

CRUCIAL CONFERENCE

A conference on the Care of the Elderly in Lanchester, coming hard on the heels of a County Council decision to defer a final judgement on the fate of Lynwood House and other County homes, provided valuable information and ended on a note of hope.

The morning session of the conference was chaired by Hilary Armstrong, who said that people want care in their own homes, but need a safety net. The Parish Plan showed that 21% of Lanchester residents were over 65, compared with 16% nationally. Lanchester also has areas of deprivation, which need more resources.

The first speaker was Duncan Callum, project

director of County Durham Care and Health. He too stressed that there would be more old people in future, with an 81% increase in over 85's by 2021. A survey commissioned by the Council showed that people want to stay in their own homes, with support and 'outreach'. Care flats could replace some accommodation in 'homes'. He emphasised that there are 3000 beds in Durham care homes, of which the County provide 200, and that new regulations demanding larger rooms and en suite facilities would cost £29 million. The County's homes cost much more to run than independent homes. It's a question of what the LEA can afford.



Mike Gladstone, Kath Heathcote, Peter Innes (chair) and Wynn Griffiths at the afternoon session of the Conference

Members of the audience pointed out that County homes cost more because they employed qualified staff at a decent wage and gave a better service. One claimed that independent

homes offered poorer services which were rarely inspected, but this was denied. The Lynwood House site was needed for old people, not for executive housing. One

speaker said that his mother was 90 years old, frail and would suffer if moved from Lynwood. Jill Gladstone said that if more people are to be kept in their homes for longer, then this care at home must be of high quality, with continuity that can be relied on. It must not be left to neighbours. We cannot allow elderly people to be marginalised and isolated in homes on the hillsides with no transport.

The second speaker, Alison Brown, spoke about the work of the Alzheimers Society in providing advice, support, carer's support, activities for sufferers and respite for carers.

Of the 50 or so dementia sufferers in Lanchester, one third were in residential care, and her self-funding society could not provide all the respite and day-care provision that was also needed.

WORLD BOOK DAY



Auntie Monica and the children enjoy World Book Day in the library

continued on page 4



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.

To the Director of Social Services

Dear Sir,
LYNWOOD HOUSE,
LANCHESTER

It appears that the closure of Lynwood House as a residential care home is inevitable, since the accommodation there is "sub-standard" and "cannot be satisfactorily upgraded".

Within the last few years a nursing home at Lanchester and a dual-registered home at Maiden Law, just outside Lanchester have closed, and several more homes and care establishments in Derwentside District have been closed.

Lanchester in particular has a higher percentage of elderly and old people than Derwentside in general, and a much higher percentage than the national average. There is limited sheltered accommodation in the village. Old people's

bungalows and flats have been built at various places in the village, but access to some is difficult for elderly or disabled people because they are on steeply sloping land.

It is appropriate to consider carefully the best use of the site when Lynwood House is closed, and important in this consideration that the local community be consulted and able to put forward ideas and suggestions, participating in developing proposals and options, not just being invited to comment on them once they have been worked-up.

Sufficient and satisfactory stepped and integrated care in the village is vital. This starts with help for older people to continue to live in their own homes or in sheltered accommodation for longer, independently, but with appropriate support services, aids and adaptations, and new technology for access to information and services such as healthcare, domestic safety and monitoring, and transport.

As I know personally from experience with my

own parents, there comes a time when support to continue to live in one's own home is no longer sufficient. One needs

extra residential care, providing personal help with moving around, getting up and going to bed, washing, toileting etc., and also services such as shopping, laundry, preparing food, housework and many everyday practical tasks. Then there comes a time when nursing care is needed, though not such as requires to be provided by a hospital or hospice. If it is not available in Lanchester, when residential care becomes necessary it means moving away from friends and contacts, which is very distressing for old people and considerably detracts from the quality of life which they could enjoy. Again, from my parents, who continued to live in the same village, I know how it brightens their lives to have old friends and neighbours as well as family members popping in for a chat from time to time. This is much more difficult if it involves a bus journey. The Lynwood House site would be suitable for stepped care provision, particularly as it is close to the doctors' surgery at Park House. A "care centre" could be built for the provision of support services, with an "extra care" and nursing home, and also sheltered accommodation.

Yours Faithfully
Name and address supplied

A letter from Lanchester Lions to the Director has also been received, making many of the same points and calling for Care for the Elderly to be continued in the village.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Readers

Would you believe it, the Lions Club have been organising the village Carnival for almost 40 years? Generations of children have played the side-shows, come in fancy dress and lots of money has been raised and spent in the village. It has become part of the folklore of growing up in Lanchester.

This year, for various reasons, some of our regular helpers cannot be there on Carnival day Saturday 17th June. In short we are going to be short staffed. So this is a call for help.

The day falls into three main phases, 9 – 11.30am setting up, 1 – 4pm running side shows and 4 – 5pm clearing away. Is there anyone out there who could help at some or all of these times?

Age is no barrier (most of us are the wrong side of forty!) but you need to be reasonably fit. It is good fun especially seeing the kids enjoying themselves. We are a friendly lot, some of us even manage to stagger to the pub afterwards. Our chief Carnival organiser Graham Harkness (tel 521779 or 07801 342189) would love to hear from you. As the number of helpers determines the number of events and side-shows, the sooner you give him a call the better. You would be helping to make it a winning day for everyone.

Many thanks
Brin Jones
President, Lanchester Lions Club

Stella Hunter, Clare and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness, love and prayers they have given since the sudden death of George on the 6th February. We have been overwhelmed with the support people have given us this has been of great comfort to us. George will be missed immensely by all who loved him, but he will live in our hearts forever. Thank you and God Bless.

Dear Editor,

Mrs May Morallee and son Brian would like to say "thank you" to all friends, neighbours and healthcare professionals for the many flowers, cards, expressions of support and help received following the recent death of Ronald Morallee on 7th February.

At this difficult time it is a great comfort to live in a community such as Lanchester.

Yours Sincerely,
May Morallee

Comfy Computer Room

The Charity "Speaking Up Groups", which does a lot of work with people with learning disabilities, has its office in Lanchester behind the library, and would like to offer its facilities to folks with learning disabilities in Lanchester. They can help in using computers and surfing the net. Anyone who knows someone who would benefit can contact the office on 528943, or drop in on April 28th between 10am and 12. The entrance is through the yard behind the library.

Their e-mail address is: speakup@speakup.plus.com and their address is The Old Courthouse, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0NT

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NEW CENTRE MANAGER



John Wilson

Lanchester Community Centre's new manager began work on Monday 20th March, and will be in attendance Monday and Tuesday from 2-4.30pm and on Thursday from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

John Wilson, a chemist by profession, took early retirement from Queen's University, Belfast and settled in

upper Weardale, but a year ago moved to Lanchester.

Now that he and his wife Frederique, who teaches German at a Durham school, have got their house and garden in order, John is ready to get involved in the local community. He has already joined the County's voluntary Ranger scheme, which

Pupils at All Saints' School have been benefiting from a special visitor from France in recent weeks. Nadine Henaff is one of a number of French students who are currently teaching in some of the primary feeder schools to St.

Bede's Comprehensive. This 'French Connection' operates through the College of Education at the University of Durham, which has organised the visit.

Nadine, who also speaks very good English, is enjoying her time at All

Saints despite the vagaries of the British weather. She is working particularly with the younger and older age groups in classes one and four, but has spent time in every class and also given talks about her home region of Brittany.



Nadine Henaff

involves work on footpaths and County parks, and has now been recruited as manager by the Community Association.

We wish him well in this important and challenging post.

YOUNG FARMERS DANCE TEAM



This photo of the Young Farmers Club dance team in July 1946 was found by chance among the tapes for sale in the Red Cross shop, Lanchester.

