

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 18

Lanchester, April 2017

For contact information, see page 2

EASTER MONDAY EGG BOULING



There was a very large turnout for the traditional Egg Bowling down Paste Egg Hill on Easter Monday (story on page 3).

EASTER EGG DECORATING



A display from the EP School Egg competition (story, page 9).

FREE HOT CROSS BUNS



The lady outside SPAR really enjoyed her Hot Cross Bun, delivered by Lyn Whitehead (article, page 4).

WI EASTER BONNET DISPLAY



Some of the beautiful Easter bonnets made by WI members.

EASTER DAY SERVICE



The congregation on the Village Green adorn the cross with daffodils at the Easter Service (see page 5).



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

Can I ask why the gates to the public tennis and multi-use courts behind the Green School are locked?

This is a village facility and as such should be open to enable free use to members of the public.

The council was informed of the problem at the beginning of April, and although I was assured this matter would be addressed, the situation remains unresolved.

Consequently these sports facilities are denied to local people, and in particular during the Easter holidays.

Elizabeth Laycock

Dear Village Voice

I would like to state that I am in total concord with last month's correspondent regarding the new signs on the Valley Walk. Not pretty, and of dubious value. Another example of health & safety gone mad, I suppose!

Name and address withheld on request

Dear Village Voice

My family and I would like to express our gratitude for the support and words of comfort we have received on the death of my mother Betty Calland. As you can imagine this has been a very difficult time for us.

The lovely flowers and cards with messages of how much Mam was loved and thought of with kind

affection, by friends old and new she made through her activities and interests. I would especially like to thank those people too numerous to mention who helped us through a very difficult day.

Donations received on the day amounted to £290 which will be shared between Mam's chosen charities, Great North Air Ambulance and Macmillan Cancer UK.

Again we would like to thank everyone for their support.

Ann, Allan, Barnaby, Zoe Rowe.

Dear Village Voice

I'm Lanchester resident David Friesner and running again in this year's Great North Run. I ran the very first one way back in June 1981 (in my 20s) and before our children were born. I've run several since then over the years and have

always raised funds for charity, mainly cancer research. My goal has always been to run at least one GNR with my children when they were eligible. It's taken me longer than I thought (to organise and get back into serious training...) but 2017 is the year! There's now a family group of us running for St Oswald's Hospice, Newcastle. I'll be doing my bit for the Vets as a mature 62 year old!

Check us out and if you want to support us you can donate on our page, www.justgiving.com/owner-email/please-sponsor/Friesner-CarrFamilyGNR

I train up and down the Railway Path at present so if you see me, do say "hello" - it helps the miles go that much quicker (and the nature is wonderful)! Many thanks David Friesner and our GNR team

WILDLIFE GROUP DELIGHTED

The Wildlife Group has expressed delight at the large turnout for the Egg Bouling on Easter Monday. There was a record number of eggs boiled and dyed for this occasion. Many thanks to all who took part.

LOST

Amber/pearl silver pendant lost on Saturday 25th March between Kitswell Road and Village Centre. Great sentimental value. If found please ring 01207 521213 or 07534 650516. Thank you.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for March is 2. The draw was made by F Gibson of the Gym.

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise, email: voiceadverts@gmail.com or telephone Lynda on 07851 775297.

General and news enquiries, email: lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line).

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EASTER MONDAY EGG BOULING

On 17th April, the longstanding tradition of egg bowling was commemorated once again on Paste Egg Hill, with both young and old turning out for the special event. Despite the event being a part of Lanchester tradition for over 25 years, the turnout was one of the largest seen by the event organisers, which was fantastic for the local Wildlife Group who organised the event.

After a demonstration on how to decorate the eggs using natural ingredients, a foraging hunt ensued, with everyone scrambling to find plants and flowers, all the while entertained by Wildlife Group leader Noel Jackson on his concertina, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed! The eggs were wrapped with the foraged natural ingredients and onion skins, then boiled, during which time

everyone enjoyed a foraging hunt for sweets, something very exciting and enjoyable for the younger egg bowlers in attendance.

Judged by leaders of the Lanchester Wildlife Group, the winners for the egg decorating were Amelia Hammond in first place and Katherine Bell/ Logan Marshall-Ivens in joint second. After the judging took place, the traditional 'mummers' performance took place with the traditional song performed by some of the bowlers, proving a great laugh for everyone there. Now, it was time for the main event, and all bowlers hiked to the top of Paste Egg Hill to see whose egg



Wrapping the eggs with leaves, flowers and onion skins before boiling.

would win. After some enthusiastic egg throwing and even one unlucky bowler being hit by one, in first place was Isabelle Heslop, Edward Constable in second and Alexander Wesson in third.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the egg bowling experience, and both the bowling itself and the musical entertainment was enough to satisfy any child or parent in attendance.

Tom Bartles-Smith



Noel Jackson of the Wildlife Group entertains with his concertina.



Burt Hunter choosing the winners of the Egg Decorating competition.



*Left, the winners of the egg bowling:
1st Isabelle Heslop (centre of photo),
2nd Edward Constable and 3rd Alexander Wesson.*

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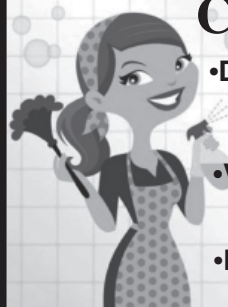
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ANNUAL HOT CROSS BUN COFFEE MORNING



David Hughes offers left to right: June Wallace, Ann Carr and Jennifer Macdonald a Hot Cross Bun, which they eagerly accepted.



Hard working members of Churches Together and friends who prepared the buns and worked in the kitchen. Left to right: Helen Hedley, Phyllis Reed, Judith Wilkinson, Di Oram, Lyn Whitehead, Bill Whitehead (back) washer-up.

The Coffee Morning, event was extremely organised by Churches Together took place at the Methodist Church on Easter Saturday. The successful with the hall being full for most of the morning. Over 200 buns were prepared for the occasion and all were enjoyed by both the people who attended the function and those in the village who happened to meet either David Hughes or Lyn Whitehead. David and Lyn did an excellent job walking along Front Street, calling into shops offering everyone they met a free Hot Cross Bun, wrapped in a napkin displayed with the Easter message.



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EASTER SERVICES ON THE GREEN

During the week before Easter weekend, you will have noticed three wooden crosses on the village green. It was round these crosses that a sizeable group of people gathered, from each of our three churches on Good Friday. This was to mark that very special day in the Christian Calendar, when Christians remember the death of Jesus on a cross. This is a very cruel death, nailed to a cross, with no means of freeing oneself. The pain and suffering of this slow lingering death is unimaginable and yet Jesus did this to take away the sin of the world and give us the opportunity to live a life of Love. His life on earth gave us an example of how to live our lives and how to love and care for one another. We are shocked and sickened

by all the violence and inhumanity to man, which we know so much of in our world today. Christians gathered on the green to remember that our lives can be transformed by the death of Jesus on the cross and in the weeks and months to come those Christians will endeavour to bring the light of God's Love to our village in so many different ways.

Reverend Rupert Kalus led the short service on the green. Undaunted by the rain, Reverend Kalus reminded us of the reason for our presence there and under cover of umbrellas, two well loved hymns were sung. The mood was sombre but three days later on Easter Sunday, there was only joy as people gathered again round the crosses, to proclaim the great truth of

Christianity, that Jesus had Risen from the Dead. The two hymns sung were sung joyously 'Jesus Christ is Risen today' and 'Thine be the Glory, Risen Conquering Son'

A new wooden cross had been brought to the green with a large pail filled with daffodils. The cross was covered in wire mesh for a purpose. Everyone present was invited to take one or two daffodils and 'dress' the cross. When all the daffodils had been used, the wooden cross had been transformed into a symbol of beauty and light and life, reminding us that God can transform lives and bring light out of darkness. Jesus is alive! 'Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me'.

Brenda Craddock



Good Friday Witness on the Village Green.



Easter Day Service on the Village Green led by Rev Rupert Kalus.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2017

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 14th March - approved.

Police Report

The Police report provided by PCSO Lisa Jackson was read out. The ongoing works at the EP Primary School are causing traffic and parking congestion. Several incidents of door to door sellers claiming to be selling for either the Probation Service or Work Creations have been reported. These individuals were located and transported out of the area.

