

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 21

Lanchester, January 2020

For contact information, see page 2

CHELSEA PENSIONER VISITS LANCHESTER



*Ged with Major Arthur Currie, Chelsea Pensioner.
See page 5 for story.*

CAROLS ON THE GREEN



The ever present Lanchester Brass Band.



*A small crowd scene from the very large number of people
who attended. Article on page 2.*

ALL SAINTS' STUDENTS ENTERTAIN



*The students from All Saints' Catholic School delighted both the residents of Lynwood House and the Musical Memories group
with their selection of Christmas melodies.*

LANCHESTER BOYS' BRIGADE CELEBRATES 90 YEARS



Jane Natrass receiving a huge sum for the Henry Dancer Days charity in memory of her son.

A charity auction was held on Saturday 23rd November to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the formation of the 14th Lanchester Boys' Brigade Company and continued with the annual enrolment service on Sunday 24th November. The packed audience in Croft View

Halls was able to browse through hundreds of photographs both new and old as well as old badges, uniforms and plaques from Fun Run and BB activities. Refreshments were served before the Charity Auction started with Eric Hepplewhite and

Matthew Hill acting as auctioneers. The amazing total of around £700 was raised by the auction and together with some sponsored events by the boys and several donations received, the final total presented to Jane Natrass from Henry Dancer Days (Henry's



Boys' Brigade memorabilia on show at their 90th anniversary celebrations.

Mam) was £1,032.71. The boys themselves chose the charity and decided on the auction then worked hard to achieve such a wonderful result. Many old Boys' Brigade friends and ex members reminisced about the 'good old days' when they were in the

Company. A booklet was printed with the thoughts of six past captains, some past leaders and boys, intermingled with many photographs. It was a marvellous celebration of the first 90 years and we are already looking forward to celebrating the 100th in November 2029.

How to contact the Village Voice

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General and news enquiries, email:

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Lanchester,
DH7 0PB.

Carols on the Green is a tradition of our village now and every year more and more people gather to take part in it. This year there were 1000 people, either singing, playing an instrument or just simply enjoying the atmosphere and feeling part of our lovely village. The choir and the band stood more centrally under the lights strewn over the trees and this created a perfect Christmas scene. David

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CAROLS ON THE GREEN

through a number of well-known and well-loved carols. He invited all the younger children to sing 'Away in a Manger' with everyone joining in the last verse. It is so good that so many families gather for this occasion and children making a contribution is tremendous. A feeling of love and goodwill seemed to surround the whole company gathered there. It was a first for the Reverend Lesley Sutherland and she gave it a "WOW". She absolutely loved it and brought the evening to a close with a blessing.

Brenda Craddock

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for last month was 75. The draw was made by Chris Donaghy, Gym member.



Amy Armstrong, Alan Armstrong, Max Armstrong, Kate Armstrong, Tracy Cornfield, Anoy Cornfield and Finley Cornfield on the village green.

KEY STAGE 2 NATIVITY AND CHRISTINGLE

Key stage 2 pupils in the EP School always hold their Nativity service in church and combine it with a Christingle Presentation. The Parish Church is always absolutely full, as so many parents, friends and family members enjoy this service so much. This year there was a morning and an afternoon service which meant that everyone could be seated comfortably, see the pupils and fully enjoy the service. The programme had a lovely Nativity Scene on the cover designed by Grace Armstrong-Dorman, bearing the words 'Peace on Earth' which drew our attention immediately. Year 6 were leading the service and they did so with such maturity and

sincerity. Their Nativity Play took a slightly different form, in that it required more dialogue. The central figures were there but there were other characters too who gave a more modern slant to the Christmas story. Every pupil had put great effort into what they had to say and every word could be heard quite distinctly. This is not easy in such a large church so Year 6 are to be congratulated on the excellent delivery of their words.

There was some lovely singing in which all the pupils took part and some solo singing which was really beautiful. At the close, Year 3 took over with their procession of Christingle Oranges. The oranges are



Year 6 Nativity in the Parish Church.

symbolic of the whole world being God's creation and of the immense Love he has for all mankind. The lighted candle contained within the orange symbolises Jesus as the Light of the World.

Under careful supervision Year 3 pupils were each given an orange. They carried their oranges around the church very, very carefully, responsibly and reverently. It was very moving to witness. Reverend Lesley closed

the service with some encouraging words of praise for the pupils before pronouncing a blessing for all the congregation. Thank you pupils for such a lovely, meaningful presentation of Christmas.

Brenda Craddock

MESSY CHURCH AND CHRISTINGLE



Hollie and Oakley with their Christingles.

The Messy Church is held on the third Sunday of each month in the Parish Church. There are craft tables in the Chapter House before moving into church for the religious content of the afternoon. This takes the form of singing choruses and a story from the Bible.

At the Christmas Messy Church on 15th December, Reverend Lesley and helpers made Christingles with the children, which they loved. All are welcome but on the whole the children are primary school age. Mums and Dads are expected to

accompany their children.

After church the children return to the Chapter House for a lovely afternoon tea, all freshly prepared by the ladies in the kitchen.

Why not come and join us one Sunday?

Brenda Craddock



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th December 2019

Pilgrimage Routes - Way of Light - David Pott, Pilgrimage Routes Co-ordinator for Northern Saints Trails attended the meeting and presented information on the 4 new Pilgrimage Routes which have been established in County Durham. The routes will open in Spring/Summer 2020. One of the new routes, 'The Way of Light' will pass through Lanchester on its way from Heavenfield to Durham, a distance of 45 miles.

Northumbrian Water Ltd - Sewer System - An officer from Northumbrian Water Ltd

attended the meeting and provided an update on activities in Lanchester. It was agreed that an update would be provided quarterly.

Correspondence

* **Letter of thanks - Choral Society** - Donation - letter received.

* **Lanchester Partnership and the Plastic Free Lanchester Group** - notes from the Annual Review of the Plastic Free Lanchester Group were received. Permission was given to use the Village Green for the 2020 litter pick.

* **Tree Planting in the Parish** - Members considered information

received from residents regarding planting of trees in the Parish. It was agreed that the residents are invited to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the matter further.

* **Generations Together - Durham University Student Volunteering and Outreach** - Members received information on a volunteering scheme with Durham University students aimed at addressing loneliness and isolation in elderly people.

Loneliness Project - Welcome to Lanchester Guide - Councillor Friesner provided an

update on behalf of the group working on the project. The publication has been printed and distributed in the community.

Planning Training - Councillors were provided with information on a Planning Training session which two Councillors and the Clerk had attended. The session had been useful and informative. A further training session is being organised by the County Training Partnership in the New Year which other Councillors may wish to attend.

Footpath - Durham Road - Councillors were provided with information received from Durham County Council in response to a letter sent about the footpath which included information on inspection regimes and programmed maintenance.

Maintenance Work - Park House, Village Green and Kitswell Park - Members received information on a recent site meeting to consider maintenance work. The work included removing foliage, pruning, hedge trimming etc. It was agreed that the work is undertaken.

