

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 13

Lanchester, January 2012

For contact information, see page 2

BUSES TO RETURN Use them or lose them!

The campaign by local people for the return of evening and Sunday buses has been successful. While a full restitution of services is not proposed, a partial return will come as welcome news to campaigners. Evening buses will return on Friday

and Saturday evenings thanks to Lanchester County Councillors Ossie Johnson (Lab) and Richard Young (Ind) who have given part of their council allowance to fund the buses.

Sunday buses are returning with support from Councillors Duncan

Barnett, Steven Robinson (both Benfieldside Ind), Alan Shield, Watts Stelling (both Leadgate and Medomsley Ind) and Owen Temple (Consett North Lib Dem). Support has also been forthcoming from the NHS to assist patients, visitors and staff to get to

the hospital. (see letter on page 2).

At a recent meeting organised by Pat Glass MP in Lanchester, Go North East showed their willingness to put on a service 'at cost' and have been credited as an important partner in this arrangement.

Mrs Glass and Owen Temple have made it clear that this return is for a limited time and long term provision of a service will depend on how much the buses are used. Go North East can collect accurate statistics of bus usage. The message is clear - Use them or lose them.

KATE GREY WINS TOP PRIZE



Kate Grey with her prize together with Chief Constable of Durham, Jon Stoddart, displaying Kate's winning card

Nine year old Kate Grey who attends All Saints RC Primary will remember 9th December 2011 all her life. That was the day the Chief Constable of Durham, Jon Stoddart, awarded her first prize in the traditional 'Chief Constable's Christmas Card Competition'. And the prize - a super Dunlop

Sport mountain bike! She also received an enlarged framed version of the card which I am sure she will show to her own children one day. Kate was certainly thrilled as were school staff, pupils and her parents who were there to see her receive it. The competition is open to about 300 schools in

Durham and Darlington and this amounts to roughly 6500 entries, so Kate really did do well.

Attending the ceremony in addition to the Chief Constable were PC John Henderson, the local policeman who selected the card to go into the next stage, PCSO Claire Kerr, Youth Inclusion

Officer who brought Ben, her Golden Labrador, a great favourite with the children.

Jon Stoddart, in his brief talk to the children outlined the many sensible things mentioned on the winning Christmas Card. He was particularly taken with "from the big man in red and the boys and girls in

blue" which did seem a very apt phrase, as did 'Be Safe, Be Seen, Be Peaceful, Be Kind' which he also highlighted.

The card is sent to about 500 businesses, schools and others whom the Chief Constable selects to receive this very special and very well designed Christmas card.

COPPERS COP COPPER CULPRITS

It was like the wild west USA as two horses were tied to the railing near the bus stand outside the derelict Lanchester Arms.

They were being guarded by the Police who had already confiscated the cart and taken the owners into custody for allegedly

taking copper from inside or the back of the pub. Maybe instead of being behind the bar they ended up behind bars!



Two lonely horses who may have allegedly aided and abetted a robbery

After 45 years, Lanchester without the Lions? See article page 3.



Dear Village....

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

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 Sirs

Early in the New Year the NHS has come on board a three way partnership with local councillors and Go North East to bring a return of Sunday buses between Consett and Durham. The service will provide public transport access to their local hospital to the people of Consett and Lanchester each Sunday, as well as shopping opportunities and access to rail services. After months of spadework and detailed discussions with the Transport Section and County Hall, Councillors Barnett, Robinson, Shield, Stelling and myself had already reached agreement about allocating funds for the restoration of this service.

To contact the Village Voice

By email:

lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line).

By post:

The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

To advertise:

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We were therefore delighted when University Hospital of North Durham and the Primary Care Trust decided to throw their weight behind the scheme with a one-off grant of over £2,500 to help kick-start the scheme.

Everyone involved knows that this is a one-off opportunity. The scheme has to become financially self-supporting over the next two years because there will be no ongoing subsidy, but all the partners agree that if local people support the service, there is a future for Sunday buses. It has to be commercially viable to survive in the long run, so I very much hope that the people of Lanchester and the people of Consett will make regular use of the service. We'll have to use it or lose it again. There will be an inevitable delay in completing all the formalities, but the future looks a little brighter. In a few months' time this much needed service will have been restored.

Yours,

Councillor Owen Temple (Consett North), 300 Medomsley Road, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5JP

Dear Village Voice
May I offer my heartfelt thanks to our MP Mrs Pat Glass for taking time out to organise the recent meeting at St Bede's regarding the recent loss of some of our bus services.

I was further delighted to learn of the positive outcome and would like therefore to extend my gratitude to Ossie and Richard and anyone else who has assisted in resolving this problem. Many thanks for a job well done.

Ian Tute

Dear Sir

In the article 'Housing Estate on Old Maiden Law Hospital Site?' (December Village Voice), questions were posed about the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) plans for the site.

A masterplan is being developed to support an outline planning application for housing on the former Maiden Law Hospital site, where the only remaining operational building is Willow Burn Hospice. The layout that was consulted on in December showed an arrangement for 47 houses.

Key aspects of the proposal are to:

- * Set the framework for a new high quality sustainable neighbourhood
 - * Provide high quality homes
 - * Ensure it is an attractive and distinctive place to live
 - * Foster a safe and strong community
 - * Ensure it is accessible for all
 - * Integrate the new houses and enhance the landscape setting
 - * Maximise access to existing and new open space
 - * Promote healthy lifestyles
 - * Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
 - * Contribute to offsite delivery of affordable housing elsewhere in Lanchester
 - * Provide a Local Play Area
- There is an agreement with Durham County Council that the development of private housing on this site will financially contribute to offsite delivery of affordable housing elsewhere in Lanchester through a Section 106 Agreement. The HCA are in discussions with DCC regarding affordable housing on the Lynwood

House site and other Council owned sites in Lanchester.

The Agreement will also include a contribution towards creating and maintaining an Area for Play of about 100m². It is proposed to locate this adjacent to the new Hospice, the pedestrian/cycle entrance and community orchard.

Next steps are to take on board comments made during the consultation, then update and revise the proposals accordingly. The outline planning application will then be submitted. The HCA would like to obtain planning consent before marketing the site in spring/summer 2012, and a developer would then progress the application through a Reserved Matters application.

Gill Hay, Area Manager, HCA

Dear Village Voice
Phyllis Penfold and family thank everyone for messages of sympathy, prayers and love received following the sad passing of Peter. He was a much loved Husband, Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad and Brother.

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AFTER 45 YEARS LANCHESTER WITHOUT THE LIONS!!!

Nothing can be taken for granted; after 45 years serving the local community, the Lions of Lanchester are very much an endangered species as further membership declines see us down from 39 to 12 members.

Given that our main fundraising activities involve the Village Carnival and Bonfire which requires very high manpower, there is a real possibility that these

village events may not take place in 2012 as we struggle to attract new members and helpers. The obvious consequences are that we will be unable to support charitable projects which would be an awful shame. We have just completed a very successful year in 2011 with a well attended Senior Citizens Christmas Party as well as other Christmas activities including annual donations to Schools,

Santa's postbox, bus trips for pensioners, along with a host of other donations to help individuals, local organisations, world and domestic projects etc.

IN 2011 WE SPENT AND RAISED OVER £6,000.

The headline is not alarmist; it is a reality as we face up to the challenge of membership decline. We need to initiate an immediate recruitment drive in an effort to help us to

continue our village activities.

Currently we meet in the Lanchester Social Club at 8.15 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month except August and are keen to welcome new members as well as willing volunteer helpers. Please give serious consideration to helping support both us and your community by either becoming a member or a helper to ensure Lanchester Lions continue

to function in the village for many years to come.

For more information about the organisation or to talk to us please contact either the Lion members below or any other Lion you know.