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CRUCIAL CONFERENCE

continued from page 1

Dr. Peter Quigley spoke about the work of Willowburn Hospice, said that it provided 10 day care places and four beds for poorly people, mostly with cancer. Patients preferred to live at home, but some prefer to die in the Hospice. The Hospice is a charity, but the Health Service (PCT) provided the buildings and staff, with a grant for running costs. It could only be run with the help of many volunteers. At present the Hospice is buying land to improve their services at Maiden Law. There followed general discussion. Cllr Ossie Johnson said that the County manages the Lynwood site on our behalf, and that 'best value' did not just mean money. County Councillors must not sell the crown jewels to fill a budget deficit. Cllr Mike Wardle said that

consultation tends to mean just informing people. Genuine consultation would lead to a better outcome. Judith Lund made a parallel with the Community Centre. A pilot scheme was needed for the site to provide for Lanchester's needs, with community support. After a buffet lunch provided by the Parish Church ladies and made possible by generous donations from Crinnions and Valentino's, the second session was chaired by Peter Innes, Chairman of the Derwentside Primary Care Trust, but the speaker for the PCT was Wynn Griffiths, its Chief Executive. He said that the emphasis was now on prevention of ill-health, with convenient local services. The crucial work of GP's

must be integrated with social work and the District Council, and an integrated care team existed.

To minimise hospital care, which was expensive for the PCT and unpleasant for the patient, prevention, after-care at home and intermediate care were all needed.

The PCT supported the Hospice and Macmillan Nurses, as well as the Alzheimers Society, and there were plans to increase the number of Community Matrons to work with older people who repeatedly go to hospital.

Derwentside PCT would be amalgamated with others in County Durham, but work must continue to respond to the particular, differing needs of differing localities such as Lanchester, including extra care housing.

In Stanley, he said, the

community is working with the PCT to design a new Health Centre. The PCT would try to help Lanchester in the same way.

Kath Heathcote, of Derwentside's Careline and Sheltered Housing Services, explained that she ran Careline on contract from the County and provided 7 sheltered housing courts with wardens. Consultations showed the need for local services which were available to all, not just social housing. Council housing stock was soon to be transferred to Derwentside Homes, a housing association, at which time money would be released for improvements. Derwentside would like to work to provide resources, including affordable accommodation and extra care housing in Lanchester.

Mike Gladstone, Chairman of Lanchester Partnership said that 70% of respondents to the Parish Plan wanted support for older people in their own homes, but also wanted a Care Home. Lynwood House had good staff, was convenient to the village centre, so the site must continue to be used for the care of the elderly. He read out two letters praising the service at Lynwood. In general discussion there was mention that Lynwood is being run down with new residents turned away, the need for a one-stop shop for services, for stepped care, and for definitely NOT needing housing on the Lynwood site. Dr Bidwell said that she and Dr Davidson would like to provide a bigger range of services. Christine Lever said that a body must be created to consult the County on the site's future.

Finally Councillor Johnson was asked to sum up, and after thanking Mike Wardle and Colin Burton for organising the event he said that professionals, councillors, and the Partnership must work together to drive a project forward. This sentiment agreed with the opinions of most of those present and was warmly applauded. The consensus was that the meeting had been very well organised by the Parish Council, that it had had the full support of the village, and that there was a more optimistic atmosphere as a result of the valuable contributions of professionals and speakers from the floor. *Since the conference a joint Parish/Partnership sub-committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Mike Wardle, who is contacting key providers.*

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PLANNING MATTERS

At their last meeting the Parish Council welcomed the proposed new extension to St Bede's School for a Sixth Form Centre, but asked that thought be given to the exterior finish, which is planned to be white rendering.

This confirms the view of Lanchester Partnership, which thought that the new buildings should fit with the existing ones, and that a white exterior would be a blot on the landscape.

The Parish Council also objected to plans to build a five-bedroom house and two bungalows in the grounds of the Vicarage, Cadger Bank.

The final decision on planning matters is always taken by the District Council, and if anyone has strong views they should contact the District direct.

CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY IN STYLE

Favourite characters from storybooks were brought to life in style at All Saints' School recently when the pupils had a special celebration for World Book Day. Children came to school dressed up as a character they particularly

liked from one of their favourite stories. In the afternoon the school held a Book Fair with a splendid selection of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages, organised by Caroline Tomlinson. The whole

day proved a great success, with over £350 being spent on new books by pupils and parents. Here below is a photo of some of the children looking particularly colourful in their character costumes.

Lanchester EP School held a very successful Book Fair to celebrate World Book Day organised by 'Friends of the School'. Children acted as waiters and

waitresses for the many people who turned up to support the event and enjoy coffee/tea and biscuits. A total of £65 was raised which was taken in 'value of books' for the school.



Children at All Saints' School celebrate World Book Day



Children and parents eagerly looking for books at the EP School



*'Friends of the School' - helpers at World Book Day
Left to Right: Andrea Days, Jackie Watson, and Margaret James*

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS, 14TH FEBRUARY 2006

This article was omitted from our last edition, but is still of interest.

Locality Map

Lanchester Parish Councillors heard a presentation from Steve Scoffin from the Great North Forest about the proposed Locality Map of the Parish of Lanchester. The finished map will be a similar document to the Village Design Statement but it will cover the whole of the parish, paying particular attention to farm land and its uses. The council believes the project is appropriate to the Parish since it's an area of important heritage landscape including the Roman Fort with its associated civilian settlement, aqueducts and

dams, at least three 18th and 19th Century country house estates and 19th Century drift mines and quarries. One of the outcomes of the projects could be the production of guided walk leaflets indicating these features and some of their history, it could also help towards the conservation of ancient hedgerows, safeguarding the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary Butterfly and other at-risk species like Juniper. It's believed that the map will be of great benefit to parishioners and planners in the future. Councillors have formally endorsed the initial work towards the map carried out by the Great North Forest and

grants have been applied for to pay for the project.

Park House Surgery/ Public Toilets

The council is continuing to consider the possibility of Park House Surgery providing toilets for use by the public when it expands its surgery facilities. Councillors are planning to meet with the practice managers to discuss the situation. Meanwhile, the council has been approached with an offer to use the toilets at the Queen's Head public house for use by the public. This is also being considered by members.

CCTV in Village

Derwentside District Council has applied to Lanchester Parish Council for permission to erect a CCTV mast on the village green. The mast would give the CCTV camera a good vantage point to view Front Street. Permission was granted by the parish councillors.

NEW BUS SHELTER

The Parish Council plan to replace the bus shelter in front of the Lanchester Arms with a new shelter similar to those beside the Green.

POLICE REPORT

Since the last Parish Council meeting, there have been four reported crimes in the village. These were; the theft of diesel from a heavy goods vehicle at Malton Works, the theft of a vehicle, a radio was stolen from a car and the garage at Woodlea Manor was broken into and items were stolen. There is CCTV footage of the final crime, which is currently being studied by the police.

Anti-social behaviour

There have been reports of anti-social behaviour against the proprietors of the Golden Valley Chinese Takeaway in the village. The owner has installed a video camera in the shop and the police are looking at video footage of incidents.

An application has been submitted to raise an ASBO (or Anti-Social Behaviour Order) against one of the youths in the village, this would be the first ASBO in Lanchester. Several other youths are being monitored by the police with the possibility of further ASBOs being applied for.

Illegal Parking

The police issued a number of fixed penalty notices for illegal parking in the past couple of months. Eighteen were issued in December, while twelve were handed out in January. Officers have said they are amazed at the number of blue disability badges displayed in apparently illegally parked vehicles in the village, therefore allowing them to park legally.

Community Police Support Officer Ray Husband told the Parish

Council that while he is keen to stamp out illegal parking in the village, particularly in Front Street and close to the primary schools, he has a number of factors working against him. First of all, there is an apparent disregard by parents of the dangers they are causing when they park close to the schools. A small child was hit by a car recently (and thankfully wasn't seriously hurt), the fear is that it won't be long before a more serious accident happens. Ray also says that when he approaches drivers he doesn't know what kind of a reaction he's going to get and as he is unarmed, he sometimes feels it's better to let the matter drop for his own safety. Finally, officers are only issued with a limited number of tickets at any one time and once they are used up it can take weeks for replacement ticket books to be sent out, therefore there are only so many tickets that can be issued at any one time.

PCSO Husband says that if he was to stand on Front Street 24 hours a day, there wouldn't be a problem with illegal parking, but as that's impossible, he and his colleagues can only do their best. He suggested that one way around the problem could be for the parish council to pay for a parking warden to operate in the village, and urged parents to consider parking at the community centre or other safe places a short walking distance from the schools at the start and end of the school day.

