

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 16

Lanchester, December 2015

For contact information, see page 2

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON AT THE VILLAGE GREEN



The Big Switch On of Christmas Lights carried out by left: Jason Cheng and Grace Carroll-Cook, EP Primary School, right: Joshua D'Northwood and Lucy Duggan, All Saints' Primary, assisted by Mike Gladstone, Chair of Lanchester Partnership, with Councillor Ossie Johnson. See page 3.



**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Our Village Green all lit up for Christmas.



Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society braved the weather to sing their hearts out.





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 amend any letter published. Letters must contain your name, address and telephone no, all of which may be withheld at your request.

Dear Village Voice

I would like to thank Julie Richardson and family for the valiant efforts made to clean up the derelict strip of land facing the bungalows in Woodlea. The land has been an eyesore for years, and it has now been transformed.

This is indeed a case where actions speak louder than words. I would like to say to Julie, every happiness for 2016.

Dorothy Cavanagh

FOUND

A black glove (right hand) and a Nikon lens cap were found after the Christmas Lights Switch On event on Saturday. If you have lost either of these, please contact the Village Voice.

INFORMATION FROM THE POST OFFICE

Tony Morland, from The Post Office/Newsagents, would like to inform customers that The Post Office can take cash and cheque deposits, with FREE cash withdrawals from most banks and building societies.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for November is 16. The draw was made by S Bone of the Gym.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

LANCHESTER HERITAGE AUDIT

What do you value in Lanchester Parish? Do you value the views, the Roman/industrial heritage, the wildlife habitats, farm buildings etc?

Lanchester Parish Council with support from the North of England Civic Trust are producing a Heritage Audit for the Parish. This will identify what the heritage is and how important it is. It will be an important document and will also provide evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan.

We are looking for support from the local community

to complete the Heritage Audit.

The following sessions have been arranged:

Community Mapping Session

Wednesday 13th January, 2.00-7.00pm at Lanchester Community Centre. Please drop in anytime between 2.00 - 7.00 pm and tell us what heritage is important to you. Please bring along any photos (current or old) or information you may have.

Volunteer Training Session

Thursday 28th January, 2.30 - 5.00 pm or 6.00 -

8.00 pm at Lynwood House, Durham Road.

The purpose of the session is to train volunteers to undertake survey work in the Parish to identify its important heritage. Please come along to either session. In order to accommodate numbers could you please book your place by phoning 01207520146.

We welcome the involvement of interested groups and residents. If you can spare a few hours or would like to know more about this project please contact us on 01207520146.

VILLAGE VOICE AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Lanchester Village Voice was held on November 15th in the Community Centre.

Brian Oram was elected as Chairperson and after welcoming everyone, he paid tribute to Anne McKenzie who sadly died in January. She was a founder member of the paper and also reported in its early days, as well as serving as Secretary and Company Secretary. She has been greatly missed

by everyone on the team. The Village Voice continues to inform the people of Lanchester, with deliveries also being made in the surrounding areas. Deliveries are undertaken by approximately 40 volunteers and they have to be thanked for their service, for without them, our community newspaper would not exist. All our contributors who provide the news are also owed thanks; members of the public,

representatives of various organisations and clubs, and the individuals who regularly send in their items of news, all contribute to our truly local paper. We are also grateful for the support of our advertisers in the locality, with an increasing number coming from the surrounding areas. We are a thriving organisation, of and for our local community. We look forward to another busy year in 2016.

How to contact the Village Voice

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Large numbers of families turned up on the Village Green to see the Christmas Lights switched on at 6.00 pm, Saturday, November 28th. As people arrived at about 5.30 pm and just after, conditions were reasonably mild. Then, as Lanchester Brass Band, conducted by James Draper performed and the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Group, conducted by David Hughes, sang carols and other Christmas music, a gale blew up and the heavens opened with torrential rain, which lasted throughout the ceremony. It was such a shame for such a lovely village occasion, organised so well by Sally Laverick of the Parish Council. There were mince pies, cakes and other snacks, mulled wine, juice and sweets for the children - something for everyone. Councillor Ossie Johnson made a short, welcoming and thankful speech to the crowd, including volunteers and entertainers. Although brief, the speech seemed endless because of the atrocious weather conditions! He welcomed everyone to the event which he felt was like "the start of Christmas". He thanked the Band and Operatic for their attendance and excellent selections and delivery of music and singing. He thanked Mike Gladstone, Chair of Lanchester Partnership and the children selected by their schools for the honour of switching on the lights as follows: from Lanchester EP Primary School: Jason Cheng and Grace Carroll-Cook; from All Saints' RC Primary School: Joshua D'Northwood and Lucy Duggan. The evening ended with the rain still pouring down! Nevertheless, it was still a very enjoyable occasion. More appropriate music may have been 'Singing in the Rain'! Perhaps both groups will practise that number to add to the Christmas music, should the same inclement weather happen next year.



The large crowd certainly enjoyed themselves despite the torrential rain.



Lanchester Brass Band played stoically throughout the appalling weather conditions and cheered up the crowd with rousing Christmas carols.

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HOUSING PROJECT - CADGER BANK



Eric Hepplewhite (Chair) and the committee of the Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester, Elaine Hogg, Stephen Bailey and Paul McNicholas.



People at the public meeting reference the proposed building of houses at Cadger Bank.

A public meeting was called by the Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester at Croft View Halls on Sunday 22nd November. In the region of 100 people attended. Chairman, Eric Hepplewhite, began by explaining the meeting had been called to discuss the 52 houses proposed by David Wilson Homes (Barratt) in the field opposite the Roman Fort on Cadger Bank. However, he did mention in a preamble the other sites in the village which have been purchased by developers as follows: Malton, 60 houses; rear of Kings Head 4; Newbiggen Lane 149; by-pass 115; behind The Paddock approximately 24; Cadger Bank 52 and Maiden Law 49 houses. The latter will be on the brownfield site adjacent to Willow Burn and work is expected to begin about April next year. This area is outside the Parish boundary and no action will be taken. The total of possible extra houses in or near the village is 453!

