

LANCHESTER SHOW

After all the trials and tribulations of having to postpone, regroup and reorganise, the show went ahead on Sunday 5th August and was very successful. The one-day format was commented on positively by many

people and this would appear to be the way forward. The excellent weather (the warmest day of the year so far), the time and commitment put in by the committee and other helpers, ensured that all went well

on the day. Despite the short notice, we were delighted by the quality of the scarecrow competition and are looking to build on this for next year. We are also very actively pursuing resurrecting the Industrial

Section. Any help with this particular aspect would be greatly appreciated. The committee are further considering making available a marquee so that the local clubs and societies in Lanchester

could take a stand to promote their interests. If any such organisation is interested please do contact the Secretaries on 0191 3734565 or e-mail to: las-sec@tiscali.co.uk. Carol and Bill Cliffe



The hot favourite for the scarecrow competition at Lanchester Show was this elegant lady



A new initiative at Upper Houses Farm to complement the Dairy business is Bill'n'Geoff's ice cream, available for tasting at the Show



Three balls in a bucket wins a wonderful animal

UNITARY AUTHORITY - SHOULD DECISION BE CHALLENGED?

Unitary Authorities were first created under the Local Government Act 1992 and included many cities and the Isle of Wight.

In October 2006 the government asked all authorities if they would like to apply to be unitary authorities. By January 2007 they had 26 proposals.

The government then assessed these against the criteria it had set out in its Invitation to Councils, and made a decision in March 2007 after 'stakeholder consultation'. County Durham was successful. Among other things Durham CC proposed 'significant devolution of power and decision-making to 13 Area

Partnerships'. Durham's plan for 'strong top-down corporate and neighbourhood governance arrangement' was praised by Mr P Powell, Deputy Director Local Democracy, in his letter approving Durham's bid. He thought that Durham's bid had 'a reasonable level of support in most sectors'. These

sectors did not include respondents to a referendum arranged by the District Councils.

District and Parish Councillor Bill Gray writes:

You will now be aware that Derwentside District Council is supporting a legal challenge to the formation of a Unitary

Authority for County Durham.

As one of your ward councillors, I fully support this challenge, along with councillors of all political persuasions. The decision was deliberately made by the government before the summer recess, and has taken no note of the recent referendum.

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.

LOST PROPERTY

A quality Mountain Bike has been pulled out of the Browney near the King's Head, on Monday 30th July. It had probably been stolen and dumped. The bike is now in the possession of Mr D Begg of 35 Oakwood, Lanchester, telephone number 521625. Please call this number with your bike details if you have recently had your Mountain Bike stolen.

TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE VOICE

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To advertise:

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Dear Sir,

I read with interest the letter from Mr Eric Burns. Now that there is to be a Stanley Town Council, it strikes me as only fair that the District and County Councils should identify those services which they provide in Stanley, but which are provided by one or more Parish Councils elsewhere in Derwentside or in County Durham, as the case may be.

From the coming into existence of Stanley Town Council, those services should be withdrawn, and the District and County Council Tax precepts cut accordingly, on the clear understanding that the services will be taken over by the new Town Council with its own precepting power, thus entailing no loss of services in Stanley or anywhere else, but reduced Council Tax bills in Lanchester and elsewhere.

I hope to raise this matter at the next Parish Council Meeting, in Park House on Tuesday 11th September at 7pm. There is provision for public participation, so do come along and have your say.
Yours faithfully,
David Lindsay

COMMUNITY CENTRE LETTERBOX

We understand that the new postal arrangements for the Village Voice have caused problems for some villagers. Please note that the Community Centre letterbox is situated in the front door of the Centre, on Front Street.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

DINNER LADY RETIRES

On the last day of the summer term at All Saints' primary school, colleagues and friends gave Mrs Evelyn Harrap a good send-off as well as a tasty buffet meal as she retired after 22 years serving meals at the school.

After the presentation of flowers and gifts, her colleague Jane McKinney delivered a few well-chosen words. Evelyn, she said, was a dedicated worker with a kind heart and a wicked sense of humour. She took no

nonsense from the children, and 'even Mr Reather runs away when she's on the rampage!'

Despite the sly digs, Mrs Harrap was clearly held in high regard. Everyone wishes her a long and happy retirement.