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RUBY WEDDING JOY

It was a joyous occasion for the Barnaby family of Fox Hills Crescent on Sunday 5th March when Arthur and Ellen celebrated 40 happy years of marriage. Between thirty and forty relatives turned up mid-afternoon for what was a lively time which went on well into the evening.

Arthur and Ellen are from Gateshead where they met as 17 year olds at the Hawkes Dance (their birthdays are only one month apart). They married at the age of 21 at Stedhunds C of E Church, Gateshead and they say that life together has been brilliant ever since. The last 27 of those

years have been spent in Fox Hills Crescent. They had two children, Jill and Adam, who are both married and live in the village. They produced four lovely grandchildren, Sadie, Erin, Thomas and Ryan who are photographed with their happy dotting grandparents.



Arthur and Ellen Barnaby with grandchildren Erin, Sadie, Thomas and Ryan

80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Claire Burnett of Mount Pleasant celebrated her 80th birthday on 14th March with a lovely meal at the Queen's Head with friends. Then

afterwards it was back to Claire's house for tea and a wonderful Birthday Cake made by Florence Stocker. Claire received lots of

presents and over 100 cards. Her next door neighbour's niece sent her a beautiful bouquet created by the village greengrocer.



Those who attended the 80th birthday celebration with Claire were, left to right: Freda Smith, Elizabeth Wharton, Edna Johnson, Claire, Peggy Atkinson, Audrey Wright and Freda Hunter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THURSDAY CLUB

On 17th March, 39 members of the Thursday Club met at Valentino's to celebrate the Club's 26th birthday. After a superb meal we all congregated at the Community Centre to "cut the cake" which is made each year by Betty Reed. This year the cake was cut by a founder member

Doreen Miller and our newest member Naomi Little. Membership is now full and a waiting list is in operation. The evening's celebrations finished at approximately 9.15 pm when we all wended our weary way home. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The dazzling array of Christmas lights at numbers 40/41 Greenwell Park was even bigger and better than previous years. As a result of public donations, Cathy and Robson Newstead and Louise and Les Wright have been able to send £310 to Willowburn Hospice.

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FLOOD REPORT

At a public meeting in the Community Centre on March 7th, representatives of the County Council, Northumbria Water and the Environment Agency gave a combined report on the work undertaken as a result of the floods on June 8th 2003.

Cllr Ossie Johnson recalled how after the flood Lanchester Partnership, in conjunction with the Parish Council, motivated the authorities to take decisive action. The response was a tremendous effort to prevent further flooding. Now the system needs to be maintained adequately. Northumbrian Water, which deals with sewerage, and Durham County Council, which is responsible for road drainage, were represented by Lee Edwards and David Willcox, who with the aid

of maps described the work they had done.

All drains had been checked by means of cameras. As a result, many blockages had been removed. More road gullies had been created in Newbiggen Lane and in front of Barclay's Bank, tree roots had been cleared from drains and gullies in Front Street and a new drain made to the Alderdene culvert, a collapsed drain on Cadger Bank repaired and a new drain made from Church View to the culvert.

Alderdene culvert was found to be 50% blocked, and 10 large skip-loads of detritus were removed by divers at a cost of £20,000. Much of the detritus looked like building rubble. Drainage pipes on Maiden Law Bank, Victoria Road and Ford Road which had

been cut through by gas-pipes had been reinstated. £50,000 were spent on investigating the drainage system and £84,000 on clearing blockages.

A new inspection system had been set up, which they might copy in other places. David Huntingdon of the Environment Agency explained that a very detailed computer modelling study of the Smallhope Burn and Alderdene Burn had resulted in flood risk maps, which predicted for example that once in 20 years the river would flood the lowest part of Front Street and once in 200 years it would flood Lynwood House. Sixty properties were at risk of flooding every 100 years. The owners had been informed and told of ways to reduce flood risk.

Various ways of protecting the village had been considered, including upstream water storage and flood walls, but the Agency had been unable to obtain funding for the work from Defra. They planned to do it out of their own budget, and had earmarked £1.75 million, but this money could not be made available before 2008. Flood water level recorders had been installed at Front Street bridge and at Knitsley Mill which would enable the Agency to give a flood warning.

Claire Church, also of the Environment Agency, then gave details of the FloodPACT scheme. A flood warden in the community would notify people at risk and mobilise volunteers to help vulnerable people. If there is more than one volunteer

then it will be easier to cover holidays.

The speakers said that the way in which representatives of the village and the 3 agencies had worked together had been unique, but they hoped it would be used elsewhere in the future.

All 3 speakers were thanked for their excellent work since the flooding and for their very informative reports. Cllr Tom Forster particularly thanked Sarah-Anne Stoker who had supervised the County Council's work in the village.

Mike Gladstone appealed for volunteers to share the duties of the voluntary flood warden. 2 people already have said that they would be interested but a couple more are really needed. Volunteers can ring 528114.



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FORT TOUR

Members of the Friends of the Fort enjoyed a chilly but very informative visit to Longovicium, our Roman fort thanks to landowner Mr Nick Greenwell, who had a story to tell about nearly every stone.

The visit was on Sunday March 5th, which proved to be bitterly cold with a lazy wind, but in a fairly

leisurely tour the group were shown the sites of Dere Street, the reservoir fed by the aqueduct, a Mithraic temple, the Roman drainage system and the gates and internal buildings within the fort, together with more recent discoveries on the site. A fascinating morning ended with a rush to find warmth.



Mr Greenwell begins his tour

EDUCATING RITA

Willy Russell's play set in Liverpool in the 1970/80's was highly amusing throughout but also portrayed virtually every emotion possible. Rita (Jane Collins) and Frank (Roger Cook), gave outstanding performances in this wonderful production, which had the small audience spellbound. Scatterbrained 26 year old Rita, a hairdresser, opened her meeting with the rather elderly Professor Frank, a part time Open University lecturer, with a salvo of expletives, but this was absolutely hilarious and surely would not have offended anyone watching. It was soon obvious that the lecturer was so dependent on whisky which was consumed all the way through that he was barely

capable of teaching even if he wanted to, which was doubtful.

Rita was hungry to learn and change her life but Frank liked her as she was. Each tutorial he held with Rita was like a breath of fresh air in his cloistered life. However, as the play proceeded with many laughs, sighs, and empathy with Frank and Rita, a gradual metamorphosis happened for them both. Rita, who by now had left her non-supportive husband, became more confident and learned. Frank, however, became slightly jealous, a little in love with her perhaps, but more pathetic with his constant drinking and self-pity about his lack of writing poetry, his failed relationships and the mere thought of losing Rita to her new found student friends, and those she met in her new job at a wine bar. Rita's visit to Open University Summer School where she gained confidence in asking questions and having intellectual discussions, influenced her dramatically. Her dress sense

became more sophisticated, but when she tried to change her accent from Scouse to something ridiculously over the top BBC, a drunken, ranting Frank soon brought her down to earth. Rita had in the past, one or two digs at Frank's longish hair and the final twist came when she began to disrobe, approaching Frank with a sexual glint in her eye, but she simply began to cut his hair as the lights dimmed for the final time. This was a brilliant fast moving production which was hilarious, but also serious, bringing in the issues of class and choice. Scenes were portrayed by a dimmed light and a walk on and off the stage which was carried out with perfect timing.

How two actors could hold an audience for so long with such a flawless display of acting is quite amazing. Each played their characters perfectly, were exceptionally well typecast, and never needed a prompt. The secret of their success was that the audience actually felt that they were in the tutorials with Frank and Rita. It was such a pity that their audience was so small, with only 50 people attending.



Jane Collins (Rita) in tutorial with Roger Cook (Frank)

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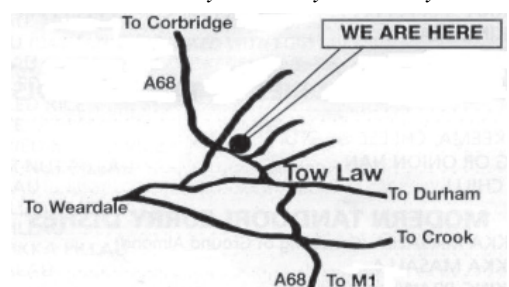
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SOUND OF MUSIC

Of the many cult nights in the North East featuring the 'Sound of Music', the Lions Club presented the first to be held in Lanchester in the Community Centre on Saturday, March 4th.