Brin Jones (President) Tel 520372

Tommy Robinson (Vice President) Tel 521391

Tony Corry (Second Vice President) Tel 520783

Ian Murray (Secretary) Tel 529324

LIONS SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

With last year's lunch cancelled because of the appalling weather conditions it was no surprise that 110 'seniors' turned out for this traditional occasion that goes back over 40 years. All those invited last year were invited again and a few more were squeezed in. Lion Ian Murray compered the occasion which began with guest, Canon Bob Spence, saying grace and giving thanks to the Lions. People came mainly from the village but also from Burnhope and Langley Park.

The meal prepared by Lady Lions and a few friends looked extremely tempting with roast pork and seasonal vegetables followed by profiteroles. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

The introductory sherry put people in the mood

for a festive occasion and Jane Westwater,

renowned local soprano and pianist, began to sing some of the old numbers - 'Roses From Picardy' and 'I Only Have Eyes for You'. The gathering, without much persuasion from Jane soon joined in with not a little enthusiasm. Jane continued with a wonderful rendition of 'Walking in the Air', from The Snowman, then on to her personal favourite from Les Miserables, 'On My Own'. The finale came with the most appropriate 'Silent Night'. Jane, a true professional entertainer, has the knack of saying the right thing pitched to her audience in a friendly, lively, amusing manner. At this point Lion President Brynley Jones presented Jane with a superb basket of flowers.

With the meal and entertainment at an end it was time to raffle the free table decorations, beautifully made by Andrea Stoddart. Then surprise surprise, Santa arrived to make sure that everyone went home with a gift.

Jill Gladstone paid tribute to the Lions and their Ladies and thanked them on behalf of those present for a wonderful lunch, hard work and slick organisation of the kitchen. Lion President Bryn Jones made a final speech thanking everyone for attending and mentioned that there were now only twelve members in the Lions Club. He said that new members are required and hoped that this traditional Christmas Lunch would go on for many years to come.



Bryn Jones, Lion President presents Jane Westwater with flowers



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65th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Our parents, John and Doreen Ballentine, had an enjoyable evening on Boxing Day and they wish to thank family and friends who called into the King's Head and Lanchester Social Club to wish them well on their anniversary.

Our mother and father have no surviving brothers or sisters but they were delighted to have sitting down at the meal with them their nieces, nephews, grandchildren, three sons and their wives.

We (the three sons David, Leonard and John) would

like to thank the committee of Lanchester Social Club for their generosity in paying for our parents' meal at the King's Head as well as a few drinks in the club, which was given in recognition of our father being the sole surviving Founder Member of the club and it was also a thank you from the club to both of them for their years of support and membership of the club. We would like to say a sincere big "THANK YOU" to Josie and David Hall (neighbours) and our cousin

Christine who do a wonderful job of just making life that much easier and enjoyable for our parents. David digs, weeds and tends Mam and Dad's very large garden every year, planting it out with flowers and vegetables. Josie cleans and tends the house every week. Our cousin Christine lives in Consett and is there for them day and night and regularly takes them out for meals, especially to South Shields where they enjoy their fish and chips.

John Ballentine



John and Doreen Ballentine with their three sons, John, Leonard and David

LIONS PUB CRAWL

Lions Club members enjoyed their traditional Christmas Pub Crawl around the village watering holes collecting money for their Welfare Fund. It was a busy night in Lanchester and pub customers including the Social Club were exceptionally generous with their donations. Lots of women were happy to have cuddle with Santa and a few lads were as well. We are sorry we cannot publish

all of these photographs during a very pleasant, through lack of space, convivial evening was a The amount raised remarkable £243.



Two young ladies at the King's Head seemed to enjoy their cuddle with Santa

AWARD FOR MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM LEADER

David Bartles-Smith, of Lanchester, former Team Leader of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team has been awarded a Chief Constable's Certificate of Commendation by Durham Constabulary. The award was presented by Chief Constable Jon Stoddart for outstanding contribution as a volunteer member and Team Leader of the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team and for professionalism during numerous search

and rescue operations within the Durham Constabulary area. Current Team Leader Chris Roberts said "David has been a member of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team for 16 years and has been Team Leader for the last 7 until he handed over the position in November last year. Possibly his biggest contribution has been to search management within County Durham. David has spent countless hours not only coordinating searches but also planning and

reviewing incidents with Durham Police. Like all Team members this is done on an entirely voluntary basis. There are many people from all walks of life and from all areas of the County who are thankful for the skills and dedication shown by David and the rest of the team, in searching for missing persons, not only in the upland areas but also the semi urban areas surrounding our towns and villages". Chief Superintendent John Bell, Head of Durham Constabulary Response



Jon Stoddart, Chief Constable, presents David Bartles-Smith with his award

Command, said "David was very much remains a totally appreciated and in my opinion the committed professional whose contribution and commendation is well expertise as Team leader deserved".

NSPCC CHRISTMAS DRAW

The members of Lanchester NSPCC Committee would like to thank everyone who bought tickets and donated prizes to their recent Christmas Draw, in particular Crinnions Bistro and Deli, Imago Health and Beauty Salon, and Knitsley Farm Shop. The Draw took place on 28th November and raised an excellent £239.00 which will be used to help children in need in the north east. A list of winners is available from our members.

If anyone would like to join our small friendly committee, or offer support to the charity in any way, please contact Chris on 01207 520175.

RING FOUND

A lady's ring was found near the King's Head on Sunday morning, 11th December. If you think this may be yours please contact 01207 520498.

COMMUNITY ORCHARD - TOOLS WANTED

As work has now started at the Lanchester Community Orchard and Allotments, members would welcome any gardening equipment/ tools - non-electrical lawn mowers, strimmers, wheel barrows, spades, forks, hoes etc that anyone would be willing to donate. Items can be collected. Please call 07922 060192 if you have any redundant equipment that you would like to be put to good use. Thank you.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for December 2011 is 106. The draw was made by Mrs C Wardle of the Gym Club.

HELP YOURSELF AND THE COMMUNITY

The Community Centre is a UK online learning centre. This a scheme organised by the government, advertised on the BBC, and funded by software houses. The courses are designed to increase knowledge of the internet and computing. Each course takes about 30-40 minutes to complete and most people, even those familiar with the internet, are likely to gain from the experience. If you complete a minimum of two online courses the Community Centre receives funding. So far over £2000 has been raised and will be used to assist the centre. If you are interested in trying the courses send an email to lanchestercommunitycentre@yahoo.co.uk or call in to Computers for All at the Community Centre on Monday or Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30am.



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**13th December
2011**

**Durham CC - Schools
Admission
Arrangements for
September 2013/14.**
These remain the same
and are available online.

**Durham CC - Review of
Household Waste
Recycling Centres.** The
Annfield Plain site is to
remain but with hours
changed.

Etape Pennines 2012.
This cycling event will
take place on October 12th
2012, when 80 miles of road
will be closed; so far 700
entries have been
received.

**Durham CC - Winter
Salting Routes.** Leaflets
showing these were
distributed

Letter of Thanks. A letter
from Mr and Mrs Mike
Gladstone in appreciation
of their invitation to the
Celebration event was
received; they had greatly
enjoyed the evening.

Letter of Thanks. A letter
from Jane Davis, Head
Teacher of the EP School
was received. Mrs Davis
thanked Sue Charlton, the
Development Officer for
Agriculture, Wildlife and
the Environment, for all
the work she had done
with the school and how
much, she, the staff and
the children appreciated
this.

Locality Map Project.
Members considered the
Annual Report and
remarked on all that Sue
Charlton has achieved so
far; they discussed how
her work might be
continued after the

present funding has
ended. Thanks to be
passed to Sue for the work
she has undertaken.

**Localism Act/
Neighbourhood
Planning.** It was agreed
that an officer from
Durham Rural Community
Council be invited to
attend a future Planning
meeting to give a
presentation on
Neighbourhood Planning
and that Members of
Lanchester Partnership
should be invited to
attend.

**All Saints RC Church
Monday Club.** Cllr Mrs
Gray gave Members
background information
on the Club, which
commenced in October
and is held every Monday
from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in
All Saints RC Church Hall.
It is intended to provide
support for people in the
community who are
isolated, young or old, but
everyone is welcome. So
far there are 14 regular
attendees and volunteers.
Transport is available and
Churches Together are
working to promote this
new venture.