Mrs Harrap (third from right) celebrates her retirement with (l to r) Christine Lawson, Karen Beet, Jenny Naylor, Fiona Selby, Head Teacher Tony Reather, Jane McKinney and former school secretary Monica Atkinson

JACKIE RETIRES FROM POST OFFICE

On 15th August I retired from Lanchester Post Office. When Mr Wheatley rang me almost 29 years ago and asked me if I would like to work in the Post Office, I never dreamt I would be there as long. I have enjoyed my work and have seen many changes, having

worked for 2 Sub-Postmasters and 2 Sub-Postmistresses. Changes have involved doing away with dog licences, TV stamps, BT stamps, going computerised, the loss of the sorting office, and of course one of the greatest changes was the loss of the

pension books. However, the Post Office can now offer car taxes, currency, passport checking, home phone, and personal banking to name but a few transactions.

Over the many years I have worked there I have made many friends on both sides of the counter which I hope to still see in and around the village. I trust you will continue to support the Post Office which is an extremely important community facility, where you will be very well catered for by Sub-Postmaster Tony Morland and staff Sandy, Denise and Martin.

Best wishes to everyone and many thanks for all the good wishes, cards and gifts which were very much appreciated.
Jackie Gates



Jackie Gates at the Post Office

VILLAGE VOICE TEAM SAYS THANK YOU



Brian Oram saying thank you to Clare Wilkinson for her five years' work as treasurer for the Village Voice

As reported in last month's Village Voice, there have been changes in the management team of your Village Newspaper with the retirement of Malcolm and Anne McKenzie as Editor and Secretary respectively, and Clare Wilkinson as its Treasurer.

To mark the appreciation to those who had stepped down, the Team arranged an informal Saturday get-together where Brian Oram

thanked Malcolm and Anne McKenzie for their seven years of unstinting dedication to the paper and was pleased that the Team was not losing their services altogether as they would remain as reporters.

However, the Team was losing the services of Clare Wilkinson as Treasurer due to the pressure of her work commitments. On behalf of the Team, Brian presented Clare with an inscribed vase

The application for planning permission to build ten houses on the by-pass site, formerly the Witbank Garage, was to be discussed at a Development Control Committee meeting on Thursday 2nd of August. However the application was withdrawn at a late stage, probably because it had become clear that it would be turned down. The Principal Planning Officer, Mrs Clarke, had presented a written Recommendation of Refusal of planning permission on the following grounds:

(i) the development would occupy a prominent location within the Conservation Area and the lack of visual interest and traditional design

as a measure of their appreciation for all the hard work she had put into the Paper over her five years of service and for her providing accountability over the finances of the paper and its advertisers.

FORMER RUSSELL CLOSE GARAGE SITE PLANNING WITHDRAWAL

features would result in a development which, by virtue of its design, would not preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Lanchester Conservation Area contrary to Policy EN13 of the Local Plan; (ii) the proposed junction radii, footpath widths and internal road layout are unacceptable and would be detrimental to highway safety contrary to Policy TR2 of the Local Plan; (iii) the applicant has failed to demonstrate, in accordance with PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk, that the development would not result in an increased possibility of flooding in the site and in the surrounding area;

(iv) the applicant has not demonstrated in accordance with PPS23, that the issue of potential contamination of the site has been addressed; (v) the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the development would not adversely affect protected species in accordance with PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation'. At present the site owner, Mr Philip Wilkes, has planning permission to build a new garage on the site. Under current planning laws he could make another application to build houses or something else on the site, at which time all those who have raised objections to housing would be informed.

WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

On the 23rd June Miss Louisa Marie Fleming and Mr Peter Kaye Ollivere both originally from Lanchester were married at All Saints' RC Church in Lanchester. Peter and Louisa who now live in Shotley Bridge met at St Bede's, Lanchester and

became engaged in Thailand during a career gap year travelling the world. Louisa wore an ivory gown by Italian designer Rosetta Nicolini and the bridesmaids Suzanne Fleming, Caroline Kilburn, Olivia Fleming and Francesca

Fleming wore burgundy gowns from Rosina Brown. Following the ceremony the guests enjoyed a fabulous reception and the entertainment supplied by local band the Gents at Langley Castle, near Hexham.



Louisa and Peter on their wedding day

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UNITARY AUTHORITY - SHOULD DECISION BE CHALLENGED?

Continued from page 1

All seven District Councils are supporting this legal challenge, which is the first step towards a judicial review.

The Council will decide at a full Council Meeting on September 25th, open to the public, as to whether or not further action will be taken.