Paul McNicholas took to the floor and gave an excellent presentation about the Cadger Bank site and referred to the latter possible developments as well. The main issues against building at Cadger Bank are as follows; outside village boundary; not in any plan; flood risk; dangerous exit/entrance; adjacent to the Roman fort; about 200 extra cars coming into the village; lively habitat; no room at schools or nursery; difficulties for people at both ends of the age scale walking up from the village to the site. Cadger Bank had already been taken out of the DCC plan in 1988 as being unsuitable for housing. Elaine Hogg, former county planner, gave a comprehensive presentation against the project citing the proximity to Longovicium, a Scheduled Ancient monument of great importance to the region and the village especially. She mentioned the York to Scotland supply route passing through the area in question and the proximity of Dere Street to the edge of the development. Other Roman forts in Durham have modern developments on them and in the case of Binchester, suffered erosion. Several people spoke from the floor where the question of drainage at Broad Oak Drive was mentioned; the dangerous exit from Woodlea; the dangers of traffic entering the village via Cadger Bank, (or TOWN CENTRE as the builder stated). It was suggested that the travel plan put forward by the builder contained several inaccuracies. Not one person spoke in favour of the project.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the meeting held on 8th December 2015

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 10th November 2015 - approved.
Finance Meeting on 25th November 2015 - approved.
Planning Meeting on 25th November 2015 - approved.
Neighbourhood Warden Report - October - discussed and received.
PACT Report - received. Members discussed information received on alternative arrangements for PACT meetings. It was agreed to ask that the Police attend the Parish Council meeting on a quarterly basis.

Correspondence

1. NHS North Durham CCG Commissioning Intentions for 2016/17

Members considered the priorities for 2016/17 and are to forward their responses to the Clerk.

2. North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group Electronic Literature Consultation Group - the information was received.

3. Letter of thanks - resident - Christmas Lights - letter received

4. Durham County Council - consultation - bin collections from properties situated on private or unadopted lanes and farm tracks

Members discussed the information received from the County Council and raised concerns about the number of properties this would affect. In addition there were concerns raised about older people having to move bins and the problem of the wind blowing bins onto roads. Agreed that a letter be sent to the County Council.

5. Durham County Council - letter - response to traffic concerns at Hollinside

Agreed that the information be received and residents are informed.

6. Durham County Council - Budget Consultation Event -

agreed that Members inform the Clerk if they wish to attend.

7. The Clerk Magazine - November 2015 - received.

8. War Memorials Trust - November 2015 - received.

Area Action Partnership and Parish Council's Committee

Any councillors interested in attending Parish Council Committee meetings to contact the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Plan

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Mike Wardle provided Members with an update. The community will be consulted on the draft Conservation Area Appraisal document in the New Year. Sessions to commence the Heritage Audit have been arranged for January. The second topic based questionnaire will be distributed at the end of January.

Parking Working Group - minutes of the last

meeting were approved.

Dementia Friends - Training Session - The training session in November had been well attended.

National Tree Week Campaign

Members were informed that a successful grant application had been made for a grant of £150.00 and a number of trees would be planted at Kitswell Park.

Declarations of Interest - a guidance chart on Declarations of Interest was received.

Christmas Tree Festival - Members were informed of details of the forthcoming Festival and a programme of events was distributed.

North East Combined Authority

Simon Henig, the Leader of Durham County Council, has agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 12th January to discuss the North East Combined Authority. Members of

the public are welcome to attend.

Durham County Council - Open Water Access Assessment - Kitswell Park

It was agreed that the works identified in the report be undertaken.

Financial report - discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment - approved.

Information had been sought on the Parish Council's involvement in the planning appeal by Story Homes for a residential development of 149 dwellings on land to the west of Mount Park and to the north of Newbiggen Lane. It was agreed that the Parish Council should be involved and a request be made that the Parish Council be able to speak at the appeal.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

2015 has flown by and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2016. This year has been a very busy Parliamentary session in which I was delighted to be offered the post of Shadow Education Minister, a role that takes up a lot of my time and that I am learning to balance with my constituency duties.

One of the most significant issues in Parliament since May has been the vote to decide whether or not to extend military operations into Syria. I listened very carefully to all of the views, advice and information that I received. I was contacted by hundreds of constituents (most of whom were against bombing) and I listened to the Prime Minister when he set out his case for bombing Syria. Having carefully considered the

many effective contributions on both sides, I decided that I would **NOT be voting to bomb Syria**. I believe that Parliament should have been debating how to remove the territory from ISIL/Daesh control, achieve an eventual ceasefire amongst other forces and bring about a transitional settlement to end the Civil War.

I do not believe that the PM has made the case for bombing. I saw no credible plan particularly in relation to what happens when the bombing stops. I cannot see how dropping even more bombs is going to improve things for the people of Syria. I appreciate the arguments about standing together with our Allies but not sufficiently to justify the Government's proposed actions and I was

concerned that there is a danger that military action would unintentionally lead to civilian casualties and deepen the sense of grievance which ISIL/Daesh feeds upon.

I was appalled by the Paris massacres, but I believe that history shows that the West's response to past terrorist actions have been disproportionate and have made matters far, far worse. I made my decision for all of these reasons. The result reached was not what I had personally hoped for and I thank the military personnel who will engage in these operations; they do such vital work to keep our nation safe. The interest from politicians and the wider public show that their service and welfare are held in the highest esteem, as it should be.

Pat Glass MP



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LYNWOOD HOUSE BIRTHDAY

Lynwood House is now one year old. The sheltered accommodation on the site of the former council care home is operated by housing association Derwentside Homes. To celebrate the birthday, Derwentside Homes put on an afternoon party for the residents and their families. A fine buffet was provided followed by entertainment from singer Tony St John. Tony said he has performed in some top London hotels that were not as plush as Lynwood House. He is a superb singer with a wide repertoire stretching from pop to opera. He has among other things performed on Channel 4's Come Dine with Me as a Pavarotti look (and sound) alike and his voice features in many TV commercials. The residents very much enjoyed his singing and his jokes.



Party guests tuck into the buffet.