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th January 2020

Tree Planting in the Parish - A number of residents attended the meeting to discuss ideas for tree planting in the

Parish. They explained their concerns regarding climate change and how tree planting could contribute to tackling the

problem. They wish to liaise with the Parish Council, County Council and other groups such as the Community Orchard and Lanchester Partnership to identify a way forward. They wish to identify public land and privately owned land which may be suitable for tree planting.

Police report - received.

Correspondence
* **Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party** - It was agreed that Councillor M Gray be nominated for the county draw.

* **Durham County Council Pension Fund - Actuarial Review** - Members were informed

of the results of the actuarial review which will come into effect on 1st April 2020 for 3 years.

Speed Limit - Hollinside - Members were informed of correspondence received from the Police and Durham County Council Highways.

This was in response to concerns raised regarding the current speed limit.

The Police and County Council provided a detailed response outlining the results of a recent traffic survey and the criteria and national guidelines used to assess speed limits. Both the Police and the County Council are of the opinion that the speed limit is appropriate for the location and is observed

by the majority of road users. They state that this location has been considered several times in recent years.

Kitswell Park - Annual Play Inspection - received.

Precept 2020/21 - It was agreed that the precept be set at £65,329.87 for 2020/21. This would result in an increase in band D council tax of £1.82 a year.

Community Energy Workshop - It was agreed that councillors attend the recently advertised community energy workshop and report back to the Parish Council.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at Lynwood House at 7.15 pm.

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CHELSEA PENSIONER VISITS LANCHESTER

Major Arthur Currie, Chelsea Pensioner always travel in uniform. Now aged 72, Arthur resides at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. During his career he served in Germany, Northern Ireland, Canada, America, Rhodesia, Middle East and the 1st Gulf War. He worked his way through the ranks of the army becoming a Regimental Sergeant Major, before being commissioned as a Major. Now he has learned something about our village and has made friends, he will try and come to a Remembrance Service. We look forward to his next visit.

WASSAILING IN THE ORCHARD



Community Orchard members singing the Wassailing Song to wake up the trees from their winter sleep.

On the windiest day we have seen for some time, a few hardy souls gathered at Lanchester Community Orchard for the first working day of the year. We completed tasks of pruning apple trees, blackcurrant and redcurrant bushes, and digging over plots in preparation for the new season, whilst being severely lashed by 50mph winds. After half an industrial sized box of matches we managed to get a respectable bonfire going, which under gale force conditions rapidly consumed all six barrow loads of twigs and branches.

By 11.00 am we were joined by several more members and guests for our yearly Wassail, an age old ceremony to wake up the fruit trees from their winter slumber

which involves feeding the trees with scraps of bread soaked in cider, tapping the trunks and making as much noise as is possible with drums, whistles, bells, pans and wooden spoons, in fact anything that would wake up nature. We were led in the singing of traditional wassailing songs (including our very own Lanchester Wassailing song) by several talented musicians playing guitars, mandolin and concertina; all this being interspersed by traditional poems and a rousing version of 'Here we go round the mulberry bush'. Yes, we have one growing in the orchard! A visiting lady from Langley Park then entertained us with some very impressive clog dancing accompanied again by our music men.

Customarily at a wassail the master of ceremonies is a Green Man, but in this era of equal opportunities we had a Green Person. This is only the first of our gatherings. Coming up in the near future is Earth Hour and Family Day. Come and exercise in the open air and share in the harvest. Our subscription is cheaper than the gym. If you wish to join us or simply find out more about the orchard, details can be found on www.lanchesterorchard.org or by emailing lanchesterorchard@outlook.com.

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ALISON'S 60th BIRTHDAY

Alison Fawcett celebrated her 60th birthday with a lovely party in the Social Club on Friday December 6th. There was a disco which provided excellent music for dancing and an excellent buffet was served. Mark, Alison's fiancé, had worked hard to make sure Alison had a special 60th birthday party and all the family members and friends of Alison and Mark who were invited to the party had a wonderful time. Alison's birthday is on Christmas Eve and it was snowing very heavily when she was born at Hollinside in 1959. She was given lots of presents at the party, but she kept them to open on her actual birthday. We hope you had a very happy birthday Alison and 'Many Happy Returns'. There was a raffle which raised £135 for the Heart Foundation and Alison and Mark wish not only to thank people for their contribution to the raffle but also for coming to their party. It certainly was a very enjoyable evening. *Brenda Craddock*



Alison and Mark enjoying the party.

Dave Donnelly

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'WELCOMING LANCHESTER' LONELINESS PROJECT

The formal launch of the Welcoming Lanchester Guide addressing issues around loneliness recently took place at Lanchester Community Centre. It was distributed throughout the community just before Christmas. This event saw other interested parties and key stakeholders representing organisations from across the county come together to learn more about the project and to consider how they might use the Guide in the future. The latest website where the Guide has been added is Durham Insight (Loneliness and Social Isolation section) under Community Initiatives, <https://bit.ly/2N1QqMm>. Project activity will now focus on promoting the Guide and its use. Enquiries about the Loneliness Project can be directed to the Project

Team using the email, welcominglanchester20@gmail.com. Feedback has been very encouraging so far as well as anecdotal evidence that conversations are now starting to take place about loneliness more openly and more regularly within our community. A key emphasis throughout this year will be to encourage everybody to engage and get involved by starting and keeping up those conversations. It's never too late to start a conversation; don't delay, start yours today and make it a commitment each and every day. Together, we can all make a real difference within our community. Starting conversations starts with you. If you have particular concerns about loneliness, then visit the Lanchester Medical Centre or your own GP.



Back row left to right: Derek Snaith (Mid Durham AAP), David Friesner (Lanchester Parish Councillor, Loneliness Project Working Group Team Member and Lanchester resident); front row left to right: Peter Appleton (Mid Durham AAP Older People's Task Group), Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health, Durham County Council, Marian Morrison (Loneliness Project Working Group Team Member and Lanchester resident) and Ossie Johnson (Councillor, Lanchester Division, Durham County Council and Lanchester resident).



COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

A very Happy and Healthy 2020 to you all from Staff and volunteers of your Community Centre.

This is always a time for making resolutions about improving our health and fitness; expanding our interests; learning something new and meeting new friends. Your Community Centre is the ideal place for you to do this. There are activities and events to choose from for all ages, abilities and interests and all in the heart of our lovely village. Why not start with Fell-Foss Theatre's production of 'Crusoe's Island' which will be performed here on Saturday 22nd February, it is one man's story of shipwreck, solitude and salvation. Tickets are £10 and are available from the Community Centre and Lanchester News. Refreshments will be available.

Healthy new you? We have a great gym which is a vital resource for your health and fitness,

however, the equipment is now starting to fail and replacement equipment is very expensive. With your support we are aiming to refurbish the gym this year. How about doing your bit by becoming a Friend of the Community Centre, it's only £2 a month/£24 for the year; pick up a 'loose change' box and fill it for us; arrange a sponsored event or simply make a donation! Any help you can give with this will be gratefully received.