**Budget and Precept 2012/
13.** The proposed budget
was agreed and the precept
raised by 2.5% for 2012/13.

**Questions from
Members.** Cllr Wardle
spoke about the recent
community consultation
on the Maiden Law site
undertaken by Arup and
the Homes &
Communities Association
and concern was
expressed about the
consultation process. It
was resolved that a letter
should be sent to Durham
CC and the HCA
expressing concern about
the time scale, promotion
and notice given for the
consultation. Mike
Gladstone of Lanchester
Partnership also expressed
concern about the need to
consider the proposals
seriously.

**10th January
2012**

**Lanchester Lions
Bonfire and Firework
Event.** The Meeting was
attended by the Club's
President, Vice President
and Junior President, who
told Members that they
are greatly concerned
about the Health and
Safety aspect of this
event, due to the ever-
increasing number of
people attending and the
Club's dwindling
membership, which
means that they do not
have enough stewards to
ensure adequate safety.
They outlined various
alternatives to the present
format:

1 to have fireworks only
in another part of the field;
2 move to a different
venue or
3 not hold the event at
all.

All agreed that this is the
last thing they want to do
as it is an important part of
village community events
and it would probably
result in bonfires and
fireworks being lit all over
the village, which would
also cause health and
safety problems. Various
suggestions were made
such as ticketing the event
(considered
impracticable, due to
possible gatecrashers)
and different ways of
obtaining manpower,
including grants which
may be available. Another
suggestion was a list of
helpers for the firework
display. Traffic and
parking was also
discussed. Chairman Cllr
Johnson said that much
as Members would hate
to see this very popular
annual display disappear,
as it brings people and
revenue into the village
and particularly to the
cricket club, the Council
is not able to donate more
than the usual amount as
the Budget is very tight.

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PARISH COUNCIL continued

Correspondence. **Maintenance Report.** The Lead Officer was asked to thank David, the village handyman for all his hard work, which is greatly appreciated by Members and residents.

Date of Next Meeting. This will be held in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester, on Tuesday 14th February at 7.15pm.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 22nd May 2012. Members were asked if they would like their name to be put into a draw to attend this ceremony.

Small and Medium Local Councils Forum. This is a new idea and the first meeting will be at Peterlee on Friday, 17th February. Two Members from each Council can attend.

Christmas Lights Project. A working group was established to progress this project.

Police Report. Reporting period 23/11/2011 to 27/12/2011. Number of calls for area: 55. Alcohol seizures 0, Burglaries 0, Bogus callers 0, Anti-social behaviour 4 (pupils causing nuisance and children trespassing in empty premises in The Garths) Patrols by police frequent. Attending officer stopped several youths whose details were taken and they were suitably warned. Criminal

POLICE REPORT

damage/thefts 2 (unused 6th form college windows smashed and pedal cycles stolen from driveway). Positive policing results: Reduction in reported crime and anti social behaviour. Consett Neighbourhood Police Team would like to wish all Consett Wards a HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012

PLEASE HELP THE POLICE

A request for residents such as dog walkers and local people driving through Lanchester to pass by the former 6th form college, A691 and report to police (via 0345 6060365 or 999 if appropriate) any suspicious activity. There is a security officer who regularly patrols this site, along with police patrols. However, incidents are occurring. A neighbourhood watch type approach would be appreciated.

PLEASE HELP THE POLICE

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...


Parliament has been in recess over the Christmas break so this month I thought I would write about my work as a member of the Education Select Committee. There are 11 members of the Committee: 5 Labour, 5 Conservative and 1 Liberal-Democrat. Members are elected to the committee and the current chair is Graham Stewart, MP for Beverley in North Yorkshire. I am the current senior opposition member and Vice-chair. Select Committees exist to scrutinise the work of government and so far this parliament the Education Select Committee has conducted inquiries into services for young people, 16-19 participation and on the role and work of Ofsted.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

The Committee recently published a report critical of the government's launch of the English Baccalaureate (E. Bacc). It is currently carrying out a detailed inquiry into the child protection system, and a shorter but timely inquiry into the examination system. More details of the work of the committee and its reports can be found at www.parliament.uk/education-committee. My work on the Education Select Committee is one of the most important things that I do in Parliament. It gives me an opportunity to use the experience I gained over many years working in education and the research facilities provided for the committee enable us to examine government

policies on education in detail. Ultimately I want those policies to work, for our young people to have access to good teachers and schools, and to acquire qualifications that mean something to them and to future employers. I hope that my contribution, as part of what is an important and powerful committee that holds Ministers to account, helps make that happen. Happy New Year. I am always keen to hear from constituents. If you need to contact me on any issue of concern, then please write to me at Pat Glass MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, e-mail me at pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk, or phone my office on 01207 501782.

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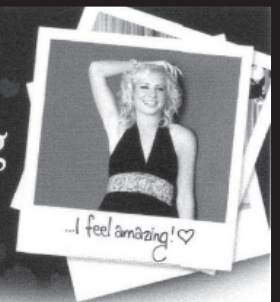
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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 1st December 2011

Planning Applications

i Fell flowering cherry tree at 32 Lee Hill Court. Following consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee, a response had already been forwarded to the principal authority. RESOLVED. That the action taken be confirmed.

ii Replace four existing windows with white upvc double-glazed to similar

design and replace front and back doors with composite doors at 3 The Square. RESOLVED. That the action taken be confirmed (as i above).

iii Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement bungalow at Summerdale, Cadger Bank. Kevin Leary declared an interest. RESOLVED. No objection.

iv Reduce height by 50% of five conifer trees, cut back branches to one willow tree on neighbouring property at Beck View, Ford Road. RESOLVED. No objection.

v Felling of one spruce tree, lowering of limbs of two pine trees and one spruce tree at 1 The Paddock. RESOLVED. No objection but requested that the felled tree be replaced with a suitable alternative.

vi Reduce height by 4m and reshape crown of two birch trees at West Grange, Cadger Bank. RESOLVED. No objection.

vii Link garage and leisure pool extension to side and rear at The Firs, Browney Bank. RESOLVED. No objection.

viii Erection of outdoor horse arena at Black House Farm. Keith Harrison declared an interest. RESOLVED. No objection.

ix Installation of 91 PV panels on south elevation of Garden Centre's Retail Building at Lanchester Garden Centre, Bargate Bank. RESOLVED. No objection.

x Orangery extension at Greystone, Crow Hall. Keith Harrison declared an interest. RESOLVED. No objection, subject to complying with the Village Design Statement criteria.

Decisions of the Planning Authority - approved by Durham County Council

* Single storey extension to 6th form block of school and creation of temporary car park during construction to the west of lecture theatre at St Bede's RC Comprehensive School, Consett Road.

* Felling of one ornamental fir at 31 Front Street.

* Felling of one ash tree at 1 Prospect Terrace.

* Listed building consent for renovations to roof including refixing of original salvaged stone slabs and ridges (replacing damaged to match existing) at 27 Front Street. Replace lead flashing strip, original roof covering to front elevation and fit breathable felt laid on.

* Link garage and leisure pool extension to side and rear (resubmission) at The Firs, Browney Bank.

* Replace four existing windows with white upvc double-glazed similar design and replace front and back doors with composite doors.

* Conservatory to rear at 11 Lea Hill Court.

* Demolition of existing garage and utility area, erection of single storey replacement extension at 1 The Paddock.

* Erection of 1100mm balcony safety railings and amended scheme of fenestration at Ragpathside Farm.

* Erection to front and rear of dwelling, raising roof to accommodate loft conversion. Extension to existing garage to provide residential unit at Greystone, Cadger Bank.

* Erection of car port to front of existing detached garage in separate garden to rear of dwelling at 8 Hollinside Terrace.

* Installation of solar panels to south facing roof slopes of stable block at Durham Road.

* Erection of agricultural storage shed at land to the north east of Dunley Ford House, Newbiggen Lane.

* Sun roof extension to gable at Sylvan Lea, Ford Crescent.

