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THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 11 Volume 6

Lanchester, December 2005

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SUCCESSFUL BONFIRE NIGHT



Building the bonfire are Peter Richardson and young helper, Eric Tuffy, Alan Hill, Alan Kelly, Mark Draper, Tony Corry and Mike Stoddart

More pictures on page 3

The Lions were lucky again that despite all the torrential rain preceding November 5th the actual night itself was near perfect for a bonfire and firework display. Light sticks sold out before the event began and by the end of the evening the Lady Lions had sold all of their excellent refreshments. Many hundreds of people gathered at Kitswell Park and enjoyed a spectacular firework display. Thanks are due to the Parish Council who gave a grant of £400 towards the fireworks. Fred Atkinson, Managing Director of GT Project Engineers of Delves Lane provided and

delivered the pallets free of charge, and the Community Service Organization provided manpower to help the Lions build the bonfire and erect the fencing. The super Guy Fawkes this year was made by members of the Art Club at the EP Primary School and the Lions thank those children for doing such a fine job. However, what made the event a financial success were all the people who attended the display and gave so generously by putting coins in buckets, buying light sticks and enjoying the hot dogs etc on sale. The profit from the event was just over £1000.

ATTACKER SENTENCED

A twenty-three year old man was sentenced at Durham Crown Court on 20th October for a knife attack in Lanchester last November.

Barry Burnett, aged 23, of Pine Street South, Stanley was given a custodial sentence of three years and 11 months as a result of the attack on Front Street, Lanchester in the evening of Sunday November 14th last year. The Lanchester resident who was the victim of this assault, as he walked home between 9 and 10 o'clock, suffered a total of 9 stab wounds and was declared by his surgeon to be lucky to survive.

HAIR-RAISING ANTICS AT THE QUEENS



Colin Westgarth gets the tender treatment from Michelle

Full story page 8



Dear Village....

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

Dear Sir,

Durham County Council is going to close Lynwood House but has not yet decided what to do with the building or the grounds.

It is studying a major report on the future provision of care for elderly people throughout the County. The Parish Council is arranging a one-day conference early next year on the future provision of care for the elderly. Part of the discussion will be about the future use of Lynwood House and its site. Local residents will be encouraged to take part. This is a very good idea and the Parish Council is to be congratulated.

However, there is a danger that by the time of this

conference important decisions on Lynwood House and its site may already have been taken by Durham County Council. We have heard that a report is being prepared and may be presented to County Councillors in early December.

Something must be done now to stop them from deciding its future before they know what the residents of Lanchester think. In particular, we must prevent them from asset-stripping and selling off the site to a developer.

The Partnership asks as many as possible of your readers, the residents of Lanchester, to write NOW to The Director of Social Services at County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL. In their letters they should say how concerned they are about what is happening, and perhaps say that they are particularly worried that land might be sold off for development when the village has pressing needs

for proper stepped care facilities for elderly people. Points that they might wish to bring out could include:

■ The site should not be devoted to any use other than the care of elderly people.

■ We do not want even part of this site to be sold off to developers - the village does not need any more large houses, and both Durham CC and Derwentside DC have recently made a lot of money out of Lanchester from the sale of the Kitswell Road site.

■ The village is short of affordable houses, but even these would be unwelcome if they took up space needed for care facilities.

■ "Care in the Community" is a praiseworthy aim but it is not suitable for everyone, and in any case there are nothing like enough carers to make it work for all of the people who need care.

■ We need "stepped care" within Lanchester; i.e. care in the community, sheltered units, residential care, nursing homes. This is recognised as being essential to cater for the changing needs and increasing dependency of elderly people.

■ We want this in the village so that personal links of the elderly with friends (who are themselves likely to be frail), family and the community can be maintained.

■ For almost all elderly people these personal links in the village are much more important than en-suite toilet facilities in purpose-built units at Delves Lane or elsewhere.

■ There is no other site in Lanchester where "stepped care" could be provided. This site is near to the doctors' surgery and near to the village centre and on a level with it, which allows some residents to

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

get into the village, on foot or in motorised chairs.

■ Lynwood House site should be used to provide good, integrated care facilities - stepped care on the one site - to properly look after our growing population of elderly people. They do not want to be shipped out elsewhere. We want them in our village.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Gladstone

Chair of the Lanchester Partnership

Dear Editor,

John and Eileen Brown would like to thank everyone for their support following the sudden death of their daughter Fiona. We were and are overwhelmed by the love and respect many of you had for her. She was a very loving and caring person and I hope she was aware of the love that surrounded her before her untimely death at the age of 32.

We would like to thank Canon Spence for his sensitive handling of her Mass. Again the size of the congregation overwhelmed us, making us realise how much she was loved. Her body is interned at Penny Meadows Burial Site at Medomsley, which is a meadow field overlooking the Tyne Valley.

Fiona had many interests. She was an avid supporter for 16 years of Ice Hockey from the Durham Wasps to the Newcastle Vipers, she used to travel all over the country to support them. She was a founder member of the Braes of Derwent Pony Club and went on to be an active member of the Bishops Riding Club, she also

competed in her own right. She had an NVQ in childcare and worked at Lanchester Play Group for a number of years. The loves of her life were sport, children, her home, animals and the elderly, not necessarily in that order.

Her two favourite charities were Willow Burn Hospice and because of her love of horses, the Brooke Hospital for Sick Animals. Donations amounted to a staggering £740 through collection in church, private donations from family and friends and from Victoria Court, where Fiona had worked for the last three years. This huge amount has been divided equally between the two charities. As Fiona spent a large amount of her two holidays at the Brooke Hospital in Luxor, Egypt we specifically requested, and it has been agreed, that this particular branch of the charity will receive her donation.

At the moment our thoughts are sad and we find it impossible to anticipate the future without her. Recently we've been looking back at some photographs and remembering times spent with Fiona such as fabulous, happy, funny, precious times. We had such fun going away competing with Ben, her horse. Us sleeping rough, freezing cold, in the horse wagon, whilst he was warm and comfortable in a stable. Never knowing if the wagon would get us to the competition or not, it was always breaking down, and there was always a huge cheer from our friends when we did arrive. She made every birthday,

continued opposite

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THE GUY MAKERS



Members of the Art Club at Lanchester EP School who made the Guy for the 400th Anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot

Children from the Art Club at the EP School volunteered to make the Guy for this year's Lions Village Bonfire Night at Kitswell Park. Miss Roffe

is responsible for running the Art club and was assisted by Mrs Knowles who 'helped' the children make the guy.

TRICK AND TREAT



Two lovely Trick and Treat children out door-knocking on Halloween, closely monitored by Grandparents Sadie and Erin Densham



The crowd is lit up by the bonfire and another barrage of fireworks

Letters continued

Christmas, anniversary so special with funny quirky presents and surprises. She had a wonderful sense of humour and even though she was our

daughter she was probably the nicest person we have ever known. She had a short life but it touched so many people. Haven't we been lucky.