Janet Tulip cuts the cake and Manager Emma Lawson looks on.

BRIDGE CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Bridge Club had an enjoyable evening in the Community Centre for their Christmas party, with a lovely meal provided by Neil Pears.

TRAVELLING NATIVITY

This is one of the 'Travelling Nativities' being transferred from house to house for one night during the Christmas period. A full report of this activity appeared on page 2 of our November issue. Note the knitted angel at the back.



AUTUMN FAIR



Maving Taylor, and grandson Matthew Atkinson, with Rev Rupert Kalus looking on.

On Saturday November 28th, Lanchester Parish Church and St John's Burnhope held their Annual Autumn Fair in the Community Centre and as in other years it was a tremendous success raising well over £2,000. It got off to a good start as it was opened by Maving Taylor, a true English gentleman and his grandson Matthew. The former said that Matthew likes to think of them as the M and M's, the chocolate covered sweets. Very appropriate because we all like those, don't we? Maving referred to the Fair always being a success as the people of Lanchester are renowned for their generosity to church funds and other charities. He commented on the wonderful displays on the tables and the very enticing goods which were for sale. He advised everyone to get their raffle tickets early because Matthew is renowned for always winning one of the bulging hampers or one of the other special prizes and he will again be getting lots of tickets! His final remarks asked everyone to spend, spend, spend on the bargains displayed on the various stalls which included tombola, toiletries, cakes, preserves, Christmas wrapping, decorations, beautiful handmade gifts, scarves, jewellery and homemade eats. Maving also drew attention to the refreshments available in the small hall which included delicious Ginger Wine made by Hazel Gaskell. People must have listened to Maving's advice to spend, spend, spend to achieve the splendid total of money. It was a very enjoyable morning thanks to many people putting so much time and effort into it. A big thank you to everyone.

Brenda Craddock

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POLICE REPORT

At our last PACT meeting on Tuesday 1st December, we discussed current complaints of local youths causing antisocial behaviour behind The Green School and smoking cannabis. Local Police are carrying out regular patrols of the school grounds and searching anyone acting suspiciously. As a result of these patrols, calls to Police and evidence of youths congregating in the area have begun to reduce.

Parking outside schools is a country wide issue and unfortunately Lanchester has not escaped the onslaught of vehicles being parked in poor locations or drivers not leaving sufficient time to park and walk to collect children from school, therefore resorting to parking on double yellow lines or keep clear lines causing inconvenience for other road users. As a result local officers are targeting parking outside Lanchester EP School, All Saints' Primary and St Bede's due to regular concerns from parents and teachers. Can we please ask that if you do collect your children from any of our schools and need to take your vehicle, please take a little extra

time to find a suitable parking place such as Front Street car park or Station Road car park. £30 fixed penalty tickets will be issued to all vehicles seen parked on double yellow lines or causing unnecessary obstruction.

This month PC Iain Nelson and PCSO Lisa Jackson attended Consett Magistrates Court in connection with a male from Durham who they stopped earlier in the year driving in Lanchester and found to be over the drink drive limit. The driver pleaded guilty and received a 3 year driving disqualification ban. This month a driver was also stopped on the A691 near Durham Road and was arrested and charged for being unfit to drive through drugs; this case is still awaiting to be heard in court.

It's that time of year again when the nights are getting darker earlier, therefore can we please remind everyone to keep a light on in your home and to make sure your doors, windows, garages and sheds are locked and secured. This time of year we usually see an increase in burglary so don't make it too easy for those criminals who may be operating in our area.

After all, a dark house is an empty house!

Finally, PACT is changing for 2016 due to poor attendance and we will no longer be holding meetings at Burnhope Primary School on the first Tuesday of every month. Instead, we have merged the Burnhope element of PACT with the Burnhope Parish Council Meeting and therefore we are keen to hear from the residents of Lanchester on how you would like to communicate with your local beat officers. Previously we have held Police Drop In Sessions at Lanchester Community Centre which again received a very poor attendance and most recently we've just completed a course of 7 Police Drop In Sessions at Lanchester Garden Centre which again was poorly attended and only received a visit from one local resident. Anyone with any ideas or suggestions please email lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk.

NEW PATROL



Here we see Malcolm Haydon, Crossing Patrol Officer on the A691 outside St Bede's School, who was appointed some 14 months ago, with Carolyn Usher, from No Place, who was appointed two weeks ago to patrol the new crossing at the bottom of Maiden Law Bank. This is the culmination of the project on road safety at St Bede's School, by persistent campaigner, Lanchester resident, Clare Lamb.

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Michael and Carley Jackson were married about a year and a half ago. Some of the family found it difficult to buy or hire a stylish hat at a reasonable price at the time of the wedding.

During the search for this very important accessory they found a franchise hat shop in Blanchland called Get Ahead Hats. An idea was born! Coincidentally, the person who ran the shop was about to close it after some twenty years in business, so Carley and Michael bought the franchise.

Michael, Carley's husband, found the ideal premises on his father's

door step and has made a fabulous job of converting the double garage at the back of the Queens Head, adjacent to his house, into a superb hat shop.

Bespoke designer hats and fascinators, for all occasions, are on sale or for hire at competitive prices. Even different colours from those hats stocked can be obtained on a made to order basis. In addition candles, jewellery and accessories will be available to buy at these lovely premises.

There is an opening offer of 10% off until March 1st on any hat hired or purchased.



Carley, with her best friend 'Shadow', among her superb range of hats.

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NEW DEMENTIA FRIENDS

What do you do if you are out shopping and someone in front of you at the till appears confused and unable to cope, or if you meet up with a friend you haven't seen in a long time and you realise there is a significant deterioration in their ability to understand and remember, or if you come across a person wandering around, confused about where they live?

By becoming a Dementia Friend you can learn a little bit more about what it's like to live with dementia and how to turn that understanding into action. Sixteen people became new Dementia Friends at an enjoyable interactive and

informative session in Lynwood House, Lanchester, organised with Sally Laverick on 17th November. This was part of Age UK County Durham's Mid Durham Intergenerational Project and was delivered free and open to all.