There is always a lot happening and so many ways you can keep up to date with what's going on, such as checking our Information Point; follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre'; Instagram #lanchester_community_centre; check out the website - lanchestercommunity.wix.com/lanchester. Why not come along and have a look around and see the great facilities we have to offer. We are always happy to see you.

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BRIDGE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR



The photo shows the cheque presentation from Helen Atkins, assistant head teacher at the Bridge School in Lanchester. The school raised over £904 which was donated to Willow Burn Hospice and collected by Paul Jackson. For such a small special school this was truly outstanding. A big thank you to all the students, staff and supporters.

ADVENT FUNDRAISING AT ST BEDE'S



Some of the St Bede's students with the charity representatives.

The prophet John the Baptist fired the imagination of the people, they came from all over to hear him. There was a stir going on, a sense of something important. An urgent message about the Kingdom of God. "What must we do?" they asked him. His answers give us a glimpse of the message of Jesus: "Share what you have with the needy, always be honest and treat others with Love." The students lived out these words during the Season of Advent and completed their Advent

challenge with a cup of Christmas cheer with representatives from some of the charities we support - St Cuthbert's Care, SVP and Macmillan. A representative group of students were invited to meet with our charity representatives as they handed over cheques from our fundraising campaign as well as handing over 100 plus tote bags containing luxury Christmas food, store cupboard essentials and Christmas gifts; kindly donated by our ever generous students and families. The tote

bags were distributed to vulnerable families in our own locality via the Parish SVP Conferences. The students were also joined by Liv-Ellen Kennedy, current president of the Rotary Club who presented the students with a Rotary Award for Outstanding Commitment to Fundraising and Charitable Works. A fantastic way to complete our Advent journey and to be fully prepared for the blessings of the Christmas Season. The generosity of our families is humbling and we can't thank them enough for the impact they have on the lives of the most vulnerable members of our school and wider community.

Kirstie Hutchinson
School Chaplain - St Bede's



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LYNWOOD HOUSE IN DECEMBER

The residents of Lynwood House had much entertainment to look forward to in December. Firstly, Christmas carols and a buffet supper on December 3rd; thank you to the singers from the Methodist Church in Lanchester.

The following week we were entertained with carols by the children from All Saints' RC Primary School, all dressed in their Christmas outfits (see photo on front page). This visit was organised by Linda. It was so good to see some

of the children who have visited Lynwood during the last few years; we wish them well in their new school next year. The next day was the buffet lunch to celebrate 5 years since the new Lynwood House opened. This event was celebrated by the 3 monthly bumper raffle which raised £260 which was donated to the Alzheimer's Society. Thank you to all who contributed.

December 18th was the date of the Christmas Lunch which I'm sure was enjoyed by both residents

and invited guests whose support is much appreciated. Also very much appreciated are the efforts of Linda and her little band of helpers without whom all these events wouldn't happen. Our next lunch will be on Wednesday 19th February and the next raffle for charity will be at Easter time.

Residents - please note that in the future the monthly lunch will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Thank you to all.

Sylvia Bennett



Sylvia Bennett, one of the first residents, cutting the cake to celebrate 5 years since Lynwood House opened.

MUSICAL MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Our Musical Memories group meeting in December was a special festive event with decorations, Christmas cake, and of course music to reflect this special time of the year. We were challenged with a quiz based on Christmas films and remembered some of

the classic songs from the past. We were also lucky that pupils from All Saints' Catholic School shared their repertoire of festive carols and songs to the great enjoyment of everyone and we sang and danced to some of the traditional tunes we all remembered.

A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS IN QUEBEC

The Tearoom in Quebec is a lovely, friendly venue and an interesting mix of great style and quirky atmosphere. Its first Christmas was celebrated with traditional events

including Breakfast with Santa, and special festive treats on the menu such as mulled wine and mince pies. During Christmas week, there was a carol performance by a choir

from Ushaw College and their wonderful versions of the old favourite tunes brought a warm, happy atmosphere to the crowds of local people enjoying the Christmas event.



Ushaw College Choir entertaining customers at Quebec Tearoom.

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ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL END THEIR TERM WITH MUSIC

It has become a tradition in the school to end a term with a special musical assembly, showcasing the talents and hard work of their students. This year, the school hall was packed with all the pupils, plus a great many guests

of family and friends to enjoy some lovely festive music performed by the school brass instruments and their guitar group. So many familiar pieces were performed and enjoyed, with a wider range of talents on show, and as Head

Teacher Mrs Stephenson reported, this was testament to the love of music and the commitment of the young people. Thank you All Saints' School for a most enjoyable start to our Christmas!

'MAKE WAY FOR CHRISTMAS'

On the evening of 20th December a large number of people entered the Methodist Church to hear the North West Durham Circuit Choir, conducted by Harry Carr, present a musical work by Graham Kendrick entitled 'Make Way for Christmas'.

'Make Way for Christmas', as you will realise, tells the story of Christmas. The choral singing was excellent in pitch and sensitivity to the flow of the music and the words being sung. The diction and dynamics of the music were carefully observed making it a performance of very high standard. The sincerity of this choir, which has sung in this church twice yearly for a

number of years under Harry's baton, is always evident and there were some very good individual performances. Among these was Paul Pine, and his daughter Bethany Pine who is the youngest member at 12 years old and she sang beautifully. The choir was accompanied by Mrs Mavis Coulson and a small orchestra.

There was good fellowship afterwards over a cup of tea and mince pie, when everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable evening and was rather special being so near Christmas. It was another lovely Lanchester Musical Evening. Thank you Harry and Choir.

Brenda Craddock



Beautiful singing by the choir.

A SPECIAL 'OPEN THE BOOK'

The 'Open the Book' Team, who were in the EP School on December 10th to enact part of the Christmas Story, had a very special real life baby at their performance. Naomi Arnell-Hawke, who works as part of the administrative staff, had a beautiful baby boy 11 weeks early, and she brought him into the school on the morning when the 'Open the Book' team were visiting.

Jim and Janet Thompson were presenters on that day and Naomi allowed her baby to be photographed with them after the performance.



Janet and Jim Thompson holding baby Angus.

The pupil's were thrilled to see Baby Angus, who weighed only 2 lbs 7ozs at birth but who is now thriving beautifully. The

brother of Angus, a pupil at the school, was very proud of his brother that morning.

Brenda Craddock



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EP SCHOOL CHOIR ENTERTAINS

The EP school choir have given some delightful performances during the festive season; the first at 'Craig's Concert' was reported upon in the December Village Voice.

The choir then performed at Lanchester Garden Centre on December 11th.