Correspondence

1. County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership - training

It was agreed that this training for councillors is considered when more details are received

following the forthcoming elections.

2. Durham County Council - Public Space Protection Order arrangements

Members considered the information received regarding the Public Space Protection Order which would make it an offence to allow dogs in designated fenced off play areas. It was agreed that it is requested that the fenced off play areas at Park House, Kitswell Park, Hollinside and Hurbuck are included in the Public Space Protection Order.

3. The Clerk Magazine - March 2017 - received. Neighbourhood Plan

The Heritage Audit event took place on Saturday 18th March at 2 pm at Lynwood House. Richard Cowen, Chair of CPRE North and John Gall, local

resident both spoke at the well-attended event. It is now intended to distribute the Heritage Audit reports in the community.

A meeting of the working group had taken place on 3rd April. Topic Papers on 'Green Spaces and the Environment', 'Business & Employment', 'Transport & Travel' and 'Historic Environment' were presented and discussed.

As the County Plan Preferred Options Paper is still not likely to be published in the near future it was agreed that the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan should proceed accordingly.

Policies

The following policies were reviewed and approved:

Financial Regulations; Public Filming, Recording or Reporting at Council or Committee meetings Policy; Standing Orders; Health & Safety Policy; Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy; Equal Opportunities Policy; Public Participation Policy; Training - Statement of Intent; Publication Scheme; Complaints Procedure; Grants Policy; Community Engagement

- Statement of Intent; Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations - Employer Discretions.

Financial report - discussed and approved. **Accounts for Payment** - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council to be held on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at Lynwood House following the Annual Meeting which will commence at 7.15pm.

POLICE REPORT

This month we have been working with external partners to address the issues of parking and congestion outside of Lanchester EP School during peak drop off and collection times for pupils. Since the temporary traffic lights were installed we have been monitoring the traffic issues almost daily and have recently carried out a site visit with representatives from our Traffic Management Department. During our visits we have witnessed congestion but no road traffic offences being committed. Although the current situation is not ideal, the building work required at the school is essential. Can I therefore please ask parents/guardians to take a few minutes extra when attending the school in order to source parking slightly away from the school premises, ie, Working Men's Club car park, Front Street, King's Head. By doing so congestion around the school will ease and allow you to carry on your journey a lot quicker and without delay.

Rural crime continues to be at the forefront of our policing, especially as the Lanchester ward covers the largest square

footage of rural area across the whole of Consett. Quad bike thefts have been a concern over recent months however incidents have declined sufficiently of late. New information has come to light of unknown persons attending our rural communities at first light to dismantle and remove metal ring fences from fields which are used for cattle feed. As yet no reports of thefts have been made to Police but we are aware of at least 2 being stolen and one theft attempt from the Burnhope area. Can we please ask for people to remain vigilant in these areas and report anything suspicious via 101 (non-emergency number).

With the warmer weather slowly arriving we are beginning again to offer free bicycle security in the village. PCSO Lisa Jackson will be at All Saints' Primary School on Friday 19th May and Lanchester EP School on Wednesday 24th May from 10 am onwards. Whilst security marking the pupils' bicycles, if there are any members of public who would like their bicycles security marked please come along.

PCSO 6780 Lisa Jackson

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LOCAL ELECTIONS

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Durham County Council - Lanchester Division

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(2 candidates to be elected)

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CONSIDINE Jude	Labour Party
ENGLISH Keith	Liberal Democrats
INGHAM John Gordon	Derwentside Independents
JOHNSON Ossie	Labour Party
LINDSAY David Alexander Stephen	
ROLFE David Agutter	Liberal Democrats
YOUNG Richie	Derwentside Independents

Lanchester Parish Council

The list of candidates is given below:
(15 candidates to be elected)

CLARKE Malcolm Andrew	Labour Party
CONSIDINE Jude	Labour Party
COOK Elizabeth Mary Ann	Labour Party
FRIESNER David John	Independent
GRAY Alison Louise	Labour Party
GRAY Bill	Labour Party
GRAY Margaret Mary	Labour Party
HARRISON Keith	Conservative Party
JACKSON Paul	Independent
JOHNSON Ossie	Labour Party
JONES Alan Trevor	Independent
LEARY John Kevin	Labour Party
LINDSAY David Alexander Stephen	
MONTGOMERY Lorraine	Labour Party
SMITH David	Independent
TUTE Ian	Independent
WALKER Martin	Liberal Democrats
WALKER Stuart	Labour Party
WARDLE Mike	

GENERAL ELECTION

8th June 2017

At the time of writing, there are reports that the Labour Candidate for North West Durham for the General Election will be chosen from an all-women shortlist and because of limited time, the normal selection procedure will not be used.

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'BORN TOO GIFTED'

Anthony Atkinson attracted a record gathering at the History Society's April meeting, presenting 'Gertrude Bell, the Desert Queen'. Our audience was mesmerised by this incredible woman.

Born at Washington New Hall in 1868 to wealthy parents and educated at home, Gertrude grew up at Red Barns, Redcar (there are plans for a museum there) before going to university at Queens College, Harley Street, London and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

Her mother died when she was only three. She formed a close relationship with her father who remarried. She lived an unconventional life for a Victorian woman. She can be described as a 'Polymath', her

significant expertise spanning - Scholar, Historian, Archaeologist, Explorer, Poet, Linguist, Mountaineer, Gardener and a Servant of the State! Writing nine books, she translated 'The Divan of Hafiz' from Persian to English and spoke many languages including Arabic, Persian, French, Italian, German and Turkish.

Travelling alone to many countries including Europe, America, Japan and the Middle East, she developed a love of Arab people, learning their language, archaeology and establishing the Iraq Museum, Baghdad. Due to her early trauma following her mother's death, she probably lived with depression all her life, becoming a risk taker and

undertaking dangerous expeditions including Alpine climbing in Switzerland. A peak in the Alps is named after her, 'Gertrudspitze'.

Gertrude was pivotal in drawing up new boundaries in the Middle East at the Cairo Conference in 1921 working alongside T E Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia.

She died in Baghdad in 1926 and George V valued this remarkable woman writing that she was 'a distinguished and gifted daughter'. Her memorial is at the British Museum, Baghdad and she is still known and revered today as 'Mrs Bell'.

Her archives can be accessed at Newcastle University, www.gertrudebell.ncl.ac.uk

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EP SCHOOL CHILDREN WIN RECOGNITION FROM TECH FIRM

Lanchester EP Primary School has been recognised by education technology firm Weduc for its commitment to Digital Leadership. In a special school assembly, Weduc Commercial Director Tim O'Keefe awarded a 42" Smart TV to the school's Digital Leaders for winning a Twitter competition at a recent major education technology show.

In January the school took a delegation of four of its pupils, designated as Digital Leaders, to the BETT education technology show in London. At the event, the young students gave presentations on a number of technologies and software products. They also met the Weduc team

who were running a Twitter-based competition which involved uploading a 'selfie' to Twitter, using a specific hashtag, which they entered and won.

Since then the school has hosted 'Lanchester Live', a series of presentations showcasing how it uses technology in the classroom to other schools in the region.

Tim O'Keefe commented: "Lanchester EP is leading the way in terms of how it uses technology, not just in the classroom, but in the way it communicates with parents."

The Digital Leaders programme has attracted a great deal of attention, including from industry professionals. "We have invited pupils from all age

ranges to be Digital Leaders," said Headteacher Jane Davis. "Our youngest presenter at the BETT Show was just six years old, and she, like all of them, was amazing." Jane Davis added, "The school is grateful to Weduc. We have been slowly expanding our use of technology over the last few years. Fortunately our staff have embraced this strategy, and our ICT adviser Mr Bailey has been instrumental with his guidance and expertise. We intend to put this TV in the new reception area that is currently under construction, and we will be using it to display videos made by students as well as examples of their work."



Tim O'Keefe, Weduc Commercial Director, with pupils from Lanchester EP Primary School.

EP SCHOOL EASTER BONNETS



EP School Nursery and Reception children gave a magnificent display of Easter Bonnets as they marched around the hall filled with the rest of the pupils and many staff.

