City on

Friday and Saturday evenings returning at 22.05 and 23.15. To Consett the buses leave at 22.23 and 23.33; the last bus back is at 22.40.

Sunday services to Durham are at 09.19, 10.19, 11.39, 12.39, 13.59, 15.19, 16.39, 17.59 and to Consett at 09.58, 11.04,

12.23, 13.23, 14.43, 16.04, 17.28 and 18.38.

Local politicians, Go North East bus company and the NHS have worked together in response to residents' concerns and brought the buses back for a trial period. Please support them.

MINERS' BANNER RETURNS

Splendid news! The Fenhall Drift Banner is back in Lanchester, safely fixed to a wall in Park House. It has been nice to receive interested comments from people

when I have been out and about in the village. Even nicer would be to receive materials for the exhibition (as described last month)! I was very pleased to have the

opportunity to mention this at the recent meeting of the Local History Group. Looking forward to hearing from you, Jill Ramsay (6 Percy Crescent, Lanchester).

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PARTNERSHIP'S 7th ANNUAL LITTER PICK

The weather was sunny and bright when we spring cleaned the village this year.

At least 67 volunteers came to the tent to sign in and collect their equipment. They picked assiduously and did a splendid job. We know of others who picked on other days, and know that many people, including Dave the Parish Council handyman, pick up rubbish throughout the year. We thank them all.

Less rubbish than usual was picked up, but that was probably because in previous years nearly all of the litter that has been deeply embedded in awkward places has been rooted out.


This year, as well as black bags for ordinary rubbish, some pickers took transparent bags for recyclable litter such as cans and plastic bottles. They filled 7 large transparent bags, so knowing that one

recycled can saves enough energy to run a TV set for 3 hours, this proved to be very worthwhile.

The village looked wonderful, but now, 2 weeks later, some more litter has appeared - along the railway walk, in Dora's Wood and in the fields below Paste Egg. It is disappointing.

Please, everyone, be more careful with your rubbish and keep Lanchester litter free.

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Emelia and Oliver Davison with Mum Vicky joining in the annual Litterpick

HOUSING ESTATE ON MAIDEN LAW SITE

In previous issues of the Village Voice we have told you that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was developing plans for a housing estate on all of the Maiden Law Hospital site that will not be occupied by Willow Burn Hospice.

The estate will be the largest and most significant housing development to impact on Lanchester for over 25 years (it will be as big as Fenhall Park and Ashdown Grove added together) so it is vital that the views of Lanchester's residents are heard and taken into account.

Some weeks ago HCA submitted an outline planning application showing 47 executive houses, each with 2 garages and set in a plot of about 1/4 acre, the whole separated from Maiden Law Bank by a stone wall and a belt of trees, an exclusive development in all respects.

All aspects of the proposal except its access are reserved, meaning that HCA (or any subsequent developer)

can ask to change them as they wish after getting outline planning permission. However the number of houses is stipulated in the application heading, so they probably do not intend to change that.

The HCA is, in effect, "the Crown", so there is very little chance of preventing the development. However we can try to ensure that the estate that is built will be as beneficial as possible to all Lanchester and Greencroft residents.

In the opinion of the Lanchester Partnership, if HCA had been interested in the needs of Lanchester and its residents it would have designed a development that would, in so far as was practicable:

- * support local shops;
- * encourage the new residents to use public transport;
- * provide some starter homes for young families;
- * integrate well with nearby development, and
- * be sustainable.

It is difficult to see how the development as

currently proposed will meet these objectives.

If you would like more information about the proposal, or have your own concerns about it, you are welcome to contact John Suckling on 520703 and he will be happy to discuss it with you. The Partnership has already written to the County Council, stressing the importance of achieving an acceptable development but it is not too late to make additional comments.

Even better, you can send your own views to Ms A Rawlinson at Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ, quoting Application No. CMA/1/61. If you would like to talk about points that you might want to include in your letter, please don't hesitate to contact John on the above number. The formal consultation period has closed but the application is not expected to be decided by the County Council until June and there is still time for planning officers to consider letters from local residents.



The plan for the proposed housing estate on the Willow Burn Hospice site

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PALM SUNDAY

You may already be aware that in our village we are part of the national movement known as 'Churches Together' and there is a committee which meets regularly to plan occasions in which all three of our village churches can take part. This year three Easter events were planned. The first was a special act of worship on Palm Sunday, April 1st in the evening, in All Saints' Parish Church. A choir made up of members from all three of our churches performed the beautiful choral work 'The Crucifixion' usually called 'Stainer's Crucifixion'. This well known work was written by Sir John Stainer, the English Composer and Organist in the latter part of the 19th century. With David Hughes directing

and conducting the choir and Bill Gray playing the piano, the evening was guaranteed to be a success. There were two soloists and their singing was superb. Mr Andrew Fowler, who lives in our village, was the tenor soloist and Mr Ian Gray, who lives in Iveston, was the bass soloist and they were splendid. Their

voices are truly a gift from God and made the performance very moving for the congregation. The latter were an integral part of the evening in that several of them read passages from the Bible which told the story of the events leading up to the crucifixion and everyone joined in the singing of appropriate

hymns which were interspersed in the choral work. Lanchester has talent. There is no doubt about that and we are privileged that all these talented people share their talent with us, and give us so much pleasure throughout the year. Long may that continue! Brenda Craddock

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Church members gather at the cross

Three large wooden crosses were erected on the village green in time for Good Friday on April

6th and a short service, was held near them. Members from each of our churches gathered there at 9.30 am. Rev Gavin Hume led the service, with a reading and prayer, and two Easter hymns were sung. Rev Hume reminded the listeners that Christ died on a cross for us, that we might live and have life in abundance through

our faith in Christ. 'The Churches Together' committee in our village initiated this service a number of years ago and it is much appreciated by those who attend. It is a witness to our Christian Faith. The well known Good Friday hymn 'There is a green hill far away' gives us the meaning of the cross. Brenda Craddock

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Rev Gavin Hume leading the service

EASTER SATURDAY

This was the third and final occasion organised by 'Churches Together'. They have so enriched our Easter Celebration Worship this year and we thank them very much indeed for all the planning, organising and time they have given to this.

Participants met on the village green at 10.00 am on Easter Saturday in front of the three crosses. One of these was then carried across to the Methodist Church by two strong men, and they were followed by a procession of church members who sang 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' accompanied by some members of Lanchester Brass Band. The latter joined up with the Methodist Music Group and others under the direction of Harry Carr, in front of the church. Relevant readings and worship material had been prepared by Ray and Val Hill and Rev Peter Sinclair

and his wife Ann and this was interspersed by the singing of selected hymns. Everyone was invited to join in the singing which was accompanied by all the instrumentalists. 'Singing in the Rain' though apt was not included! There were two intervals when everyone was invited into the church to have coffee or tea and a hot cross bun. The latter was wrapped in a white serviette bearing the words, 'Why a cross on a hot cross bun?' followed by a short explanation. There was a wonderful feeling of goodwill and friendship and it spilled out of church onto the front street when some of the 'Churches Together' committee took hot cross buns in their serviettes to give to Saturday shoppers and our tradespeople. It was great fun as well as having the serious content. You must join in next year if you missed it this year.



Prayers with Val Hill in a very short service on the Village Green on Saturday, 7th April

Thank you again 'Churches Together'. You have so effectively portrayed the meaning of the Christian Festival of Easter and shown the strength of the Christian faith in Lanchester. As a community we value your work greatly.