Thank you all again for your love and support. It has been very much appreciated at this very difficult time.

John and Eileen Brown
Margery Flatts Farm



Ice-hockey fan Fiona Brown is presented with a player's shirt

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

LYNWOOD HOUSE
As some Lancastrians may be aware Lynwood House, the village's residential care home for the elderly, is to close in March 2006. This is happening as part of Durham County Council's programme to improve care provision for older people. The recently published Parish Plan described as 'high priority' the need to 'seek ways to

influence developments in local care provision ... to establish 'stepped care' within the Parish by working with the Primary Care Trust, social care and the local Strategy Partnership.' Therefore the Parish Council has resolved to contact all the bodies concerned and call for a consultation process to begin in the New Year to discuss the care of the elderly in the area.

NEW PUBLIC LOO!
Readers may remember in a recent issue we revealed that the Park House GP Practice is hoping to expand its services and premises. In order to proceed with the development, the practice needed the Parish Council to relinquish its lease on a neighbouring piece of land. The Council suggested that if the GPs were willing to provide a public toilet at the new facility (primarily for the use of parents and children using the park) then they would consider relinquishing the lease. Park House Practice have now agreed in principle to build a toilet which would be attached to the practice but maintained by the council. The Council will now allow the development plans to go ahead on the land they leased. So watch this space ... the days of having to dash home or keep your legs crossed while out in the village may soon be over!

NEW BENCHES
The Council has agreed to pay around £3600 for 10 new benches around the Parish. These should appear early next year at various locations including along Durham Road and on Cadger Bank. A rolling programme to replace and upgrade other public benches in the village will come into force in the future.

LANCHESTER BUS INTERCHANGE
Work is due to start sometime between now and April 2006 to improve facilities at 'Lanchester Bus Interchange' (the bus shelters next to the village green and former Co-op building). The work will include new poles and signs and

raised kerbs to improve wheelchair and pram access on and off buses.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
The BIG Lanchester Christmas lights switch on will take place at 6pm on Thursday 1st December on the village green. Representatives from both of the village's primary schools will be involved in the event. It will also feature a 'Thank You' reception for those involved in the development of the Lanchester Parish Plan.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK
On Saturday 12th November, representatives of Lanchester Women's Institute and the Parish Council were involved in the planting of a new tree on the village green. This is to replace a tree which had originally been donated by the WI 20 years ago and which died. The new tree is a Norwegian Maple.

KITSWELL ROAD FOOTBALL PITCH
The Parish Council is to replace the old football posts on the pitch at Kitswell Road with a new set of 'mild steel' goal posts. These have been chosen instead of an aluminium set, as aluminium posts are often stolen.

BONFIRE NIGHT
The police have been notified by the Parish Council about the considerable amount of illegal parking by people attending the firework display on Saturday 5th November. Police officers were on duty on the night on Kitswell Road close to the event, but elsewhere in the village there were problems with parked cars, a number of which were left on the village green.

AWARD FOR VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

The Lanchester Village Design Statement has been awarded a "Commendation" in the 2005 Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Branch Awards. It was judged to be the third best planning project in the North of England.

The Regeneration of Middlesbrough Town Centre and the Wear Valley Water Treatment Works won first and second places, but we beat four other entries including a development framework for Stockton-Middlesbrough and the North East of England Regional Spatial Strategy. The judges commented on the fact that the Village Design Statement was drawn up by members of the local community for the local community, and they thought it was a credit to all concerned. They liked the innovation of including non-statutory "Aspirations", the description and analysis of the character of the village and the many photographs and drawings which they thought gave the document extra public appeal.

Our Village Design Statement discourages building that is not in keeping with the characteristics of the village. The Parish and District Councils use it when considering applications for planning permission.

Anyone intending to build should read it before making their plans. To get a copy ask Derwentside DC Development Control Department on (01207) 218000, a member of Lanchester Partnership or their website.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY



Rev Helen Barton, Rev Mary Lloyd, Canon Waterhouse and Canon Spence officiate at the Remembrance service

On Friday 11th November children of All Saints gathered in the school hall to share in a very special assembly as part of their Remembrance Day tributes. Each class laid a wreath decorated with hand-made poppies, then listened as Mrs Douglas recalled how both her mother and father had lost cousins who died in the war when they were quite young. Miss Kendall then read a Remembrance poem, and the children sat in silence before the tune of the 'Last Post' was played. Canon Spence thanked the children for a very moving and thoughtful assembly and encouraged them all to pray for peace in the world.



Some of the children who placed wreaths

WINTER IS COMING

Winter is nearly here and according to some people we could be in for a very cold spell with lots of snow. So now is the time to start thinking about the things we should do to protect ourselves from damage caused by leaking pipes etc. Make sure the lagging on your pipes is in good condition (don't forget the loft). If you have an outside tap, make sure it's turned off for the winter. If not sure, find out where your main water isolation valve is in case you need to find it in a hurry. When going away on holiday during the winter turn off the water at the main valve. Finally, always make sure your gas meter is accessible at all times so the gas supply can be isolated in an emergency. **Advice from Lanchester Plumbing & Heating**

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ALL CHANGE AT THE THREE HORSE SHOES

There is certainly a wind of change blowing through The Three Horse Shoes at Maiden Law. Jo and Jason took over the pub on 19th September from Jason's dad and they have never stopped. The exterior of the pub has already been completely redecorated and new signs are in place. The inside has almost finished being redecorated and upholstery refurbished where required. The bar and lounges have a very tasteful décor, are extremely comfortable and look most inviting. All decorating and refurbishment of

seating will be completed before Christmas.

A new chef has been employed who trained and served in the navy for about ten years. He monitors sales of popular meals and adjusts the menu accordingly. The menu has, in fact, been expanded and specials are available every day with only fresh produce cooked on the premises now being used. One or two of the former staff have remained, but several new members have joined which has increased the efficiency of the service. In the back room a new pool table has been ordered and will be in place within a few days. A Christmas Menu is available from 1st December and on 2nd December there will be live entertainment. Jo and Jason extend a very warm welcome to customers old and new.



Jo and Jason at the refurbished bar of The Three Horse Shoes

The Three Horse Shoes (Lanchester Road Maiden Law)

is under new management

Jo & Jason welcome you

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VILLAGE BUS TO RUN 5 DAYS A WEEK

Starting in the week beginning December 5th, the Lanchester Link village bus will run every weekday morning, including Thursdays. The Thursday running should be a big improvement, and will be paid for with a grant from Cllr. John Ingham. Enough money has now been raised for the bus to run 5 days a week until next August. What will happen then is not known, but the Partnership and the Parish Council are hoping to persuade the County Council to take it over and run it as a normal bus service.

Please use the village bus whenever you can. If we don't use it we will lose it.