EP EASTER SERVICE

All Saints' Parish Church was filled with the sound of young, excited voices when it hosted the Easter Service for Lanchester EP Primary School. There was also the sound of enthusiastic stamping of youthful feet! Rev Rupert Kalus gave the address and blessing at the colourful service which ended with children and adult members of the congregation placing daffodils on the cross. Years 5 and 2 were at the forefront of the celebration.

Revd Kalus explained: "Together we will transform this cross from one of tragedy into one of triumph of the resurrection."

The congregation sang the hymns 'We have a King who rides a donkey' and 'Take a Palm Leaf'. Take a Palm Leaf and hold it high,

Someone special is coming by!

Wave your palm leaf from left to right,

This is such an exciting sight!

It's Jesus riding on a donkey,

Jesus coming to Jerusalem.

Further hymns included 'God's Not Dead' and 'Before you made the Skies and Sea', all sung enthusiastically by the children and adults in the congregation, including some proud relatives of the children.

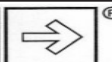
Rev Kalus praised the children for "making the event more of a service than a show" and said it was a real celebration of Easter.

Headteacher Jane Davis paid tribute to her pupils for their hard work in preparing for the service, which all agreed was a triumph and a fitting tribute to Easter. Neil McKay



The cross, covered in daffodils.

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EASTER MEANS EGGS!



All Saints' students decorating their Easter eggs.

Today's young people may appear as a very smart, modern generation, with their computers, mobile phones, etc, but some of the old, well loved customs are still preserved and cherished. Easter eggs are symbols of Spring, of birth and renewal and students of All Saints' Catholic Primary School enjoyed decorating their eggs using imagination, skill and patience.

EGGSCEPTIONAL EASTER EGG DISPLAY

This was a fine finale to the end of term at Easter. A Coffee Afternoon was held in the Junior Hall in the EP school where people could relax over a coffee/tea and view the exhibits in the Easter Egg Competition.

The competition was open to grandparents and parents as well as the children, the latter having to prepare their entries at school.

It really was a magnificent display! The imagination used to think of themes for the displays was quite

incredible. There were themes from books, TV, space, war, prison, farms, sport, to name but a few. There was even a very good lookalike of Donald Trump, good egg or bad egg - only time will tell. Of course, there were winners. These have not been itemised here because of the space provided and the huge kerfuffle in the hall which made it difficult to find them. However, all exhibits were winners. Taking part, enjoying the experience and learning

is probably more important.

As well as producing excellent quality handiworks, the thinking process of the children was stretched without boundaries. Almost every exhibit contained the word 'egg'. It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

This is your eggstraordinary Village Voice reporter writing his report whilst at home waiting for tea to be served. Guess what - simple boiled eggs!



Just one of the displays from the Lanchester EP Egg competition.

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LANCHESTER ARTIST HOLDS FIRST EXHIBITION



Sarah Milburn, with some of her paintings.

On Mother's Day mammy that when she weekend I held my first art exhibition in All Saints' RC Parish Centre. It was a huge success in that I had many sales, gained more commissions and received so many kind compliments about my art. It was lovely to see so many people from the village and beyond to look at my work. It seems I inspired so many, including a little girl who went home and told her

grows up she wants to be an artist! I would like to thank all of those who came and either bought, commissioned or simply said such kind words about my art. A huge thanks to my family who as ever are a great support. I'm going to hold another exhibition in October so watch this space!

Sarah Milburn

Sarah's Style of Art

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DIAMOND WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Sixty years ago on March 3th 1957, John and Margaret Brown were married and were smiling very happily on that day, as they were smiling very happily on Saturday April 8th at a special celebration party, held for their family and many friends at Lanchester Social Club.

It was a very happy evening for everyone, an excellent buffet and super disco dancing. Their son Paul was present with his fiancée, as were their twin granddaughters, Rachel and Alexandra, both clever girls who have done extremely well academically. Rachel qualifies as a doctor in June this year and Alexandra is a maths teacher of distinction. Their son Paul spoke of his parents' long and extremely happy

partnership and of the tremendous love and support they have always given their family. Indeed so many people have benefited from their kindness and generosity of spirit and he spoke of how proud he was of them both. Everyone was unanimous in wishing

Margaret and John many more very happy years together and unanimous in thanking them for sharing this special anniversary with so many of their friends and family. It was an evening which will be long remembered.

Brenda Craddock



Margaret and John Brown at their Diamond Wedding Party.

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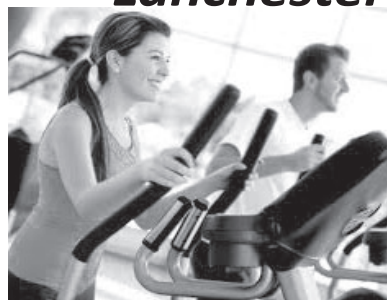
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DOING SOMETHING FUNNY FOR MONEY

On Friday 24th March, Innovations, Lanchester played their part in raising funds for Red Nose Day. From bakesale to funny photobooth, face painting to wet sponge throwing, the centre was filled with fun and rang with laughter. All funds raised through their efforts will contribute towards Comic Relief's goal of tackling poverty and injustice in the UK and Africa.

Hannah Bunce



Great fun was had at the wet sponge throwing.



Lovely cakes for Red Nose Day.

INNOVATIONS ENJOY THE SUN



Taking a rest on the way to Malton on a lovely March afternoon are a group from Innovations, supervised by Suzanne Bellamy (left) and Laura George.

RED NOSE DAY AT EP SCHOOL



Kristen, Lottie, Daniel, Olivia, Evie and Holly are dressed in denim for a Denim Day to mark Red Nose Day at the EP School and very smart they looked.

Wear Smart n Spray

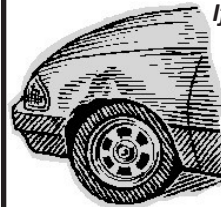
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'LAST NIGHT AT THE PROMS'



Four jolly choir members.

A wonderful evening took place in the Methodist Church on March 24th. The church was packed to capacity for the concert entitled 'Last Night at the Proms'. Union Jack flags, joyous singing, happy, smiling faces, audience participation, enthusiasm, exuberance and lots of fun are all part of the 'Last Night at the Proms' programme on television. Well the church may not be the Albert Hall but all of the above attributes

were there and the whole evening was absolutely great. It was mainly the inspiration of the Musical Director David Hughes, and the Lanchester Operatic Society of course were the singers, and the accompanist Bill Gray. The guest soprano Elizabeth Woods has sung with the society on many occasions and her singing was as ever beautiful.

The selection of music was superb. David had chosen to use folk songs in the first part of the programme, interspersed with solo items by Elizabeth Woods, and the first part of the programme

ended with the wonderful Hallelujah chorus by Handel.

After the interval Elizabeth sang four well known songs by the ever popular 'Gilbert and Sullivan' after which the choir and audience sang with exuberance the well known prom song 'Land of Hope and Glory'. This was followed by 'Fantasia on British Sea Songs' including 'Sailor's Hornpipe' and 'Home Sweet Home' and then a medley of 'Folk Songs of the British Isles' which included 'Danny Boy' and 'Road to the Isles'. Ian Gray and

Elizabeth Woods sang together in this section. The programme ended with three of the finest patriotic songs, 'Jerusalem', 'I Vow to thee My Country' and for the final song everyone sang together 'Auld Lang Syne'. All too soon it seemed it was time to go home but we hope that next year there will be another 'Night at the Proms' in Lanchester. Congratulations David, Bill Gray (piano) and all the members of the society for a night of distinction which will never be forgotten.

Brenda Craddock
(See photo on back page)

LANCHESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR PATRONS' CONCERT

On Saturday 8th April, the Choir held a Patrons' Concert in the Community Centre with 25 members and 80 guests attending. This annual event is held specifically to recognise the vital role of LMVC's benefactors - their registered Patrons - and their generous and greatly appreciated support.

This concert had extra significance being the first of several during the Choir's 50th anniversary year. Most importantly, the evening included a presentation to John Wills, the sole remaining member of the Choir who was a founder-member. He, with a few others, formed the Choir and held the first practice in St Bede's School on 26th June 1967.

The occasion marked not only the Choir's and

John's joint Golden Anniversaries but also his 25 years as Choir Chairman, a post he relinquished three months ago, handing over to Stuart Eaton who paid tribute to him in a short address. Appreciation for his dedication and contribution, across the years, was acknowledged in the form of two presentations to him and flowers to Pat, his wife.