There was a record turnout for a theme night of about 120, many of whom dressed as characters from the musical. The three hour film was played on a large screen with subtitles to the songs so that everyone

could join in with the singing. Each person was provided with a goody bag with things to do when their particular character was mentioned. For instance, there was a sprig of eidelweiss to be waved

when that song was sung; a party popper to be set off when Captain Von Trapp kissed Maria, and so on. All added to the fun and atmosphere of the evening. Also the best dressed man and woman received a

prize. An excellent Chicken and Chips supper was provided by Lanchester Fish Shop and this was followed by, appropriately, Apple Strudel. An excellent night raised £500 for local good causes.



Three wise men at the Sound of Music?



Nuns galore at the Sound of Music

NEW AWARD AT EP SCHOOL

Lanchester EP School has decided to give a new award for children who are helpful, well behaved, and generally conduct themselves well throughout the school. The first recipient of the award was Chloe Taylor of year one who achieved ten stampers given by any member of teaching or auxiliary staff who happen to notice kind

acts, exceptional kindness to others, and good behaviour and helpfulness around the school by any pupil. The award started in January and Chloe gained her tenth stamp just before half term. In achieving this award Chloe also gained ten merit marks for her House. She was followed in the same week by Felicity

Ruddick, also of year one, who unfortunately was unwell and absent for the presentation. The certificate was given to Chloe by Mrs Davis, Head Teacher, at special Space Assembly at the end of Creativity Week, where a mini production of the story of Samson and Delilah was portrayed by the children, who also presented the Assembly themselves in a very enthusiastic and confident manner.



Six year old Chloe Taylor receives her award from Mrs Davis

GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL

Start preparing the ground if you are thinking about laying a new lawn as Spring is the best time to lay turf. Give your existing lawn a Spring clean to remove all dead grass and moss, feed and the lawn will have a head start for the Summer. Feed daffodils with a liquid feed, which will

ensure that the bulbs have enough nutrients to flower next year. If you have large clumps of daffodils now is the time to lift and divide. Plant summer bulbs, trim lavender and rosemary to keep them bushy and encourage new growth. More tips next month.

Graham the Gardener

HELPFUL BROWNIES



Brownies and Leaders gathered in the kitchen, helping at the Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church on Saturday 18th March

STARTING A NEW LIFE DOWN UNDER

Paul and Wendy Kelly (nee Moffitt) were married in August 2005 at the Hardwick Hotel, Sedgefield. They have now fully completed all the relevant paperwork and are to set off to start a new life in Perth, Western Australia. Here they are at their 'Bon voyage' Party held in Lanchester Cricket Club with friends and family, who wish them good luck and every

success and happiness in their new life. Paul from Lanchester is to carry on his work as an electrician and Wendy, originally from Burnhope, is to continue with her career as a nurse. Their parents are all looking forward to the excellent holidays they hope to have in the very near future. Paul and Wendy flew out on Thursday 2nd March 2006.



Alan and Lestrine Kelly, Wendy and Paul Kelly, Bob and Sheila Moffitt

LANCHESTER'S MINERS' BANNER

Contrary to general opinion, Lanchester does have a miners' banner.

The banner was spotted by Lanchester historian Lilian Dixon in the 1991 edition of "This England", where there was an article about a display of miners' banners which had taken place at Scarborough. There was a picture of one for Fenhall Drift, Lanchester which showed a Roman centurion on one half

of the banner and a coal miner on the other. Then on the web page she found the banner under the name Thrislington (West Cornforth), and the following information. "This NUM banner was new to Fenhall Drift, Lanchester, being unfurled by the Revd W.E. Wright, the local vicar in 1960, but did not go to the Miner's Gala until 1961. It was produced by Tutill of Chesham No.659. After closure of

Fenhall Drift in 1963 the banner was transferred to Thrislington Lodge. After closure of Thrislington in 1967 and before 1973 the banner was then transferred to Harton & Westoe Lodge. By the centenary Gala Thrislington had re-acquired the banner as shown here with its name on a separate piece of cloth.

Since 1983 the banner has retained its "Fenhall Drift" name but is still paraded each year at The Gala with the Thrislington name added".

The next clue was from the Northern Echo, first published Thursday 3rd July 2003, which said that a group of ladies were restoring the banner in a project being run by East Durham and

Houghall Community College.

The article said that the banner, which is usually paraded with both mine names on a pennant above the main banner and accompanied by Fishburn, had a permanent home in Coxhoe Village Hall, but Lilian has discovered that it is now in the Miners' Hall, Redhills, Durham.



The Fenhall Drift banner

AFTER-SCHOOL ART



Children at All Saints' Primary School enjoy after-school art.

COLE PORTER

Lanchester Operatic Society followed up their celebration of their celebration of Irving Berlin with "The Best of Cole Porter" in St Bede's School on 15/16/17th March. Once again, they had a long and productive career to select their material from with such hit shows as "Anything Goes", "High Society" and "Kiss Me Kate". Richard Woods and Sharon Murray, with the aid of Anne Marie Ashman, Moira Watson, Harry Watson, Peter Bridgewater and Margaret Woods led the ladies of the chorus and the token males through a memorable programme

of songs like "Begin the Beguine", "Night and Day", "Let's Do It", "Anything Goes". Sadly Margaret Gray was poorly, but the cast rallied round to cover her solos. The steps in Cole Porter's career were marked by witty dialogues, mini-Mastermind competitions, quizzes and charades to reveal the facts and figures. Production and musical direction was again the province of David Hughes, who led a small but musically skilled band of blackshirts with white ties, immaculate as ever.



Lanchester Operatic Society sing Cole Porter



The singers in sophisticated mood

ST CATHERINE'S PARISH

Father Amyat, priest of the parish of St Catherine, Bethlehem, thanked the parish of All Saints, Lanchester for the gift of £1,825. Father Amyat reports on the work of this Christian Palestinian parish which lives in such very difficult conditions. In addition to its religious duties, the parish provides medical aid, creates jobs renovating public and private buildings, pays for children's education and cares for poor widows. It also supports local businesses and provides loans to create some new businesses. The parish has the following web-site which details this work: www.scbethlehem.org.

STRATEGIC PLAN ADOPTED

At the Management Meeting of the Community Association on 18th January 2006 it was reported that a Strategic Review had taken place last year and Trustees were asked to consider what action was needed to meet users' requirements in the future. It was pointed out that having failed to attract any funding from outside of the County in 2003/4 to build a two storey building at the rear of the Community Centre, any future plans must be modest. It was agreed that the following objectives should be considered:

- * Provide an increase in the size of the Exercise Centre;
- * Provide a ground floor location for the Exercise Centre;
- * Provide access to the Exercise Centre to the disabled;

- * Provide permanent accommodation to the Exercise Centre to allow for an increase in opening times;
- * To allow the Exercise Centre Staff to operate from the ground floor office to improve the service provided to our clients;
- * To release two first floor rooms for general use and to expand the Education in the Community programme;
- * To develop the computer facilities and to extend their availability to the public and to the Education in the Community programme;
- * To provide refreshment facilities from the Reception Area on the ground floor.

Building a single storey extension at the rear of the Community Centre would achieve all of

these objectives and first indications are that this would cost £80,000 to build and another £20,000 for fees and equipment. The Management Committee adopted the Strategic Plan and authorised the Executive Committee to appoint an Architect and to seek building quotations and Planning Permission. All of the new activities and facilities introduced at the Community Centre in recent years have created a vibrant atmosphere and more space is required to meet future needs and because of this THE SPACE PROJECT has been adopted. DETAILED PLANS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AND THE SPACE PROJECT WILL BE LAUNCHED IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 29th APRIL 2006 FROM

10am to 12 noon. PLEASE COME ALONG AND SEE WHAT IS PLANNED. If you wish to be a part of THE SPACE PROJECT launch, tables are available at £10 to advertise your organisation. Please telephone 521275 to make a reservation. Community Centres are closing all over the country but Lanchester is expanding by adopting new approaches and introducing new facilities. If you support what has been achieved in your village by the Community Association, donations of any size would be welcome. Please make cheques payable to "Lanchester Community Association", write "Space Project" on the back and address to the Treasurer at Lanchester Community Centre.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN BRITAIN

During World War Two, Britain took 3.4 million prisoners of war, mostly towards the end, but the first were captured U-boat crew in November 1939. Prisoners were distributed all over the Empire, notably Canada. The first prisoners were kept in disused mills, race-course buildings and country houses, but gradually clusters of self-assembly huts such as Nissen huts sprang up all over Britain, 1500 of them.