Many parents were there, enjoying a scone or cake with a cup of tea or coffee from the restaurant menu. The choir was singing for the Henry Dancer charity and Henry's mother, Mrs Jane Nattress and assistant were there to give a warm welcome to everyone. Once again the choir, with their conductor Mrs Janet Knighton, sang a number of carols, some new, some old and they sang very well indeed. The children

sang with obvious enjoyment which delighted the audience, who were very sorry when the concert ended because they had enjoyed it so much. The atmosphere throughout was so happy and relaxed.

There was a raffle with very nice prizes and over £200 was raised for the charity. Giving your time is a precious gift in itself and this choir with their conductor are to be congratulated for giving up so much of their time to help worthy causes, during the Christmas period.

Henry Dancer was a former much loved and highly respected pupil of the school who sadly died

from cancer when he was twelve years old. His legacy lives on and every year a cup in his name is

awarded to the pupil who most reflects Henry's wonderful characteristics. He will never be forgotten.

The concert ended with everyone wishing one another a very happy Christmas.



Henry's mother stands proudly next to his portrait.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

This place needs no introduction because we were there for Christmas along with the rest of the village - all roads led to Ravellos.

What an asset to Lanchester it is - the perfect dining place for every occasion. Set right in the middle of the village, accessible to all. The place itself is a delight with superb cuisine, Italian style.

They have a main menu, specials, a happy hour

selection and in December a lovely Christmas menu.

We decided to sample for starters, Trio di pesce affumicato and Pate della Casa. Mains were Salmone al tomato, Pollo Roma, Taccino Tradizionale, Pollo al Pepe Nero, Gamberoni all'aglio and Tagliatelle Alfredo. Puds were Tiramisu della casa, Christmas pud, Sticky toffee pud with ice cream, Torta Selva Neva and Homemade crespelle

with Grand Marnier. Everything was quite delicious and Very Italian. One more relevant point - Ravellos has an added asset - Claudio - the most perfect 'front of house' it has ever been our pleasure to meet. Charm personified, there for every need - Ravellos certainly wouldn't be the same without him. Ravellos-Italy in our midst - we may sail away there again in the New Year.

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EP CHOIR SINGS FOR THE BUS

The third venue for the choir was Lynwood House. Lanchester Partnership, as you know, put in place a village bus service which is invaluable for those who cannot walk to the village. It is a wonderful initiative especially when the driver is so kind and helpful. The passengers spoke highly of Fred, the first driver, and now it seems the second driver is equally helpful and kind. It does of course cost a lot of money to run the bus and it was to raise money for the bus that a buffet lunch was held at Lynwood House on December 13th. Mick and

Jill Gladstone both manned stalls - one a raffle and the other a tombola, and it was a buffet par excellence. The regular users of the bus were present alongside others who are interested in it and they all thoroughly enjoyed the lunch.

After everyone had eaten, the school choir arrived to give their seasonal concert and their performance was once again delightful. They all looked so happy and this was infectious because there were many smiling faces in the audience. The EP School choir and their conductor have certainly spread a great deal of



The choir preparing to sing at Lynwood House in aid of the village bus.

seasonal spirit this year. Well done!

Brenda Craddock



The choir singing beautifully.

THURSDAY CLUB COFFEE MORNINGS

Below is the text of a letter received from the Great North Air Ambulance showing how much they value the support you

give at our coffee mornings each year. We hope you can join us again this year for our fun and friendly coffee

mornings helping the GNAA. Keep watch on the Village Voice What's On page for dates. Thank you all.

Dear Mrs Whitehead

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Great North Air Ambulance Service, for the recent generous donation of £950.00 raised by your Coffee Mornings in March and October.

Your donation will have an impact on the lives of people across the region; people such as Steven Higgins, who was flown to hospital by the charity following a serious crash on the A66. Steven was assessed and treated by the GNAAS trauma team, then transferred to James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough, where he spent two weeks in intensive care and three months in hospital. Steven said: "I would be dead without GNAAS. It's a brilliant charity."

Last year we were called out 1072 times across our region. To enable us to continue to provide this service, we must raise more than £5m every year. We couldn't be there for people like Steven without the generosity of the communities we serve and greatly appreciated contributions such as yours.

Once more, thank you for your support, we couldn't continue to operate without you. We appreciate all donations and will never pressurise our supporters into giving more. If for any reason you would like to get in touch, please call us on 01325-487263 or visit www.gnaas.com. We'd love to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

Emily Leonard

On behalf of Great North Air Ambulance Service



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VINTAGE TRACTOR RUN



*Vintage Tractors processing toward the King's Head at the start of their
Boxing Day Run.*

**HOT CHOCOLATE AND
MARSHMALLOWS**



*Everyone was served a chocolate drink topped with marshmallows while
listening to the teachers singing.*

I wonder if the title makes
your mouth water and you
think - Delicious! Well
that was the opinion of all
the parents, teachers and

pupils who gathered in
the school hall after
school on Tuesday
December 17th. Everyone
was served a chocolate
drink topped with
marshmallows by
teaching staff, and then
settled down to share
conversations with other
families, while waiting for
the entertainment of the
evening. This took the
form of singing well
known carols which were
printed out on a big screen
and it was great fun.
Everyone entered into the
spirit of the evening and
there was a lovely happy
atmosphere, from a very

tiny baby who was only a
few weeks old to
grandmas and grandpas,
who always support this
annual event. The
favourite part of the
evening for the pupils was
when the staff ascended
the platform to sing
without the pupils help.
They did very well and
everyone clapped their
performance with
enthusiasm. This of
course was just one more
occasion of many which
the school holds to make
Christmas a happy
significant festival of the
year.

Brenda Craddock

CHALKIE'S ADVENTURE

I'm on the Last Leg Home - completing 21000 miles around the world on a bicycle and raising £8000 for Mind.

I aim to be home the 2nd-3rd week of February and to conclude my ride at Knitsley Farm Shop, who've generously offered to support a welcome home gathering. I invite fellow cyclists/followers to ride the last section of my journey with me from Lanchester to Knitsley Farm Shop (all ages and abilities, please join in).

The exact date, time and starting point will be posted on Lanchester Past & Present Facebook, my Facebook page and



The face says it all - a long day.

website (chalkiesadventure.co.uk), also keep an eye out for posters around the village. Non cyclists, friends, family and followers are also invited to meet me at the Farm Shop to mark my homecoming and to allow me to thank you personally for your unfailing support - I couldn't have done it without you.

By way of a brief update on my world challenge: I left home on April 1st, 2019 and travelled across Europe to Turkey. I flew from Istanbul to Mumbai and continued across India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong and Japan. I then flew from Tokyo to Perth and crossed Australia, taking on the Nullarbor Plain. From Brisbane I flew to New Zealand and completed both South and North Island before flying to San Francisco. From there I cycled down

the Pacific Coast to Los Angeles then headed east, crossing America to Jacksonville (Florida) before dropping down to Miami and flying onto Morocco (Agadir). Following the advice of a fellow adventurer, I'm currently exploring a route through the Atlas Mountains, which is a pleasure.

My plan is to cross into Gibraltar, journey up through Spain, France and head home via Wales, meeting friends along the way.