Dementia Friends receive a special 'Forget-me-not flower' pin badge to show they care. Many of the people attending were involved in some way with a person living with Dementia gaining more understanding through this session. Anyone of any age can be a Dementia Friend.

Feedback included "I felt it was very useful, well prepared, interesting and very worthwhile. I particularly like some of

the analogies, the bookcase with books falling off. The trainer kept a very good pace with a variety of activities going on."

Mid Durham AAP wants to create dementia friendly communities, helping our community to become a place more understanding towards those with Dementia and those who care for them. Age UK County Durham is helping to achieve that.

For more information or if you would like to arrange a Dementia Friends session please contact Karen Gibson, Mid Durham Intergenerational Development Worker, tel: 0191 374 6562, email: karen.gibson@ageuk countydurham.org.uk



The new Dementia Friends at the meeting at Lynwood House, Lanchester.

A CLASS ACT

Lanchester Tuition Group Celebrates 25 Years of Student Success!



The Race and Butcher families helping to celebrate the success of MagiKats in Lanchester.

An out-of-school tutoring organisation has this month celebrated 25 years of student success. The Durham Centre for Education (DCED) launched in 1990 by Steve and Lorraine Stephens, uses the MagiKats Programme at its workshops held in Lanchester Community Centre.

They set up DCED to give extra help to students from ordinary backgrounds to gain the all-important educational skills required to make the very most of their potential - but at an affordable price.

Lorraine says: "Our local schools are very highly regarded and achieve great results but occasionally children just need a little extra personalised support and that's what we provide."

MagiKats is often a family affair. The Race family has sent all their children to DCED. Richard (25) is now a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers and

Sophie (23) is an Accounts Manager for an American Company. Richard says: "MagiKats has given me the ability to strive for success in my career and personal goals."

David (15) says: "Going to MagiKats enabled me to accomplish top marks in Maths and English and has given me a disciplined work ethic." The youngest member of the family, Toni (12) has joined the Lanchester group and is adding to the success of the Race family.

Two brothers, Edward (9) and William (14) Butcher have attended Lanchester over several years. Their mother Joan says: "The tuition at MagiKats has given the boys confidence in their own abilities, enabling them to believe in themselves and succeed. It's been wonderful to see them achieve and grow in self-confidence as a result."

Perhaps Edward should have the last word: "The workshops are fun and the homework helps me to do well at school."

For Lorraine, that is what MagiKats is all about. For more information about DCED and MagiKats, go to www.DCED.co.uk.

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WILLOW BURN CHRISTMAS FAIR

Over 300 people entered the hall at St Bede's in the first hour! The place was buzzing with a lovely Christmas atmosphere. Santa's grotto was in the entrance hall along with several stalls including a very interesting card stall manned by Chester le Street Rotary and a wonderful cake stall. The sound of Consett Brass Band playing carols greeted everyone in the main hall. The band really enhanced the occasion. There must have been close to 50 stalls in the main area. Included were several good money making tombolas, craft stalls, sweets, toiletries, chocolates, paintings, cards - the list goes on. There was a person with a massive teddy bear making merry - a 'Minnion' wandering about hugging people and generally making people laugh.



Sally Laverick and son Josh spending for Christmas.

Terry Lewins, as usual, was lively on the microphone encouraging people to buy and towards the end there was a disco and games for the children. The total money raised was in the region of £7000! Willow Burn staff would like to thank all those who supported the event, including those who made donations, which raised this massive sum of money and made the Fair so successful.

LIGHT UP A LIFE

This service in St Bede's School is held every year and is always well attended. It means so much to these people who have been bereaved during the last year and in previous years, and who have spent time in Willow Burn Hospice.

A great deal of time and thought is put into the planning and organisation of the service so that the bereaved people can take maximum comfort and benefit from it. The Chief Executive Officer, Helen Mills, opened the service, referring to the dedicated staff, who are always there to help and

support anyone in need of this special kind of nursing. Their door is always open and nothing is too much trouble for the caring and compassionate Nursing and Family Support Service Staff. Well loved carols were sung during the service, accompanied by Lanchester Brass Band, conducted by James Draper. Several beautiful readings were read by members of staff. Reverend Rupert Kalus gave 'Words of Comfort' which were indeed so comforting and meaningful. Canon Bob Spence read an appropriate passage

from the Bible and Reverend Stuart Earl read a beautiful piece of prose entitled 'The Candle' after which each person lit their candle (electronic). This was followed by a quiet time of remembering.

Although it was a sombre service it was also very uplifting and one which will always be remembered by those who attended and contributed to it in any way. After the service, there was a chance to meet and share experiences with one another over refreshments of ginger wine and mince pies.

Brenda Craddock



Lanchester Band playing at 'Light up a life'

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'THE HOLLY AND THE IVY' AT LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB



Some of the very large crowd who enjoyed the flower arranging demonstration by the well respected John Dalton.

On Friday 27th November, the Club held the second of our two Open Evening meetings; approximately 70 attended. The demonstrator was John Dalton and his theme was 'The Holly and the Ivy'. He created some beautiful and very large arrangements, which were raffled to the delight of the winners. John is a well

known and well respected flower arranger, who has visited us on many occasions. His demonstration was interesting with some very funny story telling. The Club would like to thank Gillian Harrison and Jane Pegram who organised a wonderful home produce stall selling tasty preserves and many

lovely cakes and pies, all beautifully presented. A light festive supper was served after the demonstration with tea and coffee. The evening was the usual success. We wish all our members and Village Voice readers a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. See the What's On page for our next meeting.



Gillian Harrison and Jane Pegram organised a wonderful stall selling beautifully presented home produce.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Despite the windy weather on Friday 4th December, the History Society's Social Evening and Quiz was a great success. Marian Morrison took the role as Quizmaster and presented the teams with challenging questions and a selection of old photographs of Lanchester, which were discussed and compared with Lanchester 2015. Interesting facts and memories from John Gall and Helen Hedley brought our history to life and were enjoyed by everyone present.