Dr J.A. Hellen spoke to Lanchester Local History group about the 'hidden history' of these camps. He began to research this history in 1995 and is now recognised as its foremost expert. He was consultant for a BBC2 programme about POW's which was also shown in Germany, and as a result of this and

his lectures had been contacted by former prisoners who sent him fascinating photos and documents.

Prisoners of war in Britain, he said, expected to be moved around in cattle trucks, but instead travelled in normal railway carriages while volunteers served cups of tea. Once settled in a camp they did farm work, and in spare time studied English language and other subjects like Geography and Botany. They did art work like the murals in Harperley Camp near Crook and a beautifully-decorated church on Orkney, and Harperley also had a theatre and an orchestra. Dr Hellen had suggested to English Heritage that Harperley camp should be saved, and subsequently played an active role in

securing local support and grants, which were crucial in properly restoring the camp, as was the publicity gained from the BBC's 'Restoration' series.

Following the talk, it was agreed to organise a tour of Harperley in early June, which Dr Hellen kindly agreed to lead.



Dr Hellen answers questions after his talk

RYTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

Lanchester EP Junior School Choir, led by Mrs Helen Startup and Mrs Jane Davis, competed in Ryton Music Festival, held in Ryton Comprehensive School Hall on Saturday March 11th. The choir consisted of 32 members who range from age 7 - 11. The two classes entered were Hymn Singing and Unison Song Classes. For each class, there was a test piece to be sung

followed by an Own Choice.

Unfortunately, the only other choir in the class withdrew. However, our choir won in style, with distinction marks of 86 & 85 awarded for the Unison Song Class and a distinction mark of 87 awarded for our own choice hymn 'Be Still for the Presence of the Lord' and a mark of 90 classed as 'outstanding' for the Test Piece Hymn 'Father,

Hear the Prayer we Offer'. This was the highest mark awarded throughout the whole festival and as a result, for our hymn singing, we were awarded another trophy as we were judged to be the best choir from the whole of the festival.

Obviously, the children and parents were delighted with the result. A very successful morning - coming away with 4 sparkling silver trophies!



Lanchester EP School Choir proudly display the four cups which they won at the recent Ryton Music Festival

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GOVERNMENT CAPPED

After an increasingly irritating series of bungled 'initiatives' and evidence of sleaze in the national Government, the Association of Local Authorities has decided to act.

In line with the Government's own policy of 'subsidiarity' and neighbourhood empowerment, the Local Authorities' Association has decided to take over all services currently mismanaged by Government, including health,

education, policing, and taxes.

The Houses of Parliament will be given to Shelter to house the homeless, and any MPs who have skills will be transferred to Local Government employment. All military forces will be brought back to Britain and instructed to treat all criminals, drunken yobs and people who park on yellow lines as 'insurgents'.

These measures will take effect from the start of next month.

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MUSIC FOR MERCY SHIPS

Lanchester's support of Mel and Sue Somersall's work for Mercy Ships continued in fine style with a concert organised by Andrew Fowler. Andrew's musical colleagues at Durham Cathedral again rallied round, as did Lanchester's own Male Voice Choir to provide an evening of varied and enjoyable music.

Andrew shared a programme of solos, duets and quartets with Peter Coulson, Edwin Holmes and Jessica Holmes, from the powerful but baffling Excelsior to Peter's Some Enchanted

Evening, Andrew's Armadillo and Tonga from Flanders and Swann, and their amazing finale, the Geographical Fugue. The piano accompaniment was by Bill Gray.

Welcome newcomers to Lanchester were "The Cathedral Scholars", a quartet of chorister students from Durham in barbershop mode with a repertoire varying from comic to sentimental, who also joined with Andrew and Peter to revive the Ink Spots.

Last but not least the Male Voice Choir showed their growing

authority in a programme varying from McCartney to Verdi which revived many old favourites from their repertoire and included the unaccompanied 'My Lord What a Morning'. Their conductor and accompanist were as ever Harry Carr and Noreen Bridgewater. With ticket sales contributing £1420 and over £300 in donations, the concert raised £1721.97. This will help to support Mel and Sue's work on the Africa Mercy when it sails to Ghana in June. Thanks to all who performed in the concert and supported it.



The Cathedral Scholars (Alex Sprague, Jason Walsh, Ben Eadon and Tim Salisbury) join Andrew Fowler and Peter Coulson in "Whispering Grass"



The Male Voice Choir, with their Director Harry Carr, sing in the Mercy Ships concert

NORTHERN SPIRIT ON SONG

A large audience in the Lanchester Methodist Church was treated to a virtuoso performance of a capella choral work by the Northern Spirit Singers. This was a very enjoyable concert which began at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th March, 2006.

Northern Spirit confirmed, to their delighted audience, their standing as one of the premier North East Choirs, and they demonstrated, in a particularly varied programme, the talent

that earned them invitations to tour with Lesley Garrett, to "back" Barry

Manilow at the Newcastle Arena and to perform with Pete

Waterman. In a programme of music ranging from Thomas

Tallis to Billy Joel, Northern Spirit entranced all of their audience with some precision vocal work of a stunning quality.

Led by their Conductor, Andy King, and Assistant Conductor, Mike

Summers, the Singers presented a first half of Sacred Music. Group items by the men included Tomas Luis de Victoria's "Aestimatus Sum" - and the ladies programme included Gustav Holst's "Ave Maria". These punctuated the choir's performance of works by, among others, Purcell, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.

The second half began with "Sing We and Chant It" by Thomas

Morley, and further

demonstrated the talent and versatility of the Singers as they continued to delight the audience with a secular programme including Moses Hogan's arrangement of 'The Battle of Jericho', Donald Cashmere's "O Waly Waly" and Taylor and Greenock's "That Lonesome Road".

The programme ended with Duke Ellington's "I'm Beginning to See the Light", to such enthusiastic applause that the choir

presented a delighted audience with Billy Joel's "And So It Goes" as an encore.

Northern Spirit Singers present their

Anniversary Concert in Elvet Methodist Church on Saturday, 24th June, 2006, at 7.30pm, and your correspondent for one has already written it into the calendar.

More information about the choir, the purchase of tickets and CD's is available on their web-site:

www.northernspiritsingers.co.uk



The North East Choir 'Northern Spirit' delighting their full audience in Lanchester Methodist Church

DOGS' PROBLEMS

As illustrated by a recent letter in the Village Voice there is a problem in Lanchester with dog faeces on our pavements and other inappropriate places. The situation was addressed at a recent meeting of the council and several ideas were proposed and some decisions taken. The first step is to paint blue lines on many of the roads in the village a foot from the edge of and parallel to the pavement similar to the action some countries on the continent have taken. At each drain would be the symbol of a dog's face where walkers would encourage their pet to take the necessary action.

There are, of course, many 'dog faeces deposit bins' on the railway walk. Similar ones will be

most roads in Lanchester, particularly in Front Street, but in a more subdued grey colour rather than garish red which may upset residents.

The next step will be to plan a path with a wooden rail on the grassed area next to the trees on the left hand side of the road going to Consett where it will be mandatory to walk dogs rather than on the general grassy area. At intervals there will be 'dog faeces deposit boxes', here coloured green, to blend with the environment. Inserted into the ground just under the trees will be dog toilets filled with chemical solution where dogs should be trained to make their own deposits. If this is deemed to be successful similar schemes will be adopted in many of

installed in the grassed areas in the village such as Newbiggen Lane; Broadoak Drive; Alderside Crescent and Brook View, Deanery View and Briardene. To encourage people to adapt to the latter decision, classes will be held for Dog Toilet Training. Obviously these will be held in the open air at a place yet to be decided, but information will be placed in the Library, Community Centre, Post Office, and of course, The Village Voice, as to when and where this important course will take place. The information should be available at the time of the issue of the next Village Voice when the weather, hopefully, will be warmer and people will be more inclined to attend.

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RETURN VISIT TO INDIA

We have recently returned from a wonderful holiday in Goa and Kerala and thought we would like to mention one of the highlights of our holiday.