My experience of cycling 2100+ miles around the world has been varied but overwhelmingly positive. My belief in the kindness of strangers and the human race in general has been proven time after time - so many doors have been opened to me and I've experienced true generosity, making the hardships of the journey manageable. Likewise, I cannot thank each and everyone of you



San Francisco - Jacksonville/Florida. Coast - Coast Challenge: Tick.

enough for the forward to meeting you encouragement given to soon. Any questions/info regarding the cycle challenge and for ride or welcome event supporting my should be directed to fundraising for Mind. Both as individuals and business owners you have contributed in so many ways and made it all worthwhile. I look forward to meeting you soon. Any questions/info regarding the cycle ride or welcome event should be directed to cawhite001@chalkie.co.uk. An indication of your attendance at Knitsley would be helpful in advance. Steven White

SEXING BEAVERS IN LANCHESTER?

Well, we do get asked to do some strange things from time to time at the Durham Genome Centre! In fact, none stranger than a recent request to sex beavers using DNA testing technology. We were of course, more than happy to oblige.

It may surprise you to know but it is actually very difficult to determine if a beaver is male or female. Despite being mammals just like us, their underparts look identical and to determine a beaver's sex, a rather tricky physical examination down under must be performed. However, we have now successfully sexed beavers by using DNA analyses of a plucked pelt sample.

The Eurasian beaver is actually native to the UK and it used to be found all across England, Scotland and Wales. They became extinct here in the 16th century because of hunting for their pelt, meat and a secretion called castoreum which they use to mark their territory. This was once highly prized for use in perfumes, food and medicine. Many groups are trying to re-introduce the Eurasian beaver both in the UK and across Europe. Beavers are often referred to as 'ecosystem engineers' as the landscapes they help to create can benefit wildlife. They build dams which slow the flow of water and can lessen flash-flooding

damage downstream. They also help to create diverse and complex wetland habitats that support many species. They can also cause problems that are sometimes more than just a nuisance, as beaver dams can cause flooding which wipes out land that farmers need for crops or livestock. They can also gnaw through rare or important trees and uncontrolled felling of trees can pose a hazard to utility lines and homes. These remarkable water engineers are capable of restoring and enhancing the landscape, but their reintroduction needs to be done with great care. Hopefully though, in

some small way, our sexing efforts will help ecologists with the re-introduction into the countryside of this most interesting species. Charlotte Penney, The Durham Genome Centre



The Eurasian beaver is actually native to the UK.

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LANCHESTER WI

First Meeting in 2020

We met on January 6th, and the meeting was opened by President Marie Murphy, who welcomed everyone with warm wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. The County News contained details of several events, including International Women's Day in March and the Annual Council Meeting at Bishop Auckland. Details are now available for the 2020 Darts competition and anyone interested in starting up a team should contact Marie. We will be submitting a team for this year's County Quiz, and again, any interested 'Quizzers' should contact Marie. The five proposed resolutions of 2020 now reach the voting stage, and members are invited to forward their votes to WI House by February 14th. Members were reminded that for meetings we should wear our name badge, this will make it easier to learn names.

We had two readings, 'This is Me' read by Sue Smith, and Glenda Horne read 'The Story of Our Village.' This month's competition was for a photograph of 'your favourite place'. First

prize went to Jan Vasey and second to Ann Carr. Next month's competition is for a picture created from recycled materials, maximum size 8" x 8". Our raffle winners were Gwen Bramwell, Christine Emmerson and Joan Osborne. Jean Dougherty asked if anyone would be interested in joining a tap dancing class - please see Jean! Jan Vasey and Judith Collins had prepared a quiz for us, it featured photographs of places in the village which had to be identified. Everyone enjoyed this activity and the quiz setters were warmly thanked by Ann Carr.

We ended the evening with a warming and delicious Pie and Pea supper. Please consider becoming more involved by volunteering raffle prizes, giving readings or votes of thanks, etc. This is YOUR WI! Members are asked to let the committee know of anyone celebrating an 80th birthday, or a Golden, Emerald or Diamond wedding anniversary so we can congratulate them with a card and flowers. Also, we'd like to know if any members are in hospital, injured or very ill, so we can send a card to remind them they are in our thoughts.

January Report

Our President Linda welcomed 10 members to the first meeting of the year on a wet and windy night. Our annual subscriptions were collected and our raffle tickets purchased which resulted in Avril and Sarah each winning a prize. Names were taken for a trip to see 'Chess The Musical' at the Gala theatre in May and the films to be shown at the Empire were noted. As many members were unable to attend we have decided to postpone our post Christmas meal until next month.

Our guest speaker was John Hopper who was

SATLEY WI

accompanied by Bonny, his canine companion, and he spoke with great passion about the work he does for The Guide Dogs for the Blind organisation. Bonny was one of fifteen puppies he has puppy walked and he explained that not all the puppies that go through initial training make it to the final stages and actually become guide dogs. Bonny came back to him after working many years as a guide dog when the dog was forced to retire and is now a family pet.

John explained that the organisation relies largely on public

donations and the work of its volunteers. He was thanked by Linda and we had an extra collection to support this worthy organisation.

Our competition for a favourite Christmas card was split into 3 categories. A religious card was won by Sarah, second was Pat and third Ann. A Santa themed card was won by Aldwyn, second was Christine and third Linda. A wildlife themed card was won by Sarah, second was Ann and third was Joan. A most enjoyable night which was rounded off with refreshments supplied by Linda and Avril.

THURSDAY CLUB



Thursday Club members enjoying their Christmas Party at Ramside Hall.

In December 2018 we had our Christmas Party at a Ramside Hall Lunch Event and enjoyed ourselves so much that we decided to repeat the experience in December 2019. So on 12th December, a bitterly cold morning, we set off another entertaining afternoon. We were not

disappointed. The Bishops Suite was all decked out for Christmas. Food, once again, with Minestrone Soup, then Chicken Supreme served with all the trimmings and piping hot, followed by Lemon Tart with Blueberry and Vanilla Compote which was delicious. No complaints. With tea/

coffee and chocolate mints to finish off. Then it was time to 'Let the Good Times Roll' with the 4 D's vocal harmony group. Everyone enjoyed themselves whether singing along, dancing or just chatting and people watching. A lovely way to start Christmas festivities among friends.

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LANCHESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR NEWS

LMVC finished the year with its annual, most enjoyable, 'Celebration of Christmas' concert at the All Saints' C of E Church on 16th December in which the Lanchester Choral Society also participated.

Members are grateful for the services of pianist Brian Scoins who is standing in for the Choir's regular accompanist, Noreen Bridgewater, who badly injured her leg in a fall some ten weeks ago. Dear Noreen is still

'hobbling'; we miss her tremendously and we look forward to her return. Meanwhile Brian - please play on.

Most sadly missed is Malcolm Berry, a second tenor in our ranks for twelve years, who passed away on Christmas Eve following an illness, bravely borne. A resident of Langley Park, Malcolm was an example to us all. A man of integrity, of great character, style and wit; we are the better for having known him and the poorer

for having lost him. Our thoughts are with his dear wife, Lorna.