District Councillor Richard Young says:

Both the County and Districts put in bids to be Unitary Authorities. The government chose the County without giving any reason for ignoring both the District's case or the independent referendum conducted on behalf of the District Councils. The result of this referendum clearly showed that the majority of people were opposed to the County as unitary authority, and this is confirmed by my conversations with local people. Unfortunately the government seems to take no notice of what

people want. I hope the legal challenges being made in Shropshire and Durham will be successful.

Parish Council Chairman Neil Fleming says:

The Parish Council are happy with the status quo, but must plan as if the unitary authority will go through. On the plus side, the Durham bid included giving more power to Area Panels, so power would devolve to Towns and Parishes. Lanchester is considering applying for Quality Parish Council status. It is anticipated that Lanchester, together with Burnhope and Castleside, will have two County Councillors. The Boundary Commission may draw a boundary 5 years later to create separate wards. Before the Unitary Authorities are created, Parliament will have to debate and approve them.

Lanchester County Councillor Tom Forster said

he supported Government's decision to introduce unitary local government in County Durham. "I firmly believe a single authority will be best for County Durham and the people who live and work here," he said. "The existing two-tier system has outlived its usefulness," he added. "It offers blurred accountability, and unnecessary duplication of effort, expense and manpower. A single unitary solution is the only way to bring about the scale of the improvements and economies in local government that the Government - and Council Taxpayers - are demanding."

Councillor Forster said a single 'all purpose' unitary council for County Durham would:

- (i) save £21 million per year (compared to the current system) which will be used to invest in services, better representation, devolved area and neighbourhood budgets and council tax equalisation;
- (ii) provide consistent, quality services built around the needs of the County's residents, communities and businesses;
- (iii) deliver clear and accountable leadership so people know who is responsible for what;
- (iv) ensure residents across the County pay the same level of Council Tax which will be reduced to the lowest of the seven different levels while enhancing service quality to the highest standard;
- (v) encourage and support Town and Parish Councils to play a key role, taking on

responsibility for a broader range of functions;

(vi) encourage local community involvement through 'Area Action Partnerships' bringing together local people and elected representatives to focus on service delivery and local improvements.

"Our proposals are supported by well researched evidence, hard facts and realistic forecasts that spell out a better way of providing local government services in County Durham," he added.

Councillor Forster said the district councils should not have been surprised that the result of their so-called 'referendum' did not influence the Government's decision or the future shape of local government.

"They knew from the very outset that the outcome would not be binding in any way, and the public now feel disappointed that the poll was presented as a binding referendum," he added. Furthermore, the Secretary of State herself has said that while she recognises the outcome of the vote, "the climate in which the poll took place, including the information that was available to voters, either directly or as a result of Press debate, suggests that the results need to be viewed with caution." "The only thing to emerge from the poll was the fact that 30 per cent of the electorate was unsure about the benefits of change. Clearly we have some work to do to reassure them, but they should not forget that until recently, the majority of the Districts themselves shared our

view that unitary local government would be better than the existing arrangements," said Councillor Forster.

"Their submission for change signalled that they too wanted to call time on the county-district system, and now that we have the opportunity to introduce a unitary council here, I hope that we can put our disagreements aside and work together to set up the new council and reap the rewards that we, and the districts, know it will bring."

District and Parish Councillor Ossie Johnson

was unable to comment because he is away on holiday.

Mike Gladstone, Chairman of Lanchester Partnership says:

Both Lanchester Parish Council and Derwentside Strategic Partnership prefer the status quo and oppose a Durham Unitary Authority. Derwentside District Council believes that the alleged savings from a unitary authority are dubious, and also has doubts about the cost of change.

When we voted in a referendum whether or not to have a Regional Assembly in 2004, we were also asked in a government-run referendum if we wanted the County or Districts as unitary authority. We voted overwhelmingly for the Districts.

Quotable Quote

'And, let me make clear, despite the speculation, there will be no reorganisation of local government in County Durham or Northumberland arising out of this referendum result.'