* Crown lifting and crown reduction of one beech tree at Magadi, Cadger Bank.

* Construction of 2 storey lounge/bedroom extension at 23 Deanery View.

The following application had been withdrawn:

Replacement of current hardwood window frame with upvc throughout the property at 1 Front Street.

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THE VILLAGE CALENDAR

The Village Calendar has been in existence for many years. It was devised in order to give organisations within the village the opportunity to inform others when a function is to be held. By entering the date and venue on the calendar it is

then possible for other organisations to see what is planned and gives the chance to avoid holding an event at the same time. The Village Calendar is situated in the Community Centre on the board just outside the entrance to the Dining Room.

Posters

Please note that posters to be placed on the Notice Boards in the Community Centre must be left in the office. Any poster not being processed in this way will be removed from the board(s).

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

In Lanchester we have the wonderful tradition of singing Christmas carols on the village green on Christmas Eve. It is a popular occasion and there is always a good number of carol singers. The first person to arrive this year was from Ebchester. She said she had missed part of the service last year and was

determined not to miss any of it this year because she loves it so much. Her Christmas begins on Lanchester village green she said.

By 6 o'clock the green was alive with adults and children, David Hughes was in place to introduce and lead the service, the Brass Band were in place to accompany the singing

and our good friends the 'sound men' were ready to work the microphones. Canon Spence opened proceedings with prayer and then the singing began in earnest. Young and old sang with enthusiasm encouraged by David and

when he invited the children to sing the first two verses of 'Away in a Manger' the ambience of the occasion was very prominent.

At approximately 6.40 pm the audience dispersed to their homes humming well

loved carols and looking forward to the dawn of Christmas Day.

What better beginning could there be? A village united in the Love of Christ who was born on Christmas Day.

Brenda Craddock



Lanchester Brass members playing their hearts out



Crowd scene from Christmas Eve, Carols on the Green

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NEW YEAR'S EVE CEILIDH



Guests at the ceilidh enjoying the dancing

What an great way to see in the New Year. In days gone by, I'm sure people from the village will have enjoyed dances such as this on a regular basis. Now it's just an annual event, organised by the Wildlife Group. As ever it proved

very popular. The dance floor was full all night with exhausted dancers. The superb faith supper came as a happy respite to catch your breath. In addition to the social dancing and a few tunes from the band there was a demonstration

by the Appalachian step dance group 'Step This Way' to the music of fiddler, Colin Tipping, who lives in Lanchester. 'Step This Way' are looking for new recruits. Contact Carol on 0191 4153506 or Judy on 01661 854350 for details.



'Step This Way' demonstrating Appalachian step dance with Colin Tipping on the fiddle

Photos: Washington Imaging

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What did the fish say when it swam into a wall?

Dam

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Why did the hedgehog cross the road?

To see his flatmate

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BOXING DAY HUNT

The Braes of Derwent Hunt 'meet' was at the customary time and place, 10.45 am at the Queen's Head. The Joint Master and Huntsman, Richard Spendlove, together with Alan Chapman and Barry Fewes, who was looking after the hounds, gathered in the corner of the car park. There was tremendous activity with riders enjoying their drinks, and a super

atmosphere among supporters, with cameras clicking away constantly. Richard Spendlove made the speech this year and in now traditional fashion called for the repeal of the 2005 Hunting Act explaining his reasons why this should happen, and quoting various statistical arguments. He did however, concede that the government had more important things to

discuss at present but hoped the 'Act' would receive attention in due course. Richard thanked everyone for coming and the Queen's Head and Fiona from Crinnions for supplying the mulled wine, sherry and other pre hunt drinks.

Being a reasonable day for the time of year, crowds had formed opposite the Queen's in large numbers - there were no protesters.



Speech time - Richard Spendlove with the traditional pre hunt speech

Gardening in February

Normally this month brings us the first signs of spring. However, due to the mild weather in January, these signs have already appeared with many spring bulbs showing above the earth and snowdrops out.

Borders

February is a good time to prune trees and summer flowering clematis before the sap rises and to cut back any overgrown shrubs. You can start sowing impatiens, cosmos and petunia flower seeds under cover. It is also a good time to mulch borders with old compost to help keep weeds down and maintain moisture and to

propagate new plants from cuttings of Honeysuckle, Buddleia and Spirea. Gentle heat can be provided by an electric propagator on a windowsill for seeds and cuttings. Just make sure that seeds are taken out when they are small to stop them getting leggy.

Vegetables

Autumn fruiting raspberries should be pruned back to the ground and a general fertilizer applied to fruit trees and bushes. You should also plant any bare rooted fruit on a fine day when there is no frost in the ground. Early crops of peas and broad

beans can be sown in the ground although I prefer to use root-trainers for my broad beans. Peppers, chillies and tomatoes can be sown indoors now or under heat. It is a good time to get potatoes started. Place the tubers in egg boxes on a light windowsill to encourage shoots of two inches in length before you plant them next month.

General

You can replant any tired houseplants and replace the top inch of outdoor containers with new compost to give them both a 'lift' and provide them with new life.

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CENTURIONS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The music could be heard on approaching the Social Club. The party got into full swing very early with a tremendous performance of varied music by talented singer, songwriter, Charlotte Yanni, a French artist from Brittany, with a perfect Geordie accent. She is affectionately

known as 'The Frog on the Tyne' and during her lively patter, introduced herself as such. Her backing group were brilliant as well.

Potential damage to ear drums prevented your reporter awaiting the second act, Bessie and the Zinc Buckets, but they are well known for performing

their type of music (their own version of Rockabilly) at the Ben Hur Rally. They are also a fantastic band. The night was one big wild fancy dress party with copious amounts of alcohol being consumed and money flowing into the coffers for charitable purposes.

The Social Club is the meeting place of the Lanchester Legionaires and it was great to see their members mixing with friends from the Centurions.

Everyone seemed in good spirits. Some of the attire worn by the Bikers was outrageous, but fun. Others chose Roman type costumes which of course was appropriate. However, when it comes to a fancy dress party there are no inhibitions and all this led to a super Christmas atmosphere. Indeed, it was a night to remember.



Charlotte Yanni (The Frog on the Tyne) and her band, perform in exuberant style

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CENTURIONS PRESENTATIONS

Christmas came early for Great North Air Ambulance and Lanchester Lions Club courtesy of the Centurions. At a gathering at the Queen's Head on Thursday 7th December, Roy Bennington, Chairman of the Centurions, presented £2500 to Rob Colgrave, Air Ambulance and £500 to Vice President of the Lions Club, Tommy Robinson. Three other Lions Club members supported the function, Tony Corry, Martin Durkin and Alan Kelly.

Roy made brief introductions during the evening. Rob Colgrave responded on behalf of his organisation with a brief summary of their needs which were mainly to keep their helicopters flying. Tommy Robinson for Lions said how grateful he

was to receive such a large sum and said it would be used towards the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch. Money has been raised throughout the year by the Centurions through their Rally, Raffles, Christmas Parties etc. The total this year given to Gt North Air Ambulance has been a massive £7500 which shows the Centurions' dedication to the cause and how good they are at fundraising. In addition to these donations the Centurions donated £500 on 20th September to the 'Heel & Toe' Charity to furnish a padded room. Next year the Ben Hur Rally will be held at the usual place on Friday/Saturday May 11th/12th. They will have a new fabulous 'T' Shirt featuring motorbikes in action, designed by John Bennington.