CHILDREN RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

Local grandmother Jeanette Kasher showed great initiative in raising money for 'Children in Need'. In just one day she made Pudsey Bear costumes for her three grandchildren, Stephen

James Kasher aged 5, Bethany Jade Liddle aged 3, and Kieran Max Kasher aged 11 months, and proceeded to take them on a sponsored toddle around the village. On Saturday

12th November they all walked 5 times around the village and along the main road collecting money as they went, and succeeded in raising a massive £182 for 'Children in Need'.



Stephen James Kasher, Bethany Jade Liddle and Kieran Max Kasher who raised money for 'Children in Need'

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LANCHESTER DVD

Three award winning North West Durham press photographers have teamed up to make a DVD on the historic village of Lanchester. Eric Burns from Lanchester has done the photography as well as using old photographs from his unique collection. Dave Foster from Consett, assisted by Helen Jopling, have digitally enhanced and restored the old pictures and styled them into Photo motion theme at his Northpoint studio at

Shotley Bridge, while Radio Broadcaster Brian Clough from Chester le Street has lent his distinct silky voice in narrating the DVD. Brian and Dave established Eventual Productions last year and have made various DVDs including "How to Take Better Pictures with Your Compact Digital Camera" set around Durham and up at Hall Hill Farm with the animals.

The Lanchester DVD will be ready for December (just in time for Christmas)

portraying virtual reality images of the Roman Fort, old halls and famous people of the area, churches, watering holes and lots of pictures of the Village including the floods of 1968. The DVD has over 130 images, all in Photo motion.

The DVD costs £12.99 and can be purchased at Northpoint Multimedia at Shotley Bridge, Lanchester Library, Lanchester Newsagents and Matthews Home and Country shop.



One of the old photos in the new DVD shows the Venture coach in front of Blue Bell, later the Lanchester Arms

INTRODUCING - JIM MORGAN

We welcome a new resident to Lanchester who has returned to his native North-East after an international career as singer and teacher.

Jim was born in Easington Lane, and trained as a teacher at St John's College, York before taking a post as Head of Music at a school in York. He later taught at Ampleforth College for five years, and St Peter's school in York. While in York he sang with the Chapter House Choir and set up and conducted a successful female close harmony choir.

But Jim's musical life was not only teaching. A baritone, he sang with the BBC singers. He broadcast

as soloist for Radio 2's Songs from the Shows and sang with the Deller Consort, touring Europe and America.

During a five-year stay in France, he joined a French company which took a programme of Scenes from Broadway Musicals on a tour of Japan. He currently commutes between London and Paris teaching singers at Covent Garden and the Paris National Opera.

Jim has spent a lot of time in London, which has a rich musical scene but he's fallen for Lanchester with its relaxed atmosphere, friendly folk and beautiful surroundings. Jim is now closer to his roots and

family, but has to restart his career in the North-East. Anyone who would like singing tuition can ring him on 528292.

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HAIR-RAISING ANTICS AT THE QUEENS

Saturday 22nd October at the Queen's Head was certainly entertainment with a difference. The well-worn cliché 'no pain, no gain' goes some way towards describing the event. There was



A scalped John Dixon looks on as Andrew Suddes loses half his chest hair

certainly plenty of pain as John Dixon, proprietor; Andrew Hall; Colin Westgarth, John Cracknell; Carl Williams; and Andrew Suddes had their bodies waxed in aid of the Charity 'Tiny Lives and Premature Babies'. The waxing idea started as a joke but it was no joke for those brave lads who took part. The main room was absolutely packed and one by one, with encouragement from the crowd, they gingerly slid on to the table for their beauty treatment. This was administered by Michelle, Beauty Therapist from New

Image, assisted by her two colleagues Joan and Lisa. The cries of pain may have been heard at the Bull, were it not for the noise of the people in the room who swapped banter with the victims and were thoroughly enjoying the tremendous atmosphere. Andrew Hill bravely had both cheeks de-haired as well as the rest of his torso and Andrew Suddes was a last minute replacement for a gentleman who could not appear at the last minute due to bird flu (or something to do with chickens). Andrew, in putting himself forward raised almost £100 of sponsorship from the 'floor' of the pub, which was quite exceptional. Either his friends are very sadistic and enjoy seeing him suffer or they genuinely wished to support the charity.

Today all participants are suffering with very sore nipples! After the excitement of the waxing, the evening carried on well into the night with a disco provided by Paul Smith, who donated his services free of charge, for which John is very grateful. There was also a free buffet provided by the Queens. John would also like to thank New Image for use of the 'beauty materials' at no charge, and to Michelle, Lisa and Joan who gave up their time (so eagerly). And, of course, thanks are due to all those who supported the event by attending and giving. No pain, no gain? Well, there was plenty of gain. In excess of £600 was raised which included a donation of £50 from the Lions club.



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SHE'S GREAT GREAT

94 year old Nancy Cuthbertson, of Church View, Lanchester, has now attained the status of great great grandmother with the birth of Chloe Connolly on September 12th to Benjamin

Connolly of Seaburn, son of Caroline Connolly of Seaburn, son of Chris Wilson of Throstle Nest Farm, Lanchester, Nancy's daughter. Congratulations all round!

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR PSYCHOLOGY STUDY

Aged 40-70, female and male, for a study examining the abilities of people to recognize emotions and actions portrayed in postures and movement of the body. The study will involve making judgements about images and short video clips presented on a computer screen. There will also be a couple of questionnaires to complete. The whole

session should take 60-90 minutes. Home visits can be arranged (the researcher is a Lanchester resident). You will also be paid for your time and effort (at the rate of £5 per hour). For further information and to volunteer, please contact Dr. Anthony Atkinson, Department of Psychology, Durham University, tel. 0191-3343234, a.p.atkinson@durham.ac.uk

BLUE PETER APPEAL

On the 1st November the British Red Cross finished a year's fundraising for the Blue Peter Appeal for the British Red Cross in Angola - Tracing and Messaging service. Throughout the country the appeal raised over £500,000 of which £1,200 was raised in Lanchester during the year. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event to continue the Red Cross work in Angola. Brenda Gibson, volunteer shop manager.

GARDENERS MEET



Graham Henry and Chris Beardshaw

Graham Henry, alias Graham the Gardener, spent the day with Chris Beardshaw at Capel Manor College near London as part of a masterclass in garden design. They spent all day together discussing various aspects of gardening and design which could be incorporated within the business. Chris was very interested in "Graham The Gardener" and gave Graham plenty of advice on how he got started and the experience he has gained throughout his career.

GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER

Flowers

Plant bare root roses, trees and shrubs. Prune standard roses to prevent wind rock. When we have snow, shake conifers to prevent the weight bearing on branches. Protect susceptible plants with fleece or recycle old net curtains - they are just as good.

Greenhouse

If you have a heated greenhouse monitor heaters daily. Dead head over wintering plants and water sparingly.

General

Plant rhubarb - it grows best in full sun and rich soil. Also winter hanging baskets - there are plenty of plants to choose from: ivy, euonymus, skimmias, mini cyclamen and ornamental cabbages. Remember wildlife - keep surfaces where birds feed clean. Water is just as important as food; ensure it is changed daily. If anyone would be interested in making cake on a rope for birds check our website.