Brenda Craddock

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David Hughes at one of the shops in the village inviting people to receive hot cross buns



Sue Somersall looks after the Prayer Tree outside the Methodist Church



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HERITAGE WALKS LAUNCH

continued from page 1

He then said we were honoured to have our local MP and former Parish Councillor Pat Glass with us and asked her to say a few words. Mrs Glass thanked Cllr Johnston for the invitation to this celebration event and praised the leaflets, describing them as a superb representation of the long history of the Parish and saying that she was looking forward to walking them in the summer. She thanked the many volunteers who had

worked alongside local historians over the past year and a half, undertaking tasks including assembling historic information, walking the routes and waymarking. Cllr Johnston thanked Mrs Glass for taking time in her busy schedule to attend and then introduced local historian and former deputy director of Beamish Museum John Gall to say a few words. Mr Gall spoke about the wonderful heritage of the area and asked if people with information and stories



Speechmakers, Councillor Ossie Johnson and local historian, John Gall

about the parish would share it. He told the amusing tale of the former Greencroft Hall eventually being blown up as demolition practice and pieces of it being found all over, even to this day. After Cllr Johnston had made presentations to Mrs Glass and Mr Gall, he and Mr Gall formally cut the red ribbon tied between two trees on the green and two parties set

off together, one to do the shorter North Ridge Walk (3.5 miles) and the other to do the longer Greencroft Walk (5 miles), two very pleasant walks through fields and woods. There were 17 people on the first one and about the same number on the second, together with dogs of course, everyone making their way up Pace Egg bank towards Moor

Leazes Farm before going in different directions. By this time the weather had improved and it became warm and sunny, so that walkers were appreciative of their packs of refreshments given to them, with a set of the leaflets, before setting off. Everyone enjoyed their walks, some mentioning that they did not realise such lovely walks were right on their doorstep.

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Mike Wardle, Sue Charlton, John Gall, Kevin Leary, Michael Horsley and Sally Laverick, all involved in the launch of the Heritage Walks



People collecting Goody Bags before the start of the Heritage Walk

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GREENWELL WALK

I did this 5 mile walk a few days before the Heritage Walks launch, setting off from the village and walking along the Lanchester Valley Railway walk to Malton, where my friend and her two dogs met me and my two dogs. The booklet says the lines were closed in 1966; thank goodness Durham County Council made them in to such lovely, traffic-free routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Directions take you past Official Row at Malton. I have always been curious about these houses and the history of this tiny community, and there was the answer in the booklet. After crossing two fields, the track brings you to

Biggen Farm, after which a track to the right brings you out on to a road, Hamsteels Lane. By walking further along the railway line and then turning right up a track to Biggen Farm you could make the walk longer. Although I have been that way before, I had never noticed the track to the right and footpath signs on the other side. I would like to explore these too, sometime, as they are shown on the Heritage Walk map. The road, slightly uphill, was quiet. When we reached West Hamsteels Farm, we found bullocks in the field and hesitated, but they ran off out of sight as we approached. We couldn't really see the footpath as

there was a lot of grass in the lovely, open fields through which we then walked, but the map shows where to go. There were stiles over each wall or fence - we now call it the 'stile walk' and one of them was a very high ladder stile. Two horses in the field came over and watched with interest as we got the four dogs over it. A track with more stiles, took us to Bargate Bank, where we walked back downhill, to the village. Again, the sun was shining and we enjoyed the walk, which took us about three hours, including the time to find the stiles and get the dogs round, over, under or through them!

Mavis Datta

Gardening in May

Summer is almost here. The days are longer, bees buzz from flower to flower, the first crops are ready to harvest and there is growth all around the garden. There might still be frosts so be careful with any tender plants and have some fleece handy as an easy way to provide some protection. As the weather warms up, it's time to pick colourful annuals and permanent plantings for your patio pots.

Borders

May is the time to finish sowing hardy annual flowers outside as well as to continue sowing bedding plugs and seeds in the greenhouse and harden-off bedding plants. Jobs for the month include: lightly trimming box whether grown as a hedge or a topiary; tying-in fast growing climbers like clematis and pruning spring flowering clematis after they have finished flowering; removing forget-me-not, winter pansy and viola and bellis and other spring

flowering plants that are past their best. Treat yourself to some summer bedding plants but keep them sheltered until all frosts are past; and applying a spring lawn fertilizer. It is also time to lift and divide primulas and polyanthus which have finished flowering by digging them up, teasing them apart and re-planting. You need to remove dead flowers from azaleas and rhododendron but be careful to avoid any damage to the shoots below the flowers which provide the flowers for next year.

Vegetables

Even though the weather is warmer, keep an eye on night temperatures and insulate the cold frame, greenhouse and vegetable patch with bubble polythene or fleece or newspaper overnight. Sow outside French beans, beetroot, sprouting broccoli, Brussels, cabbage, lettuce, peas, radish, spinach, swede, sweetcorn and turnip.

Help pollinate tomatoes in the greenhouse by occasionally tapping the flowers or using a child's paintbrush from flower to flower.

Lettuce is one of the easiest vegetables to grow and can provide you with salad leaves for almost the whole year. Now is the time to start sowing a small amount of seed fortnightly. Sow seeds in small pots or containers and keep the pots sheltered. Early in the year they grow best in a sunny position but later in summer they will tolerate a certain amount of shade. Space the plants 25 cm apart and keep them well watered.

General

May is the time to plant up hanging baskets and patio pots. Choose your plants and pot up using a good potting compost mixed with water saving granules, water well and place in a sheltered place until the plants are established and place them in their final positions next month.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL VILLAGE CONFERENCE:

10th April 2012

The Minutes of the Annual Village Conference held on 12th April 2011 were approved.

The Audited Accounts of the Parish Council for the financial year ended 31st March 2011 were approved. There was no business brought before the meeting which was then closed.

ORDINARY MEETING:

10th April 2012

Correspondence:

Members received a letter from Jill and Mike Gladstone thanking the Parish Council for the event which launched the Wildlife Audit booklet and praising the booklet itself.

Letters of thanks for donations were received by Willow Burn Hospice, All Saints Catholic Primary School and Churches Together. Members also received a letter from residents admiring the hedging work of Mr Hunter and Mr Purves and thanking the Parish Council for

transforming an ordinary village green in to a real village asset.

Small and Medium Local Council Forum:

A Councillor from Brancepeth and another from Burnhope have asked the Parish Council to support their nomination for Chair and Vice Chair respectively of this newly formed Forum and Members agreed to do this, particularly as they represent neighbouring Councils.

Policies:

The following were reviewed and approved by Members:-

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Public Participation Training - Statement of Intent

Publication Scheme

Complaints Procedure

Grant Awards

C o m m u n i t y Engagement - Statement of Intent .

Date of Next Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8th May at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester.

PLANNING MEETING: 28th March 2012

Planning Applications. Members considered the following:-

i. Felling of three ash trees at Pelham House, Cadger Bank, Lanchester. RESOLVED. No objection but request that the felled trees be replaced with a suitable alternative.

ii. Wooden storage hut, compost storage area, creation of access and drop off point and compost toilet at Margery Flatts Farm, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester. RESOLVED. No objection.

iii. Erection of agricultural building for livestock at High Knitsley Farm, Knitsley.

It was noted that this application is not in Lanchester Parish.

iv. Erection of indoor horse arena at Low Meadows Farm, Lanchester. RESOLVED. No objection.

v. Variation of conditions to increase rotor blade diameter from 9m to 13.1m, change type of turbine to CF15e turbine, change colour from darksquirrel grey to flint grey and changes to noise limit at Woodlands Park Farm, Knitsley.

RESOLVED. No objection.

vi. Erection of single storey extension at side of dwelling to provide additional living space/shower room at 81 Alderside Crescent, Lanchester. RESOLVED. No objection but request that the trees which need to be felled be replaced with suitable alternatives.

vii. Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling at land to the west of West Newbiggen Farm. Members remain committed to their original objection to the siting of the temporary caravan. The objections are: Members consider the dwelling to be unacceptable development in the open countryside.