We found, by chance on our flight to Goa, the members of the Tees Valley Jazz Band with

their brilliant trombone player from Lanchester, Neville Hartley. They were on their way to visit Goa for two weeks, performing at venues in both North and South Goa. They play mainly Traditional Jazz and we had two wonderful nights listening to their performances in Baga

and in Panaji (formerly Panjim). At Panaji, which is the capital of Goa, the venue was a beautiful, fairy-lit hotel garden running adjacent to the wide River Mandovi. This, even at night, is a busy river with gaily lit tourist boats and iron-ore barges sailing up and down. The setting

was just perfect for the magical, nostalgic sounds produced by Neville Hartley and his colleagues. By the way, they perform regularly here in the Durham area at the Bowburn Hall Hotel on Sunday evenings.

During our stay we had the pleasure of spending

a day at Arambol with Father Alex and a day in South Goa at Assolna with Father Caetano. They both wished to be remembered to everyone they met during their stays in Lanchester.

Bill and Margaret Gray Brian and Helen Hedley John and Bernadette Lowes.



The Tees Valley Jazz Band in action



Canon Spence, Fr Caetano and two young ladies with the visitors to Goa

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

REPORTING ON THE MANOR HOUSE AT CARTAWAY HEADS

The 17th of February saw us dining in style at the Manor House, Carterway Heads, where the food is always good. We came with the Times £5 meal deal vouchers, which consisted of a starter and a main course all for £5. What a bargain, and we do love bargains!

The Manor House gives out a lovely warm welcome, which on a cold February lunch-time is very inviting. Their real fire was blazing away merrily and keeping everyone lovely and warm.

Our young waiter was a delight, re-arranging the furniture to suit our needs and looking after all our individual dietary requirements. The House had a really good menu. For the first course they offered a chicken liver pate with onion marmalade, soup of the day, or fan of melon with forest fruits. This was followed by a choice of their own honey roast ham with mango chutney, a roast of the day, and we sampled some superb lamb, pasta of the day, or sausage and mash. We were served

substantial, satisfying portions and the meal was excellent. Sweets were resisted, but two of us succumbed to the tot of Baileys in a chocolate cup to go with our coffee. It was luscious.

There is a banner outside the Manor House proclaiming it to be "Northumbrian Dining Pub of the Year 2006" from the Good Food Guide. This, we concluded, was a very well deserved accolade. In our opinion, the House is well worth a visit

The Gourmet Girls

TWO INSPECTIONS AT EP SCHOOL

A new style of Ofsted inspection was introduced across the whole country at the start of this academic year. In September 2005, Lanchester EP School was only the second Primary School across the whole of the county to receive the inspection. This new style inspection is shorter, more intense with only a few days notice given. However, it turned out to be a very positive experience for Lanchester EP school. It has been officially graded as a 'good' school and all areas of Standards, Achievement, Teaching and Leadership and Management are judged also as being good. There are only judgements now, graded as Outstanding, Good, Satisfactory and Inadequate.

Three inspectors spent time in the school, talking with staff, pupils, governors and parents, observing lessons, examining work and finding out as much as possible about the school. They commented on the very good relationships that exist in school, the very good behaviour of the children and dedication and commitment of the staff. Positive comments were also made about the rich and stimulating curriculum, the provision of extra-curricular activities and the inclusion of French for the older children. The inspectors noted the very positive attitudes of staff, the vision and determination of the head teacher and the support

of parents and governors. Two areas were also suggested for further development by the school. The inspectors felt that perhaps even more progress could be made across Key Stage One in Numeracy Lessons. They also thought that perhaps the design of the accommodation was not always great and could perhaps be adapted to suit the needs of the modern learner.

Following on from this came the Church Inspection, in January of this year. Again, this was a new style of inspection, and was very thorough but fair. Once again, the positive relationships that exist between pupils and staff were evident, as was the

distinctive Christian ethos obvious. They also noted the effect of being part of a strong, local community and that staff and pupils care for and respect one another. Again, some areas were suggested for development, were to ensure the Anglican tradition is more fully reflected in and around

the school and that the newly established areas of reflection are developed across the whole school.

Both the Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors, Canon Peter Waterhouse, were very pleased with the outcome of both of these important reports.

MOTHERS' MEETING IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE



As mentioned in last month's Village Voice, a group for mothers and their babies meets in the Community Centre small hall on Fridays from 1.00 to 3.00pm, and is backed by the Primary Care Trust. Mothers can get advice on nutrition and other subjects, meet one another and learn about 'baby massage'. For more information join the group on Friday afternoons or contact Pat Goldsmith, 214710.

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

President Dr Ian Brunt opened the 38th annual general meeting on 15th March by praising the general activities of the Community Association. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Arthur Maughan, Chairman, gave his report on the development of the Association during the previous year. He first paid tribute to Henry Tomlinson, a life member of the Community Association, who died recently. He also

mentioned that Secretary, Harry Taylor, was on holiday and that Christine Monaghan would be recording the minutes.

Some of the highlights from the report are as follows:

During 2005 the profit on turnover of the core business was 10%, with the Exercise Centre and associated activities making a similar return. The centre was adjudged to have the best 'CommuniGate' website and was awarded £3000 to be spent on developing the service. Thanks were

given to Christine Monaghan and her team for their achievement. The Adult & Community Learning programme provided an extensive range of courses supported by Durham County Council.

The association is trying to raise funds to build a single storey extension to the rear of the building which will become the new Exercise Centre and two rooms will become available upstairs for other activities.

The 'Friends of Lanchester Community Association' scheme requiring participants to donate £2.00 per month, launched in the Village Voice in December 2006, has been initially very successful and hopefully will continue in the same vein.

There have been a number of Staff changes. Andrea Days was replaced at the Exercise Centre by her mother, Margaret Laycock. Jean Grey was replaced by Anne Lewins

as cleaner. Olive Simpkins retired after 18 years and was replaced by John Mather as Manager, and Julie Simm as Adult and Community Learning Co-ordinator. Maurice Swift continues as caretaker and is doing a fine job in difficult circumstances.

The Officers and elected representatives were thanked for their dedication and time throughout the year.

The same Officers were re-elected for the main posts as last year. Seven members were re-elected to the Management Committee, and five new members were elected to join them. These were: Mrs J Coxon; Mr M Durkin; Mr R Gates; Mrs E Scott and Mrs P Wills. The meeting continued with Arthur Maughan mentioning that John Mather had left his post as Manager and is to be replaced by John Wilson. There will be four staff and one County Council person at the Centre. One or other of these will be

there at most times, giving greater access to the public. Olive Simpkins and Margaret Laycock were singled out for praise by members attending the meeting. The treasurer's report was lengthy, with one member of the meeting questioning the presentation of the report by the appointed accountants. It was agreed to refer back to them for clarification. Reports from Lanchester Scottish Dance Group; Lanchester Male Voice Choir; Lanchester Playgroup & Tiny Tots; and Amigos were presented with little comment. Amigos' accounts were inadvertently omitted from the booklet but assurances were given that everything was in order.

Dr Brunt summed up the meeting and gave his thanks to those who had supported the Association and to those who attended the meeting.

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*Treasurer Jean Hunter,
President Ian Brunt and
Chairman Arthur
Maughan at the
Community Association
AGM*

RIOT IN ALDERSIDE CRESCENT

There were protests in Alderside Crescent, home of the Village Voice registered office, when the throngs of people blocked the road. They were all candidates to write reports on the monthly Parish Council meetings, which in recent months have been so efficiently written by Lindsay

Weston, a former employee of BBC Sheffield. Sadly, none of the hundreds of applicants have proved to be up to the job, which requires a sharp pen, keen ears, an interest in local government and patience. Shorthand an advantage.

TOILET FACILITIES PLANNED

Lanchester Parish Council has made an agreement in principle with John Dixon of the Queen's Head to make the pub's newly refurbished toilet facilities available to the public, and will make a small payment in this respect. Technicalities are still being sorted out but it is hoped to finalise arrangements soon.

PARISH CHURCH SPRING FAYRE

The Chapter House was completely full of good spenders at the Spring Fayre on Saturday 18th of March.