Rob Colgrave and Tommy Robinson display their cheques, with Roy Bennington (centre) and Centurions and Lions featured together



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FOUNDATION AND RECEPTION CLASS NATIVITY PLAY

There is an enchantment about very young children performing. They are so young and yet entirely unselfconscious about being on stage. They love the dressing up and the attention they are given in their performance and the latter makes a lovely morning or afternoon for the audience. Proud mums and dads and other family members make a very encouraging audience to which the children respond in full. The Nativity plays have a purpose of course, they are recounting the true message of Christmas, which is that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to earth in human form and as a baby, to try to rid the world of all that is evil and wrong. He wanted Jesus to show mankind how to love one another and work for each other's good. You must admit that it is a very good idea, when we read so much about violence and the ugliness and suffering of crime and wrong doing. These young children who perform with such trust and openness deserve a better world to live in. If they have provoked only one person to think more deeply about how they could contribute to a better future for our children and grandchildren then the Nativity Play has achieved a great deal. Mrs Davis, in thanking the audience for both their attendance and attentiveness, thanked also the members of staff

who work so hard to make the Nativity plays so good. The children always know what they have to do and when they have to sing. This particular play was built around the idea of a recipe for Christmas Happiness and all the ingredients were there to do this, but the greatest one was kept until last, because of its importance. You've guessed it LOVE. If you have love at the centre of your Christmas you have the very best ingredient of all.

Thank you boys and girls for your lovely Nativity Play.
Brenda Craddock



All the cast waiting to perform

AMIGOS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Amigos were lucky this year and able to get together in the Community Centre for a Christmas celebration of carols, games and a visit from Santa before setting off to go to the King's Head for our Christmas meal. Once again we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and were royally looked after by the King's Head staff, and we give a big thank you to all of them especially Leanne. We will now look forward to another year of friendship and fun as we move on into 2012.



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ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY AND THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS



Getting ready to meet our audience and feeling very nervous!

It is a tradition at All Saints at the end of Christmas and Summer terms, the students mark the occasion with music during their final assembly. This year the talented young musicians once again impressed their large audience with their ability. Mrs Conlin welcomed pupils, families and friends to the event, and greeted brass players from Saint Bede's, many of whom were ex pupils. The youngest members of the audience sported a colourful collection of

headgear, tinsel crowns, reindeer antlers, santa hats, elf caps and festive hair bands which all added to the holiday atmosphere and everyone was prepared to join in with the carols. The musicians from St Bede's made a rousing start to the proceedings, with a medley of football themes, followed by "Oh Come all ye Faithful" which gave the audience the chance to raise their voices in remembering the meaning of Christmas. We were treated to a full

programme as soloists, groups, pianists, guitar players and singers performed with skill and enjoyment. Many students offered music they are preparing as exam pieces, and all the young musicians can feel very proud of their musical progress. To conclude the assembly, Mrs Conlin thanked all the families and friends for their support. This was a lovely start to the Christmas holidays from the young people of All Saints and St Bede's. Very well done!

ALL SAINTS CAROL SERVICE

This took place at the All Saints RC Church. Well before the start it was standing room only. The story of Christmas was portrayed in a very traditional manner mainly through song. There were in the region of twenty carols all memorised by the children and sung so beautifully. The readings were loud and clear and said with passion as were the prayers delivered by the children.

The Choir looked very smart in their school uniforms while the remainder of the pupils were dressed as shepherds and angels, with the main participants of the Nativity in costume. Every pupil in the school took part. Plaudits were given by Mrs McKenna and Canon Spence to Michael Quigley in recognition of all the work, help and training that he had

given to the children. The service began with 'Prepare Ye the way of the Lord' and ended with 'O Come all Ye Faithful'. The first verse of Silent Night was sung in Irish and the first verse of 'O Come All ye Faithful' was sung in Latin. As Canon Spence mentioned - it augurs well for the pupils who will eventually attend St Bede School, a specialist language college, and for the school itself.

Towards the end Canon Spence gave the Bidding Prayers and the Christmas Message. He gave thanks to the congregation and special thanks to the teachers and to all those who had contributed to the evening. The collection after the service raised £355.59 for CAFOD World Gifts. Thanks are given for this wonderful generosity.



Some of the younger Angels and Shepherds

A SOUNDPOWER CHRISTMAS



The Soundpower Orchestra tuning up ready for the concert

On Saturday 10th December in the Methodist Church, the Soundpower Orchestra and Singers presented a Christmas concert with a varied programme and beautiful a cappella singing by their guests, the Durham University Chapel Choir.

Soundpower opened with The Most Wonderful Time of the Year and Driving Home for Christmas. The Chapel Choir then sang the Carol of the Bells to perfection. They have great diction, projection, pitch, flawless Italian vowels, and altogether a mellifluous blend of voices. The orchestra continued with the gentle excerpt of Winter from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, then the enchanting Harry Potter

Waltz displayed its grand orchestral abilities. Ding Dong Merrily on High from the Chapel Choir contrasted with the Soundpower singers' Have Yourself a Very Merry Christmas nicely. The orchestral version of Winter Wonderland made for smooth, easy listening. A special orchestration of Silent Night started with a superb soprano solo, then the choir and orchestra joined in, followed in authentic gospel style by the three Soundpower singers, ending peacefully. The Chapel Choir delighted all with In the Bleak Midwinter. The first half closed with When a Child is Born, well performed by the entire ensemble of about fifty people. Part two opened loudly

with Merry Christmas Everybody, then Cry Me a River with its florid, jazzy variations from saxophone, violin, and guitar solos. This got jubilant applause from the audience. The Chapel Choir sang Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, accompanied by the orchestra, followed by That Time of Year and All I Want for Christmas is You. Soundpower expressed the full pathos of Schindler's List and Out of Africa, interspersed by the Chapel Choir's amazing Away in a Manger and It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. The Christmas Song and a medley of carols concluded a most enjoyable night. Peter Bridgewater

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CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS



Harry Carr conducts the Lanchester Male Voice Choir with the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society at their annual Celebration of Christmas

The Lanchester Male Voice Choir and the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society reunited for a festive treat of Christmas choral music, varying in style from old traditional to the spiritual, classical and contemporary, some intermingled with readings and congregational hymns. Canon Robert Spence welcomed everyone cordially. Readings by Mr Stephen Burt, Reverend Gavin Hume, and Canon Spence added significance to the occasion. The

congregation sang It Came Upon a Midnight Clear; O Little Town of Bethlehem; Once in Royal David's City; While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night and Angels From The Realms of Glory.

The Choral Society, conducted by David Hughes, skilfully performed O Leave Your Sheep, a French carol; Candlelight Carol; Do You Hear What I Hear?, a pop classic, and New Boy Born, sung dramatically, from the Manchester Carols.

Harry Carr directed the Male Voice Choir with the vibrant and lively Noel for the Merrie Citie, set near Wakefield in 1460 from The Sun in Splendour arranged by Alan Simmons; Italian

Pipers' Carol, traditional; The Sussex Carol, and The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy, an exciting spiritual. The capacity audience in the Catholic Church was enthralled by the performance, which was enhanced by the accompaniment of Lilian Dixon and Noreen Bridgewater. The choirs were well-rehearsed, and sang wonderfully, particularly in the combined pieces, In the Bleak Midwinter by Harold Darke, from a poem by CG Rossetti, and O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam, which is a rousing Christmas favourite of all time.

The final blessing concluded a perfect night. Peter Bridgewater

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ST BEDE PUPILS AT CHRISTMAS

St Bede pupils have been active in the village during the Christmas period. Five groups of students distributed about 50 food parcels around the village

whilst a young choir sang a selection of Christmas music and carols outside SPAR. This happened despite the gale force wind and heavy rain.



St Bede choir of year 6/7 children under the direction of Mr Robinson, sing a selection of Christmas music and carols outside SPAR



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MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH THE MONDAY CLUB

Guests and members of All Saints' Monday Club celebrated their first Christmas as a group, on December 12th. Guests were entertained by students from All Saints' School, who sang a selection of traditional and modern carols, enhancing the lovely seasonal atmosphere of the night. A festive meal followed, with bingo and a visit from Santa.

Kate Edwards, Honorary Secretary of the Club, said she was delighted at its excellent progress since the first meeting in October. The Club offers an informal setting for people to meet each Monday from 6.30 until 8 pm, with activities decided by the guests themselves. So far, there are 14 members, with a warm welcome for anyone

wanting to join this friendly group. In recent years, changes in society have created challenges for communities. Kathleen Urwin represents St Cuthbert's Care, and she describes how this organisation has launched the PACE Project - 'Parishes and Communities Enablement' - in an attempt to meet some of these challenges within neighbourhoods. So far, 8 projects have been started across the North East, with more planned. One problem resulting from social change is that now many families are separated by distance, with older relatives becoming more isolated. PACE enables and supports the local communities to offer a



The Monday Club and All Saints enjoy celebrating together

welcome to people who are keen to meet up with old acquaintances and make new friends.