Graham the Gardener

WALKING GUIDE

A book of short walks in our area has been published by Lanchester Partnership. The book, written by Malcolm McKenzie, includes 30 walks between the Derwent valley and the Wear varying from two and a half to five and a quarter miles and includes walk descriptions, sketch maps and photographs. All profits from the sale of the book, which costs £5, will go to cover the running costs of Lanchester Partnership. The books are available from Lanchester Library or by ringing 521427.

Kath Stronell BSc(Hons) Pod. MCh.Soc.

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TAIZE WORSHIP

The ecumenical Taize Service held at the Parish church on Thursday 3rd November was emotional and uplifting. The church was dimmed for the occasion and adorned with many beautiful illuminated candles which created a very peaceful

atmosphere. It was particularly sad that Brother Roger, who went to Taize in France in 1940 to help people with difficulties, was brutally murdered earlier this year. There are now more than 100 community members there to make sure that his

legacy lives on. Many people for many years have made pilgrimages to the settlement.

The service was conducted by Margaret Walters (piano) and Wendy Hughes (flute) who accompanied the choir and congregation in

gentle harmonious chants, some of which were sung as a two-part canon, which was difficult to accomplish but very beautifully executed. Interspersed with the chants were readings from the bible and prayers, with time for contemplation and silent

prayer as well. The service ended with prayers of thanksgiving and praise led by Canon Peter. Dick Rose gave a vote of thanks for all the hard work that Margaret and Wendy had done in preparation to make the service possible, and presented both with a gift.

POLICE REPORT

During the past month there have been a variety of crimes reported to the police including damage to homes, cars and assaults. Three house windows were broken by an unknown person at Manor Grange, the police have been unable to identify any suspects and no forensic evidence was recovered. A car which was parked in a lay-by at Hollinside was broken into and property was stolen. The police have arrested someone in connection with car tyres being slashed on Burnhopeside Avenue. Two people have been arrested and Durham CID are carrying out further investigations following an assault on Newbiggen Lane. A further

two people have been arrested following two unrelated domestic incidents.

In other matters, unscrupulous door to door fish sellers have been visiting the area they are believed to be three males driving a small white Bedford type van. Although they have not committed any offences, they are believed to have a 'hard sell' approach, particularly preying on elderly people who they obviously see as being vulnerable. Please be on your guard for any cold callers and if in doubt regarding their identity, or if they appear to be suspicious please contact the police on 0845 6060365. The parking issue outside

Peter's the Bakers, which was raised at a recent parish council meeting, has been referred to Durham Police Traffic Management, who have liaised with Durham County Council Highways Department. The location has been surveyed by both parties and steps are being taken to replace the pavement bollard, which had previously been removed. In response to people's concerns over parking, especially on Front Street, December has been highlighted as a month of 'action'. Posters are being distributed throughout village premises to alert motorists of the consequences of illegal parking. Any subsequent offenders caught may face prosecution.

MINERALS PLANS

County Durham is currently formulating a Minerals and Waste Development Framework, in line with Government guidelines. This mouthful means that minerals firms will be trying to get their plans to excavate various parts of the County into a legal document drawn up by the County. Any area which they succeed in persuading the County to put in their "Framework" will then be more likely to be quarried or open cast, as the case may be.

It is therefore a good idea for people living near these areas, who have views about open-casting next door to them, to find out what is being planned and send their views on the matter to the County Council by email (or

by writing to Planning Policy Team, Environment, Durham CC, County Hall DH1 5UQ. You can also ring 0191 383 4114 for more information.

The nearest proposal to Lanchester is the land between the A691, the Delves Lane road and the lane from Iveston to Delves, described as Castel Dene/Hurbeck (sic), from which 645,000 tons of coal might be extracted over a four-year period.

A big slab of land North-West of the A692 between Pontop and Brooms church is also targeted.

At present, plans to open-cast land North of Stoney Heap is out for consultation. Quote JRH/CMA/1/25 if commenting to the County on this.

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THE BIG SEA SHANTY SING



All Saints' Primary School children at The Sage Gateshead

There was a definite nautical feel to the air when pupils of year 4, 5 and 6 in All Saints joined hundreds of other children at the Sage

Gateshead on Tuesday 8th November for the 'Big Sea-Shanty Sing'. The event was staged as part of Nelson's bicentennial celebrations. The

children sang some fourteen sea-shanties, and were led from the stage by the 'Keelers'; songs included 'Bobby Sailor', 'the Keel Row',

'Billy Boy' and the children's particular favourite 'What Shall We Do With A Drunken Sailor'. Afterwards All Saints enjoyed their

packed lunch and a rainswept walk across the Millennium Bridge before heading off back to school on the bus, still singing.....

THEATRE FOR YOUTH



All Saints' Primary School was visited on Monday 31st October by two actresses from

the Manchester-based Theatre For Youth. Siubhan Rae and Naomi Albans

entertained the young folk with scenes from Dickens novels. Our photo shows the

carrier Barcus taking young David Copperfield to his new boarding school.

PREPARING FOR BAPTISM?

Parents wishing to have their child baptised at All Saints' RC Church, Lanchester are invited to a baptism preparation course.

This will be a rolling programme, available three times per year from January 2006. New and expectant parents are welcome, and this invitation is extended to babies' grand-parents, godparents and brothers and sisters. For further information please contact Sarah Biasi (0191 373 4002) or Sharon Bell (529016). Booking forms are available from the presbytery.

DAD'S ARMY

Almost 120 people, most dressed in war and wartime attire crowded beneath the camouflage in the Community Centre at the recent Dad's Army theme night organized by

Lanchester Lions. Five Star General Graham McVeigh was in charge and the night went with a real swing. The music was very much 40s, the food was Leek and Potato Soup, Stew with

Sliced Potatoes and Apple pie washed down with lots of beer and wine. The atmosphere was incredibly realistic with most people in the hall dressed as service personnel or in typical

wartime clothing. As people entered the room it was filled with smoke, the siren was sounding above the noise of guns firing and bombs exploding. In the background the Dad's Army video was playing non-stop. Thereafter, there were many air-raid warnings, lights dimmed and flashlights sweeping the room. Later it was slightly more relaxing and

definitely amusing as the swing dance contest took place followed by the Dambusters march where individuals were persuaded to bomb the bucket with coins clenched between their buttocks as the crowd hummed the song. Altogether a fantastic night which raised a substantial sum of money for local causes at Christmas.



Tony and Gloria Corry, John and Anita Richmond, Mike Stoddart, Tommy Robinson and Lestrine and Alan Kelly



To the tune of the Dam Busters March, another plane comes in to bomb the bucket

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BRIDGE FOR CHARITY

The NSPCC benefited by one of Lanchester Bridge Club's regular Tuesday evening sessions on 5th October, when table money, a raffle and donations added up to £260 for the charity.