An array of 'numbers' embraced the melancholy (You'll Never Walk Alone), the romantic (The Way You Look Tonight) and the vivacious (Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill) all embellished by Noreen Bridgewater's dazzling accompaniment and piano solo. There followed a tasty supper and then a quiz which



Lanchester Male Voice Choir line up before entertaining their Patrons.

helped focus Patrons' minds and settle their helpings of gateaux before rounding off with the raffle draw. The evening was judged a great success.

LMVC follows a hectic annual schedule, this year being no exception with further local events planned. Its activities support the village community and local charities.

Membership is healthy but new members are always sought. Potential recruits may make contact via the Community Centre.

Roll on the Annual Concert in the Methodist Church on 7th July!



John Wills holding the plaque presented to commemorate his 25 years as Chairman.

Dave Donnelly

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THE ARGUS SINGERS AND LANCHESTER BRASS BAND

Our village is the venue for many lovely concerts and last year it was chosen as the place for a Joint Concert of The Argus Singers and Lanchester Brass Band. The concert in the Methodist Church was very successful and so this year the concert was once again held in our village. The choir and band seem to complement each other and the audience was treated to some beautiful singing and skilful playing. The choir is from Chester-le Street and the conductor is Mr Tony Harries. Mr

Gareth Sykes from Bishop Auckland conducts the Brass Band. He has only been with the band in this capacity for a short time but under his baton, the band has done very well in recent contests and have a cup and shield to prove it! Each conductor had chosen delightful music for their several performances and when they joined together for the rendering of 'All in the April Evening' and 'Morte Criste', better known as the tune for 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', the



The Brass Band ready to begin.

effect was very uplifting, not just for the performers but for the audience who joined in the singing of these two beautiful Easter pieces.

Two members of the band performed solo items very competently. They were Gordon Wright (Euphonium) and Rebecca Draper (Fluegelhorn).

It was another very successful concert, greatly enjoyed by the audience and well worth your presence next year! Brenda Craddock

THURSDAY CLUB

On Thursday 16th March we celebrated our 37th birthday. The evening started with a Table Top Treasure Hunt organised by Sam Simpkins. To begin with we were asked to sort ourselves into teams and to give the teams names - seven in all:- Eseepee, Friends, Mary's Muppets, Pathfinders, The Crazy Gang, The Firebrands and Three French Hens. After an introduction to the rules and being warned of a heavy penalty if Google came into play all mobiles were switched

off! A table in the centre of the room held leaflets to help us find the answers and a map and the 1st clue were issued to each team - let the game begin. Once Sam had confirmed the answer to the 1st clue the 2nd was given and so on until the final clue was answered and the Treasure found. Well the path from the tables to look through the leaflets, back to the team then on to Sam for a yes/no to the answer was like Spaghetti Junction. Despite the fluttering of eyelashes, beaming smiles and

flattery Sam held fast - not even a pretty please for an extra hint swayed his resolve. Finally the Treasure, a Miner's Lamp, was found and the winners were the Three French Hens. Five teams continued with the game until they had answered all the clues just for the fun of it. The other team



An avid treasure hunter chasing the next clue.

was busy getting the refreshments ready. 'Oh What A Night'. A most enjoyable, laughter filled evening ended with scrumptious cakes, tea and coffee. I think our

quizmaster also had a good time too. Keeping fingers crossed that he can be persuaded to put another one together - we'd certainly like to "Play it Again Sam"!

THURSDAY CLUB COFFEE MORNING

In aid of the Great North Air Ambulance

Held on March 30th in the Dining Room of the

Community Centre we enjoyed a really busy



The busy raffle table and jewellery stall.

morning. The room was packed to overflowing and the air filled with a buzz of happy conversation. We would like to thank all the members who helped and all who baked the scrumptious goodies that our visitors thoroughly enjoyed eating. £460 was raised for this most worthy of causes - so - thank you to all who attended to help us raise such a grand total.

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YOUTH CLUB CLOSED

Lanchester Youth Club has been running for more than 17 years in Croft View Hall. It has been run for the last 14 years by the Lanchester Partnership, supported by Durham County Youth Service, Mid Durham AAP, our councillors and many volunteers. So it is very disappointing and sad to announce its closure at the end of March.

This was partly due to falling numbers and partly to the County Council cutting off its support for youth work. Other youth clubs in the county closed at the same time.

So many helpful and energetic people have been involved in running the youth club and we

would like to thank them all, remembering in particular Ruth Wilson, Mel Armstrong, Laura Wilkinson and Simon Kennington. So many youngsters have played games, learned crafts, been camping, canoeing, abseiling, etc. and had fun over the years - some even gaining Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We didn't go out with a whimper but with a pizza party and many of the oldies came along to chat, play pool, look at photos and share memories. In Croft View Hall The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme can still be accessed through Joanne Charlton at the Oxhill premises. Jill Gladstone



LANCHESTER YOUNG MAN ON 'COUNTRYFILE'

Mark Robson is a very capable and sought after fleece shearer. His love of animals is shared with his father, who has an Animal Health business. Mark has considerable expertise in sheep shearing and often travels distances to perform these skills. He loves this work and one small farmer always asks Mark to shear her sheep. No-one else will do!

Ellie Harrison, one of the presenters of 'Countryfile', is featuring a small farmer, who lives in Ireshopeburn, up the Wear Valley, on the 'Countryfile' programme, which is to be transmitted on April 23rd. This lady farmer has many skills herself, which Ellie will be making clear and while interviewing this lady she must have brought Mark



Mark Robson with Countryfile presenter Ellie Harrison

into the conversation. Ellie Harrison asked if she could meet this talented young man. She suggested that Mark should be shown on the programme. Mark agreed and is featured with the sheep he has shorn. Congratulations Mark.

Your expertise in sheep shearing is something of which you can be very proud and of course his parents, Tony and Gladys, brother Nigel and his wife Sarah, and his girlfriend are very proud too. Brenda Craddock

LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB 'Flotsam and Jetsam'

At the meeting on 22nd March held in Lanchester Community Centre, we welcomed one or two new faces. The floral demonstrator was Lucy Smith from Richmond, she chatted while she prepared some very different flower arrangements. She used many unusual and different structures using many, many items from the sea shore. The colours she used enhanced the structures she had made and the whole demonstration was so very good and interesting.

The different arrangements were raffled. Tea and coffee were served and everyone enjoyed a convivial afternoon. It would be lovely to see a few more new faces. Everyone is welcome so please don't hesitate to join us.



Lucy Smith with her unusual flower arrangements, using items found on the sea shore.

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LANCHESTER ORCHARD CELEBRATES EARTH HOUR

On 25th March, members of the Lanchester Community Orchard and Margery Flatts Allotments were invited to turn off all their lights and bring their tea, coffee and biscuits along to the orchard to celebrate Earth Hour 2017. We all met, along with family and friends, on a lovely, clear March evening at 8.30 pm with candle lights around the central area and a brazier helping to ward off the chilly air. Hoping for a clear sky, we suggested that people could bring binoculars along to do some stargazing and we weren't disappointed.

Simon Johnson, an orchard member was on hand to guide us around the night skies.

Just in case you don't know about Earth Hour, here's a little bit of information. Earth hour is a worldwide grass roots movement organised by the WWF to unite people to take action for our planet and shine a light on climate change. Every year ordinary people, organisations, businesses, cities and iconic landmarks across the world turn off their lights for one hour.

To celebrate Earth Hour 2017, landmarks around

our county including the Angel of the North and Durham Cathedral dimmed their lights across the UK to highlight the need for action on climate change. If you would like to know more or want to organise your own event for Earth Hour 2018 then please visit the website www.earthhour.org.

We are looking forward to celebrating Earth Hour 2018 in the orchard next year! If you would like to find out more about the Lanchester Community Orchard please email us at lanchesterorchard@outlook.com.

Eleanor Johnson

HIMALAYAN BALSAM INVASION!

The plant has begun its annual growth as seen in the photograph.



After last year's start to remove and reduce the invasion of the Balsam in Dora's Wood, parts of the railway line and Malton Picnic area, the Lanchester Wildlife Group are returning to these areas to remove the small plants. Come along and spend an hour or two to reduce the effects of this thug. We start on

Saturday May 20th at 11 am.