In Lanchester, Father Spence was delighted to work with the PACE Project, and recruited a team of 20 volunteers from within the parish to promote the scheme. So the Monday Club came about, a focus for local

people to meet and chat over a cup of tea, and enjoy entertainment, music and games. The group is looking forward to

growing over the next weeks, and offers a warm and lively welcome to new guests. Transport can be provided, so come along!

OPEN HOUSE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Most of our readers will know that the Parish Church holds 'Open House' on the first Thursday of every month, in the Chapter House. Members of the community and other churches are warmly invited to attend. This month for one month only, the date was changed to December 8th because of important business taking place in the Chapter House on the first. We made it a Christmas Special and are delighted to know from the feedback we received, that everyone had an enjoyable morning. Four handsome men (church wardens) waited on the tables and were kept busy with over 70 people needing to be fed. Everyone received a Christmas card from

Open House and there was a cracker, mince pies and Christmas cake for everyone. The morning closed to the sound of Christmas carols introduced by Brenda who also accompanied the singing on her brass instrument, the Baritone. It was all good old Christmas fun and fellowship but the serious element was not forgotten. Those

who wished to reflect on the Christmas story and message could go into church for a 10 minute service led principally by a member of our Shared Ministry Team.

Open House wishes every reader good health and every happiness in 2012.

The next Open House is held on Thursday February 2nd at 11.30. Brenda Craddock



5 handsome waiters and a baritone were kept busy with over 70 people to feed and entertain

Lanchester Playgroup and Tiny Tots Invite You To



at Lanchester Community Centre



Playgroup sessions Monday to Friday 9.20 to 11.15am

Tiny Tots sessions Wednesday and Friday 9.20 to 10.45am

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FUNDRAISER FOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Original Art Available

On Saturday February 4th in the Lanchester Community Centre as part of the Country Market there will be a display of hundreds of pastels and paintings by Charles Ketteridge. These will be available to anyone who makes a donation to Lanchester Community Association Funds.

The pictures are unmounted and unframed. The pastels have been sealed so they don't smudge but the oil paintings have not been varnished. There will also be a large number of watercolours available. Charles Ketteridge has lived in Essex, Cambridge and Somerset. He has a great love of the countryside though he has drawn and painted many other subjects. These pictures are being

made available through Peter Andrews who runs Lanchester Writers. Peter is Charles Ketteridge's son-in-law.

Charles has recently moved out of his house into a care home. He is 90 now and almost blind. He has asked that his pictures be disposed of for the benefit of the community. Some of his works are being made available in East Anglia and some in the North East as his immediate family live here.

So if you would like an original piece of art, pictures of landscapes, windmills, churches, cottages, fungi and more will be available in the Main Hall at Lanchester Community Centre on Saturday February 4th. Put the date in your diary now so you don't miss this unique opportunity. Peter Andrews



A self portrait in oils of Charles Ketteridge in his younger days

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EXERCISE WITH INTEREST - WALKING AROUND LANCHESTER

One of the many are blessed with some benefits of living in great walks right on our Lanchester is that we doorstep. My "Get rid

of the Christmas Pudding" walk this year took me up Newbiggen Lane, past Hollinside, down to Ragpathside and back along Ford Road.

On the way I passed through the bustling site of our local Lanchester Dairies, saw some very early snowdrops in flower at Hollinside, passed the memorial bench to Paul Smith with all the lovely testaments from his family, saw a hare, a heron and a pair of buzzards and found that the owners of Greenwell Farm were busy building a nice walled entrance to complement the new road into the farm. And the sun shone as well. Brian Naylor

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JENI'S BIRTHDAY SURPRISE!!

First of all a huge thank you to Jeff who put a party on for me at home with friends and family to which even my brother Tim drove 5 hours for.

It was a great night and I got lovely presents and cards. A huge thank you to my mum, Mary and Jeff's Mam, Pauline for helping with the food, and to Ethel Armstrong who made my beautiful cake.

A huge thank you to Michelle Storey and Natalie Flory, staff, good friends and clients for the fab 40th birthday surprise - a party at Crinnions Bistro. How on earth the girls managed to pull it off without me finding out is beyond me. The cake made by Michelle's cousin, Fiona, was amazing and I loved the



Jeni
(centre)
celebrating
her 40th
birthday

board of photographs of my life. Thanks to all Crinnions staff and Glenn Coxon for the music.

I would like to thank every one of my clients for the lovely presents, cards and flowers for my birthday, which made it so special. The main present I received from my clients, Michelle and Natalie, was for a spa day at Seaham

Hallforttwo. I have never felt so relaxed and revived in my life. The whole experience was outstanding and I would recommend it to everyone, a much needed lift for me!!!

Once again thank you so much for an unforgettable birthday!! Jeni Carson, Talking Heads

GREAT NORTH FUN FOR ALL 2011 (AND 2012) FOR WILLOW BURN

We'd like to say a great big thank you to everyone who participated in the Great North Run 2011 and helped raise nearly £12,000 for the hospice. As always, we have been overwhelmed by the passion and dedication shown by dozens of individuals who risked 'life and limb' to take part in this iconic event - now known to be the biggest of its kind worldwide. The feedback has been tremendous and we have been so impressed with many of the times our runners have achieved, but have also 'laughed and oooooohed and aaaaahed for hours on end, over the stories we've been told. To all of you, we can't thank you enough. Your commitment and generosity of spirit are beyond compare.

All of the staff, visitors, volunteers and patients here at Willow Burn would like to wish everyone running in the 2012 event, the best of luck with their training and much fortitude in collecting sponsorship for the hospice. At the moment we have 45 places which are shortly to be allocated to past runners and other supporters of the hospice, but if you are interested in running for us, please let us know as we have a waiting list and may be successful in getting additional places around about July time. The criteria for obtaining a place are that the runner pays £48 entry fee and promises to raise a minimum amount of £250 in sponsorship. We provide running vests, sponsorship forms and

help to publicise your participation. If you are interested please contact Sue Fox, who is the Community Fundraising Officer on (01207) 523295.



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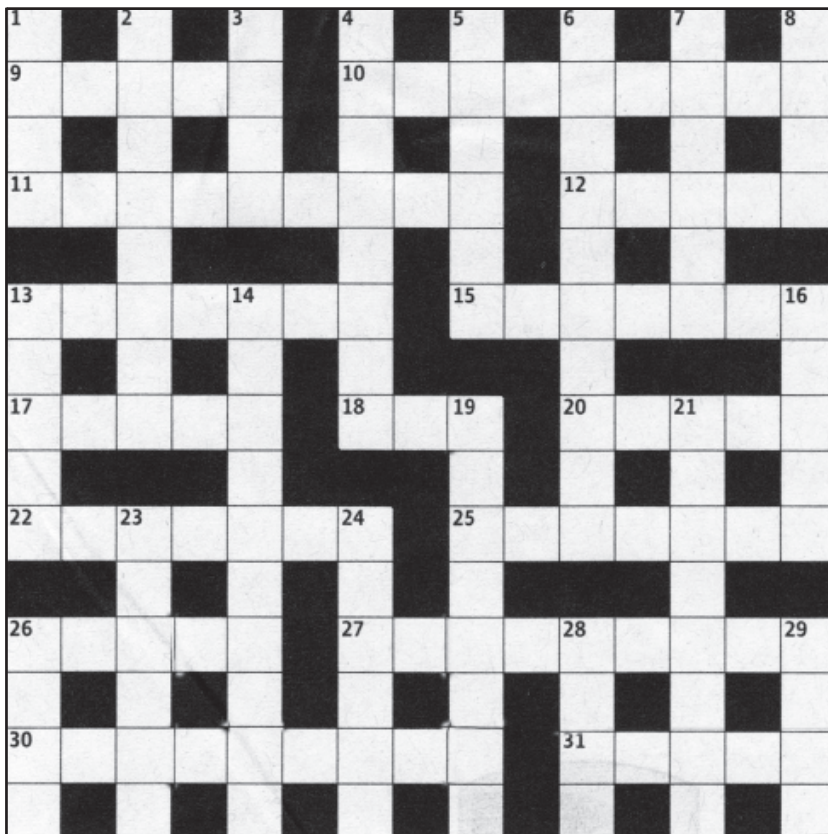
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CROSSWORD 69