We now look forward to our first concert of 2020, the Patrons' Concert which will be held in the Community Centre on Saturday 7th March - 7.30 pm. We look forward to it immensely, this concert being our annual opportunity to show our appreciation to those who most generously support LMVC with donations for which we are forever grateful. That concert, this

year, is programmed several weeks earlier than is usual - no problem at all for our new(ish) conductor, Peter Bridgewater, who is now well into his stride in his choral duties (notwithstanding his

temporary duties as a carer).

We very much look forward to another successful year and to perhaps seeing you at one of our concerts during the year. All members wish you a very happy and fulfilling year.

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A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS



The choirs were in good voice for their annual concert.

On Monday December 23rd, the Annual Christmas Celebration Concert was held in the Parish Church. This is the concert when the Male Voice Choir and the Choral Society together prepare a programme of Christmas music and it is always an excellent concert. The concert was attended by Reverend Lesley, Reverend Stuart Earl and Father Cornelius who each in turn read appropriate Bible readings and the carols and Christmas songs which the choirs had chosen to sing were sung sensitively and beautifully. The two

choirs sang together twice and their voices blended perfectly. This was the first time the Lanchester Male Voice Choir were singing with their new conductor Peter Bridgewater and he must have been very pleased with their very good performance. Reverend Lesley, for whom the concert was a first, concluded the concert with words of praise for both the choirs and their conductors and by saying how much she had enjoyed the evening. She then gave a blessing and wished everyone a very Happy and Blessed

Christmas. There was a retiring collection for charity.

Brenda Craddock

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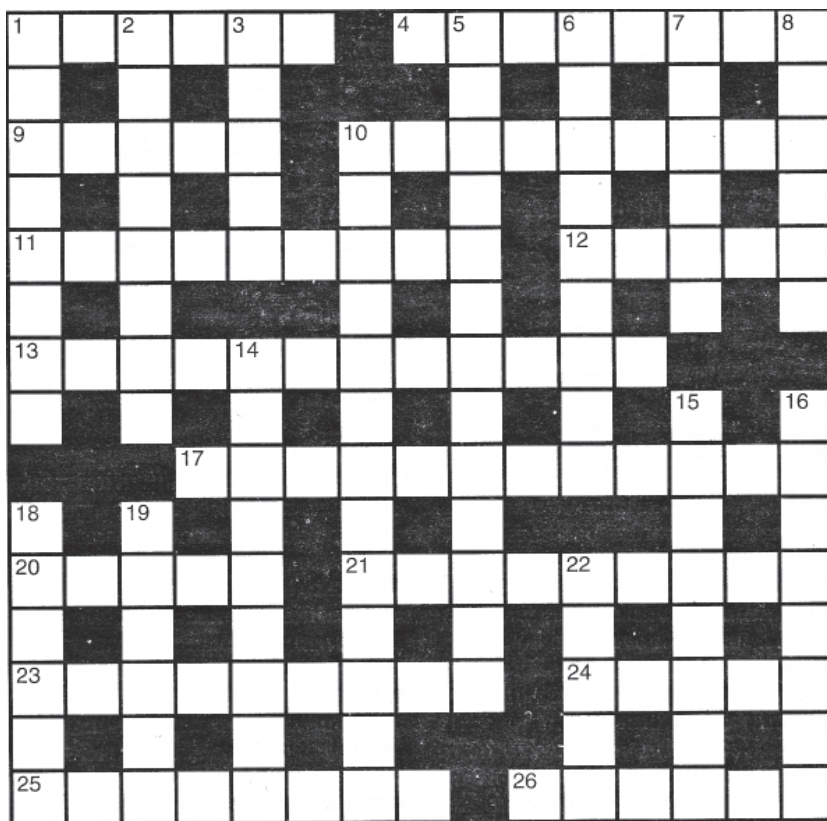


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CROSSWORD 165



ACROSS

1. Chant (6)
4. Famous American gangster (2,6)
9. Hum (5)
10. Troubled (9)
11. Something that is above criticism (6,3)
12. NE zoo produces gas (5)
13. Care! Cork doll is collectors' item (4,3,5)
17. Tainted drams used to set clocks (8,4)
20. Joshua——formervice-president of Zimbabwe (5)
21. The study of speech sounds (9)
23. Like a library book? (3,2,4)
24. Small picture? (5)
25. Created a design that is raised above a surface (8)

DOWN

1. Diligence (8)
2. Was thorough (4,4)
3. Female relative (5)
5. Avoided (4,4,5)
6. Protein building block found in CIA domain (5,4)
7. Choice (6)
8. Moved in a circular way (6)
10. Given to having unfortunate incidents (8-5)
14. Expenses (9)
15. Be coins in artificial resin? (8)
16. Opel for example (8)
18. Defeated (6)
19. Jacuzzi (3,3)
22. Throw out (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 164

ACROSS

1. pour
3. off-putting
10. enamour
11. rancour
12. music
13. odourless
14. non-snorers
16. droop
18. alive
19. succeed to
21. eyestrain
22. evade
24. glamour
25. obliges
26. ringsiders
27. arms

DOWN

1. pneumonia
2. Urals
4. fervour
5. parlour
6. Tunbridge Wells
7. in one word
8. germs
9. non-contentious
15. noise pain
17. processes
19. scarred
20. contour
21. Elgar
23. anger

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.

CROSSWORD 164

There were 15 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to P Dixon who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

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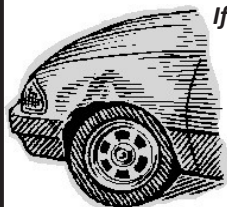
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SUDOKU

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

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

DRY JANUARY - A NEW IDEA?



**Lanchester
Medical Centre**

*Lanchester Patient
Participation Group*

In 2013 the first Dry January campaign was launched; but this wasn't a new idea; back in 1942 it was called Sober January and was part of the war effort. Fast forward to 2020 and we now have an abundance of research telling us the benefits from moderating our alcohol intake. Each year millions of us participate in charity campaigns or make a personal resolution to lay off the booze for a month. But do we really know how these short periods of

abstinence affect our long-term health?

Benefits

Experts from UK universities tell us that a month off alcohol, in healthy individuals who have been drinking moderate to high levels, does lead to tangible health benefits. Within a few days of being alcohol free you skin will be looking better, more hydrated and your body will have automatically lower the level at which alcohol produces its effects. You can expect a weight loss of around 2kg, a 5% decrease in blood pressure, and improvement in diabetes risk of almost 30%, and to sleep better. As alcohol contributes to anxiety, low mood and depression, your mental health will also improve.

It is suggested that in six to eight months after Dry January, the proportion of participants drinking at harmful levels decreased by about 50%. It may be that participating in Dry January allows individuals to 'reset' their relationship with alcohol.