Meet on the railway line at the entrance to Dora's Wood. Bring gardening gloves, suitable footwear, long sleeve tops and trousers to avoid nettle stings and a kneeling mat may be useful for May dates.

More dates in the What's On section. Thank You.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

We've heard a lot about it and just never got around to going - however, last month saw us finally making it to Chapters Restaurant, the student training catering facility at Derwentside College in Consett - and what a lovely experience it was!

On arriving, the first thing to catch the eye is the decor, 3 white walls offset by a striking blue wall behind the bar which is echoed in the blue tablecloths which overlay the pristine white ones underneath - gleaming cutlery, fresh flowers, linen napkins and a warm welcome finish off the scene.

The restaurant is open at lunch time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays

during term time. The price is £6.50 for 2 courses and £7.95 for 3. Wine, red, white or rosé was £2.50 a glass or £8.95 for a bottle and very drinkable. Booking is strongly advisable.

As we perused the most delightful menu (choosing was very difficult) bread rolls and butter were brought to the table. Some of the students were working for the first time but you wouldn't have been aware.

We eventually decided to sample for starters: Crab salad with hand made tulle and Cheese tart with dressed leaves. Mains were Chicken, Brie and sun dried tomato wrapped with pancetta and served with

seasonal vegs, Medallions of pork served with mustard mashed potato, Black pudding crumble and Calvados sauce, and Assiette of fish, salmon on spinach hollandaise sauce, crunchy sea bass spicy pea purée, smoked haddock goujon. Puds were Lemon meringue pie, Peach and almond cake with blackcurrant ice-cream and Poached pear served with rice pudding. The presentation was excellent, a feast for the eyes and the food was truly scrumptious. Coffee at 95p a cup was one of the nicest we have ever tasted in a restaurant.

It was all just lovely - we can't wait to go again.

The Gourmet Girls


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LOCAL FAMILIES FLOCK TO WILLOW BURN FAIR

It is unusual to see a queue of people at the doors of the local school on a Saturday but that is the norm for excited visitors to the annual Willow Burn Hospice Spring Fair. Numbers were slightly down this year

due to the hot sunny weather and the date falling at the start of the school holidays but staff and volunteers were thrilled to raise £2,501 towards the valuable services at the local hospice.

Children of all ages joined in the egg-stra special decorated egg competition and the duckling waddle cheered on by Willow Burn's own mascot Rusty McNutty. There was a spectacular Easter egg tombola, raffle to win a luxury hamper, homemade cakes and sweets and a range of crafts for sale. Local food stalls included Lanchester's own Mrs B's Kitchen owned by Ann and George Bell. It was a hard choice to select just one of their jams and preserves but I can highly recommend their rhubarb and pear preserve.



Visitors were greeted by the suitably grumpy Mrs Brown from Mrs Brown's Boys.



The Easter Egg Tombola.

Emma Storey, Willow Burn's Senior Fundraiser said: "We were delighted with the Spring Fair, and received some really good comments from the people who attended too. We would like to thank

everyone for supporting the day including St Bede's School and T&T Dance Troupe. We look forward to welcoming everyone to the Summer Fair on Saturday 15th July!"

For information about the range of upcoming fundraising events including Ladies Night, Food Festival and Golf Day visit <https://willow-burn.co.uk/events/>. Brynne Ririe

LONELINESS IN A RURAL LOCATION

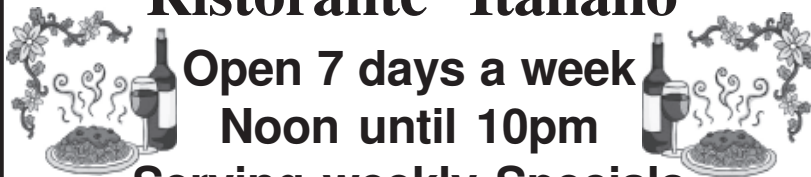
Lanchester and the surrounding villages are great places to live and

offer an abundance of activities for all age groups. In fact there is so much going on in all the community facilities it's difficult for anyone coming into the village to pick which to try first and that does depend on finding out about what's available. Sometimes the choice is made through family commitments or previous membership of a group; however there may be anxiety about fitting in. Being new can hold us back and it's that first step that tests our confidence. Think of the scenario, a move, hunting for somewhere to live, the feelings of packing up the old life, stresses from life events that pre-empted the move. This is unsettling and can feel as if life is ganging up on us. We hear a great deal about Loneliness and Aloneness, terms easily dismissed unless we make time to consider them. They are different but can be experienced together. Being alone is

something we may long for when we are in a crowded place, no longer enjoying ourselves, but at least having had the opportunity to be there. Some may just feel alone experiencing no pleasure, only loneliness. We all experience loneliness from time to time, there is no stigma, but it can become a problem. Being concerned about being alone may help newcomers join in community events but, if they are feeling lonely, they may not have the energy to take that first step. A worse scenario; they make the effort, go to an event and nobody welcomes them. They are lonely and alone in the group struggling, which is not how we want newcomers to the village to feel. A group has been formed to look at this and would welcome your thoughts on the topic. Please contact us: Loneliness, c/o Lanchester Medical Centre, Durham Road, Lanchester, DH7 0LP.

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COMMUNITY CENTRE CRAFT FAIR

April saw another Craft Fair at Lanchester Community Centre. There was an array of local talent on display as both halls hosted craft stalls, food stalls and a ukulele band. However, the Centre later expressed on their Facebook page that attendance was very poor. The Community Centre is a charity and must fundraise to keep running. The fairs throughout the year and coffee mornings organised every second Thursday of the month are great ways to raise much needed funds. So next time you see one advertised, why not pop along and support your local Community Centre?



Providing refreshments for the Craft Fair: left to right, Margaret Wilson, Steve Bone, Margaret Laycock and Richard Downs.



A young visitor tries to decide which flavour of fudge she would like.

NEW LIBRARY SCAFFOLDING



Goodbye after approximately 14 months to the scaffolding outside the Library. Hello new scaffolding around the Library. Allegedly the owner of the building visited the site on 4th April with new scaffolders and told them to remove the old scaffolding. The replacement scaffolding around the side of the building will enable a full roof inspection. Estimated time, allegedly, is about 3-4 weeks!

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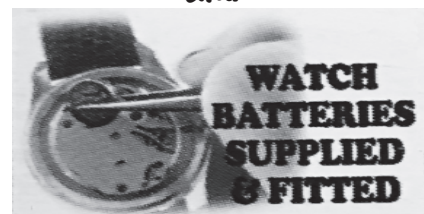
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SATLEY WI APRIL REPORT

Our President Linda Horn welcomed members along with a visitor from Derby who is a member within her hometown WI. Business was discussed and further arrangements were finalised for the National Sheep event on June 7th. The outing to Kirkharle and Wallington Hall takes place on May 23rd, monies to be collected at next meeting. We have invitations for 'Afternoon tea' on April 26th at Lanchester Community Centre from the County WI. This is part of the centenary celebrations of WIs being introduced into County Durham. Some members were interested in the Seaham walk on May 15th and encouraged to apply for the tickets at the head office.

Linda then introduced our speaker, Stephanie Esteris from Age UK, to talk on 'Grow to Eat'. Stephanie brought exhibits of plants, ie herbs and vegetables that can easily be grown on an indoor windowsill that are fresh and nutritious. A number of us intend to have a go. A PowerPoint presentation was shown and made it look very inviting. It was a very enjoyable evening. Stephanie was thanked by Aldwyn. The raffle was won by Avril Carpenter. The competition was won by Kathleen Snowdon with a decorative plant holder, 2nd Joan Smith and 3rd Christine Wilson. The evening ended with tea and biscuits and social time. Christine Wilson



Satley WI members with their speaker from Age UK (3rd from right).