Members are unconvinced of the argument for a dwelling.

Members are unconvinced that there are not suitable dwellings available, particularly with the close proximity to the village itself. The visual impact of the dwelling will be intrusive in the countryside.

There is concern that this development could lead to further significant development in the countryside.

In addition, Members expressed concern over the application, in particular the 'Foul Drain Assessment Form', which is not adequately completed. Of particular concern is that the estimated flow is below the guidance given of 180 litres per day per person (minimum 5 persons for a 3 bedroom property).

Members would request that if planning permission is granted that the property is restricted for use by agricultural workers to the farm.

viii. Prior notification of proposed erection of a portal frame agricultural building to store animal feed and machinery at Stobilee Farm, Lanchester.

RESOLVED. No objection.

ix. Former Maiden Law Hospital Site

Proposed demolition of former hospital and former nursing homes and erection of 47 residential dwellings (outline application, all matters reserved except access) at former Maiden Law Hospital.

Mike Wardle withdrew as Chair and Keith Harrison took the Chair. Members considered the application. RESOLVED. That support is given in principle to the land being used for housing. Members are keen to see the full plans, designs and details.

Neighbourhood Planning:

Members were informed of a useful training session on Neighbourhood Planning which had taken place that morning. RESOLVED that

i. A planning meeting is arranged in June to discuss this issue

ii. Planning Officers from Durham County Council are invited to attend.

iii. Lanchester Partnership is invited to attend.

continued on next page

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DECISIONS OF THE PLANNING

AUTHORITY (continued)

* Felling of two Scots pines and remove lowest branches over neighbouring properties of a further five Scots pines at Wellbury House, Ford Road, Lanchester.

* Erection of first floor extension above existing garage/utility room at side of dwelling including conversion of garage to habitable room at 50 Foxhills Crescent, Lanchester.

Reporting period: 25/01/2012 to 22/02/2012
Number of calls for area: 59
Alcohol seizures 0,
Dwelling burglaries 1 (access gained via conservatory), Other burglaries 0, Bogus callers 0, Anti-social behaviour/nuisance 8, Criminal damage 2.
Crime prevention advice: Please consider joining a free neighbourhood watch scheme in your area. Co-ordinator is PCSO Vikki

POLICE REPORT

Ord at Conssett Police Office (ring non emergency no 101) or contact the beat officers PCSO GRAY or PC HENDERSON.

Current Community Operations:

Operation Livorno continues tackling street drinking throughout Conssett wards

Please could horse riders be advised that riding of horses is NOT permitted in Dora's Wood. This is land

owned by the Woodland Trust. Damage has occurred in this area allegedly by horses being ridden there.

Current PACT Priority is the former 6th form college. Patrols are regular by security officer and police. Please report any incidents to police on non emergency no 101 or 999 if crime being committed.

APOLOGY

Reference the letter in the March issue of The Village Voice from PCSO Vanessa Gray concerning scrap metal vehicles; two errors

occurred. The new non emergency number should have been reported as 101. We omitted the word 'non'. We should not have used the word 'spate' of incidents, simply a 'few'. We apologise to the general public and PCSO Vanessa Gray for these errors.

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WALK THE WALK

Last month, after what sometimes felt like an eternity, we completed our long distance walk to Santiago De Compostela and got home safe and sound. A very enjoyable walk with two old friends, Mick McCarthy and Brian Convey, punctuated with many "hospitality" stops was completed with the submission of a fully stamped "Pilgrim's Passport" at the Camino Peregrino office in Santiago, whereupon an impressive certificate of completion was presented.

The weather was fantastic, quite unlike the traditional temperature and rainfall predicted for late March. We enjoyed early summer sunshine with temperatures regularly topping 30C. This did however pose different problems; we expected early spring conditions of rain, frost and permanently damp clothing. For us, swollen hands and feet were the order of the day; those rucksacks certainly seemed much heavier when needlessly carrying full waterproofs, over-trousers and fleeces. In fact by the end of our journey, our only minor hassles were swollen feet,

(Me), some back pain (Mick) and a little sunstroke and food poisoning (ALL OF US). Although the trip was a joint birthday celebration, for us the spiritual aspect of that celebration and thanksgiving was really present. Mick had been pronounced clear of a particularly debilitating cancer, and this was a kind of "bucket list" experience we promised ourselves once he'd been given the all clear. I have to say however that the charitable aspect of the walk was an afterthought, we'd have done the walk anyway, but in attempting

to raise as much money as possible for two very good causes, CAFOD and MacMillan Cancer Relief, I have to thank the many friends, parishioners and fellow Villagers for their kind donations. Special thanks go to family and friends, to Lanchester News and Gallery Coffee shop customers who supported enthusiastically, to fellow Parishioners at All Saints RC Church, to Pat and Bob Glass who texted, encouraged and tried to drum up cash from their fellow inmates at the Palace of Westminster and to the Staff at St Bede's School who

donated and encouraged me throughout.

If you still want to donate something to either of the named charities, please go to the just giving website and type in my name and then follow the instructions. My pages on the website will close down shortly, but donations can be made directly to the charity of choice.

Currently donations with gift aid co-funding are exceeding £1000, and for that I sincerely thank all who have given so generously. Thanks again, Martin Matthews.



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LANCHESTER PLAYGROUP AND TINY TOTS

A fundraising Coffee Morning was held at the Methodist Church on Saturday 10th March. It may not be generally known but the Playgroup will fold unless funds are raised fairly quickly. It is hard to believe that this facility has been in the village for 45 years and very sad to learn of this current situation.

The Coffee Morning was a lively occasion with lots of adults with young children, the latter with faces painted wandering about everywhere, with teas and coffees etc being served by volunteers. There was an impressive Cake Stall and Craft Table which helped in the money raising operation. The current day to day leaders are Liz Smith, Fiona Draper and Claire Haddon. A committee has been formed recently, chaired by

Joanne Slane, which will address the financial problems.

The Playgroup is a tremendous asset to the community in that children learn social skills and develop their learning through play and games, whilst young mothers, childminders, grandparents meet socially as well. Activities are held at the Community Centre where the Playgroup is based, and in good weather outside in the village and at the play park.

Tiny tots from birth to 18 months are invited to attend and will be welcomed on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Links have been forged with the Nursery at the EP School in readiness for the next step for the children. On behalf of the Playgroup, Sarah Hill, Secretary, would like to

thank all those who supported the fundraising morning especially Lanchester Garden Centre, Amy Bell for face painting, and Kathryn O'Sullivan Brown and others for their generous donations of cakes. The total raised was in the region of £250 after costs which was excellent, but funds are needed on a regular basis to keep the Playgroup solvent and of service to the community.



Face painted children enjoying themselves at the fundraising morning for the Playgroup

RICHMOND FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER

The Richmond Fellowship is a national organisation with about 850 employees. The local branch which covers Derwentside has met at the Community Centre on a Monday/Tuesday with two different groups for a good number of years. The leader is Gail McGee.

Those who attend are all over 65, with mental issues. They are offered emotional and practical support with help to build their confidence and promote independence. In the meetings many activities are undertaken and they receive a cooked lunch. On a beautiful March 26th

a sponsored mile walk around the village took place, while one person was able to enjoy the treadmill in the Community Centre Gym for a similar distance. A total of in the region of £200 was raised which will be split between Sport Relief and the Richmond Fellowship.

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Left to right, George Ledger, Ken Ridley and Joe Cavanagh, with helpers Meagan and Naomi, begin their sponsored mile on the Lanchester Valley Walk.