The photographs showed the development of Lanchester where green fields once stood and the Alderdene Burn flowed through the village, and pictures of severe flooding in 1947 near Victoria Street. Cars could be filled with petrol at the garage by the Black Bull and there were no parking issues. The last film shown at the Empress Picture house was Moby Dick which stood where Croft Court is now situated. We learnt that the design of Front Street with its bend was planned to

protect the village from the North Pennine winds, which were in evidence on this stormy night. Christmas refreshments were served and the winning team of Arthur Dodds, Jean Dougherty, Helen and Brian Hedley were congratulated. Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at our January meeting (see What's On page).

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ALL SAINTS' CHOIR



All Saints' School choir were very busy during the week beginning 7th December. On Monday they sang for the Monday Club in the Parish Centre. On Tuesday, they entertained the residents at Lynwood House and Friday gave a performance for patients and staff at Willow Burn Hospice. The children really did work very hard and rendered a lovely blend of carols and Christmas songs at all three venues, giving pleasure to so many people.

CINDERELLA AT THE WI PARTY

The Lanchester WI Christmas party on December 7th was enjoyed by its members and got underway after Marie Murphy, the new President of the WI, completed various WI notices.

Members interested in continuing the darts team need to get in touch with her and members were asked to sign up for the visit to Tennant's Auction Rooms in Leyburn in April. Subscriptions are due at the January meeting.

The evening commenced with a brilliant start with a pantomime of the story of Cinderella or it could have been named 'Alright'. Five members, suitably disguised, performed the characters of the story with

amazing talent and humour: Ann Grosvenor as the Narrator, Pat Cotrell as Cinderella, Marie Murphy as Prince Charming, Angela Velleman as the Ugly Sister and Glenda Horne as the Fairy Godmother. It was immensely appreciated by the group who gave admirable applause.

A new edition of Jingle Bells was also shared with the group who supported with the chorus then we were ready for the Faith Supper. A variety of delicious savoury and sweet dishes on the buffet was enjoyed by everyone; Christmas festivities had begun.

We were then entertained by the Lanchester Male Voice Choir who sang a

varied programme from Gilbert and Sullivan to Les Miserables. A beautiful piano solo by Noreen gave the choir a small break before they resumed with some other classic songs ending with Show me the Child. The entertainment was a real treat and after much applause Marie gave a vote of thanks to the choir, then the choir tackled and enjoyed the buffet. Answers to the Christmas quiz were revealed and twelve lucky members won beautiful raffle prizes.

It was a perfect end to a lovely occasion and the culmination of an excellent year of celebrations in our 90th birthday year. Looking forward to 2016 ...

PRISONERS ABROAD



A Coffee Morning was held at the Methodist Church on Saturday 28th November which raised £78. Here are some of the Lanchester residents who supported the event.

A NEW SONG FOR THE LANCHESTER WASSAILERS

Wassailing is a mid-winter celebration which involves people making a lot of noise to frighten away evil spirits and toasting the trees with cider to ensure they are

fruitful the following year. The community orchard off Newbiggin Lane was planted almost three years ago and the crop of apples has been increasing each

year; the wassailing obviously works. There are many wassailing songs, particularly from the West Country but none from the North of England,

so Noel Jackson has written one (see below). Its phrases are drawn from several traditional sources but they have been recombined to make them appropriate for the community orchard. Wassailers dress up in bright colours and bring along something to make a noise. Traditionally these were a saucepan and spoon or a bird-scaring rattle but

anything that clatters is good. Of course, Wassailers need to sing the wassailing song and the celebrations end with a drink from the wassail bowl - cider for the adults and apple juice for the children. The Orchard Group will be wassailing again on January 16th (weather permitting) and hopefully next autumn's crop will be even better.

Lanchester Wassail

Noel Jackson 2015



Here's a toast to the Queen, as custom may be,
May she live as long as the good apple tree.

CHORUS:

And we'll fill up our bowl, with cider and ale,
And drink her good health with our jolly Wassail.
Here's a toast to the people, who labour and toil,
To raise a good harvest from Lanchester's soil.

CHORUS

Here's a toast to the trees, root, branch and top.
May they grow more fruitful and bring a good crop.

CHORUS

Here's a toast to the singers, whose harmonies rhyme,
To make sure there's plenty at next harvest time.

CHORUS

Here's a toast to the comp'ny, so full of cheer,
Who clatter to welcome a fruitful New Year.

CHORUS

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DODGY ANGEL



The Angel (Rev Stuart Earl) may look dodgy, but the Christmas news isn't - 'GOD IS WITH US'. The point of looking silly on Saturday morning, walking through the village in the cold and pouring rain, was to raise money for this year's three charities: (local) ME North East, (national) Cancer Research UK and (global) literacy projects in Cambodia.

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THURSDAY CLUB OUTING

At 3.45 pm, on a cold and windy 19th November, 23 of us set off on our pre-Christmas outing.

Our first port of call was the Duke of Wellington where we were given a very warm welcome by Diane. After deciding what to have from the very extensive menu, Diane came and took our orders (saving we 'Golden Girls' having to go to the bar). The food and service could not be faulted and we were looked after very well indeed. Diets gone with the wind, cholesterol forgotten and feeling very jolly we boarded our coach again at 6.45 pm and went on to Durham High School for the Dunelm Flower Club's flower demonstration.

On arrival we were offered Celebration chocolates, a glass of wine (3 choices), a selection of fruit juices, mince pies and shortbread - and guess what - we indulged again

- well it would have been impolite to refuse their hospitality! We were a little concerned that we may nod off but need not have worried. When John Chennel commenced his demonstration 'InFestive Mood' he kept us highly entertained throughout the evening. His arrangements were larger than life and certainly had the Wow factor. At the end of it, all his arrangements were raffled and 2 of our girls were lucky winners - a great way to finish the night. At 9.45 pm our

carriage arrived and after a most enjoyable time we left for home happy, contented and very much 'INFESTIVE MOOD'.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Alison, Margaret, Jackie, Richard and Christine for their help during the year and also everyone who supported our 2 coffee mornings in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Lucky New Year to everyone.