LANCHESTER WI IN APRIL

President Marie Murphy welcomed members to our April meeting, wishing everyone a Happy Easter, and offering chocolate celebration treats. Marie drew our attention to the several events published in the Durham County newsletter and more on our Information table. Members are urged to keep themselves informed about events and outings. WI Resolutions for 2017 are 'Alleviating Loneliness' and the 'Plastic Soup' campaign to protect our oceans. Information can be found in WILife magazine and a vote will be held at May's meeting to decide whether we will take one or both of the resolutions forward. We look forward to our coffee morning later this month and to the several varied events planned over the next few weeks. Our Summer Outing will take place at Manderston

House, Duns, where we will enjoy a private tour. Cost is £29, a deposit of £5 is due in the May meeting and the balance is due before or at the June meeting. We look forward to a lovely evening of entertainment in the Goose Barn, after the kind invitation from John and Rosy Gall, and our trip to Kynren is coming up in September. Our refreshment hostesses Ann Grosvenor and Pat Cottrel were thanked for their work and members were requested to join our committee, so that they can become more closely involved in our WI branch. Marie had brought an amusing song about 'The WI Calendar' and several Easter Bonnets had been entered in our competition, with the winner being Pat Cottrel.

Our competition of a National Trust photograph was won by Cynthia Pearson and Margaret Walters and raffle winners were Shirley Mair and Liz Burdon. Our speaker was Mick Wilkes, who described the history of the National Trust and the management of their properties. The National Trust began in the late 19th century, when Octavia Hill and other social reformers decided to try to alleviate some of the bad living conditions of London in the Victorian era. Mick described the ways in which the Trust has developed, emerging as an important force in the conservation, education and preservation of our nation's history. Mick was warmly thanked by Ann Carr for his interesting and informative presentation.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Sweet and Sour Stir Fry Beef

Stir fry dishes have become very popular over recent years. This is perfect for people in a hurry, it's fast, tastes good and is healthier than a meal from the local takeaway. This serves 4 and is ready in 30 minutes.

FORTHESTIRFRY
Low calorie cooking spray
500g lean beef steaks, thinly sliced and all visible fat removed
1 red pepper and 1 yellow pepper, deseeded and cut into 1 cm pieces
4 cm piece of root ginger, peeled and finely grated
6 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped
225g can water chestnuts, drained and sliced
8 spring onions, cut into 2 cm pieces
200g pack diced fresh pineapple
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

FORTHE SAUCE

1 level tsp brown sugar
2 tbsp rice wine vinegar
3 tbsp each of Chinese rice wine and dark soy sauce
175 ml beef stock
2 tbsp passata
1 level tbsp corn flour mixed with 2 tbsp cold water

METHOD

1) Spray a large non-stick wok with low calorie cooking spray and place over a high heat.
2) Add the beef, peppers, ginger and garlic and stir fry for 2-3 minutes.
3) Add the water chestnuts, spring onions and pineapple and fry for about 30 seconds.
4) Add all the sauce ingredients and bring to the boil.
5) Reduce the heat and simmer for about 10-12 minutes.
6) Season and serve immediately.



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NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS WINNERS

On Saturday 1st April a team of three boys from Lanchester Boys Brigade took part in the BB National Table Tennis final in Liverpool. Sam Hume, Matthew Grimes and Sam Grimes reached the final last year and came in third. As last year they were to compete against five other teams from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The venue was the Merchant Taylor School; the setting was fabulous with a brand new sports complex laid out with tables by the local table tennis club.

The tournament was opened by the Mayor of Liverpool and the teams were introduced with their respective anthems. Lanchester had a good start beating a team from Ireland 6-3. They next met one of the

favourites, Grangemouth from Scotland, and were narrowly beaten 5-4. This meant that they were through to the semi-finals but against the strongest team from the other group (Monifieth also from Scotland).

The whole team played well and supported each other and came out 5-4 winners with some long and very hard fought matches. The families that had travelled to watch the tournament were being put through the wringer as the scores in the games shifted from side to side.

The team was now through to the final. Having come third in the last two years this was uncharted territory. To make things even tenser they were up against Grangemouth who had beaten them in the

group stages. In the first set of 3 games all was looking good and it seemed that the team might go three nil up but Grangemouth had other ideas and ended up 2-1 to the good. Things were looking grim especially as after getting it back to 2-2, with a victory from Sam Hume early in the next round, Grangemouth went up in the next two games. Then the tide turned as Sam Grimes and Matthew Grimes dug deep and eventually battled back to win both their games. This meant the final round saw Lanchester start 4-2 up and only needing one more win to take the national title. Sam Hume left nothing to chance and made short work of his opponent. The team had done it to the relief of all the spectators, players and coaches.



Boys Brigade National Table Tennis winners, Sam Hume, Sam Grimes and Matthew Grimes with Eric Hepplewhite holding the overall trophy.

The teams were presented with their individual trophies and were told that there would be a special guest to present the overall trophy. There was a bit of a commotion outside the hall and in stepped none other than Sir Ken Dodd! (see photo on back page) Ken then proceeded to start an impromptu stand-up routine that had everyone laughing.

None of the boys knew who Ken Dodd was and it had to be explained to them by their Boys Brigade leader Eric Hepplewhite that in his day he was as famous as Ant and Dec are today.

The event was a huge success and the boys started the long drive home with the sound of 'We are the Champions' being belted out in the car.

DERWENTSIDE SHORT WALKS

PEOPLE living in and around Lanchester have a wonderful opportunity to get some exercise and meet new friends with a year long programme of free walks in the Derwentside area. On Friday mornings starting at 10.30, a weekly series of doorstep walks take place, each lasting for no more than one hour. On Wednesdays - again at 10.30 - walkers go on a slightly more challenging hike, up to two hours. The walks may include some slopes, steps, uneven surfaces and stiles. Well behaved dogs are welcome on both the Wednesday and Friday walks.

The walks usually end with a visit to a local café for a refreshing

cuppa and snack. Co-ordinator Laura Hood said: "Walking is a fun and free activity and anyone can take part in it. The walkers are so friendly, often going for a cuppa straight after the walk and always make sure everyone is invited." "Walking is an excellent way to keep fit, catch up with friends and get a breath of fresh air. There are plenty of walks in the area to take part in and the fact that they are free is a bonus."

The new leaflets, Derwentside Short Walks, are available in libraries and other council buildings. For further information contact Laura Hood, Volunteer and Skills Co-ordinator, Leisureworks,

the Louisa Centre, Stanley, DH9 0TE, or 01207 218874 or l.hood@leisureworks.net Neil McKay (See photo on back page)

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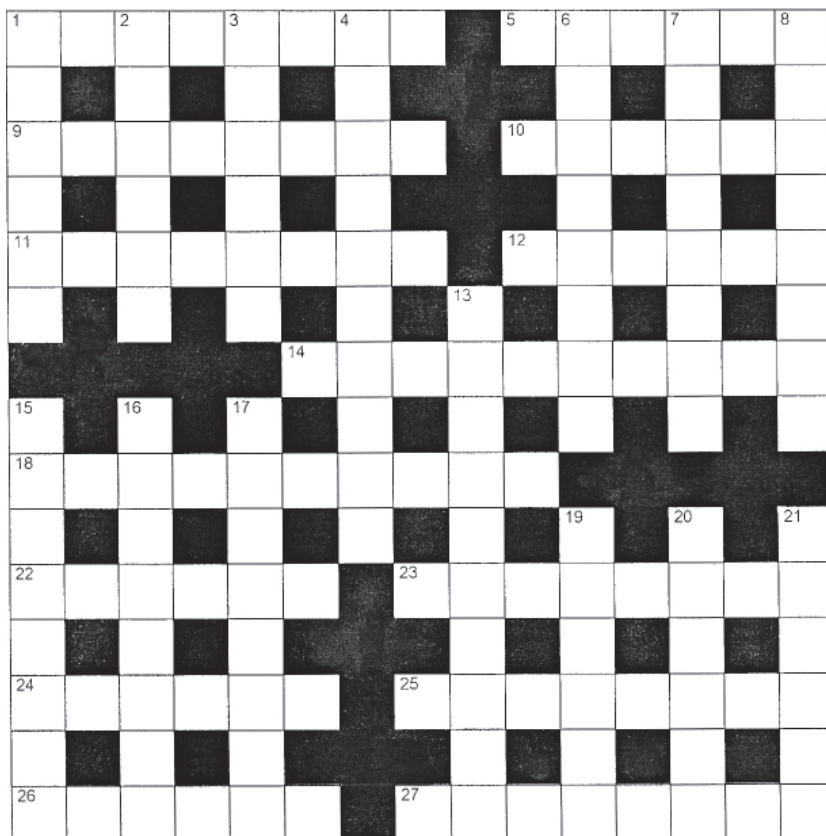
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CROSSWORD 132