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DANCING AT THE SOCIAL CLUB



Friday night dancing stars Ivy Hill, Ronnie Elliot and Sheila Hodgson

The Friday night Dancing Club, which formerly met at Delves Lane, celebrated meeting at Lanchester Social Club for three years by having a fancy dress night. They practice both modern and sequence dancing during their very enjoyable evenings.

MUSICAL EVENING

A musical evening organised by All Saints parent teachers association on Saturday 12th November raised £730 for PTA funds.

An absorbing and varied musical programme included unaccompanied songs from Margaret and

Megan O'Brien, Janet Noble and Craig Davies' duets with electronic keyboard, old-time songs from David Conlin, popular numbers from Lesley Suddes and guitar-accompanied songs from Colm Doyle, who also compered the evening.

Sadly the invited guest Michael Kelly was not able to sing, but he entertained by accompanying Colm and by playing a couple of instrumentals. The PTA wish to thank all those who took part in the event.



Colm Doyle



Margaret and Megan O'Brien

WANTED

Violin teacher for an adult beginner, who would prefer lessons in own home. Please ring 521678.

WISDOM

Parentage is a very important profession, but no test of fitness for it is ever imposed in the interest of children (GB Shaw)

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LADY LIONS SUPPORT WILLOW BURN



A packed Community Centre enjoying their Cream Tea organized by Lady Lions in aid of Willow Burn



Jan Vasey certainly enjoying her cake buying at the Lady Lions' Cream Tea

LILYDALE COMPETITION

As part of their ten year celebrations Lilydale Pet Supplies recently organized a painting competition for children in two categories, under ten and over ten years old. There were just over twenty entries and all were excellent, but there had to be a winners and in the under 10 class Thomas Edge's lovely picture of Monty Springer was successful and in the over ten years class, Kate Tilley's super picture was judged to be first. The competition was sponsored by Burgess Supa Feeds and all entrants will receive a prize.

A tremendously well-supported Cream Tea was held at the Community Centre on Thursday afternoon 3rd November. The hall was crowded every minute between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. As well as the Cream Tea there was a cake stall; a name the

teddy; a raffle; and a mixed goods stall run by Willow Burn staff. Willow Burn made £145 from their stall and the Lady Lions raised £340, making the total a magnificent £485 for Willow Burn. Thanks are due to all those who helped and supported the event.

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SPONSORED WALK TOTAL

Details of funds raised through the sponsored walk for Willow Burn on August Bank Holiday have now been provided by organiser Paul Smith. The record sum of £4326.45 came from 100 walkers, including £855 raised by Pat Wilson and Kath Tennant from the Hospice shop in Stanley, and £152.25 by Hilary McKay which was matched by her employers, Barclay's Bank. Perhaps other firms could copy this generous gesture next year.

Paul pays tribute to Linda, Julia, Angela and Mary from the Hospice and Una Mack from the fund-raising committee. Perhaps this excellent result can be exceeded next year with more walkers enjoying this 7-mile walk.

PLANS

Moves to transfer the Post Office from its present site to the paper shop have now been approved, revised plans having been fast-tracked. The windows on Front Street will be blocked and replaced by one small window similar to the one upstairs. An internal shutter will also be installed for security.

New plans have also been put in for Mill Farm.

ONLINE PLANS?

Lists of plans which have been submitted to Derwentside District Council for consideration have for some time been available on their web-site derwentside.gov.uk. The sub-site to look for is "Planning Applications submitted".

It is now proposed to make the actual plans available on the web-site, a very useful addition when plans are rarely deposited in Lanchester library. This may possibly take place by December.

LANCHESTER IS LITTER-FREE TRUE OR FALSE?

Well we all know it is false. 55% of the people who completed the questionnaire as part of the consultation for the Parish Plan said that litter is a problem. So what can we do? Everyone can help! It's up to us all to protect the quality of our environment.

The Lanchester Partnership is planning to tackle this problem in the Spring of 2006 with a concerted community effort.

But information is needed on where the worst trouble spots for litter are. Where is it dumped? Is litter getting worse? Are the bins the right size and design? Are they located in the right places? Are there enough bins, or do we need more? How often are they emptied?

Any comments will be most welcome. Information, complaints and also ideas for combating this problem will be very helpful.

Please put your comments and ideas into the Comments Box in the newsagents. It will be there from December 1st until January 20th (thanks to Gillian and Tony). You can make your comments anonymously or you could give a contact number.

Individuals, businesses and groups of all ages can help in this effort to rid Lanchester of rubbish.

Please make your comments now so that planning to clear up the environment can start.

Fly tipping

Incidentally, if you know of any fly-tipping you should ring Derwentside

DC on 01207 218 000. A crew will come out and clear it away so as not to attract any more. They will also try to find, and charge, those responsible.

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WILLOW BURN CHRISTMAS FAIR

Willow Burn Hospice held its Christmas Fair on Saturday 12th November in All Saints' RC Primary

School. The sum of £3890 was raised, £1000 more than last year. Many thanks to all who contributed.



The book stall at the Willow Burn fair



A popular tombola at the Willow Burn fair

TURKEY AND TINSEL

Macmillan Cancer Care benefited from a 'Turkey and Tinsel' evening held in the Community Centre on Saturday 12th November organised by Brenda and Hugh Hall. After enjoying a three-course

dinner, nearly a hundred guests had a return visit, by popular request, of singer Glenn Coxon, followed by a barrage of jokes from the amazing Hughie Malone in pantomime dame mode.

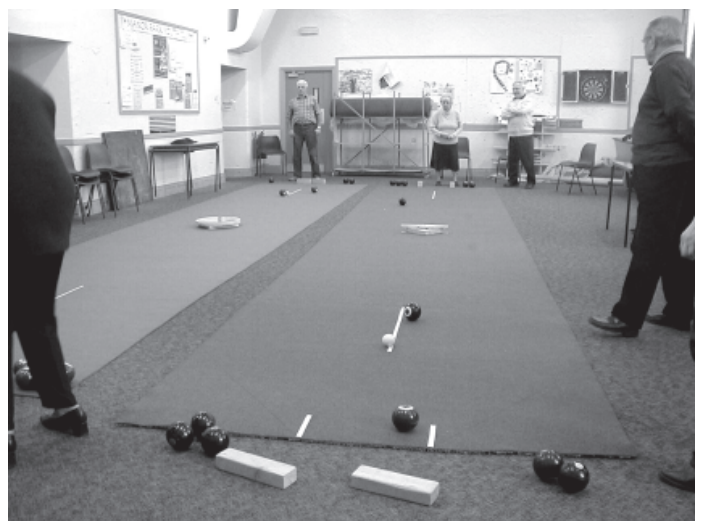


Hughie Malone entertains

INDOOR BOWLS

Bowls enthusiasts are beating the frost by enjoying the game indoors at Croft View on Friday afternoons, and a dozen players were in action on November 4th. The

device in the centre of the rink ensures that no 'weight' shots can be used, and all you need is skill. All are welcome to join these sessions from 2 till 4.