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, 2004

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BELLS RING OUT FOR THE CENTENARY OF SCOUTING

Bells rang out around the United Kingdom and the rest of the world, to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting between July 27th and August 8th 2007. Who would have thought from those humble beginnings when Robert Baden-Powell took a group of 20 boys to Brownsea Island for a week, teaching them how to survive in the wild, and to live by a code of honour, that it would have turned into a Global organisation! Scouts marked the Centenary in many ways, including the World Scout Jamboree at

Hylands Park, Essex, where over 40,000 scouts attended. The Sunrise ceremony at 8 am on August 1st when scouts from nearly every country in the world renewed their promise was the climax of the celebrations. The bells in Lanchester rang out around 6 pm on that day. Incidentally three of those six ringers used to be Girl Guides. For many years, young people in the Scout Movement have been able to work towards an Activity Badge for which bellringing is a part, although things have changed slightly over the years.

In days gone by, Harry Thompson, Tower Captain of All Saints' Church, was also a Scout Leader. He taught one or two Scouts and Girl Guides toring to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Award. One of these young persons was Ann Pohlig (nee Whaley). Ann became an excellent bellringer! Last autumn we were visited by our Brownies. Although they are too young to ring, they expressed an interest and asked many questions. We are very keen to keep this interest alive within the Scout Movement! Olga Walker (Tower Captain)



The Bell Ringers, left to right: Janet, Olga, Billy, Edith, Sandy and Rachel

POLICE MATTERS

On a Friday night/ Saturday morning in mid-August a police helicopter was heard over the Peth Bank area. This was as a result of a report of the church being broken into on Peth Bank. The premises were checked but were found to be in order. However next morning it was found that one of the lights had been damaged.

The driver of a Peugeot car who smashed into the stone wall at the junction of Front Street and Kitswell Road about 1pm on the morning of Saturday 11th August ended up in the middle of Kitswell Road with severe damage to the front of his vehicle, but fortunately was able to get out of the car and go for help. Despite the hour, police report that

he had not been drinking but just had an accident. There have been two burglaries where entry was gained by back doors not being locked. The police ask that people remember to check that doors are locked at night. Both houses were just off the cycle track, and entry may have been gained to gardens via that means.

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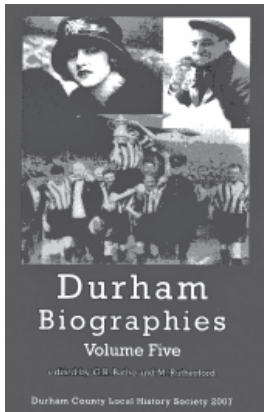


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NEW BOOK OF LOCAL INTEREST

Durham County Local History Society has published the fifth volume of Durham Biographies - another wide-ranging and informative blend of 19th and 20th century biographies.

North-west Durham is well represented in this volume. Included are two of particular interest to



Lanchester, a biography of the **Rev Beryl Jackson** (1937-2006), one of the first women priests in the county who lived and died in Lanchester, **Edward Lee** (1911-2002), the scientist born in Lanchester, who grew up in Knitsley and went to school in Consett, who led research teams that developed systems that enabled pilots in the Second World War to distinguish friendly aircraft and underwater cameras that were able to locate wrecks of submarines in the English Channel.

Others include **Anthony Rossi**, the Consett architect who built St Patrick's Church in Consett and St Pius in

Moorside, the **Rev Donald English** (1930-1998), the Consett lad who became a worldwide leader of Methodism, **William Westgarth** (1906-1995), the businessman who founded and conducted the Consett Citizens' Choir for so many years and **Jonathon Richardson** (1802-1871), the Quaker banker who developed Shotley Bridge as a spa and was heavily involved in the early days of Consett Iron Company.

The book is available for loan from the Library or can be bought for £10 plus £1.20 postage from History of Education Project, Miners Hall, Red Hill, Durham, DH1 4BB.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS FOR FR. MALLALEY



Former Parish Priest Fr. Vincent Mallaley

On Wednesday the 1st of August, All Saints' Catholic Church welcomed back former parish priest Father Vincent Mallaley on the occasion of his Diamond Jubilee.

Fr. Mallaley, who has now retired to Tudhoe, celebrated mass with Canon Spence and Father Andrew from Goa for a congregation made up of friends from the wider community of Lanchester who remembered him as well as members of the parish. During Mass, Father

Mallaley recalled how he found his vocation and his early days as a priest before he came to Lanchester. He pointed out that of his sixty years in the priesthood almost half of them had been spent here in Lanchester. At the end of Mass Mr Jim Owens presented him with a handmade card of congratulations and a cheque on behalf of the Parish. Afterwards he had an opportunity to meet his well-wishers informally over some refreshments served in the Parish Centre.