Lots of ladies were decorated Easter Bonnets some of which can be seen in the picture. This made the occasion a very colourful affair. The general mood was exuberant with everyone

bustling about. There were many stalls including tombola: cards; cakes; bric a brac; books; raffles; and of course coffees, teas and refreshments. An enjoyable time was had by all and we are pleased to report that a massive £860 was raised. Thanks are due to all those who helped at, and supported, this most successful event.



Ladies show off their Easter Bonnets whilst selling cakes at the Fayre

BLACK HORSE GET CAMRA RECOGNITION

The Black Horse Inn has been recognised for its quality of ales – it will be the only pub in the Lanchester area to be featured in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2007.

Gary and Jane Nattrass, owners of the Black Horse for less than a year, were delighted to be told that, as a result of a spot check by a

member of the Durham CAMRA committee, they will be featured in the guide – a recognition of the quality ales they pride themselves on serving.

They are celebrating by holding a Beer Festival over the Easter weekend (14th – 17th April). Over 20 cask, bottled ales and ciders will feature and food will be

served in addition to live entertainment on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th April.

On Friday 18th there will be Les Rhythm Method rhythm, blues and rock; Saturday 19th Steam Radio (folk and jazz); and Sunday 20th Easter Quiz and Disco. Opening hours will be from 12.00 - 12.00 throughout the weekend

with events commencing at 8pm.

Come and join Gary and Jane and the Black Horse regulars as they

celebrate – you may even want to join in the 'egg jarring'!!

Tel: 0191 373 4211 for further information.



The Black Horse Inn
Cornsay Village

A warm welcome awaits you along with Real Ales (Black Sheep and several excellent guest ales)

Sunday lunches 12-2pm
(Booking advisable)

Mini Beer Festival - Easter Weekend

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CHESS!...CHESS!...CHESS!...

No, it's not the musical, but a new lunchtime club that is proving especially popular at All Saints' School. Chess has become a great attraction, and both infants and juniors are now regular members of the school club, swapping outdoor play for a more cerebral form of activity.

"I am delighted that chess has proved such an attraction for the children," said Head Teacher Tony Reather. "It encourages them to think strategically by planning their moves, applying concentration, and being polite and taking their turn. Pupils as young as five are now taking part,

and older ones are helping the younger ones to learn the rules." The chess club takes place each Monday lunchtime, with the help of Mr Reather and Mrs Phillips.

Here below are some of the chess club members enjoying their lunchtime games.



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BOWLS 2006

Prior to the start of the Bowls Season on May 1st there is a meeting at the Bowls Pavilion on Thursday 20th April at 7.00 pm. Old and new members are always very welcome. Friendly matches are being arranged but the green is always open for casual games at £1.00 per session. Just bring along a pair of flat shoes—bowls will be provided. Tuition will be given if required, but don't worry about that, just come along and have some fun, light exercise, and enjoy the companionship of other bowlers whether they are novices or experts, male or female.

COUNTRY MARKET

Before joining in the village clean-up on Saturday April 1st get the shopping done at the Country Market in the Community Centre from 10am.

FLOWER CLUB

The next meeting of the Flower Club is on Wednesday 26th April, when members will see a demonstration of

EASTER CRAFT SESSION

Young persons are exhorted to come to Lanchester library on Thursday 13th April from 2 till 3pm for a special Easter craft session, and bring a HARD-BOILED egg. Could be fun.

CYCLE FOR WILLOWBURN

On Sunday the 21st of May a cycle ride is being organised from Lanchester to Bearpark in aid of Willowburn Hospice, commencing at 11am. For sponsor forms please ring 528167 or call at the hospice. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

There is also an appeal for people to join the fund-raising committee, which meets monthly on a Monday at 3.30pm, usually finishing at 4.30. If interested, call the hospice 528167 or Paul Smith on 521952.

EGG TIME

Easter Monday (17th April) will see the annual egg dyeing and rolling event, when all ages are welcome to come with a raw egg, wrap it with various natural products including onion skin, have it cooked in the Eggmobile, then roll it down Paste (Pasche) Egg Hill. All this with added music. Arrive at 10am. This event is provided free by Lanchester Wildlife Group, but donations in the yellow bucket are welcome.

GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS

There will be a special tutorial on Thursday 13th April for people trying to trace their family history. This free event, from 10am till 12 noon in Lanchester library, is timed to enable parents and children to attend in the school holidays. The regular genealogy session is on the last Thursday of the month, so in April it will be the 30th.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On 7th April at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, Michael Richardson, local historian and part time lecturer, returns once again to present another interesting visual evening of Old Durham. He will not only be selecting from his vast archives of some 14,000 photographs, but he will also be showing a selection of newly discovered old photographs. Michael's collection, all of Durham and surrounding areas, dates from 1850 and is undoubtedly one of the finest visual records in the County. He has also produced 9 photographic books and the 10th is well on its way.

WHAT'S ON?

CLEAN UP LANCHESIER DAY SATURDAY APRIL 1ST

WHAT TIME?
10am to 3pm.

WHERE?
Please come to the Village Green. Rubbish bags, hand-pickers and a skip will be provided.

HOW?
We will work in teams to clear identified black spots.

VOLUNTEERS
Please wear suitable clothing and thick gloves.

Light refreshments will be available.

**EVEN AN HOUR OF
YOUR TIME WILL
BE VALUED AND
WILL MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.**

If you are unable to join in the community litter pick we hope you will participate by clearing up your own immediate neighbourhood.

MOTHERS' UNION

Because our April meeting on the 12th is in Holy Week, we will attend the Eucharist in church at 7pm, followed by a short meeting.

WILDLIFE GROUP

The group plans to meet at the Community Centre on Tuesday 11th April at 7.00 for a walk along the Lanchester Valley Walk to enjoy the hoped-for signs of Spring.

OPEN HOUSE

Another fund-raising venture for Mel and Sue's Mercy Ships work will take place in the Methodist Church on 28th April.

During the day morning coffee, lunches and afternoon teas will be served, interspersed with talks about the Mercy Ships work. Money raised from this event will go to 'Lanchester House', the orphanage in Liberia which the village has adopted.

THE QUEEN'S SINGERS

The musicians and singers are still going strong at the Queens each Sunday. After all, music and repartee finishes the weekend off very nicely. We are not exclusive, and welcome anyone to join us to listen, or join in any way. The village is full of talent, so if you fancy a night away from the telly on Sunday, come and join us! On April 30th, due to double booking, the musicians move up to the Three Horseshoes, Maiden Law. Regards, Ian Tute

SHORT WALKS

The Byways and Bridleways group offers a walk on Tuesday 18th April, starting at 7 pm from the Three Horseshoes Inn, Maiden Law. For further information ring 583429. Acorn Amblers have a 5-mile walk starting at Greencroft Industrial Estate starting at 1.30pm on Sunday 30th April and taking in Bantling Lime Kilns.

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COMMUNITY CENTRE COURSES

The following courses start next month in the Community Centre:

Course Title	Day	Tutor	Times	Fee	Start Date	End Date
* Watercolours Intermediate - Part 2	Mon	Dave Anderson	10 am-12 pm	£24	8/5/06 (8 wks)	10/7/06
Lace Circle	Mon	Heather Parkin	2 pm-4 pm	£15	24/4/06 (5 wks)	5/6/06
Tai Chi for Healthy Living	Mon	Roy Bourke	1.30 pm-3.30 pm	£30	3/4/06 (10 wks)	3/7/06
* Digital Photography	Mon	Christine Monaghan	9.30 am-11.00 am	£9	Refer to Centre	
Hatha Yoga	Tues	Paul Rathbone	10 am-12	£27	16/5/06 (9 wks)	11/7/06
Spanish Conversation	Tues	Aurora Ortiz-Zaragoza	6 pm-7.30 pm	£22.50	2/5/06 (10 wks)	11/7/06
French Conversation - Stage II	Tues	Marilienne Ollerenshaw	2.15 pm-3.15 pm	£15	21/3/06 (10 wks)	13/6/06
Belly Dancing - Stage 2	Tues	Ruth Carey	1.30 pm-3 pm	£22.50	25/4/06 (10 wks)	27/6/06
Sugar Craft	Thur	Lynn Smeaton	10 am-12	£15	27/4/06 (5 wks)	25/5/06
Scottish Country Dancing	Fri	Doris Jackson	7 pm-8 pm	£7.50	31/3/06 (5 wks)	
Belly Dancing - Stage 1	Fri	Ruth Carey	6.45 pm-8.15 pm	£22.50	28/4/06 (10 wks)	21/7/06

* Oversubscribed - learners should call the Community Centre to add their name to the waiting list.
For more information contact Julie Simm on 521275.