Bowlers at Croft View

PARKING IN LANCHESTER

This column is in response to people's concerns over illegal or inconsiderate parking in Lanchester, ie, letters submitted in recent editions of the Village Voice, and issues raised directly to me or my colleagues, by local residents. Particular problem areas

raised were Front Street, and near to school premises, especially during the 'school run', both mornings and afternoons. I appreciate parking spaces are limited in the village, but I request people show more consideration when parking their vehicles, for

the safety of residents, pedestrians and other road users. Also consider car sharing, or walking their children to school if possible. I know these requests will not solve the problem, but may go a small way in reducing it. As a result of the above concerns, posters have

now been distributed to premises in the village, to display in windows. They are to alert and remind motorists of the consequences of illegal parking, particularly in the areas mentioned. December has now been highlighted as a month of 'action' in relation to parking offences. Police

patrols will be increased and any subsequent offenders caught may face prosecution. Persons parking lawfully and who continue to do so will therefore have no cause for concern. Many thanks for your understanding. PC 1875 Norman Foster Lanchester Beat Officer

NEW HUNTING SEASON



Opening day of the hunt season sees Braes of Derwent Hunt storming up Kitswell Road

THE IMITATION GAME

Nobby Dimon's North Country Theatre company tackled a serious WW2 theme through the army career of a naive young lady (Cathy, played by Vivienne Garnett) who had the misfortune to be born a feminist decades too early. Falling out with her bossy father (Nobby Dimon) and wet 'boy-friend' (Jasper Soffer), who both think a woman's place is in the home, she joins the ATS but finds that a female 'soldier' is undervalued and only suited to dull routine tasks. Blotting her military copy-book by clobbering a pub landlord who thinks she is in his pub to get 'picked up', then at the secret decoding centre of Bletchley by trying to find out more about its working, she finds

herself locked up. The production takes on much of the style of war-time drama. The pace is slow, partly because of frequent scene-changes, partly due to stiff upper lips and reticence, and the one love-scene is painful. Perhaps ironically, the last scene suggests future happiness for Cathy, with a gauche Cambridge graduate

who shares her love of Mozart. We wonder if this will be a match made in heaven.

This was as ever a fine production, a faithful recreation of Ian McEwan's play enhanced by military jokes. Tribute was paid by the producer to Olive Simpkins and her team, who plied the audience with mulled wine and mince pies.

Our picture, right, shows Jasper Soffer, Adrian Metcalfe, Ruth McCaul, Julie Kinsella, Nobby Dimon and Vivienne Garnett taking a bow.



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FRIENDS OF THE FORT

David Mason, recently-appointed County Archaeologist, gave a talk to the Friends of the Fort on October 26th about the Heronbridge Roman site near Chester. It was first studied because of a long bank built after the Roman period, but parts of a small Roman town had been excavated as well as a jetty beside the river Dee, in which graves for a couple and a child had been found carved in the rock. The bodies of men killed during the tenth century battle against Aethelfrith of Northumberland were found in a common grave. During the work on this site Mr Mason had found that professional help was essential to give guidance to local enthusiasts, and that children enjoy hands-on experience. As do adults, of course. After questions, the group moved on to its own project, led by Bill Oxbrough of Groundwork Trust. A display board had been produced for the carnival, and the projects include a leaflet derived from the board with information about Longovicium, a leaflet about the Friends, a mosaic to be produced by an artist in collaboration with school pupils, a School Pack including information and activities, a walk leaflet, a town trail, development of the virtual reality work done by Teesside University, a web-site and events. It is urgent that the group formalise itself with a constitution and officers, so that it can benefit from available grant money and coordinate the work. It is hoped that this will be settled at a meeting on November 28th, to which everyone is invited. As the project officially ends in March, all projects must be driven forward to be completed or ongoing at that time. All welcome at the meeting on November 28th.



County archaeologist David Mason (right) chats to Friends of the Fort

RAILWAYS IN WEARDALE

In his talk to Lanchester History Group, Chris Lee concentrated on the complex growth of railways in Weardale, starting with the Stanhope to South Shields line opened in 1834. Stationary engines hauled the trucks up Crawleyside and Weatherhill, then down from Waskerley. Meanwhile the Stockton and Darlington railway advanced to Crook, then to Tow Law and Burnhill to link with the earlier line near Waskerley. It also went up the Wear valley to Witton-le-Wear, then Frosterley to carry limestone from the quarries there. The line reached Stanhope (1862) and Wearhead (1895). Another line went West across the moors to Rookhope to access iron ore, then on via a steep incline to Westgate church. Chris Lee then detailed the railways which brought

aggregate and clay to Burnhope, Waskerley and Smiddy Shaw reservoirs. One of the locomotives, No. 83, a 1933 Avonside, was called "Lanchester". It later went to a slate quarry, and ultimately to a Canadian collector. The talk was illustrated with maps, diagrams and old photos, giving a vivid picture of the railway age which was appreciated by a large audience.



Chris Lee

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SHERRIFO KONTEH



Sherrifo Konteh

The singer at a concert in Lanchester library on Friday 21st October came all the way from Gambia. Sherrifo Konteh, who has the honorary title of Jali, played the 21-string kora, an instrument which he made himself from a calabash with mahogany fitments, cow-skin and fishing-line.

The sound he produced was like a small harp, which he played at dazzling speed, plucking the strings with both hands. He sang in Mandinka, one of the languages of Gambia, in a tone harsher than his gentle and charming speaking voice, accustomed as he is to singing out-doors to a large audience with no amplification. The

subjects were in praise of some notable person, part of the Jali's role as historian of his people. The first session was preceded by a short slide-show of Sherrifo's family, home and surroundings, and after several pieces which were almost indistinguishable to an untutored ear Sherrifo re-tuned the kora, while the audience enjoyed fruit juice and nibbles. The music of the second half seemed much pleasanter, in a kind of minor key, and the difference between the songs was more obvious. Overall the evening was a fascinating introduction to the simple life lived in the Gambia, to its home-made music and one of its foremost musicians.

DOWN, UPS AND DOWNS

continued from back page
than Lanchester and ran out worthy 2-1 winners, belying their underdog tag. Oliver Webster got our consolation goal. Lanchester put in a pre-Halloween horror show for the trip to Ryton, again going back to the bad old ways, shipping seven goals in a 7-2 defeat. In a game renowned for being a battle the Chapel bottled it and couldn't match the home team for strength or ability and paid the price. Stephen Behan and Michael Backett got the Lanchester Goals.