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CARERS GROUP



At this meeting of the Carers group, led by Carer Support Officer Ted Dickinson (right), Christine Wood of Age Concern (second right) had come to chat to the group

FAREWELL TO MARY LLOYD

At a special service on Sunday 29th July, Mary's love, friendship and companionship. The Lanchester and the Methodist circuit said farewell to Rev Mary Lloyd and her husband Stephen who have left the village after nearly seven years. As a newly arrived minister, Mary was interviewed by the Village Voice in September 2000, when she stressed her determination to support the ecumenical trend in Lanchester. She made a good start by officially opening the RC church fair and meeting the bishop during his Pastoral Visitation. At the end of the service conducted by the Rev Keith Jump, he spoke of Mary's love, friendship and companionship. The queue to add further tributes now formed, starting with Canon Peter Waterhouse and Father Andrew, who ably represented Canon Spence's view that Mary will leave her footprint in the parish. Betty Richardson of Craghead spoke of Super Mary's wisdom and her 'uplifting' power. Oona Andrew was impressed by the presence of so many people from other denominations in the Methodist church, showing the strength of ecumenical feeling. Cliff Hudspeth raised a few chuckles with his frank first appraisal of the new minister, a 'little diminutive woman' who proved to be a dynamo, making many innovations in the church. He praised her care and love for everybody. Mary was presented with a scrapbook put together by Emma, who was also leaving the circuit, together with a gift from the circuit. There were other gifts, and tearful goodbyes as few in the packed church wanted to leave without expressing their feelings. Mary and Stephen now return to Hull, where their old home awaits them. And a quiet retirement? Unlikely.



Mary and Stephen Lloyd at their 'Farewell' service



Mary Lloyd received a gift from Churches Together at a separate event. Thanks to Mrs Wharton for this photo showing Mary with Canon Bob Spence, Geraldine Keenan, Myra Williams and Elizabeth Wharton, with Stan Collins and Canon Peter Waterhouse behind them.

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NSPCC FUND RAISING

Balloons on the gateposts of numbers 30 and 31 Kitswell Road on Wednesday the 25th of July pointed to the venue of a Coffee Morning in aid of the NSPCC funds.

Pat Wills and Christine Dunn had opened their adjoining houses as well as their adjoining gardens and, despite rather a dull morning with the threat of some rain appearing, in excess of 50 people attended their event. All of them enjoyed

coffee and biscuits and tried their luck at an excellent Tombola.

Pat and Christine were helped by other NSPCC members, Marlene Cairns, Mary Charlton and Jean Carr. The magnificent sum of £300 was raised at the event and Pat and Christine thank all who attended and others who sent donations.

The NSPCC will next be seen at a Street Collection in the village on the morning of 22nd September, 2007.



NSPCC fundraisers: left to right, Marlene Cairns, Christine Dunn, Mary Charlton and Pat Wills

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NURSERY SAYS GOODBYE TO KEITH

At the end of term the Nursery children and staff said their fond farewells to Keith Brannon, a former resident of the Adult Training Centre, who had given his time there as a volunteer for twenty years. In fact, he has been there longer than any of the current staff and started his 'career' there when the nursery was at the Green School.

Keith, with his cheerful disposition, will be missed by everyone and didn't

want to leave, but found the travelling from Chester le Street, where he now lives, very difficult. Fortunately, he has now found another placement nearer home and will now work in Bullion Hall Toddlers and the Community Association Toddler Group.

To support him on his final afternoon, all the Nursery staff attended, along with Keith's mother,

Community Placement Officer, Graham Willis, and Diane Howe, Social Care and Health Officer, both from Durham County Council.

In a short speech Jane Knowles, teacher at the nursery, praised Keith for his work and kindness to all the children and said that 'Chester le Street's gain was their loss'. Keith was then presented with a gift and cards from the nursery and reception children.

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Nursery school children with adults left to right: Keith's mother, Graham Willis, County Hall; Wendy, Nursery; Keith Brannon; Jane Knowles, Nursery; Chloe, Nursery; Diane Howe, County Hall



Keith receives a gift from a nursery school child

PLANS FOR BURNHOPESIDE HALL

The former home of railway pioneer William Hedley, Burnhopeside Hall, is to have a new identity if the plans submitted to Derwentside District Council are to be approved.