Thursday Club members ready to indulge at the Duke of Wellington

LADIES WHO LUNCH

We had a gloriously scenic journey heading up alongside Derwent Reservoir as we made our way towards the beautiful mediaeval village of Blanchland, home of the atmospheric Lord Crewe Arms where we were booked in for lunch. We were seated in the Great Hall by the huge inglenook fireplace which had an enormous log fire burning, quite possibly toasting the hidden body hiding up in the priest's hole (once there, anything seems possible, although, we didn't hear any cries for help!).

The staff are most welcoming and fortunately, very knowledgeable about the quirky and very different menu - a menu which catered for all tastes and

pockets - we had quite a lot explained.

Eventually, we decided to sample a bowl of parsnip crisps to share while we waited for our meal to arrive. We ate for starters Cabbage, bacon and potato soup with garlic bread, mains were Smoked haddock and scrambled egg on toast with sprouts with 'Crewe cured' bacon, Sweet cured pork chop with honeyed young parsnips and red cabbage, Pan fried fillets of salmon with creamed beet and honey roast parsnips and Stone bass 'Kilpatrick' with roasted Jerusalem artichokes set on a celeriac purée. Puds were Shipwreck tart with vanilla ice cream/cream, Baked boozy Thrunton apples with caramel, Creamed rice pudding with drunken autumn fruits and Cherry

and elderberry batter pudding with milk ice cream.

We dined sitting beneath a portrait of Nathaniel Crewe, Bishop of Durham, whose watchful gaze seemed to be ensuring our meal would be of the highest standard and it definitely worked. What a glorious meal we had - the food was superb, all of us in complete agreement. Then, in conversation, it transpired that the bishop's wife Dorothy, whose portrait was also on the wall, was an ancestor of one of our members, so - illustrious company both on the wall and round our table, we were most impressed.

The Lord Crewe - a totally classy establishment, we think we might just go again!

The Gourmet Girls

NEW PROJECT FOR HENRY DANCER DAYS

The end of November was a busy time for Henry Dancer Days. Terry Deary (Horrible Histories) visited the RVI with the charity to launch their storytelling project for children with cancer. The event was covered by Tyne Tees TV and all regional press. Jane, Henry's Mum (who founded the charity) expands:

"Much of our funding comes from the people of the North East so we want to invest more in our own region. So, in addition to continuing to give grants to families, we have commenced delivery of a storytelling project in North East hospitals. This is open to children with all forms of cancer, not just Bone Cancer

cases. We pay a professional storyteller to work on our behalf and we give the books to the children."

The Great North Children's Hospital value this so much that Henry Dancer Days has already been asked to double the number of sessions in the Paediatric Oncology wards. Medical staff can see how the storyteller distracts children from their dreadful treatment and brings them a few minutes of fun.

Terry Deary commented, "I fully endorse the storytelling project. Entertaining young people using stories is dear to my heart and seeing their reactions makes it clear that this idea is extremely worthwhile. It makes a wonderful change for children undergoing cancer treatment to



Author, Terry Deary, with one of the children at the RVI.

enjoy some fun and distraction."

Following all of this excitement, the charity's Trustees attended the Newcastle Building Society's Cornerstone of the Community awards ceremony where they won the Branch Award from the Morpeth up in the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation

Award for their work in the region. They had been nominated by the Society's customers and the general public. As well as a trophy and certificates, the Society gave cash donations to Henry Dancer Days for each category amounting to £250 which will go directly to the children they support.



Jane Natrass (right) receiving a Newcastle Building Society Cornerstone of the Community Award.

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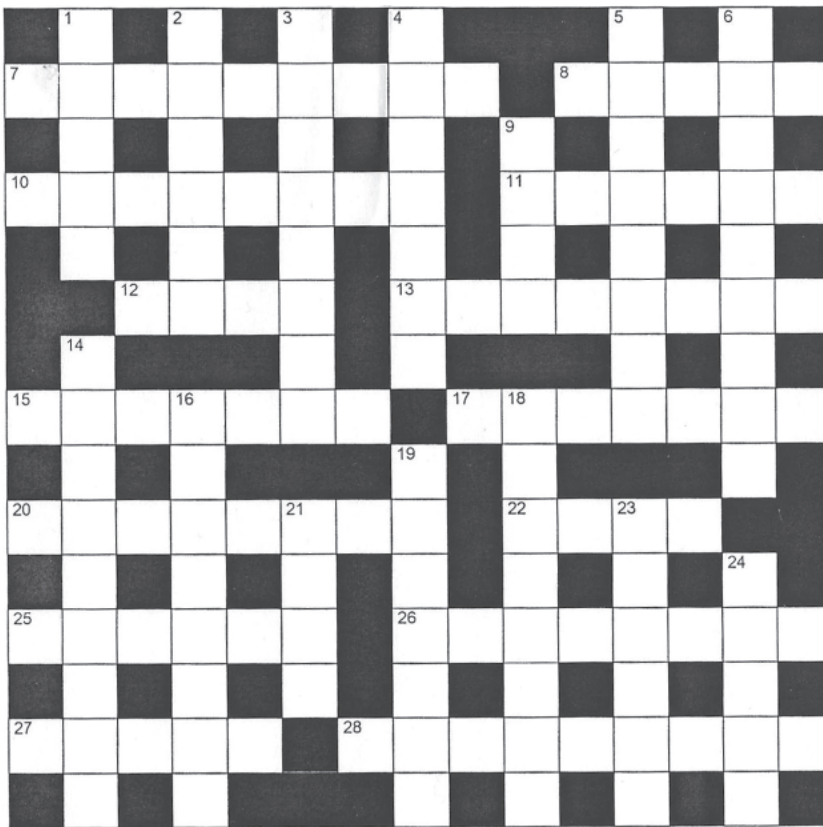
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CROSSWORD 116



ACROSS

7. See 1
8. Fraudster (5)
10. Illusionist (8)
11. Alaskan bear (6)
12,13. Dwelling (12)
13. See 12
15. I defy PR
treachery (7)
17. Nag persistently
(7)
20. Dull (8)
22. Nervous (4)
25. Global weather
disrupting surge
in East Pacific
ocean (2,4)
26. Prisoner (8)
27. Goes with last,
bale and berry (5)
28. Puzzle (9)