With morale low, Lads had to lift themselves for the visit of Heworth. We hadn't bargained for three of the worst refing decisions we have had the misfortune to be on the receiving end of! Daniel High put Lanchester 1-0 up, then first ref. blunder Michael Backett broke through and had a shot,

the keeper saved it and Jock followed up to net the rebound. NO said the ref, offside. Offside from his own shot? Must be a new rule! Heworth then forced a corner, the ball swings out of play and back in where a header is then planted into the goal, surely no goal as the ball went out of play, NO a goal. David Marrin then chipped in a delightful 25 yarder to put the Chapel back in front only for a moment of déjà vu to rob us of the lead again. Another Heworth corner, the ball swings so far out of play this time it flicks the branches of the trees behind the goal, same result, 2-2. The lads battled on bravely and were hit by a sucker punch as we pushed for a deserved winner as Heworth scored a good goal on the break and stole the three points. Heworth players and

manager admitted they had been very fortunate. Shell shocked Lanchester travelled to Stockton in the cup and lost out in a nine-goal thriller. Bad from the point of view that we conceded five goals but good in that the old team spirit returned as the lads played with a smile on their faces which had been missing in some of the previous games. John Francis Cudden started the game up front, a tactical masterstroke, (John normally plays in goal but due to a broken finger is unable to man the posts these days). Cuddy grabbed Lanchester's first goal and set up Olly Webster for the second. A Webster penalty and strike from the 'Sweaty Sock' Backett were not enough to get any reward from the game though. Yours in football
Jeff Parker

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AUTUMN FAIR

The Parish Church holds its autumn fair on Saturday 26th November in the Community Centre, starting at 2pm. A large number of stalls include cakes and savouries, jams, ginger wine, books, bric-a-brac, cards, pictures and a 'gold' stall, most offering suitable goods for Christmas presents, as well as tombolas and a Grand Draw.

FRIENDS OF THE FORT

The group, which is working to learn more about and publicise the Roman Fort, will meet on Monday 28th November in the small hall of the Community Centre, from 7 to 9pm. Anyone interested in Roman history and our own Longovicium is invited to come.

ART IN THE LIBRARY

There will be an art exhibition in Lanchester library during December.

CHRISTIANS IN BETHLEHEM

During his visit to Israel earlier this year, Canon Spence saw the difficulties of Christians living in Bethlehem. A fundraising evening will be held in All Saint's Parish Centre on Friday 25th November, 7.30 - 10.30pm. Come and enjoy the musical entertainment, quiz, raffle and refreshments on offer. Palestinian crafts and cards will be on sale. Tickets £5. Telephone 520185.

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

Durham Johnson Comprehensive School is presenting Bertolt Brecht's 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle' at the Upper School Site, Crossgate Moor on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd December at 7.00 pm.

Tickets may be booked in advance or will be obtainable at the door priced at £3.00 (concessions £2.00) with no charge for those children under 10 years.

COUNTRY MARKET

The monthly market will be held in the Community Centre on Saturday 3rd December, starting at 10am. A variety of provisions and suitable presents from the crafts stall can be purchased, after which a cup of tea and a scone might be acceptable.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

All Saints' PTA hold a Christmas Fair on Saturday December 3rd from 10am till 12 noon. All the usual favourites will be there with bric-a-brac for adults and children, tombolas including the Lucky Seven bottle stall, and much more. Cakes and refreshments will be available and the Big Christmas Raffle will be drawn. Santa will be making an early appearance, too.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE

Lanchester Community Association is holding a Christmas coffee morning in the Community Centre on Wednesday 30th November from 9.30 till 11.30am. All the usual delights, including tombola and raffle, tickets 50p.

RED CROSS COFFEE

The Red Cross coffee morning will be held on Thursday December 15th from 9.30 to 11.30am. This date has been brought forward one week due to the Xmas holidays. Tombola, raffle and Xmas food can be enjoyed. All welcome to come along and bring a friend.

WHAT'S ON?

LANCHESTER WILDLIFE GROUP JUNIORS

The junior group meets in Lanchester Community Centre on Sat 3rd December, 10am-12noon for Christmas Wildlife Crafts. Have fun finding out about wildlife, playing wildlife games and creating Christmas crafts with a wildlife theme.

This meeting is aimed at 6-11 year olds, though parents are welcome to attend with younger children who are interested in wildlife. For more details please contact Noel Jackson (560684) or Elaine Williams (520063).

LWG Juniors is affiliated to both the RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts and is fully compliant with all issues concerning child safety. Diary date: 14th Jan. Whales & Dolphins.

SOCIAL CLUB ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday Nights, with no cover charge:-

3rd Dec, Kay Knight
10th Dec, Caroline Shaw
17th Dec, Nigel's karaoke
26th Dec (Boxing Day) the return of the fantastic Tony Sheridan

New Year's Eve, international cabaret artist Holly Wood, from 9pm into the new year.

New Year's Day, the Social Club is the place to be, with at 2pm comedy group Fun Girls Three. Tickets now on sale at the bar £4, followed at 5pm by karaoke in the lounge bar, no cover charge. Ballroom and sequence dancing every Friday night 7 till 11pm, £1 entrance.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

The Bishop of Durham, the Right Revd Tom Wright, will speak on the theme "The True Meaning of Advent" in Lanchester Methodist Church on Monday 5th December at 7.30pm.

The Bishop is an excellent speaker and the lectures he has given over the past year all over the diocese have been received very well and stimulated lots of thought and discussion.

A warm invitation is extended to all and we would like to stress that the visit is not just for church members but for everyone!

LIONS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Lions' Christmas Concert will take place at the Methodist Chapel on Friday 2nd December beginning at 7 pm. There will be the usual feast of local talented performers which will include choirs from both junior schools. Tickets which include light refreshments, are priced at £3.50 for adults and £2.50 for children aged 12 and under and Senior Citizens. Please call Lion Mark Draper on 529775 to obtain your ticket or any Lion member. Also, tickets will be available at both junior schools.

MP'S SURGERY

Our Member of Parliament, Hilary Armstrong, will be holding a monthly 'surgery' at Citizen's House, Consett on Saturday 10th December, starting at 11am.

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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Following last year's experimental Tree Festival in the Methodist Church, it has been decided to repeat the event, but without the competitive aspect. As before all churches, clubs and shops are invited to decorate a Christmas tree to be displayed in the Methodist Church on December 10th and 11th. There is no charge involved. For further information, ring 521543.

LIBRARY CRAFTS

There will be a children's Christmas craft session in Lanchester library on Thursday 22nd December from 2 till 3.30pm. Young people are sure of a fun time with Auntie Monica.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES (C OF E)

St John, Holmside
Sunday 11th December
6pm Festival of Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve 7.30pm
Family Eucharist of Christmas
Lanchester Parish Church
Sunday 18th December
10.30am All Age Eucharist: "Images of Christmas"
Christmas Eve 11.30pm
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 8am Holy Communion (Said - Book of Common Prayer)
10.30am Christmas Morning Eucharist

WI

The Christmas meeting on Monday 5th December, held in conjunction with Satley WI, will be a 'shared' supper.

INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE

Indian Head Massage classes have been running at the Community Centre on Wednesday evenings from 7.00pm until 9.00pm since September.