The plan is proposed for 'change of use of land and gardens to create an activities centre for walking and cycling, siting of a marquee for weddings, conferences, corporate entertainment and outdoor activities, and creation of an additional parking area'. Burnhopeside Hall is an attractive stone building surrounded by lawns and venerable trees and reached through woodland by a long drive from the A691. It includes the original farmhouse to which a grander Georgian wing was joined about 1800. Nearby is the walled garden and greenhouses

which have recently been brought back into use to produce organic fruit and vegetables. These supply a local restaurant, a delicatessen and farm shop and some box deliveries. It is planned to extend this business and to sell produce direct from the garden, though not from a shop.

The owner, Christine Hewitt, who was born in the house, is applying for the planning permission. She would like to use the grounds more fully as a way to restore them as she remembers them, with woodland and riverside paths. She has been able to acquire some of the adjacent land, so that 142 acres will be available to the public for walking and cycling, with access to the Lanchester Valley Way. Cycles will be available for hire. Visitors will be served afternoon tea, preferably in the garden

though a marquee is available if necessary. About two hundred visitors a week are envisaged, mainly at week-ends.

Farm land on the other side of the main road has also been bought and will be maintained as tenanted grazing.

In addition a new company, Burnhopeside Events, will offer corporate entertainment and team building activities in the estate for up to 30 people, providing refreshments in the garden and in the marquee. The groups of people could be businesses, school or youth groups. Among the activities suggested are raft building, orienteering, archery, clay pigeon shooting, lawn bowling, croquet, and quad bike trekking. These events will be run by Edward Todd, who has

run similar activities in Northumberland.

If the business develops as hoped, the 'cottage' can be developed as a restaurant and bed and breakfast offered. It is envisaged that two full-time and four part-time employees will be needed for the event plan, plus two employees for afternoon teas. Two gardeners are already employed.



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A view of Burnhopeside Hall showing the attractive stone building

THE WAY CHILDREN SEE THINGS!

NUDITY

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard

my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, "Mum! That lady isn't wearing a seat belt!"

MORE NUDITY

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was

spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, "What's the matter? Haven't you ever seen a little boy before?"

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THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Lanchester Parish Council has an annual budget of approximately £50,000.00, most of which is made up from the Parish Precept, a small grant from Derwentside District Council and other small amounts from rents etc.

The Parish Council uses this modest budget to direct local services and support to the population of Lanchester Parish. The following commitments are ongoing:-

- provision of grass cutting services;
 - support for annual Fireworks Display;
 - support towards maintenance of the Parish Church Clock;
 - support for the Annual Village Carnival;
 - provision of hanging floral baskets in the village;
 - provision of Christmas Lights;
 - provision and maintenance of recreation areas in the Parish;
 - the improvement of the Kitswell Park recreation area;
 - financial support for local groups and charities;
 - provision of a new Bus Shelter.
- Lanchester Parish Council is committed to working tirelessly for the Parish and its people.

The Precept

The above mentioned precept is calculated by the District Councils as follows:

- (i) a Tax Base (currently 1515) is related to the

number of properties in the Parish. Our budget is divided by the above tax base, which indicates the levy for each Band 'D' property;

- (ii) all properties in the area will be banded by the District Council, eg, a Disabled Band or in Bands 'A' to 'H' according to their value;

- (iii) Band 'D' is regarded as 9/9 ie, the standard amount to be levied.

Therefore:-

- our current budget, after deduction of

contribution by District Council is £44,275.00, which, when divided by current Tax Base of 1515 shows an amount of £29.22 to be levied on each Band 'D' property.

The amount to be levied on other banded properties varies in relation to their value - for example a Disabled Band is 5/9 of a Band 'D' levy while a Band 'H' property will be levied at 18/9 that is £29.22 x 2 = £58.44.

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LANCHESTER INFOLIST

From time to time we publish a list of the classes and clubs to be found in Lanchester. Please advise any errors or omissions.