Ada Wood (centre) does her mile on the treadmill in the Gym, encouraged by leaders Gail McGee (left) and Katrina Wilkinson.

FRIENDS OF LONGOVICIUM VISIT ROMAN DAM

The Friends of Longovicium paid a visit recently to the Roman dam, by courtesy of the landowner as it is on private land and not accessible to the general public. The type of dam is what is known as an arched dam and is one of only three that are known in the Roman world, the others being in France and Turkey. Unfortunately the dam wall has been much eroded over the centuries but the general shape of it could be made out, as also could the reservoir behind the dam wall. From the dam a system of two aqueducts fed water to the fort which is about three miles away. The Friends were able to make out part of the ground level aqueduct leading away from the dam, but most of it has today disappeared due to agricultural work over the years. Thanks are due to the landowner for allowing the visit to take place.



The Friends of Longovicium at the dam

FRIENDS OF LONGOVICIUM BECOME FILM STARS

The Friends of Longovicium have recently starred in a short film being made by students from the University of Northumbria. As part of their Film and Television course the students decided to make a film about the Friends of Longovicium and the work that they do. With the approval of Nick Greenwell the students filmed some of the visible remains of the fort and interviewed the Friends' Chairman Rodney Hawkins there, discussing some of the details of the fort and some of the work that is carried out by the Friends. This was followed by the filming of one of the Friends' regular meetings at which was discussed the possibility of recording oral history concerning the fort and its surroundings, together with other projects proposed for this year. The students were wished every success when submitting the film later in the year for their exams. The Friends of Longovicium, which is part of the Lanchester Partnership, always need more information about the fort, its civilian settlement, artefacts which have come from there, and new members. If you think you can help with any of the aspects above please contact Anne McKenzie on 01207 521427, or you can contact Rodney Hawkins at hawkins_15@o2.co.uk.

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EASTER ARRIVES AT EP PRIMARY SCHOOL

Easter fun started for Lanchester EP students on March 30th, before the pupils broke up for end of term.

On a brilliantly sunny, warm day, an Easter egg hunt was held, with students investigating around the perimeter of the school field, eagerly seeking out the hidden goodies.

This was great fun, with children thinking of all the unlikeliest hiding places, and competing in teams to discover the greatest number of eggs. There was keen rivalry among the teams, with eggs dropped into the wrong baskets 'by mistake' of course, and the teachers joined in the fun, finding eggs in the strangest places - in a boy's ear, for example. All turned out well, with all the teams making a winning score of eggs, and the spoils shared among everyone! Then came break, enjoyed in the warm sunshine, before the students settled down to watch the very youngest children parade in their Easter



"I spy an Egg!"



*Lanchester EP students model their stunning
Spring collection of fashionable hats*

bonnets. There was an amazing collection of spring headgear, and parents had obviously been very busy with coloured paper and scissors, helping with the imaginative creations. Although it was all a bit

daunting for the very smallest pupils, they all joined in the grand parade, enjoying the fun spring event, and being loudly clapped by their fellow pupils. It was a lovely end of term for all students.

EP CHILDREN PLANTING ON THE GREEN

About a dozen or so children from the EP School spent a pleasant afternoon on Monday 26th March, under the guidance of Sue Charlton, Development Officer, with Sally Laverick, Parish Clerk there as well. In charge of the children was Teaching Assistant, Laura Peters.

The plants the schoolchildren were putting in were native woodland and streamside plants. The English bluebell, primrose, water avens, and greater stitchwort

were planted along the hedgerow and under the trees. The lesser celandine and marsh marigold were planted in

the wetter areas near the river. This will further enhance the area in the trees and near the river bank.



*EP schoolchildren planting flowers on
the bypass area of the village green*

MUSICAL ASSEMBLY AT ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL



The guitarists play at the Musical Assembly

A large and appreciative audience of family and friends were welcomed by Head Teacher Mrs Karen McKenna on the last morning of Spring Term. The end of term musical assemblies at All Saints' school have become a traditional and popular part of the academic year, providing a showcase for

the talents of their pupils. To start the performance, Mr Senior introduced the brass and keyboard players. Although this was the first time the keyboard students had played in public, they were confident and enthusiastic, obviously enjoying their music. The brass players worked

smoothly together, a mix of experienced and new students. Traditional Easter songs and nursery rhymes were presented, and once again, the pleasure the young people experienced in their music was very obvious. This was the opportunity for some of the more experienced

musicians to demonstrate their exam pieces, showing the high standards being achieved.

The young guitarists really enjoy learning about their instruments! There was a lovely 'retro' moment when they all stood up together with their guitars - just like the

Shadows way back! Some of the youngsters admire the classic rock guitarists of the past, with homage paid to some of their familiar riffs and themes. Show and film music were both included in the programme, and modern favourites such as 'Lord of the Dance'. One of the girls accompanied herself on her guitar, singing a haunting folk song - perhaps Lanchester will see another Eva Cassidy emerge in the future!

Mrs McKenna ended the performance by thanking all the adults for their help and support, so important to all the children. Another excellent Musical Assembly from some talented and hard working students!

TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

The Easter Festival is the main festival of Christianity because it celebrates the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Both the primary schools in our village give significant importance to the Christian faith and so in the week before the schools began the Easter holiday, this important Festival was celebrated in some way in our schools. The EP school held their

annual Easter Service in All Saints Parish Church. It is always good to see the church so full and it was once again standing room only. It is wonderful to see the number of parents who support their children and it means so much to the children that their parents are there. The head governor, Mrs Margaret Matthews, one of the Foundation Governors of the school, was present as were the

church wardens and some members of the church congregation but the main participants were the pupils of the whole school and their teachers and parents.

The service is entitled 'Tragedy to Triumph' and the form it takes is very poignant. At the front of the central aisle and in front of the chancel a big wooden cross stands. As the events of Easter Week are portrayed in verse and

song, pupils bring various artefacts which symbolise the events of Holy Week and they are placed on or near the cross, eg Branches of Palm, Bread and Wine to symbolise the Body and Blood of Christ, Money Bag containing twelve pieces of Silver, symbolising the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, a Spear, a Crown of Thorns, a Purple Robe, Hammer and Nails symbolising those that nailed Jesus to the cross, a sign bearing the letters 'INRI' meaning (in Latin) 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' and a large cardboard cockerel symbolising the cowardice of Peter who denied being a follower of Jesus. The appropriate Easter songs were beautifully sung by the children and accompanied on the piano by Mrs Davis. The solemnity of the events was very well portrayed by all the pupils and contrasted so well with the triumphal part of the service which followed.

Each pupil was then given a daffodil to bring to the cross and attach it to the cross. Soon the once stark wooden cross was beautiful and a glorious symbol of the Light of Christ in the world. The Easter message was thus portrayed so effectively, 'Jesus is alive'. The tragedy of death has been superseded by Life. Death has been conquered. The hymns that the children were singing during and after the dressing of the cross reflected this message of triumph, 'Jesus is Alive'.

It was something upon which to reflect as everyone left the church and in glorious sunshine returned home for their tea! Once again this school had so effectively and sensitively told the Easter story. Thank you Mrs Davis and all your staff and pupils for a lovely afternoon.