It is proposed to start new classes in January incorporating complementary therapies. New students would be made very welcome by class tutor Mavis Datta who can be contacted on 528814.

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting on 14th December is the Advent Evening - a selection of readings, prayers and hymns relating to Advent, starting off in the Chapter House and then going into church at 7.30pm.

WILDLIFE GROUP

The meeting on Tuesday December 13th at 7.30pm in the Community Centre will include the AGM and a social evening.

LANCHESTER MALE VOICE CHOIR

Wives and partners joined the members of the Male Voice Choir for the Annual Dinner on November 7th 2005. The event was held at the Inn on the Green at Waldrige. This proved to be an ideal setting for this informal get together away from choir practices and performances. The food and service were of the highest standard. The timing of the dinner could not have been better as it came two days after the Male Voices in Concert at the Empire Theatre in Consett in which the choir took part.

The concert was a great success. It was good for the choir to be part of over

SANTA POST BOX

The Lions Santa Post Box will be situated outside the Red Cross Shop from December 1st-16th inclusive.

seventy voices and the programme was well received by a large audience.

The Male Voice Choir is now working towards the annual 'Celebration of Christmas' to be held in the Roman Catholic Church, on Kitswell Road when we will be supported again by the Choral and Operatic Society. The 'Celebration' will begin at 7.15pm on December 19th when all will be welcome. The collection will go to a local charity. For many people in the village this will mark the beginning of the Christmas celebrations. We will be so pleased to see you.

WI PLANT TREE

On a cool crisp beautiful Saturday morning 12th November, members of WI and the Parish Council gathered together on the Village Green to plant a new

Maple Tree. It was the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of WI, and the tree replaced the one which had been planted 20 years earlier and had to be felled because it

had become diseased. WI are always looking for new members and anyone interested should contact President, Ann Carr on 01207 529695.



Ann Carr shovels earth into the hole, surrounded by members of WI and the Parish Council.

Those present were: Ann Carr, President; June Wallis; Irene James; Breda Branscombe; Maureen Clarkson; Eileen Curnow; Pat Cotrell; Connie Moore; Pat Campbell; Jesse Goodall; Miss Mary Moralee; Mrs Mary Moralee; Ann Cook; Jean Burton; Colin Burton; Jim Owens and Michael Carr

BRITISH RED CROSS

Would you like to be a member of the British Red Cross and learn about first aid with a view to doing duties in Lanchester and other local places? At present there are three qualified members in the village to cover village duties, and we have to

request help from Consett, Stanley and Durham who already have their own duties to cover. Please contact our secretary, Mrs D Cox - letters can be left at the Red Cross shop for her attention, or ring Mrs Williamson 520063.

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"GOOD LUCK" FROM PERU



Nolberto Solano demonstrates his skills to Fr Joe Plumb

Football star Nolberto Solano received a good luck message from Peru as he was poised to make his Newcastle United comeback.

Former Blackhill St Mary's curate Fr Joe Plumb met the Peru winger at Newcastle United's training ground on Friday, October 21st. But when Solano spoke on the phone to members of Fr Plumb's Shantytown football team, they were too tongue tied to speak. Fr Plumb, who has been working for the last five years in Iquitos in the Peruvian Amazon, said: "They'd been waiting all night to speak to him and had prepared questions and good luck messages. but when they actually heard him on the phone they were too star struck to say more than single words."

"Solano is a huge inspiration to the poor people in Peru. and they follow his career keenly. Everyone I've met in Peru in the last five years has asked if I know Solano. They're very like the people of the North East in their passion for football. In South America, football comes second only to God."

Newcastle United have also offered Fr Plumb a set of shirts for his team, Juventud Bellavista, who

are now looking to finish building their own stadium. They have bought the land and put up a wall, but need funds to finish the playing surface and goals, to install lights, and to build toilet facilities. Money from renting out the finished stadium will keep the parish afloat indefinitely.

Fr Plumb, the team's Director, said: "It's not a patch on St James's Park or the Stadium of Light, but it's going to have a huge impact on the finances of the parish and on the self esteem of the community."

Fr Plumb is the only Catholic priest in a parish the size of Wales with almost a quarter of a million Catholics. The only way for him to get to the outlying communities is by boat along the river Amazon or two of its tributaries, the Momon and the Nanay. Fr Plumb is also looking for funding for fuel, wages for the boat's captain, and even a new boat.

Fr Plumb is keen to point out that he is actually a Manchester City fan!

Donations to Fr Joe Plumb and the Hexham & Newcastle Mission to Peru can be sent to Mgr Gerard Lavender, Holy Family Presbytery, 60 Cockerton Green, Darlington, DL3 9EU.

ALL SAINTS 'ENJOY A CHANGE OF COLOUR'

Following the football team's success last term in reaching the National Finals of the Soccer sixes at Keele University, Mr Fred Hart, grandfather of goalkeeper Christopher Whitton-Hart, very kindly offered to buy the team a new set of strips. As much of last year's team are now in the first year of St Bede's Mr Reather arranged a special 'friendly' game between the former team and the new squad to give last year's pupils a chance to try them out. The younger team had a two player advantage, but the ex-pupils came out 2-0

winners in a close game, played in very muddy conditions. The gift of the new strips was greatly appreciated by the children and Mr Reather. Mr Hart,

who owns Hart Engineering, is pictured below with the Y7 pupils in their new green and white kit with the school name emblazoned on the front.



The All Saints' team show off their new strips

DOWNNS, UPS AND DOWNNS

Since my last report many moons ago the chapel have played eight games with many ups and downs. A trip to early-season pace setter St Peters Low Fell proved just why they are at the top. With many players missing with injury, etc Lanchester whimpered to an embarrassing 7-0 defeat, enough said.

Confidence was back again though as a game at Whitley Bay in the Charity Shield saw an improved performance with a change in tactics to shore up a leaking defence. It worked and a 3-0 win boosted the lads' confidence after the previous week's capitulation. Ray Wilkinson opened the scoring and the returning hero Andy Sword made

his comeback as 2-goal substitute.

Consett rolled into Kitswell for a Derby event, (forget Sunderland v Newcastle, Celtic v Rangers, etc), Consett had a score to settle, having lost in the Charity Shield Final to us at the end of last season. Consett took the lead in a game where chances were very limited, but as it looked like we were going to lose 1-0 up popped Stephen Behan with a 25 yard raker (well 20 yard bobbler under the keeper)

1-1. A deserved draw. Airport Church

Newcastle were the next visitors and in a evenly balanced game Lanchester came out on top 3-2 with two goals from Andy Sword and Michael Backett notching the third.

Another home game, this time in the Charity Shield against City Church Newcastle, an improving team who gave us a good game in a friendly last season. Newcastle showed far more desire

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Thank you

NEXT ISSUE

In order to deliver the next Village Voice before Christmas, we have an early deadline date. Please send any contributions by Tuesday, 6th December. Thank you.

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