Organisation	Contact	Phone
Aerobics	Claire McElrue	520607
Agricultural Society	Carol Cliffe	0191 3734565
Amigos	Olive Simpkins	520229
Angling Club	Ted Brabbam	570447
Art Group	Judy Lowther	581336
Beamish Quilters	Elaine Williams	520063
Benfieldside Folk Dance	Jean Longstaffe	0191 3844445
Bereavement Support	Mrs P Burton	230777
Bobbin Lace Making	Elaine Williams	520063
Bowls	Alan Wharton	520872
Boys Brigade (11-18)	Geoff Martin	520103
Boys Brigade (8-11)	Amos Morris	521921
Boys Brigade (under 8)		521466
Brass Band	Adam Towe	529742
Breatheasy	Jean Beard	0191 3841558
Bridge Club	Jan Vasey	521948
Brownies	Liz Smith	521682
Carers Support	Dawn Mallows	502688
Centurions Motorcyclists	David Jackson	521401
Chuildminders	Gillian Nichol	520446
Children's Society	Brenda Craddock	520749
Children's Dance	Karen Stewart	520468
Choral & Operatic Soc	Moirra Watson	0191 4106082
Church Wives	Brenda Craddock	520749
Community Association	Harry Taylor	520495
Community Policeman		0845 6060365
Computers for All	Christine Monaghan	529001
Country Market	Eveline Cowan	0191 5813703
Creative Writing	Malcolm McKenzie	521427
Cricket Club	Club phone	520198
DLI 68	Jane Parker	520077
Dog Obedience	Mr & Mrs Churlish	0191 3731185
Dolphin Swimming Club	Pam Tilley	520488
Exercise Centre	Community Centre	521275
Flower Club	Helen Tomlinson	503667
Guides	Alma Kelly	520560
History Group	Kevin Leary	521627
Keep Fit	Liz Wood	520278
Keep Fit	Tanya Johnson	581466
Lace Circle	Heather Parkin	01833 621393
Lanchester Partnership	Mike Gladstone	528114
Lanchester Pathfinders	Anne Cook	529334
Library	Monica Murfin	521021
Line dancing	Lynn Nixon	231622
Lions	Brian Naylor	520087
Macmillan Nurses	Brenda Hall	521408
Male Voice Choir	John Wills	520249
Model Boat Club	Ted Welding	0191 3733046
Mothers Union	Margaret Brown	529714
MP	Hilary Armstrong	01388 767065
Needlecraft	Elaine Williams	520063
NSPCC	Diane Quail	521377
Parish Council	Jim Owens	521957
Playgroup	Liz Smith	521682
Poetry Group	Isam Hussain	521181
Rainbows (girls 5-7)	Kathryn Trotter	521226
Ramblers Association	Joyce Thomas	520568
Reading Group	Monica Murfin	521021
Red Cross	Dorothy Cox	520123
Rock Club	Sonny Shepherd	520759
Rugby Club (juniors)	Dick Parry	520412
Scottish Dance Group	Jill Ramsey	520501
Scouts	John Wills	520249
Social Club	Trish Bennett	528304
Tae Kwando	Kevin Allison	0191 3730673
Tennis Club	Dennis Laycock	520278
Thursday Club	Olive Simpkins	520229
Tiny Tots	Jacque	0191 3830488
Village Voice Advertising	John Hurren	520288
Village Voice Distribution	Mike Stoddart	520291
Village Voice Enquiries		520559
Wednesday Whist		521042
Weight Watchers	Lynne Lightfoot	0191 4104568
Wildlife Group	Elaine Williams	520063
Womens Institute	Barbara Sproat	520247
WRVS	Betty Tregonning	521210

CULINARY WISDOM

There is a vast difference between the savage and the civilised man, but it is never apparent to their wives until after breakfast (Helen Rowland)

Murder is always a mistake - One should never do anything that one cannot talk about after dinner (Oscar Wilde)

A man is in general better pleased when he has a

good dinner upon his table than when his wife talks Greek (Dr Samuel Johnson)

To achieve perfection fish should swim three times - in water, in butter and in wine (Polish Proverb)

Food is an important part of a balanced diet (Fran Lebowitz)

Grub first, then ethics (Bertolt Brecht)

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AN ITALIAN JOURNEY

The second concert in this year's Early Music Festival saw Dr Brunt partnered by 15-year old David Malkin, a young man skilled beyond his years as a guitarist and, as we have seen in a previous concert involving his mother Glenis Malkin, a master of the cello too.

In the first half, Dr Brunt played three organ works and David Malkin also played two solo works, both Bach preludes for lute transposed for guitar.

However the high point was clearly Vivaldi's Concerto in D major, arranged for guitar and harpsichord. The latter is often swamped by more robust stringed instruments, but here perfectly balanced the guitar.

The second half gave both musicians solo works, but it was Vivaldi who brought the evening to a satisfying close as Dr Brunt and David Malkin gave an excellent rendering of the concerto in D.