Brenda Craddock



The beautiful Easter Cross with the children's daffodils attached to it

EGG BOOLING AT PASTE EGG

A cold morning on Easter Monday contradicted the warmth of the occasion created for children and adults alike by organisers Burt Hunter, Elaine Williams and Janet Jackson. Noel Jackson was not available for the first time in many years. He was blue whale watching in Sri Lanka. Burt Hunter and Janet peeled the onions as a queue of some 50 adults and children waited. Burt introduced the event with a quick resume of the word Easter which apparently is pagan rather than Christian. Many there would not have known that it came from 'Eostre' an Anglo Saxon deity. Only

one reference can be found and that is in Bede's 'History of the English Speaking People'. The families soon scattered to find little yellow flowers, or dandelions, cow parsley and leaves which were wrapped in time aged cloths ready for boiling. Children need to be occupied so they were sent half way up Paste Egg Bank on an 'Egg Hunt'. They collected tags placed around the perimeter of the field and were given a lolly when they returned them. By this time the dyeing was finished and the serious judging began. There were some fine specimens. Eventually, the

five best were selected. Charlotte came first followed by Phoebe and Sophie. It was a close decision. Then everyone returned to the top of Paste Egg for the traditional Booling. It all seemed a bit chaotic but very enjoyable. Normal one to one challenges were ignored and participants just hurled their eggs down the bank. The furthest was booled by Gavin Quiney 'coached' by his young son Lukas. Once again it was a brilliant village event with lots of newcomers joining the ever faithful who have been Egg Booling on Easter Monday for thirty or more years. Dr Ian Brunt who was there and is a big fan of this event should be thanked for use of the field.



On the left, Burt Hunter (organiser) with the finalists in the egg dyeing. Dr Ian Brunt is in the background..



Egg Booling at Paste Egg Bank

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

On 5th May 2012 I will have been the MP for North West Durham for two years. Two extraordinary years that have gone by very quickly. I have gradually settled into having two lives, a Parliamentary life and a constituency life, and have pretty much got used to how Parliament works. I have now managed to visit most of the far flung

parts of the Parliamentary estate including the five storey underground car-park, the gym (just to look, not to try); the members' smoking room (no smoking allowed); the room of 'reasons' (that appears to have no reason for its existence). I have found my way to the Lady Members' rooms that are equipped with a bath and 'Z' beds (presumably for very late sittings); and have got used to using our very own 'secret' entrance to the underground. The more I see the more Harry Potter-ish it all seems and I continue to wonder how good business can be conducted in a building that looks and feels like a nineteenth century gentlemen's club and that operates on a back shift system, 2.00 pm to 10.00 pm. I have got used to the archaic language and to the system of 'standing' at question time and 'sitting' as a Parliamentary Labour Party. I now know the difference between my

'honourable friends' and my 'right honourable friends' (MPs on my side of the chamber) and 'honourable ladies and gentlemen opposite' (MPs on the other side of the chamber). I have even got the hang of Select Committees and Bill Committees.

One of the things that I like best is welcoming constituents to Parliament so if you are planning a visit to London anytime soon get in touch with my constituency office in Consett and we can arrange for you to have a tour of the building and, if I am in London, to meet up with me for a cup of tea. I would love to see you and welcome you to Parliament. If you need to contact me on any issue of concern, please write to me at Pat Glass MP, Gledstone House, 26 Newmarket Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5LQ, by email at pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk, or phone my office on 01207 501 782.

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'THE WITNESS'

It was Good Friday evening in Lanchester Methodist Church and there wasn't a spare seat in the house. We had come to see a concert performance of Carol and Jimmy Owens' musical, 'The Witness' presented by the Northwest Durham Circuit Choir. At the start of the performance, Choirmaster, Harry, gave the mandatory safety announcements and then it was straight on with the show. With hindsight, perhaps Harry should have also told us to fasten our seat belts and hold on tight as we were in for quite a ride. In fact, the ride of a lifetime as the 'Witness' takes us through the amazing story of the life and death of Jesus as seen through the eyes of the Apostle Peter. The story was really very beautifully told through the words, pictures and the songs. It begins with the elderly Peter who narrates us through his story and we trace his journey from being a simple fisherman in Galilee where 'Nothing Ever Happens' until he is called to follow Jesus, and his and our adventure begins. We also meet Jesus' mother, Mary who follows her son's footsteps from the cradle to the grave; her lullaby as Jesus is crucified was so haunting and Sylvia who took on that role poured her soul into her performance. There are other characters who give a touch of lightness to the piece: Peter's supportive wife who tells us about her exasperated mother, brothers James and John with their pushy mother who has ambitions for her 'Boys'. Life doesn't change much, does it?

The mood changes as we hear from the tormented but greedy Judas who sells his soul for 'Silver and Gold'.

The Witness is a powerful, passionate, musical with some very big numbers and it requires accomplished soloists and musicians to carry it off. We were not disappointed. All of the soloists were magnificent as was the wonderful seven piece band. The sound and the PowerPoint presentation added to the professional feel of this superb production and of course, we mustn't forget all 41 members of the Northwest Durham Circuit Choir who gave a faultless performance under the leadership of Harry. Thank you all for your dedication and for making this a truly memorable and uplifting evening.



Harry conducts the Northwest Durham Circuit Choir in the Methodist Church during the performance of the powerful, passionate, musical 'The Witness' which was played in front of a very full and appreciative audience.



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LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This month's talk, on 13th April, held a week later than usual due to the Easter holiday, was 'The Bringer of Electricity', given by Andrew Everett. The 'Bringer' was Charles Hestemann Merz (1874 - 1940) whose parents were German but who was born in Gateshead. His family was one of the many wealthy families on Tyneside at that time and although he did not finish his university studies, he was a very gifted mechanical engineer, becoming fascinated by electricity, bringing it to Britain. He was particularly involved in the electrification of transport. He travelled all over the world but was also instrumental in bringing together professional bodies, built the first power station at Walker, Neptune Bank,

designed a mobile, floating power station and produced the 1926 report which led to the standardisation of power, ie the National Grid. Some of these activities necessitated negotiation with the Government. Photographs, drawings, interesting anecdotes and pieces of family and social history accompanied the talk. As Mr Everett said, Charles Merz deserves to be better known. Chairman John Thompson, when thanking Mr Everett, said that he, too, was brilliant at collecting detail and thanked him for such a fascinating, informative talk. The next meeting, to be held on Friday 4th May will be the fourth in a series given by Mr Arthur Dodds entitled 'The History of Mossad'. (See What's On). Everyone welcome.

LANCHESTER VALLEY WAY IMPROVEMENTS

An exhibition van was on the Village Green at a very appropriate busy time as families were gathering for the Annual Litterpick on Saturday 24th March. Simon Heney, Development Manager, from the DCC Countryside Service was on hand to answer questions and show the results of a masterplan drawn up by Durham County Council following a recent consultation about what the local population would like to see on the Lanchester Valley Way as a means of improvement. Some ideas put forward were not really practicable eg Lighting - which would make the walk too urbanised and a huge slide on the high embankment of the play park which would be unrealistic on the grounds of health and safety.

However, several good practical ideas had



Simon Heney, DCC Countryside Service with Tina Patterson, Lanchester resident

been put forward by the general public to improve this area which could be considered; wild flowers; orchards, renovation near the Station House and destination quality seats. More people are needed to be involved who are interested in development and improvement of the former railway line now used on a daily basis for cycling and walking by many residents of the village. More ideas need to be put forward for consideration and how those ideas can

be taken forward. Southern Green Landscape Architects are involved in possible projects but funding is needed from sources such as the Parish Council and AAP. Local groups who are interested in these possibilities may contact 'The Funding Officer' at County Hall. A further meeting will take place shortly which will be published in The Village Voice. Simon Heney may be contacted for information with reference to the aforementioned on 0191 3729102.