ACROSS

- 1,5. Acute awareness (8,2,4)
5. See 1
9. Bright (8)
10. Living in the next ante-room (6)
11. Luxury (8)
12. Stationary (6)
14. Until now (10)
18. Gulag (6,4)
22. Unusual (6)
23. Partisan candidate! (8)
24. Agent that makes one sick (6)
25. I do Latin for enlargement (8)
26. Private eye (6)
27. Her Jamie is doom and gloom merchant (8)

DOWN

1. Organised persecution (6)
2. Southernmost active volcano on Earth (6)
3. Television awards (6)
4. One's moral compass (10)
6. Obsession (8)
7. Torpor (8)
8. Impartial deed includes confused chat (8)
13. Every letter is liberal! (10)
15. Stupid hint with not so much coming after (8)
16. Outdated (8)
17. Boxer (8)
19. A pointless regime is an illusion (6)
20. Swap itinerary for North American deer inclusion (6)
21. Pong (6)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 131

ACROSS

1. time immemorial
9. at an end
10. Matisse
11. scintillating
13. glamorisation
14. Maison de Ville
19. non-observance
22. ominous
23. enrobes
24. unpleasantness

DOWN

1. transformation
2. meaning
3. inertia
4. medal
5. mamba
6. retsina
7. assegai
8. bend ones senses
12. largess
15. inn sign
16. own goal
17. leveret
18. ennoble
20. Basra
21. enema

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

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

CROSSWORD 131

There were only 12 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to W Phillips of Briardene 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.

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

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GREAT BRITISH TENNIS WEEKEND AND TENNIS TASTER

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club is preparing for the new season which will commence on the grass courts at Ford Road on Sunday 30th April. There will be coaching sessions for juniors and seniors starting on Monday 8th May and a range of social play and events throughout the summer. Events in May include: The Great British Tennis Weekend which will be held at the Ford Road

courts on Sunday 14th May 2017. The Club is hoping to build on the success of last year when over 80 people of all ages, from 3 years to 86, attended and enjoyed the experience of playing tennis on grass, absolutely free. With equipment available if required, players are able to participate in fun activities such as Family, Mini, Cardio and Free Play tennis. The 'Tennis

Factory' will be set up for the younger ones to use. For further information and to book go to GBTW/clubspark website.

Are you aged 35 and over?

Would you like to try tennis related activities?

Why not come along to a tennis taster?

The Lawn Tennis Association is funding an initiative to increase participation in tennis related activities for

people aged 35 and over. Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club's Head Coach will be running a 6 week coaching course at the club on Ford Road, Lanchester. There are 12 places available on the course and will be FREE. Equipment will be provided. Each session will be fun, instructive and varied including tennis instruction, cardio tennis and touch tennis.

The courses will run on Fridays 1.30-2.30 pm - 6 week course commencing 19th May. Sessions can be attended by players new to the game or players who have not played for some time.

More information about the club is available on the club's website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LanchesterLawnTennisClub> and Facebook pages or contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278.

WALKING NETBALL

Ladies from across Derwentside have been taking to the netball court again, most of whom hung up their netball trainers many years ago in their school days. Fiona Holden of Lanchester works for England Netball as a Netball Development Officer. She has been working with 2 local netball clubs - Consett Steelers and Greencroft Ladies to set up Walking Netball sessions in Consett and Stanley. Walking Netball has evolved from a growing demand for walking sports. Often, one of netball's strengths is that people never forget playing the sport and the memories as well as the love for the game never leave. Walking Netball is a slower version of the game; it is netball, but at a walking pace. The game has been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level.

From those who have dropped out of the sport they love due to serious injury, to those who believed they had hung up their netball trainers many years ago, it really is for everyone.

Women the length of the country have begun playing the game of Walking Netball for the fun, laughter and camaraderie the social session brings, as much as the health benefits on offer. It can give those who feel isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who don't deem themselves fit enough to run anymore and offer a stepping stone for those looking for a pathway back into netball.

Your local sessions:

Consett Leisure Centre, Thursdays 12-1 pm, £3.30.

Louisa Centre Stanley, Fridays 12-1 pm, £3.00.

For more information contact Fiona Holden, Fiona.holden@englandnetball.co.uk



Ladies from one of our Walking Netball sessions in Consett: (left to right): Lynn Rippon (of Hollinside Lanchester), Hannah Rippon (of Lanchester), Pat Main (of Consett), Claire Iles (Walking Netball Coach from Consett Steelers Netball Club) Helen Wilks (of Tantobie), Linda Johnson (of Lanchester) and Cath Bage (of Whickham).

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WHAT'S ON?

Vintage Tractor Club

Meet on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Musical Minis

Musical Minis class takes place in the Small Hall at Lanchester Community Centre between 10 and 11 am every Tuesday.

Community Centre

Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 11th May from 9.30-11.00 am.

Lacemaking

In the upstairs room of the Community Centre, on Mondays and Fridays 7.00 - 9.00 pm.

Needlecraft

continues on Wednesdays 1.00-3.00 pm

Baby Group

Meet Wednesdays and Fridays in the Dining Room between 9.15 and 11.00 am. Birth to 2 years, £1.80.

Project Poppies

The next workshop and update for the Project Poppies will be held at Croft View Halls on Saturday 13th May from 2-4pm. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come along and make poppies in the bottom hall or paint some in the top hall, that have already been made. Tuition will be given for anyone who would like it and tea and coffee will be available free during the afternoon. Please bring an old rolling pin or a 1" paint brush or both. We currently have nearly 500 poppies finished and stored and nearly 300 awaiting painting.

Open House

Join us in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 4th May 11.30 am until 1.00 pm.

KoG's 10th Birthday

Come and join us as we celebrate our 10th birthday. The evening will be brought to you by our KoGs members in an action packed programme which will include:

Drama, comedy, singing, dancing, live music and a 2 course meal served to you by our members.

Join us as we show and tell you about how it all started and exactly what we've been up to!

Friday 19th May From 7pm Lanchester Methodist Church

Tickets £8 per person, £5 Children under 10 years
For tickets contact:
Mervyn Burdon: 01207 237161 or 07776307729
Laura Cole: 01207 590044 or 07428500059

Library Book Club

On Monday 22nd May at 2.30 to 3.30 pm the group will be discussing 'Letters from my husband' by Stephanie Butland. This book was reviewed by Katie Fford as "an immensely powerful and ultimately uplifting debut novel". If you have read this book why don't you come along or pick up your copy of the novel from the library. We look forward to seeing you then.

Thursday Library Book Club

On Thursday May 25th from 5.30-6.30, the group will be reviewing 'The Soldier's Wife' by Joanna Trollope. A tale about a young mother and wife of an Army Major who is struggling to find her identity and career within the confines of her life. If you would like to join this new group, pick up the book at the library and we will see you there.

Lanchester WI

Our next meeting will take place on Monday May 8th when Simon Raine will tell us about the 'Confessions of a Novice Cheesemaker'. Our competition is to make a biscuit which will go with cheese, we'll look forward to tasting some delicious entries! Members are advised that tonight we will consider the two Resolutions for national action this year, so please read about these in WI Life magazine. Deposits are also needed to secure your place on our Summer Outing to Manderston House, Duns - balance due on or by the June meeting. Many thanks!

Parish Church Summer Fair

Lanchester Parish Church Summer Fair will take place at The Chapter House on Saturday 10th June between 9.30 am-11.30 am; the theme will be 'Sunshine and Strawberries'. Some of the items on offer will be: cakes; savouries; jams; preserves; books; bric a bra; toiletries; bottle tombola; bags and scarves. The GRAND SUMMER DRAW will also take place, along with Coffee, Tea & Strawberry Scones for £1. Free drink and treat for children. Do come and join us - all are very welcome.

Local History Society

Speaker: Lee Brownson
Subject: Auckland Castle and the Future Plans
Date: Friday May 5th
Time: 7pm
Venue: Lanchester Community Centre
Find out about the plans to transform the Castle into a world class art, faith and heritage destination. For more information about the History Society contact marianmorrison @btinternet.com

Paradiso Social Club

The final Paradiso Social of this season will be held on Sunday May 14th at 7pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a film.