I think we can conclude that Dry January is good and abstaining for a month is a good starting point to re-establish control over the amount of alcohol we drink, but the real benefit to our health is maintaining the recommended low risk guidelines for alcohol intake throughout the year.

NHS Recommendations

- * No more than 14 units of alcohol a week
- * Spread out evenly over the week
- * Several drink free days in the week.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Once again the History Society enjoyed a relaxed and informative evening at our Show and Tell event. An eclectic assortment of items were displayed and discussed from tea pots to cricket bats.

Souvenirs were evident from the items brought, including a beautifully Illustrated London News Coronation book of Edward VII in 1902 with wonderful coloured plates which promoted Pears Soap contrasting with a book advertising Lifebuoy Soap on The Secrets of Health dated 1895, which gave advice to prevent the spread of diseases; you know the one, coughs and sneezes spread diseases. Interestingly, the WI published 'The Story of our Lanchester Village History' in 1952, which told some interesting tales from the village, including Mummies going round the doors and also 'Funeral Bidders' who informed folk of recent deaths.

A couple of war related items included a

Navigator's map of Britain showing the air bases and beacons. The other was a memory plaque picture of a soldier who died at Loos in 1918, which had been printed for families to write on the details of their loved ones.

One of the highlights of the evening was a Miner's lamp which the owner has put together and he reminisced about his time in the Pit, and explained all the parts of the lamp

and how it could be dismantled, lit and put together again.

We also learnt how to date some horse brasses and unusual terrets that horses would wear, with bells or flowers on their bridles, at shows or events. How life has changed.

A great big thank you to everyone who brought their 'booty' along. I can't wait for next year's intriguing selection.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chicken and Sweetcorn Soup

Here's a tasty and warming winter soup, with easy to access ingredients and ready in a short space of time.

You need:

Butter, 15 g
Spring onions, 1 bunch, trimmed and sliced
Creamed sweetcorn 418g can
Frozen sweetcorn, 110 g
Cooked chicken 175 g, shredded
Chicken stock 750 ml
Egg, 1 beaten

Method

- 1) Melt the butter in a large pan and fry spring onions for 30 seconds.
- 2) Add creamed and frozen sweetcorn, chicken and stock. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 5 minutes.
- 3) Bring almost to the boil and gradually add the beaten egg, while gently stirring soup, to form egg threads. Cook until egg has set - do not boil. Serve immediately.

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WHAT'S ON?

Lanchester WI

Meet on February 3rd, and our competition is to make a picture using recycled material, no bigger than 8" x 8". We will enjoy a 'Catwalk with a Difference', when our volunteer models show some of the garments which mean something special to them. Your ideas for outings and other events will be welcomed - there is a box on the Information table. Visitors are always welcome.

Cuppa and Company

The next meeting will be on 11th February at Lynwood House from 11.45am onwards. Everyone welcome, plenty of free places, no age limit. The village bus can still provide lifts.

Satley WI

Our next meeting is on February 10th in Satley Parish Hall at 7.15pm when our speaker will be Catherine Meades, a Genealogist who will talk about The Hoppers of Iveston who were Quakers. Please feel free to join us.

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

On Sunday 16th February Meet in Malton car park at 10.00am. Walk towards Consett on Valley Walk.

Cuppa & Chat is back

Tuesday mornings 9.15am - 11.15am at the RC All Saints' Parish Centre on Kitswell Road, Lanchester. Open to all, especially with younger children looking for a friendly group to be part of. Snacks, teas and coffees. Singing and story time with the children. Donations welcome. Please come and support this local group.

Family History

FREE Sessions
Monday 17th February
(3rd Monday of month)
Lanchester Library
2.30 - 5.30pm.
Contact library to book.

Annual Litter Pick

Saturday 21st March 9.30 to 12 noon, Lanchester Village Green.
Come for an hour and help our regulars give Lanchester a Spring Clean. Pickers and bags provided.

Guided Walks

For anyone looking for regular exercise and fresh air, join our local walking group. Each week - on Wednesdays and Fridays - a group of around 30 walkers meet to take part in Derwentside Guided Walks. These are friendly and sometimes include (reasonably) well behaved dogs. The walks begin at 10.30 am and last for around two hours on Wednesdays and one hour on Fridays. They may include some slopes, uneven surfaces and stiles.

Next month the Wednesday walks start at Ebchester Station car park on February 5th; Allensford Country Park on February 12th; Derwenthaugh Car park, signposted Blaydon Tennis Club on February 19th and Beamish Museum car park on February 26th.

Friday walks start at Burnhope picnic area car park on February 7th; Lanchester King's Head on February 14th; Medomsley, outside the church, on February 21st and Derwent Walk car park, Summerhill, Shotley Bridge on February 28th. No need to book, just turn up to join in.

Jez Lowe Concert

The very popular Jez Lowe will be back in the village on Tuesday 28th April, supported very ably by Martin Matthews and Pete Thompson. The venue is again the Social Club, start time is 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 are available from Lanchester News, the Social Club, or myself (Tel 01207 529286 or 07889037102). It should be an excellent night, not to be missed!
Ian Tute

Lanchester Social Club

Free Live Entertainment
February Artistes:
Sat 1st - Dionne
Sat 8th - Richie Young
Sat 15th - Colin Campbell
Sat 22nd - David Bryan
Sat 29th - Julia McArthur
Sat 14th March - St Patrick's Day Celebrations - Live Entertainment from 9 pm provided by Luke Osbourne. To keep updated, follow us on Facebook.

Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on 11th February with Ian Jobson, Northumbrian Bees, on 'What's going on in the hive? Who's in charge and what has it got to do with football'. 7.30 pm in the Community Centre dining room.

Musical Memories

We will meet on Wednesday February 12th, when we celebrate St Valentine's Day. We meet at Lynwood House from 2pm until 3.30, and welcome anyone with memory problems, their families, friends and anyone looking for friendship and chat over a cup of tea will always be greeted warmly. Come along, don't worry if you're not a great singer, come and join us!

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday 9th February at 7 pm in the Community Centre with the usual raffle, refreshments. Screening at 7.30pm.
The film we are showing is 'Fishermen's Friends'.
Ticket entry: £2.50 members, £3.50 occasional visitors, £2 young persons. Ticket covers entry to raffle, refreshments and film. All are welcome.

Flower Club

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 26th February at 2.00 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre with a talk by Anthony Atkinson whose subject will be 'Top 100 Geordies'.

Community Centre

The Tea Dance is cancelled until further notice.
Tuesdays 6.30 - 7.30 pm - Bums & Tums
Fridays 5.30 - 6.30 pm - Weightwatchers.
Tuesdays 10.00 - 11.00 am - Musical Minis.

Local History Society

Subject: The War came early to Sleepy Valley
Date: Friday February 7th
Time: 7pm
Venue: Lanchester Community Centre.
Sleepy Valley is the curious name given to the estate at the eastern end of Tantobie, near Stanley. Come along and find out what happened there. Visitors warmly welcomed (£3). Tea or coffee served. For more information contact the History Society at marian.morrison@btinternet.com.