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LADIES WHO LUNCH

We were lucky to find a table in the well filled Church Mouse, a most welcoming hostelry on the A167 between Chester-le-Street and Durham. It was lovely and warm - both the atmosphere and welcome. Then when we did find a table it was a lovely round one - our favourite, really allows the conversation to flow. They have a large bar menu, a fixed price one of - 1 course £6, 2 courses £8 and 3 courses £10 + a specials board + the option to mix it up a little, we were quite spoilt for choice. Finally, after much deliberation, we sampled just one starter option a prawn cocktail which was declared full of succulent

prawns. Main courses were confit of duck leg with roasted root vegs, crispy baby potatoes and caramelised orange and thyme gravy, crispy chicken breast in an Italian cheese crumb with sunblaze tomatoes and basil mayonnaise seasoned chips and watercress, Hunter's chicken served with seasoned chips and garden peas, braised belly pork on mash with black pudding, apple fritter, gravy and sticky ginger beer glaze.

For puds we tried bread and butter pud - layers of barmbrack bread and sultanas baked with egg custard and served with vanilla ice cream and toffee

sauce, scrumpy poached pear in sweet cider syrup with creme fraiche, raspberry creme brulee, carrot cake handmade with walnut and cream cheese frosting and warm apple fritters with cream and toffee sauce.

We all agreed, it was a fantastic meal with everybody well fed and satisfied. Our lovely charming waitress Sarah asked for a special mention and we are delighted to give her one! We had a really enjoyable lunchtime and we'll be back, if not for any other reason but that Sarah would like a copy of the Village Voice.

The Gourmet Girls

SUPER SOUP!

Lanchester Methodist Church joined in this nationwide Christian Aid event on the 30th of March this year. 'Super Soup' is now an annual occurrence, and church member Jean Carr, representing the Lanchester congregation described the simple but effective means of fund raising. Within every participating church community, donations are made of the ingredients needed to produce several different types of soup, and volunteers from the communities then work hard to cook the soup and

prepare it for lunch. Last year, over £300 was raised and Jean was confident that this sum would be exceeded this year, with many people looking forward to their delicious soup, served with fresh bread. Sweets were also available, and the hall was buzzing with people sharing their meal in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Jean thanked everyone who had worked so hard in making this a very successful occasion.



Ladies pose for a photograph after they had enjoyed their 'Souper' Soup



Rachel enjoys her home baked cake during her visit to the Christian Aid Event

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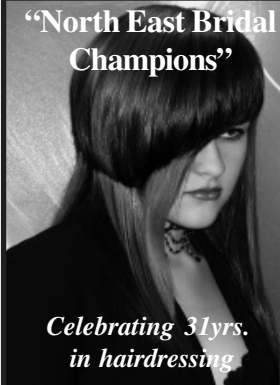


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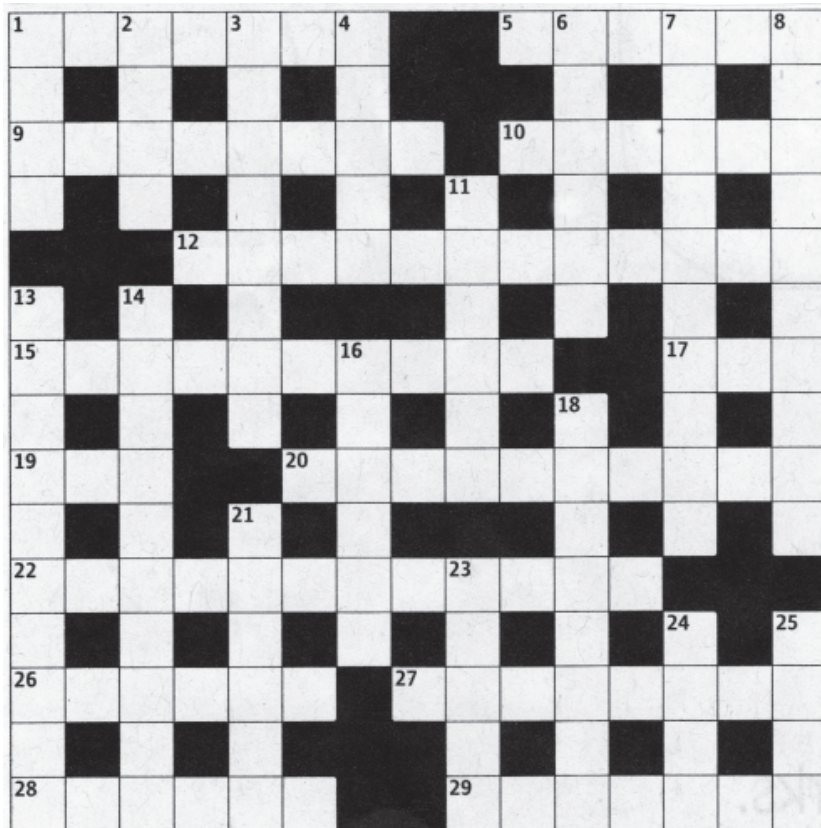
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CROSSWORD 72



ACROSS

1. Full (7)
5. On land (6)
9. Banter from a big Dean (8)
10. Political party (6)
12. Evidence of position — (6,6)
15. — in which women are on top (10)
17. Sea inlet found in Iberia (3)
- 19,27. Porky spotter (3,8)
20. Drool cream into principles (5,5)
22. Goon (5,7)
26. Crazy (6)
27. See 19
28. Belief in a God (6)
29. Endless (7)

DOWN

1. Teases (4)
2. Goes with whale, pea and i (4)
3. Seen it in a genius (8)
4. Disease found in former Gothic lands (5)
6. Cats on the run? (6)
7. Weigh down (10)
8. Central American country (2,8)
11. Respiratory disorder (6)
13. Dash round shopping centre for essential reading (5,5)
14. See twister become savvy (10)
16. Established (6)
18. American film director (8)
21. Row (6)
23. Belgian city on the Meuse (5)
24. Confound (4)
25. Inland Asian sea (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 71

ACROSS

8. complain
9. skirt
10. pest
11. put to shame
12. stop up
14. Moby Dick
15. aconite
17. scherzo
20. aesthete
22. custom
23. Caravaggio
24. See 5 down
25. salve
26. take a bow

DOWN

1. domestic
2. spat
3. ramp up
4. anatomy
- 5,24 ascorbic acid
6. nightdress
- 7,22 atomic clocks
- down
13. punctually
16. teenager
18. zoom in on
19. Newgate
21. elapse
22. See 7 down
24. afar

Name _____

Address _____

Please send your entries (by deadline date on back page) to The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

CROSSWORD 71

There were many more entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Lillian Dodds of Parkhouse Surgery who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

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SUDOKU

There is just one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. See next month for answers.

		2	3			5		
				5			3	
1					8			4
					7			9
			6			8		1
	5	3			1			
6	8					4		
			4		9			6
			1			7		

WI NEWS

Our President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members and visitors before the reading, then gave the transport arrangements for the South Farm, Cornsay and Radio Newcastle visit. Lists were out for the History Wardrobe, Ladies' Lunch at Headlam Hall, Summer Trip and Chairman's Garden Party at Waterhouses.

The group Fair will be held in October, we have been allocated the accessories stall. All accessories will be welcomed.

Members who wish to celebrate the Olympics by getting fit can join in the Big Walk, Little Splash, details on the Moodle or from WI house.

Tracy Dobson won the raffle and competition winners were Jean Forster and Pauline Griggs.

Our speaker this evening was Claire Megginson of Sweet Sally Cinnamon. When Claire was made redundant from her job as a town planner she seized the opportunity to start her own business.

She started with one mix cookie recipes (instructions are on tag) finding a basic mix which could be put in a jar and only needs butter and egg added, extras such as chocolate could be added as fancied. When all statutory checks were done Claire was given a 5* rating and her new life began

starting with farmers' markets. As Claire's confidence grew she started to make cinder toffee and hot chocolate spoons as well as other sweet treats which she can package and supply for any occasion; she is also building her business using Google and Facebook as well as supplying farm shops including Knitsley Mill. This is another example of local businesses working together and we wish Claire every success in the future. If you would like more information Claire can be contacted at www.sweetsallycinnamon.co.uk. Jennifer gave the vote of thanks before refreshments.