DOWN

- 1,7. Mayhem from a
tool's function
(5,9)
2. Workplace (6)
3. Turned into bone
(8)
4. Road not for
American twister
(7)
5. Disadvantage (8)
6. Degeneration
from ceded acre
(9)
9. Satirical sketch (4)
14. I try evil's
subservience (9)
16. Ludicrous (8)
18. Memorable (8)
19. Workplaces (7)
21. Smallest particle of
an element (4)
23. Mills (6)
24. Entertainment
based on 9 etc. (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 115

ACROSS

5. canal
6. plasma
7. assist
9. nit-picker
11. chat
12. omega
14. sift
15. cur
16. nut
17,21. high-five
19. ended
21. See 17
23. disavowal
26. ignore
27. instal
28. erect

DOWN

1. selfish
2. scant
3,13,25. black and white
4. distaff
8. file
9. notched
10. restful
12. ore
13. See 3
18. insight
20. dive
22. vintage
24. sheen
25. See 3

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 0HY.

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD 115

There were 17 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.

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.

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

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EP SCHOOL ENTERPRISE WEEK



The Foundation Stage pupils were very enterprising in making magic 'Reindeer Dust' to sell at the fair. The photo (taken by teacher Mr Urwin) shows Cuthbert and Harry helping Miss Bainbridge to mix up the Christmas treat. They had a wonderful time.

There was a variety of activities taking place in the EP School recently to mark 'Enterprise Week'. This culminated in the Christmas School Fair and showed the end product of these activities, with the pupils manning the stalls and selling the items they had made. Brenda Craddock

EP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

The hall was filled to capacity on Friday, December 4th for the EP School Christmas Fair. This of course is thanks to the wonderful support of the parents, grandparents, child minders and the numerous friends of the school. There were numerous stalls, but the best of this fair is the involvement of the children. It was the culmination of a busy week when the pupils had been showing initiative in so many ways. Stalls displayed goods that the pupils had made themselves and set out very attractively on their stall. They had also set up stalls which required the shopper to 'Guess' for a prize. The Tombola

stalls were efficiently manned and of course there was the chance to meet Santa Claus to tell him what you wanted for Christmas. There was a long queue to do this but adults and children were very patient, full of anticipation for what was a very important date with

Santa Claus. The hustle and bustle, which is always part of Christmas, was certainly there on Friday the 4th and shoppers really enjoyed the chance to do some Christmas shopping in this friendly, very happy environment.

Brenda Craddock



James Gallagher meets Santa.

RED CROSS NEWS



The Red Cross held a very successful Coffee Morning on Friday, 27th November. The amount raised was £130. Our picture shows some of the workers serving teas and coffees, left to right: Brenda Gibson, Betty Walton, Margery Gray and Red Cross Shop Manager, Tracey Dobson.

Tracey would like to thank everyone who bought tickets for the Winter Draw which raised £228 and also to those who provided prizes, including Lanchester Hardware, Hanley & Swinbank and Emmertons. In addition she thanks the volunteers in the shop who each donated something for the three hampers that were made up as prizes. The volunteers wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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WHAT'S ON?

Paradiso Social Club

The first Social of the New Year will be on Sunday, January 10th at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a filmshow. The film we will be screening is 'THE SECONDBESTEXOTIC MARIGOLDHOTEL'. A heart warming sequel to the FIRST EXOTIC, Richard Gere joins the all-star ensemble cast of Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy and Dev Patel. It should cheer up a winter evening!!

All are welcome.

Ticket entry which covers raffle, refreshments and film:

£2.50 members

£3.50 occasional visitors

£2 young persons.

Sunday Bridge

Are you a Bridge player? If so, why don't you come along to the Community Centre on Sunday 10th January at 2.00 pm for an enjoyable afternoon of Bridge. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits go to the Community Centre.

Computers4All

In January the team at the Community Centre will concentrate on Microsoft Excel tuition.

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 10th January when we will visit RSBP Saltholme. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30 am.

Community Centre

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 14th January from 9.30 - 11 am.

The Village Voice Page 18

Short Circuit Walks

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Venue: **Rising Sun Country Park**

Date: January 23rd

OSRef: NZ303695

NE129SZ

Miles: 5.5

Leader: Pauline Sewell

Phone: 01914207604

Easy walking with minimum climbs through farmland, some woods and ponds Off the A191 to the north of Wallsend, meet/park at Visitors Centre, NE of Asda.

A Celebration of Christmas

Lanchester Male Voice Choir assisted by Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society presents 'A Celebration of Christmas' in Lanchester Methodist Church on Monday December 21st at 7.30pm.

Local History Society

Treasures and Memories Social Evening. We ask members and visitors to bring along artefacts, treasures, finds or old photographs for a 'show and tell'.

Date: January 8th

Time: 7pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre

We look forward to seeing you there.

Lanchester Social Club

Saturday 2nd January
JACEY TAYLORE, ex Extraordinary Ladies

Sunday 3rd January
SUNDAY NIGHT BUSKERS

Saturday 9th January
KATHERINE STONE, First Class Vocalist

Sunday 10th January
SUNDAY NIGHT BUSKERS

Saturday 16th January
JONNY BLACK, Fabulous Vocalist

Sunday 17th January
SUNDAY NIGHT BUSKERS

Saturday 23rd January
FRANKI JAX, Vocalist

Sunday 24th January
SUNDAY NIGHT BUSKERS

Saturday 30th January
TONY WASHINGTON, Top Class Vocal and Comedy Entertainer

Sunday 31st January
SUNDAY NIGHT BUSKERS

New Book Club

Have you read this book? Do you want to start something new for 2016? If so, why not come along for an hour to the next Library Book Club on Monday 25th January at 2.30 pm. The book is 'Signs of Life' by Anna Raverat. If you have already read it or are interested, pick up the book from the library and we will see you there.

Thursday Club New Year Party:

21st January at 1.30pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. Have you all given your names and paid £10.00 for the buffet as we need to organise the catering? Membership is also due and remains at £12.00.