The film that will be screened is 'EDDIE THE EAGLE'. This is based on a true story and follows the realisation of the childhood dream of Eddie Edwards and his unflinching determination to become Great Britain's first Olympic ski-jumper. Described as "an uplifting, inspirational tale that celebrates the human spirit, passion, and one man's refusal to accept defeat!"

All are welcome:

Entry ticket to the Social: £2.50 members
£3.50 occasional visitors
£2 young persons

Thursday Club

Our next meeting on 18th May is our outing to The World of James Herriot in Thirsk. The coach will leave from opposite Cooplands bakers at 9.00 am. Please remember there will be no meeting in the Community Centre that evening.

Sunday Music

Folk singers and musicians now meet on the first Sunday of each month in the Lanchester Club Bar. All are welcome to join in, play, or be our audience! We usually start at 8.30 pm. See you the next time!

Ian Tute

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 7th May to go to Derwent Gorge Crooked Oak. Meet 9.30 am in Community Centre car park.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 9th May, the subject will be 'My 1st Year with the Woodland Trust' presented by John Butler. Meet in the Community Centre Dining Room at 7.30 pm.

Lanchester Writers

Lanchester Writers meet in Lanchester Library every Tuesday 2 - 4 pm during school term time. New members welcome.

Lanchester Library

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

Lanchester Social Club

Every Friday - **FRIDAY NIGHT 50/50 DANCING**
Every Sunday - **SUNDAY NIGHT BUSKERS**
Saturday 6th May
Mark H Great Vocalist
Saturday 13th May
Johnney Reynolds
The Working Man
Saturday 20th May
Marty Q First Class Vocalist
Saturday 27th May
Peter Kelly Male Vocalist of the year 2013

Mixit Fundraiser

Mixit are an inclusive Theatre Company from Co Durham, featuring members both with and without learning difficulties who have been invited to perform in Tubingen, Germany to spread their powerful message of inclusion through song and drama on an international stage. They need your support to finance the trip that includes local people. There will be spectacular entertainment at Lanchester Social Club on Thursday 18th May at 7.00 pm. Tickets £5 plus a raffle and donation buckets. Contact Lanchester Social Club-01207 520475.

Himalayan Balsam Removal dates

Meet on the railway line at the entrance to Dora's Wood. Bring gardening gloves, suitable footwear, long sleeve tops and trousers to avoid nettle stings; a kneeling mat may be useful. See you there. For further information contact us: lancaster wildlifegroup@outlook.com

Saturday May 20th - 11 am
Tuesday May 23rd - 7 pm
Sunday May 28th - 11 am
Tuesday May 30th - 7 pm

Lancaster Flower Club

The meeting on Friday evening on 19th May is the first of our Open Evening Meetings. Come along and get a taster of what the Flower Club meetings offer. The demonstrator is Ann Codd her theme 'A Night to Remember'. Please come along to Lancaster Community Centre at 7 pm. Tickets are £7 from Helen Tomlinson on 01207 503667, Lestrine Kelly 01027 521494 or Norma Jenssen 01027 520574.

Cuppa, Lunch and Company for the over 70s

Free Cuppa, Lunch and Company age 70+. Do you have neighbours or family who would like a cup of tea, lunch and company out of the house for 2 hours a month? Our next meeting is on Tuesday May 9th, 12 noon to 2 pm in Lynwood House. You will have a driver to collect you and bring you home (all drivers are DBS checked). We do need an idea on numbers attending. Please phone to say if you would like to come and if you need a lift there and back. Call Jo on: 07969454815.

Satley WI

Our next meeting is 'Members Night' which should prove to be a fun night, in Satley Parish Hall, 7.15pm, May 8th
Christine Wilson

Mothers' Union

The meeting on the 10th May is our Musical Evening. We will meet at 7.30pm in the Chapter House and go into church when Joyce Shaw will sing a selection of songs.

GIVE BOWLING A TRY

When you read this, the bowling green in Lancaster will be open for play. If you are looking for a great way to enjoy the summer, please consider taking up bowling. For some bowling is an inexpensive fun activity, for others a way of life; give it a try and see if you like it. We welcome men and women of all ages.

We try to have a 'pathway' to get new members up and running in our club. Not to turn them into top bowlers, that's up to you later, but to get you through the first few stages and into our bowling teams. While we welcome new members at any time, the earlier you start in the season the better. At this

time there may be a few people at a similar stage to yourself and you won't feel isolated. You can make friends in the club when everyone is there for their early season practice. You will also be encouraged to enter a few competitions to gain experience.

Beginner and improver sessions are being held at 1.45 pm on Thursday 27th April, Wednesday 3rd May and every following Thursday except May 25th and election days. There is a reduced fee in your first year and we have bowls available. All you need are flat shoes. Hope to see you.

If it is not possible for you to attend these sessions please ring Ken Raper on 521673.

BEER FESTIVAL 2017

The last main sponsor, Durham Arch has been secured to sponsor the Marquee, joining Aquaid, the event sponsor, Sustain, the glass sponsor and Evans Halshaw, the programme sponsor. Previous event sponsor Durham Gate have also agreed a sizeable sponsorship to maintain their link with the event. A further development is that we have lined up a third charity who hopefully can profit from the Beer Festival. We had previously agreed to Henry Dancer Days and Willow Burn Hospice attending the event and we have now added Down Syndrome North East to the party. Let's hope that the people attending the event generously support each charity as much as they can.

There will be a couple of prominent changes to the event this year to allow us better control over who attends. We will be creating a fenced area around the Marquee to stop people who haven't

paid to come in to the event from doing so. Others were also bringing their own drink so we should stop that too. Additionally at the entry point a member of door staff will ensure that no one underage gets in. We have agreed with the authorities to run the Challenge 25 scheme, so that anyone under that age must have identification. We will do that before you pay for entry unless anyone is foolish enough to buy tickets online when underage. These steps should not detract from the event but make it safer.

The beer line up is already listed on the website with beers from Wylam, Almasty, Box and Tyne Breweries confirmed. The cider options are not yet finalised.

Let's hope that fine weather prevails and we get a great weekend that profits everyone in the village.

Don't forget to keep up to date by checking out the Lancaster Beer Festival website.

CRICKET NEWS

By the time you read this, the season will have started ... weather permitting of course!! We should have managed two weeks of fixtures all being well, Consett and Newcastle City being our opening opponents. Our Kiwi, Sam Crooks arrived on 13th April to a chill wind, but hopefully things will have improved by now and he's making runs galore. John Bell, Malcolm Carr and Steve McPhail have done a marvellous job in preparing the ground and it looks immaculate. Some of the players and

members joined in on the preparations on the 8th for Cricket Force day, painting seats and benches as well as giving the outside of the club a fresh lick of paint. For those players and members reading this, please note that subs are due now. We have created a handbook for the first time in some considerable time and they are available for £1, full of details about fixtures, coach contacts, past season reviews and more. If the handbook goes down well this year, we will hope to expand it further next year to

include some club history and other snippets of interest. As the last report went to press, we had a great night at the club celebrating St Patrick's Day, with the club bedecked in green and some hard working leprechauns called Bob, Irene and Michelle making sure that everyone was well fed

with Irish stew and soda bread. It was great to see the club full and well entertained by Martin Matthews and colleagues including a piper. On junior fixture nights, we hope to have some food available to help keep parents and kids at the club a bit longer. Some blue skies and warm weather would be welcome.



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NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS WINNERS



Matthew Grimes, Sam Hume and Sam Grimes met Ken Dodd after winning the BB National Championships in Liverpool (see page 19).

SARAH'S STYLE OF ART



Sarah Milburn with some of her work at her stunning exhibition in All Saints' RC Parish Centre (see page 10).

'LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS'



Members of the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society with their guest soprano Elizabeth Woods in fine voice during the finale of *The Last Night of the Proms* concert (see page 12 for article).

WALKING DERWENTSIDE



People living in and around Lanchester are being encouraged to exercise with a programme of free walks in the Derwentside area (story on page 19). The photo shows an away-day walk.

BEAUTIFYING FRONT STREET



The lovely display of colourful spring flowers enhances Lanchester Front Street.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 16th May.
The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 12th May.

The Village Voice Page 24

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