Get Creative

On the 1st Thursday of the month at Lanchester Library 10.00am - 11.30am. Come and chat to others while being creative.

Book Club

On Monday February 24th from 2.30-3.30 pm, the group will be discussing 'Crocodile Soup' by Julia Darling. "Wonderfully bizarre".

On Thursday February 20th from 5.30-6.30pm, the discussion will be on 'Fell' by Jenn Ashworth. You're welcome to join us.

Chatterbooks

Monday February 10th from 3.45-4.30 pm for children aged 5-11 years old to read and take part in activities relating to the book of the month. Please contact the library for a place, 03000269514.

Toddler Time Sessions for Under Fives, every Thursday between 2 and 3 pm. Come along to this social time for you and your child to enjoy music, songs and rhymes.

Craft Session

Half term Craft Session
Thursday February 20th, 10-11 am. Book your child's place at Lanchester Library. £1 per child. Children under 8 need to be accompanied by an adult.

Mothers' Union

Happy New Year to everyone. We have an interesting programme in 2020. Our meeting on February 12th will be a talk by the Rev Ruth Crofton on the 'Sinai Desert and its Women'. Hope to see you.

Sunday Bridge

Come and join us in the Community Centre on the 2nd February at 2.00 pm. The entrance fee is £3.

Thursday Club

On 20th February William Welch will be telling us about 'Roma Gypsy History' in the Community Centre **Main Hall** at 1.30 pm. All our meetings in 2020 will be in Room 1 (Main Hall). Visitors and new members welcome.

CRICKET

All Stars and Dynamos News

The winter hibernation is almost over and the seeds of a cricketing spring are almost upon us. We did have a great party on the Saturday before Christmas with Charlotte Forman belting out some great tunes, washed down with lots of alcohol and a lovely buffet by Centurion. Tom Rothwell picked up first prize in the Christmas draw. We will be celebrating the 80th birthday of one of the founder members, George Wilkinson on February 15th, where donations to Willow Burn Hospice would be greatly appreciated.

On the cricketing front, indoor nets will commence on Monday 10th February at Fyndoune College, Sacriston. Players aged 13 and under will be the focus of the 6-7 hour, with coaching led by Luke McCabe. Then 7-8 will be the 15s/18s and seniors. Cost is £3 per head.

After a highly successful first year, the

club will run the All Stars programme again. The clubspark website is now open so parents can start signing up for the sessions. This year we will run them on a Thursday night 5-6 pm and hope the weather gods are a little kinder than last year. Primarily we've had to move the day as the first team will have a lot of cup ties on a Friday and the changed day will allow players to supplement our existing activators. The first week will be 7th May and will run for 8 weeks, with the 21st May missed out.

The ECB have launched the follow on for All Stars, called Dynamos. This is aimed at 8-11 year olds, who are new to cricket or wish to continue on from All Stars and are not yet ready for hard ball cricket. It will be an 8 week programme which we will start on 2nd May and will cost £30. You register through the same route as All Stars.

DURHAM COUNTY UNDER 9S

Durham County Under 9s football club would like to thank Gentoo Homes for sponsoring their team. During the festive period, the boys showed off their kits in style at The Riverside stadium, Middlesbrough where they were mascots for the game against Stoke. They then toured St James' Park proudly in their kit, meeting Santa while they were there! The squad which is made up of boys

from all over County Durham, including many from All Saints' Primary School, play in the Russell Foster League. Their coaches Alan Armstrong,

Andy Cornfield, Chris O'Brien and Phil Cushing have worked very hard with this new team and they are improving every match!



The lads at St James' Park with coaches Alan (left) and Andy (right). The boys from All Saints are Matthew Bell, Max Armstrong, Finley Cornfield, Jacob Collins, Adam Monaghan and Aidan O'Brien.

TOP BOWLING AT STANLEY

Stanley Indoor Bowling Club (above Asda) is considered to be one of the best bowling rinks in Britain and has hosted some of the most prestigious competitions including Test Matches and the British Isles Championships. Another top competition will be coming on 15th and 16th February, the British Isles Under 25 International Series. Games start at

9.30 am. Teams will represent England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The English team will be captained by Connor Cinato, the current British Isles Junior Champion who hails from Kettering. There's sure to be some top class bowling with full rinks and close matches. Entrance only £3.

The following Sunday, 23rd February at Stanley

starting at 1.00 pm, there is a chance to see the top disabled bowlers in the country when a team representing Disabled Bowls England takes on a team from Stanley. This game has been organised by Steve Angus, a Stanley bowler and one of the best disabled bowlers in the country. Having watched Steve play, we can expect some remarkable bowls played by the DBE team.

LANCHESTER TABLE TENNIS CLUB - 10 YEARS ON



Frank Clarke (centre) with members of the Table Tennis Club.

After 10 years of volunteering, Frank Clarke has retired from coaching at the club. A presentation was held on Friday 17th January at which he was awarded an honorary life membership certificate, in recognition of his

coaching services to the Club. Frank is a Lanchester resident and former PE teacher who was instrumental in forming the club in 2010 at the Community Centre, with the use of one table in the small meeting room. Five

tables are now in use on Friday evenings in the large hall. Junior sessions are held between 6 and 7 pm followed by Seniors between 7 and 9 pm. The Club has 2 teams in the Sunderland Table Tennis Winter League and had a team in the Durham Table



Jeff Singleton, Chairperson Lanchester Table Tennis Club, receiving the cheque from John O'Connor of Project Genesis Trust.

Tennis League last summer, with matches played on Wednesday evenings in the small hall. Annual membership is only £10 for Adults and £3 for Juniors, plus session fees of £5 and £2. Potential new members are welcome to visit the Club for a free session to try the sport. Bats and balls are provided.

Project Genesis Grant
John O'Connor, Chairman of Project Genesis Trust, visited Lanchester Table Tennis Club recently to present a cheque for £500. The grant will be used to purchase equipment and help with the general running costs of the Club. If you would like to join us, please come along on a Friday evening.

BOXING DAY HUNT



Huntsmen and hounds leaving the King's Head car park.



Probably the youngest rider at the event.



Moving through the village at the start of the hunt.

Hundreds of locals - young and not so young - turned out to see the traditional Boxing Day hunt in Lanchester's Front Street.

The joint master of the Braes of Derwent Hunt said they had been meeting in the village on Boxing Day for around 40 years now.

Huntsmen and women, horses and hounds emerged from the car park behind the King's Head and paraded along the street to stop

outside Crinnions, where they were fed with refreshments by staff.

Although fox hunting is now illegal, the

hounds are sent off trail hunting using animal scents.

And the spectacle has changed little over the years. *Neil McKay*

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 18th February. The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 14th February.

The Village Voice Page 20

Published by Lanchester Publications Ltd, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB and printed by Durham County Council, Design and Print, Comeleon House, Tanfield Lea Industrial Estate North, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 9NX. 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.