Vintage Tractor Club

Meet on Wednesday 6th January at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Lanchester WI

Our next meeting is on 4th January in the Main Hall at the Lanchester Community Centre at 7.15pm. Our speaker is Peter Stemmer who will talk about the Darlington Town Crier. Our first competition of the year is 'Lanchester Headlines in 20 words or less'.

We will continue the tradition of serving soup and a bun at this meeting. Subscriptions for the year are due so please remember your cheque and envelope. Also, members are asked to consider the eight resolutions in the WI Life November/December 2015 magazine and choose a resolution to be taken forward for discussion and final voting at the Annual WI Meeting in London next June. A form is available for you to complete and put in a box at the January meeting. A Happy New Year to all our members and visitors.

Lanchester Library

The library offers **Songs and Stories** on Thursday afternoons from 2-3 pm. All children under 5 years are welcome.

Lanchester Flower Club

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th January when all our members are having lunch at Chapters Restaurant (Derwentside College). Could everyone attend the Restaurant for 12.00 noon. The next meeting in the Community Centre will be on Wednesday 24th February at 2 pm. This will be our Annual General Meeting followed by a talk from Helen Hewitson telling us the story of The Body Shop.

We wish all our members and Village Voice readers a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Mothers' Union

We will be meeting on Wednesday 13th January at 7.30 pm in the Chapter House when we will sing a selection of favourite hymns instead of having an enrolment as listed in the programme.

Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th January at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre Dining Room. The subject will be 'Falkland Wildlife' with Noel Jackson.

KASHER CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party for about 100 children, organised by Stephanie Watson, in memory of her sister Kelly Kasher, was held at the Lanchester Social Club, on December 6th. The disco was lively, Santa was kept busy and there were lots of games, dancing and prizes, plus a superb buffet for everyone to enjoy. The money raised was £274.63 which will be donated to North Durham University Hospital Chemotherapy Day Unit (see photo on back page).

CRACKER JOKES

Why does Santa have three gardens?
So he can 'ho ho ho'!

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?
Freeze a jolly good fellow.

What did Santa say to the smoker?
Please don't smoke, it's bad for my elf!

Why did the turkey join the band?
Because it had the drumsticks!

PLAYGROUP FAIR



After an overnight light snowfall which froze, conditions in the village were not easy on the morning of November 21st for people to walk to the Playgroup Fair at the Community Centre. Nevertheless, some families did turn out for the occasion and after a slow start the Fair became reasonably busy. There were some excellent cakes on offer as well as a stall to interest the children. Our photo shows one of the many families who seemed to be enjoying themselves. The total raised on the morning was a very good £150.

CHRISTMAS ARRIVES



Lots of eager shoppers.

The Friends of All Saints held their Christmas Fair on 4th December and the school hall was full of shoppers eager to bag a bargain and to join in the festive fun. Tombolas, sweets, home made cakes and festive decorations attracted attention. There was a silent auction, 'Name the Teddy' competition, a Grand Raffle, a beauty corner for the young ladies and a special guest - a certain gentleman in red robes and a big white beard. Christmas has arrived!



The most popular guest at the Christmas Fair!

DUST OFF THOSE SKIPPING ROPES



Tutor Chris Corcoran and Deputy Headteacher Mrs Conlin join Year 6 in their skipping workshop.

Skipping a rope is one of those skills you never really forget, along with its traditional chants and rhymes. Skipping has become a neglected pastime, with several children saying that they 'sometimes' liked to join with friends in the game. It's a pity that so many childhood activities have been neglected in favour of more modern pursuits, but recently there have been moves to reinstate skipping as a valued playground game. All Saints' Catholic Primary School have introduced a Skipping Club and instructor Chris Corcoran led skipping workshops for all year groups. Besides being excellent for physical fitness, skipping encourages collaboration as students work together, it builds confidence, encourages a sense of rhythm and of course, it's great fun! Now pupils look forward to their 'Skipathon' on 7th December, when they will raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

LANCHESTER TABLE TENNIS CLUB



Coach, Frank Clarke, with (left) Skye and Billy Lee, from Leadgate School; (right) James Leary, All Saints and Finlay Wilkins, EP; a good mix of school children who meet on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Community Centre, 6-7 pm, age range 8-16 years. At 7-9 pm on the same days, adults are welcome. The cost is £2 an hour for juniors and £2.50 an hour adults.



**Christmas has arrived at
The Glass & Art Gallery**
Medomsley Road, Consett

**We have an abundance of new and unusual gifts,
unique artwork and beautiful seasonal decorations.**

**So come and visit us and end your
worrying as to what gifts to buy for
family and friends.**

**Maralyn, Ron and our staff wish you all A Very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

**9.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Saturday
Tel: 01207 583353 Email: glassandartgallery@live.co.uk**

'FROZEN' AT PLAYGROUP



Playgroup children had a great time dressing up as 'Frozen' characters, playing with an activity box, decorating cakes, making puppets and generally enjoying the morning with Elsa, from 'Frozen', walking around the room before the end of the morning.

AUTUMN FAIR



There was plenty of activity on the Grand Raffle Stall which was very successful. (See page 6).

WILLOW BURN FAIR



Santa with Mellissa who came to visit with Granddad, Paul Jackson. The Elf is St Bede's pupil, Anna. (See page 10 for article).

KASHER CHRISTMAS PARTY



Many of the children and young mums who attended the party, in memory of Kelly Kasher, at Lanchester Social Club on Sunday 6th December.

(See article, page 18)

LYNWOOD CAROLS



Members of All Saints' Parish Church Choir entertaining residents at Lynwood House.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 19th January. The deadline for **adverts** is 17th January.

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Published by Lanchester Publications Ltd, 2 Fenhall Park, Lanchester, DH7 0JT and printed by Durham County Council, Design and Print, Comeleon House, Tanfield Lea Industrial Estate North, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 9NX. Tel: 03000 261414. The views expressed in this periodical are not necessarily those of the publishers. Whilst all efforts are made to check the authenticity and accuracy of all articles submitted for publication, occasionally something is bound to be printed incorrectly. Please let us know and we will endeavour to correct the mistake.