Claire Megginson, of Sweet Sally Cinnamon, standing behind her stall which was full of delicious treats.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Minted Salmon and Pea Fishcakes

Try these tasty Fishcakes (serves 4)
500g/1lb 2oz cooked potatoes
418g can of pink or red salmon
140g/5ozs frozen peas, defrosted
Handful mint leaves, roughly chopped
1 tbsp tartare sauce
About 3 tbsp plain flour, for dusting

3 tbs light olive or vegetable oil
Lemon halves, to serve, (optional) and a green salad.

Method

1. Mash potatoes until they are smooth. Flake the salmon in a bowl, removing any skin and large bones. Add the peas, mint, tartare sauce and mashed potato. Mix

well then, using floured hands, shape into 8 flat fish cakes. Dust with flour.

2. Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Fry in 2 batches for three to four minutes each side, turning carefully with a fish slice or spatula, until golden and crisp. Serve with squeeze of lemon and a green salad.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

1	2	5	8	7	9	3	4	6
3	7	8	6	4	2	1	5	9
4	9	6	5	3	1	2	7	8
5	1	9	7	2	8	6	3	4
7	6	2	3	1	4	8	9	5
8	4	3	9	6	5	7	1	2
6	8	7	4	9	3	5	2	1
2	5	4	1	8	7	9	6	3
9	3	1	2	5	6	4	8	7

Derwentside Byways and Bridleways

May 1st, meet at the 'Plough', Kibblesworth, near Birtley.

May 15th, meet at 'The Royal Oak' in Medomsley.
May 29th, meet at the 'Shepherd and Shepherdess', near the entrance of Beamish Museum.

All walks start at 7.00 pm.

Open House

Everyone is welcome at Open House on Thursday 3rd May in the Chapter House of the Parish Church, when a light lunch is served from 11.30 am - 1.00 pm.

Local History Society

The next meeting will be held on Friday, 4th May at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. An illustrated talk will be given by Arthur Dodds, entitled 'The History of Mossad' and will be the fourth in a series which began with 'The History of Aerial Surveillance' and will include events of 1917 which heralded the birth of Israel. Everyone is welcome.

Country Market

On Saturday 5th May, 10 am-12 noon, come along to the Country Market in the Community Centre for your fresh produce, cakes, pies, jams, chutneys, eggs, plants, etc and crafts.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 8th May at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Steve Ashton will be giving a talk about Birds. Steve was unable to come in 2011, but has asked to come in 2012 so please give him your support.

Spring Fair

All Saints Primary, Saturday May 26th in the school and Parish Centre. A grand prize raffle, tombolas, BBQ, refreshments, face painting, lucky bags and many more stalls. All are welcome.

The Village Voice Page 22

Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 5th May, EDDY, Fabulous Vocalist
Saturday 12th May, GERRY GARCIA, Sensational Irish Vocal Entertainer
Saturday 19th May, KAREN KENNEDY, Clubland's Leading Female Singer
Saturday 26th May, AMY SAXON, Top Girl Singer

Paradiso Club

The next Social, Raffle, Refreshments and a Big Screen Film will be held on Sunday May 6th in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 7 pm - 9.15 pm.

The film to be shown that evening is the latest version of JANE EYRE. A romantic classic, Jane Eyre is a captivating, passionate and timeless tale of love. Starring Mia Wasikowska, as the young governess Jane Eyre, who falls for her brooding and wealthy employer Mr Rochester (Michael Fassbender), she discovers too late a powerful secret that tests her love for him. Also starring in the film are Judi Dench and Jamie Bell.

Membership of the Club is £5 pa. Entry to each Social is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for occasional visitors. All are welcome.

Mothers' Union

The speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 9th May, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, is Canon Rosalind Brown from Durham Cathedral.

Thursday Club

There will be no meeting of the Thursday Club in the Community Centre on May 17th; instead we shall be meeting on May 10th at 9.30 am ready to catch the bus, opposite Peters Bakery, which will be taking us for a day out at Harlow Carr.

Short Circuit Walks

May 12th, Sunderland Bridge/Croxdale, 4.8 miles. Meet at the bridge, NZ266378 and park nearby.

May 26th, Fontburn Reservoir, 5.5 miles. Meet at 'Goats on the Roof' café, to south of reservoir, off B6342, NZ051933.

Walks start at 10.30 am and are circular.

W I

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 14th May (second Monday) in the small hall of the Community Centre starting at 7 pm.

The speaker is Heather Munsey. Her talk is "What's in a Name" which is about Mary Queen of Scots.

The competition is your own name in any medium. Our Summer outing to Paxton House is booked for 11th July and deposits of £5 or the full £16.50 are now being collected.

There will be a sales table and any items will be welcomed.

A members' only 'Royal Jubilee' garden party will take place at June's on 13th June.

If you would like to come along and spend the evening with us, you can be sure of a friendly, interesting time. Our members are in their 30's upwards so if you have been thinking of coming why not come as a visitor. You can visit three times before deciding if you wish to join.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 23rd May, 1.30 - 3.30 pm in the Community Centre, there will be a workshop with Wendy Smith.

PACT meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd May at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

WHAT'S ON?

Please support Lanchester Lions Village Carnival Saturday 19th May

Despite their membership difficulties Lanchester Lions are determined to put on a memorable Carnival with a theme of Olympics on Saturday 19th May at Lanchester EP School commencing 12.30 pm with the formal opening by our Member of Parliament Pat Glass. During the afternoon a variety of races have been arranged and also a football tournament with schools from the village. There will be Punch and Judy Shows at various times and Lanchester Brass Band will be playing as usual. There will also be a roundabout, face painting, goldfish, junior and senior coconut, bat the rat, basketball, football, frog game, three balls in a basket, book stalls, bric a brac as well as others. Lanchester Lion Ladies will provide refreshments with teas, coffees, cakes in the hall and organising other stalls which prove so popular every year. Derwentside Round Table have agreed to provide a cricket net game and other organisations have been invited to attend. A local ice cream van will also be on site. We are indebted to the Head Teacher Jane Davis for allowing us this year to run the Carnival at the school. So all we need now is good weather and for Lanchester Village to turn out to support their village Lions Club. So please make a note of the date and time on your calendar or diary when you read this.
Brin Jones
President 2011/12

Junior/Family Wildlife

On Sunday 27th May, there will be a visit to Wolsingham. Meet at 9.30 am in the Community Centre car park.

Willow Burn Events

Leeds Shopping Trip

Saturday 12th May, 8.30 am - 5.30 pm, tickets £15 from the hospice on 01207 523295. Pickups in Lanchester, Consett and Stanley. Visit the Corn Exchange, Granary Wharf, Queen's Arcade and much, much more.

Restaurant Night

Causey Arch Inn, Beamish, Monday 14th May. Tel (01207) 523295 for more details.

Flash Zumbas

Throughout May, Willow Burn, together with community partners, will be spicing up your shopping day by holding 'flash' Zumbas across the district. Don't be surprised if your boring shopping trip turns into a dance explosion! Volunteers with collection buckets will be at each event. Every penny donated will be gratefully accepted.

The Wicked Witch Golf Society is holding its annual charity four player team event on Friday 25th May at the Hobson Golf Course, and has again decided to offer all proceeds to Willow Burn Hospice. At the time of writing the society has all 32 teams needed for this event, in advance of which tickets for a cash draw, with the top prize of £400, are being sold. These can be obtained from the Hospice on (01207) 523295.