ACROSS

9. Vernacular (5)
10. Fabric from NE Reading (9)
11. Precautionary measure (fig.) (6,3)
12. Proclamation (5)
13. Phase of the moon (7)
15. Support and point to partner (7)
17. Encourage (3,2)
18. Knight (3)
20. Change (5)
22. Retribution seems in need of reform (7)
25. Grateful (7)
26. Bacteria from severe colitic infection (1,4)
27. Period of cultural development (9)
30. Customers (9)
31. Amps x volts = (5)

DOWN

1. X (4)
2. Re-enforced envelope (5,3)
3. Speck of dirt (4)
4. Worried (8)
5. Repair fleet to a T (6)
6. Early warning (4,2,4)
7. Hidden location where, on a whim, I lie unseen (6)
- 8,29. Legal precedent (4,4)
13. Collect piecemeal (5)
14. All-knowing (10)
16. Stopped (5)
19. Stop (4,4)
21. Meringue ingredient (3,5)
23. Short sighted (6)
24. Removed hair by design (6)
26. Eat into (4)
28. Bryson's home state (4)
29. See 8

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 68

ACROSS

- 1,4. lingua franca
9. poisoned chalice
10. pillar
11. boutique
12. retrieve
14. evicts
15. lentil
18. expedite
21. denounce
22. on song
24. rub salt in a wound
25. emerge
26. measly

DOWN

1. lionise
2. nasal
3. unnerve
5. re-house
6. nullified
7. account
8. edible
13. retrousse
16. execute
17. long leg
18. emetic
19. profane
20. tenancy
23. slops

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.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

For our Christmas treat we decided to go back to where we celebrated our 20th anniversary, Finbarrs in Durham and it was still superb. It is easy to get to, the parking is good and it's lovely and warm. A friendly welcome awaits amid beautifully understated Christmas decorations - you just know you're in for a good lunch.

We sampled for starters, pork with lemon and pistachio pate with beetroot and apple chutney, smoked salmon and Greenland prawn parcel with avocado and pickled cucumber. Our main courses were traditional roast turkey with chipolata sausages, sage and onion stuffing, cranberry and bread sauce, slow roast porchetta with

roasted root vegs and prune jam, Northumbrian game casserole with herb dumplings and braised cabbage. Puds were rum and raisin creme brulee with mincemeat palmiers, dark chocolate log with a brandied cherry compote. I don't think I've ever heard so many 'ohs', 'mmms' and 'this is nice' in one meal - chef had really excelled himself. There is a lovely ambience to Finbarrs which was very nicely enhanced by quiet Christmas music just heard in the background. Our meal was finished off with coffee and tasty mince pies (as one of our number remarked - filled with 'plumptious raisins'). We felt well fed, watered, wined and dined to Christmas satisfaction.

The Gourmet Girls

CROSSWORD 68

There were only 10 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Roy Sunley of Watling Way who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

Try John Wilson's latest challenge.

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

WI REPORT

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members and visitors to the first meeting of 2012 before Ann Carr did the reading and correspondence was read out which included a thank you letter from Satley WI who had joined us for our Christmas meeting.

Lists are out for a mini trip to Brancepeth Village Hall and members to help with the vote of thanks, readings and raffle prizes. Leaflets were given out for Computers For All courses held at the Community Centre, these are free short courses which cover the basics of using the internet (some courses are funded and the centre would get a very welcome £35).

Anyone interested please contact Christine at the centre.

We then had a very interesting demonstration of Prick and Stitch card making by Kathleen Adams. Kathleen first came to the WI with her mother 65 years ago, she then became a Spiralla corset fitter and spoke to WIs where she did fittings and demonstrations. When she became interested in card making she found she really enjoyed the prick and stitch method and soon news of her skill spread and she is now greatly in demand travelling all over the county from her home in Seaham to share this skill with others. What a fun night this was. Like all good teachers Kathleen



WI members Rhoda Joyce and Kathleen Morris busy creating their cards

made it look so easy. She had brought along all that was needed to make the cards as well as a display of different cards she had made using this method. We chose which design we would make (some blood was shed as needles went into fingers instead of card) but it was worth it as we all went home with a lovely card for that special occasion.

THURSDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

On the third Thursday in December a good few members of the Thursday Club gathered together in the Small Hall of the Community Centre to enjoy a Christmas themed workshop run by Joan and Olive. Between us all we had managed to assemble enough raw material to kit out a florist's shop, particularly as Jean had brought along enough artificial glitzy Christmas twigs

etc to fill a six foot table. We also of course, in true Blue Peter style, had a few 'we'd made earlier'. So, with plenty to inspire us we all set to work and by the end of the afternoon session had assembled over 30 lovely table displays. Well pleased with our efforts we closed the afternoon with hot chocolate and mince pies, a good calorie filled end to Thursday Club 2011.



A glorious Christmas display of Christmas table decorations that had been made at the workshop

FRED AS FATHER CHRISTMAS



Fred Prophet, the Village Bus driver, helping his passengers get into the Christmas spirit

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Open House

Everyone is welcome at Open House on Thursday 2nd February when a light lunch is served from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm in the Chapter House of the Parish Church.

Lanchester Local History Society

The February Meeting will take place in the Community Centre on Friday, 3rd February, 2012, at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. The speaker will be J Michael Taylor on 'The Art of Robert Stephenson'. This will be a very interesting evening and all are welcome to attend.

Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 4th February, KAREN LEIGH
Saturday 11th February, LYNDSY DARLING
Saturday 18th February, PETE McDONALD
Saturday 25th February, SIMON CAINE

Sunday Bridge

Come along to the small hall of the Community Centre on Sunday 5th February to play Bridge with a friendly group of people and at the same time help to raise funds for the Community Centre. £3 including refreshments.

Kindly Leave the Stage

A riotous comedy farce will be performed by Chester-le-Street Theatre Group at the Community Centre Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, from 7th to 11th February starting at 7.15 pm. Tickets £6 (£5 concessions) from 0191 388778 or 0191 3884752 or at the door. The play contains some strong language similar to post watershed TV.

The Village Voice Page 22

Paradiso Club

Refreshments, a Raffle and a Big Screen Film.

The next Social will be on Sunday, February 5th in the Community Centre at 7 pm - 9.15 pm. All are welcome. Membership of the Club is £5 pa. Entry to each Social is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for occasional visitors. The entry fee covers everything.

Screening that night will be the film 'As far as my feet will carry me', which is based on a best selling novel and a true story. After defeat by the Red Army thousands of German soldiers were incarcerated in labour camps in Siberia, one of the most hostile landscapes on earth. This is the tale of one who escaped and walked 14,000 kilometres in the hope of one day being reunited with his wife, his child and freedom. It is described as a gripping drama, a true celebration of the power of the human spirit.

Sunday Evening Music Sessions

The Sunday Evening Singers' and musicians' group are now back (after a gap of about five years) at The Queen's Head in the village and are using the old restaurant room. The high ceiling helps to produce excellent acoustics, and therefore the first two weeks have so far been jolly good evenings. I think the venue will be generally well supported in the future, due to the central location and the positive support given by manager Paul.

We are not exclusive, and welcome anyone who wishes to play, sing, story tell, or simply listen. So please pop along any Sunday evening. Start time is normally around 8.30 pm.

WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 6th February in the small hall of the Community Centre starting at 7 pm. Our speakers this evening will be Helen Mills and Claire Ross from Willow Burn Hospice and as well as a talk they are bringing gifts to sell. The competition is an inspiring verse.

At our last meeting we had both new members and visitors. If you would like to come along and enjoy an evening with us you can be sure of a friendly, interesting time, age does not matter, our youngest members are in their 30s. Everyone is welcome, so if you have been thinking of coming we will look forward to seeing you and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Mothers' Union

At the meeting on Wednesday the 8th of February, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, we are holding a Scripture Market.

Short Walks

February 11th, 10.30 am, Beamish and Stanley, 5 miles. Meet at Eden Place car park, NZ218537.

February 25th, 10.30 am, Herrington Country Park, 5 miles. Adjacent to roundabout on A183, Chester Road, south of Penshaw Monument, NZ336541.

WHAT'S ON?

Durham Dramatic Society

Glorious by Peter Quilter will be produced by Durham Dramatic Society between 12th and 18th February. It depicts, with humour and pathos, the attempts of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York socialite, to prove to the world that she was a great singer.

Tickets are available from 6th February from the Gala Theatre Box Office, Millennium Square, Durham. (Tel: 0191 332 4041). They cost £6.50 (Concessions at £4.50 are available on Sunday and Monday).

Performances start at 2.30 pm on Sunday 12th February, and at 7.30 pm from Monday, 13th February to Saturday, 18th February.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 14th February at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Fiona Green will give a talk on 'Medieval Plants and Food'.

Action on Hearing Loss

will be holding a free information event on 23rd February from 10 am - 12 noon in Lanchester Library.

Junior Wildlife

On 26th February there will be a visit to Malton. Meet at 10 am in the car park.

PACT meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd February at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 29th February at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, the AGM will be followed by a presentation of 'Picture Postcards' by George Naim.

Charity Black Tie Ball

In aid of 'Henry Dancer Days', the charity in memory of Henry Dancer which aims to help and support children and their families who are suffering from Osteosarcoma.

The ball will be held at Beamish Hall, Stanley, on Friday 20th April.

7 pm arrival, 1 am carriages. Three Course Meal. Live Music from our favourite soul band, Shakedown! Fabulous Auction Items up for Grabs.

Tickets priced at £33 each, available by contacting marion_m@btinternet.com or telephoning Marion 07825730784 or Laura 07805395950.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chocolate Coconut Cherry Slices

3ozs/75g butter
3ozs/75g caster sugar
1 egg
2ozs/50g glaze cherries
6ozs/150g desiccated coconut
8ozs/200g cooking chocolate
Swiss roll tin (greased well)

1. Melt chocolate, spread in the greased Swiss roll tin and leave to set.

2. Cream butter and sugar together. Add beaten egg.
3. Stir in chopped cherries and coconut.
4. Press mixture over the chocolate with a fork.
5. Bake in a moderate oven 375C for about 20 mins until golden brown.

Leave in the tin until cold. Cut into slices.

CAROLS AND HOT CHOCOLATE

For the second year running the Carols on the Green by the EP School were abandoned due to appalling weather. Last year it was heavy snow, this year it was heavy rain and a gale force wind with a severe chill factor prevented the event from being outside.

However, all was not lost as children gathered under the Christmas Tree in the main hall at the school to sing 'Away in a manger'. The hall was



Children gather around the tree to sing 'Away in a Manger'

buzzing with a great Christmas atmosphere as many parents sang carols and Christmas songs

together with their children, whilst enjoying their steaming hot chocolate.

EP SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

Despite the first Christmas snowfall the Parish Church was bursting at the seams with parents literally squashed together at the back. Some children had to be moved from the body of the church to the bell tower area in order to accommodate the adults. The carol service began with a lively 'Come and Join the Celebration', which put everyone in the Christmas spirit. This was followed with verses from Isaiah read with

confidence and clarity by the year 5 narrators. Immediately after the next carol the moving ceremony of the Christingle took place when year 3 children walked slowly around the darkened church proudly carrying their lighted Christingles.

The Nativity could almost be described as an extravaganza! It was modern approach which encompassed children around the world celebrating Christmas. It

was a lively, happy performance presented by children from year 6. There were some amusing moments as the angels were chosen by lucky numbers. They all had typically modern names like Bossy Angel and Excited Angel to name but two. They all played their parts to the letter with great enthusiasm and were word perfect. The carols sung by the choir and other children were lovely and obviously well rehearsed.

'Children around the world' were dressed appropriately from six countries. It was amusing at times and extremely well performed. The costumes were excellent, superbly made and it was interesting to see the children 'from Australia' carrying surf boards!

Altogether it was a wonderful performance. Jane Davis, Head Teacher, gave many thanks to various people, but especially to Mr Boddy and Mrs Allison for their hard work and help, as well as the Church Wardens for their cooperation during rehearsals.

The retiring collection was for the Macmillan appeal.



A scene from the Nativity



Children carrying their Christingles

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LIFETIME GYM MEMBERSHIP ARNOLD HAWTHORN AGED 90



Arnold, together with Margaret Laycock, who presented him with his life membership of the gym at Lanchester Community Centre

Arnold is a remarkable man who has his 90th birthday on 22nd January. He came to Lanchester about 15 years ago. In his career as an Electrical Engineer he commissioned Power Stations all over the world. The war years were spent as an aircrew man in the famous Halifax Bomber 'Friday the 13th' which flew 128 sorties during the war, though he was quick to say he didn't fly anywhere near that many times on it.

These days the quiet life in Lanchester suits Arnold and his wife. About 10 years ago Arnold suffered heart trouble and needed a bypass. That's when he got really interested in keeping fit. It began with a doctor's referral to Shotley Bridge Hospital, then on to the Gym and Swimming Pool at Consett before enrolling at the local Community Centre. Arnold has been a loyal member there and turns up regularly three times a

week enjoying himself with an hour or so on about five of his favourite machines. He always finishes his workout with a warm down session consisting of free exercise and stretching. The Community Centre has awarded Arnold free membership for as long as he wants, in celebration of his loyalty and 90th birthday. There could not have been a better present for him! His birthday will be spent quietly together with his wife and family.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

We finished 2011 with a handicap knock-out competition on 14th December. 19 players of all abilities took part, and after a number of very close and exciting matches, the eventual winner was Harry Robertson. Following the competition there was a buffet with presentations to players. 11 year old Simon Knopf was the worthy winner of the shield for the 'Most Improved Player in 2011'. Certificates were also presented to teenagers Jack Brewis and Callan McCabe, both of whom represent the Club in the Sunderland & District League.

Towards the end of the school term we had two complete beginners' sessions for Year 5 from the EP Primary School. We focused on bat and ball control, then applied the skills to hitting the ball backwards and forwards across the table. During

the second part of each session we had mini-league games and also gave the youngsters a chance to try out the robotic server (or 'robo-pong')! Some of the new players showed considerable potential, and all of them went away enthusiastic. We are hoping to repeat this for groups in the new year.

We still have room for players in the club. We meet on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Community Centre from 7.00-9.00pm. We have 5 tables, three qualified coaches and plenty of space! We have 'robo-pong' which gives intensive stroke practice!

We now have a team in the Sunderland & District League, but many of our players (of all ages!) just come along to enjoy the game. All players receive coaching: the emphasis is on learning to play table tennis in a friendly and relaxed environment. Come and join us!



Certificate and Trophy winners. Left to right; Callan McCabe; Simon Knopf; Harry Robertson and Jack Brewis.

Olympic Year Special Offer

Fitness 4U at Lanchester Community Centre



Gold Membership

Anytime @ £24.99 per month for 11 months with first month £30 cash.



Silver Membership

Weekends & afternoons only @ £19.99 per month for 11 months with first month £25 cash.



Bronze Membership

Weekends only @ £14.99 per month for 11 months with first month £20 cash.

Join your local Gym, equipped with state of the art equipment. For more information call in and see for yourself what's on offer or ring 01207 521275 for more details

Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, DH7 0JQ

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 14th February. The deadline for **adverts** is 12th February.

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