SOCIAL CLUB

There is 50/50 dancing in the Concert Room of Lanchester Social Club every Friday night from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm at a cost of just £1.

There is no cover charge for entertainment on Saturday nights, and 1st April sees the return of singer Alex Blackwood. 8th April, Kerry Q, another great act, 15th Nigel's karaoke, on 22nd the first visit by Danny McCoy, and on 29th Dale Carter.

VILLAGE CONFERENCE

The annual Village Conference will take place on Tuesday April 11th, starting at 7pm in Park House. This is the opportunity for the voter in the street to ask questions directly to Parish Council members. The conference is followed immediately by the monthly Parish Council meeting, at which under new rules members of the public may speak on the subjects under discussion.

STARS IN THEIR EYES

A 'Stars in their Eyes' night has been organised by public demand due to last year's successful evening. The event will take place at the Community Centre on Saturday May 6th 2006 at 7.30 pm. Tickets which are priced at £7.50 include a two course meal. There will be the usual bar and raffle plus a disco at the end of the evening featuring Lanchester's own, Glen Coxon. Tickets are available from Mark Draper on 529775 or any Lion member. To avoid disappointment get your tickets early as it will be a night to remember.

MP SURGERY

Hilary Armstrong will be available to constituents at 11am on Saturday 22nd April in Citizen's House, Consett.

WI NEWS

At the WI meeting on Monday 3rd April, starting at 7.00 pm, members will have a visit from "The Gift Mobile" with Michelle Harris. There will be quality gifts for sale at reasonable prices, some of which have been sourced from Italy. We are making this an open meeting, with a charge for visitors of 50p, which includes tea and biscuits.

Our meetings are held in the Small Hall of the Community Centre and anyone interested in joining us will be welcome.

Wednesday, 5th April is the date of the WI coffee morning which is from 9.30am - 11.30 am. Do come and enjoy a cup of coffee with us.

On Wednesday, 24th May we are having a visit to Kirkharle Courtyard, near Wallington in Northumberland. This is the birthplace of Capability Brown and

the buildings have been restored and developed into various workshops. There is also a café, which provides light lunches. We intend to charge for the bus only, which will be £4 if all 45 seats are filled. After lunch we will have a stop at either Morpeth or Heighleygate Garden Centre, whichever is the more popular. Anyone interested in joining us, please contact June Wallis on 01207 520477.

KEEP FIT ENTHUSIAST

Those who say they are going to the gym to keep fit, but never do, should follow the example of 84 year old Arnold Hawthorn, who has recently joined the Exercise Centre at the Community Centre. Arnold, a former Electrical Engineer from Newton Hall, but a resident of Lanchester for 8 years, goes along there several times a week, having previously gone to the gym at Consett, as a doctor's referral. With that contract running out and Arnold wanting to keep up his fitness, he decided that the excellent facilities at the Community Centre more than met his needs. The company was good as well, with Margaret Laycock, Exercise Supervisor, giving him all the encouragement he needed.



Arnold, keeping fit on the multi-gym, encouraged by Exercise Supervisor Margaret Laycock

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LANCHESTER FOOTBALL FOCUS

The big chill has seen a few blank weekends for the lads but some games beat the freeze.

Some weeks ago we put in a battling performance away at Heworth, 2-1 down at half time the lads produced a stunning second half fight back to run out 4-2 winners against a strong Heworth side. Nigel Hepplewhite put Lanchester ahead but two goals from the home side put Lanchester back on their heels. Karl Hepplewhite, filling in as goalkeeper, struggled through the game with a thigh injury, as there was no replacement so well done to him. Three second half goals from Olly Webster, and a Ray Wilkinson brace saw the lads home to a well earned win.

Another very good performance saw Lanchester slam five past the normally tough Ryton team. Nigel Hepplewhite gave the lads the lead only for Ryton to peg us back to 1-1. Then an avalanche of four goals two from David Marrin and one each for Matty Bradford and Ray Wilkinson. Final score 5-1.

Stockton arrived in Lanchester for a League cup fixture which was 'great for the neutrals', not so great for the Lanchester Loyals. Sloppy defending saw the visitors sneak a lead, goals from Andy Sword and Ray Wilkinson put Lanchester 2-1 up. David Marrin picked up a nasty knee injury which could see him out of action for

some time (good luck in your recovery Dave), Peter Ollivere (recently returned from his round the world tour) took Dave's place in midfield. Stockton equalised after half-time then Nigel Hepplewhite put Lanchester back in front for a lapse on concentration and another equaliser from Stockton, then extra time and penalties. Lanchester lost the penalties 5-4 as the usually reliable Olly Webster saw his effort saved by the Stockton keeper.

Back to league action and below strength Lanchester eased past a poor Heaton team 5-1. Ray Wilkinson put Lanchester 1-0 up at half time. Heaton scored a surprise equaliser against the run of play just after half time, this spurred Lanchester on to demolish them. Dan High fired two goals, then a sublime lob/volley from Stevie Poulter increased the lead. The scoring was completed by Dan High with his third and hat-trick goal, allowing him to carry the match ball off the pitch and put it back in the bag in the changing rooms (we cannot afford to give balls away to hat-trick scorers, sorry like). A home friendly against St John's Snods Edge gave the lads a fitness run out and a comfortable 3-0 win, Olly Webster, Matty Bradford and Dan High with the goals. Yours in football, Jeff Parker

RUGBY CLUB NEWS

Dick and Dorothy Parry would like to thank Mike and Gloria Smith, Olna and Ian Andrew, Gillian Harrison and Julie and Andrew Spence for their generous donations towards the running costs of the new rugby club in the village.

All of the safety and other training equipment has now been purchased and the new strips, presented by Ossie Johnson, Tom Forster and Richard Young have already been tried and tested. The

next games are to be played at Barnard Castle on 18th March for the under 12's and under 14's.

Dick and Dorothy are trying to get a grant to keep the club going over the next couple of years, but as yet nothing has been heard. If anyone would like to donate or sponsor, please contact them on 01207 7520412. The club is run on a self-funding basis and money is hard to come by so it is hoped that

Lanchester people will give generously. It is hoped that a fund-raising night will soon be arranged.

At present about 50 youngsters have joined the club and more are welcome in the 9 to 14 age group. As a club the youngsters have agreed to take part in a litter pick in and around the village on April 1st. Once again, many thanks to St Bede's school for their support to us and the kids of our community.



Jack Wilkinson and Dorothy Parry, the assistant coaches with some of the youngsters in their new training jackets

TENNIS CLUB TO SERVE AN "ACE" OF A SEASON

2006 promises to be a good year for the tennis club in Lanchester. The club, situated on Ford Road, has a busy schedule of events lined up, from an Adult/Family Play Tennis day to coaching and even a strawberry tea a la Wimbledon!

Things get under way on Sunday 30th April with the club's enrolment day. All ages from 5 years upwards and all abilities are welcome. As mentioned earlier, the Adult/Family Play Tennis day will take place on Saturday 20th May. It is free of charge and equipment will be provided if necessary. This will also be the case on 15th July, when non-member junior players get their chance to play tennis and fun games for free.

The club provides members and friends with a full social calendar, which will include the "Wimbledon" tea, a B.B.Q. in July, and a quiz is planned for November. Teams are entered in the local leagues and a series of club tournaments are also played throughout the season.

The coaching is to start on Monday 8th May with four sessions dedicated to a different age/ability group

from starter, up to improver and adult level. Once again, balls and equipment will be available. A proportion of the 2006 coaching programme has been funded by the Member Local Initiative of Derwentside District Council. Thanks go to Councillor John Ingham for arranging this funding. For further details about the club activities, please contact Dennis Laycock on 520278.



2005 winners of the Lanchester Club Tournament: William Haynes, Stuart Whitesmith, Simon McCormick, Danny Castro and Douglas Patterson

KEEP US INFORMED

Please send any contributions for the next edition by Tuesday, 18th April.

Thank you.

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