Tea@3

During the month of June, a number of Willow Burn supporters organize a Tea@3 (which can be held at any time of day really!!)

to raise much needed funds for the hospice. We can supply posters for you to advertise your Tea@3, add your information to our website and help and advise in other ways. Interested in holding your own personal or community Tea@3? - then get in touch with Sue Fox on (01207)523295.

The Big Lunch!!

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Sunday 3rd June: Ticket price tbc. St Patrick's Church Hall, Consett. This year's royal celebration takes the form of an indoor street party, with good food, great entertainment, raffle, tombola and a fancy dress competition. Enquiries to Janet McCrory on (01207) 523292.

Alternatively, you could organize your own street party celebrations in support of Willow Burn, tel. Sue Fox on (01207) 523295 to get involved.

Jubilee Choral Workshop

You are warmly invited to take part in a Jubilee themed Choral Workshop entitled 'Vivat' on Saturday, 2nd June, in the beautiful setting of Old Elvet Methodist Church, Durham. The workshop will be led by Scott Inglis-Kidger, a vocal specialist and conductor who grew up in Lanchester before gaining a Masters in Music at the University of Cambridge, later setting up his London-based professional vocal ensemble, Platinum Consort. Scott is much in demand as a choral director and is due to release his debut album of renaissance and modern music for Holy Week with the Platinum Consort. Platinum Choral Workshops are designed to provide high quality opportunities for singers

to enjoy repertoire suited to a smaller group. Music chosen for the day includes 'Zadok the Priest' by Handel, 'I Was Glad' by Parry. The cakes and real coffee will keep you energised throughout the day and Scott's enthusiasm and expertise is sure to inspire your singing for a long time to come. If you like singing, this is definitely for you! To find out more about the workshop, and to book your place, please visit www.platinumconsort.com and follow the link 'Vivat Jubilee Choral Workshop' on the homepage. Scott very much looks forward to welcoming you.

Jubilee Brunch

To celebrate the Queen's 60th Jubilee, there will be a buffet lunch held in the Social Club on Thursday 7th June from 11-1.00. Everyone is welcome and it is hoped to have as many people as possible there to make it great social get-together. Why not wear some red, white and blue in your outfit or maybe a hat? Best effort will win a prize! There will be a raffle with great prizes and also a tombola. Besides tea and coffee there will be a glass of sherry/wine or soft drink to raise a toast to our Queen. Tickets are £3.00 and are available from Fred the Village Bus Driver, Karin Bravington (520784) or at the door. All profits will go to the Village Bus, which is always a worthy cause. Please put the date in your diary and come along.

Art Exhibition

On Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm in the small hall of Lanchester Community Centre. Admission free.

Summer Fair

Lanchester and Burnhope Churches Summer Fair, at the Chapter House 9.30 - 11.30 am Saturday, June 16th.

Advance notice of the Thursday Club's annual Cream Tea

This is in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance as usual. It will be on Wednesday July 4th at 2 pm in the Community Centre. Tickets same as last year, just £1 and all for a great cause, available from all Thursday Club members or Lanchester News - hope we see you there.

BOWLING CLUB READY FOR NEW SEASON

The bowling green is now open for the new season. Why not get involved in this great sport and recreation? A pair of flat shoes is all you need to give it a try. We have some sets of bowls to lend to beginners. To join the club costs only £40 right up to the end of September with no more to pay no matter how much you play. Practise as much as you wish and we have some club competitions which are specifically designed for new and improving players. Soon, if you wish, you will be recruited into our teams. The 'Veterans' (over 55) matches are played on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. The 'Open' teams play on Wednesday evenings and on Saturday afternoons. Ring Ken Raper on 521673 for more information.

WET WEATHER - MUST BE THE TENNIS SEASON!!

Following the beautiful weather in March, it was disappointing to find that, as soon as thoughts turn to summer tennis, conditions should return to the hit and miss of recent days. Nevertheless, it has been a successful winter for the tennis club and hopes are for a glorious summer season!

The indoor coaching at the Community Centre started last October for the first time and proved to be a big hit for the under 8 year olds from the area. The sessions continued after a Christmas break, and were well attended and enjoyed by the young players. The club would like to thank the centre for the use of both the large and small halls throughout the winter. Coaching moved to the hard courts behind the bowling green and attendances have continued to be high. The grass court season will start on Monday 30th April with the following coaching sessions planned;

Under 8's 4.30 - 5.30 pm
9-12 years 5.30 - 6.30 pm
13-adult 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Members £2.50, non-members £4.00.

This winter, the club has made use of the Croft View Hall for the introduction of "Touch Tennis", a scaled down version of the real thing. This recent addition to the tennis family was played by a hard-core bunch of enthusiasts who, every Tuesday night, enjoyed the fun and despair that is touch tennis. Thanks to Croft View for the use of the halls.

With regard to the coming season at the grass courts, a full competitive programme has been arranged this year, with the club entering the local leagues at senior, junior and mini-tennis level as well as organising its own tournaments.

The club intends to hold various social functions throughout the summer and these will be publicised around the village.

If anyone would like further information about the tennis club, please don't hesitate to call 01207 520278 for details.

OLYMPIC TORCH

In this Olympic year, one of the tennis club's officials has been nominated and chosen to carry the Olympic Touch on part of its journey around the country. Secretary Dennis Laycock will carry the torch 'somewhere' in Durham on Saturday June 16th. The exact location will not be known until four weeks before that date. He was nominated by his brother, Melvyn and niece Ruth, and received the news last October but could not

make it public until after the official announcement was made. Dennis said that he feels extremely honoured to take part in this unique and historic experience representing not only the sport of tennis, but also the club and community of Lanchester. Dennis will be one of only six representatives from the Lawn Tennis Association, including Andy Murray and Elena Baltacha, who will carry the torch.

CRICKET CLUB TIDY UP



Above, left to right: Jed Tully, Darren Wingfield and Neil Fleming hard at work reorganising a patio area.

Left: Kieron Taylor (up ladder) Steve McPhail (centre) and County Player, Greg Patterson, sorting out some maintenance on the nets.

The Cricket Club were due to have their annual maintenance and general tidy up on 7th April. However, some of the enthusiasts led by Chairman Neil Fleming, showing a fine example, began this task on March 24th, which was the same day as the Litterpick.

The tasks, as can be seen from the pictures opposite, included some maintenance of the practice nets and some hard work on the reorganisation of a patio area. So, cricket does not only involve batting, bowling and fielding!

KILLHOPE GRIMPEUR 100k

This major cycling endurance event took place on Sunday morning, 25th March leaving Lanchester Community Centre between 8.30 - 9.00 am, and returning there between 2.00 and 4 pm, the cyclists having covered 100k or just over sixty four miles. It was a very successful day, with a record entry of 89 riders and perfect weather. The event has been organised since 2008 and it is usually cold and very windy. This year many riders were caught out by the temperature and were really overdressed

for the conditions. There was only one mishap on the ride when one rider broke his gear changer and had to be rescued. One cyclist went off course after losing his route sheet, but eventually found his way back to the Community Centre just before it closed. The route takes in B l a n c h l a n d , Allenheads, Nenthead, Killhope, Weardale and Crawleyside, which amounts to 1800 metres of climbing - a very tough challenge, before returning to the village. The organiser is Dave Cummins of Houghton Cycling Club.



Cyclists crossing the county border from Durham to Northumberland above Allenheads, with the picture showing blue sky and fine weather conditions



At the Community Centre, a happy group of cyclists from M Steel Cycles Morpeth, who have just finished the Killhope Grimpeur

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 15th May. The deadline for **adverts** is 13th May.

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