Dr Ian Brunt with his talented young soloist David Malkin

WHO'S COMING TO LANCHESTER!

Former Dr. Who, actor Colin Baker, will be materialising in Lanchester Methodist Church this weekend to present a Preview Concert given by a newly formed Professional Orchestra from the North of England, prior to its official launch in October.

The Customs House Concert Orchestra, based in South Tyneside, will be performing a varied programme, in which Colin Baker will guide the audience on a journey through time, from the music of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, to the Scissor Sisters.

The performance will be conducted by professional composer/arranger, and new resident of Lanchester, George

Hastings. Mr Hastings has been Colin Baker's musical and business partner for the last 15 years, together writing and directing many successful musicals. He is a busy and highly respected commercial composer with a string of credits to his name from the BBC to the Bolshoi Ballet.

The concert will take place on Saturday, 1st September, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, Lanchester. Tickets are available from the Village Post Office, and also from the Customs House Box Office (0191-4541234). Tickets are priced at £10 and £7.50.

In addition, the performance will include the music of Burt Bacharach and Barry White, a selection from the

Phantom of the Opera, classic title music from such films as Schindler's List and Out of Africa, and 'evergreen' TV themes including the Avengers. The orchestra is led by Bransby Roberts of Northern Sinfonia, and there will be solos from Alex Lewis, trumpet (also a village resident) and Jamie McRedie, guitar.

Following their official launch in Concert at the Customs House, South Shields, on October 31st, the Orchestral Management is planning a concert tour of venues throughout the North of England, and from the summer of 2008 the Orchestra will be available to perform at large-scale outdoor events and concerts.



The Customs House Concert Orchestra Photo: stro-foto.co.uk

LANCHESTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT MEETING JULY 18TH 2007

Vice Chairman John Wills, opened the meeting by offering the heartiest congratulations to Arthur Maughan, on behalf of the Management Committee, on his recent award of the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. A letter from the Partnership, requesting access through the Community Centre Car Park for a Walking Bus was discussed. The Management Committee decided, though they

could support the principal of safe access for children, this could not happen this year because of the building work being carried out. Before a final decision is made clarification has been sought from the Partnership regarding the safety implication, public liability cover and the Community Association's legal responsibilities as the Community Centre Car Park is private property. All these points have

been put in a letter to the Partnership and the Management Team are awaiting a reply.

The Executive Committee recommended that a Community Draw should replace the current 100 Club. The recommendation was to operate a monthly draw, with one prize of 50% of the total income. Each number could be purchased for £1 per month (£12 per year) the draw will start in

September. The existing members of the 100 club would be given the opportunity to maintain their existing numbers. The Management Team unanimously accepted the recommendation. Anybody wishing to purchase a number in the draw should contact John Wilson or Margaret Laycock at the Community Centre (01207 521275). On the 22nd September a Table Top Sale will be held in the Community

Centre between 10.00 and 12.00. It is hoped that organisations will take a table and donate the takings to the Space Project. Individuals could have a table for £10. Anybody interested should contact the Community Centre on 01207 521275. At the sale there will be the opportunity to order aerial photographs of Lanchester. The date of the next meeting is 17th October at 7.00 pm.

WILLOW BURN FAIR

It was second time lucky for Willow Burn, and although there was a strong wind it was a warm, sunny day for this



Nigel Cook, Managing Director of Elddis Transport opens the Fair

re-organised event. There was a good crowd there as Lisa Corfield, standing in for fund raisers, Julia and Angela, introduced Nigel Cook, Managing Director of Elddis Transport. Nigel declared the fair open with a pleasant succinct speech which was perfect for the occasion. Everyone then moved to the Elldis 'Willow Burn Lorry' and Nigel Cook presented John Poland, Chairman of the Hospice, with a cheque for £1149.28 which was equivalent to one month on the road at 15p per mile. Then the fair began in earnest with everyone enjoying the sunshine

with plenty of choice of stalls to make their purchases. There was a busy refreshments area outside, with jams and cakes on sale inside the building. New features this year were a Punch and Judy right next to a Candy Floss stall. Other stalls included; Soft Toys/Games; Bric a Brac; Cards; Sweets; Plants/Flowers; Books; a Raffle and Tombolas. The other interesting feature was the Fire Engine brought by Red Watch, based at Consett which attracted a lot of interest. Despite the wind, which upset those running the Bottle Tombola stall at one point, it was a lovely day with a fine atmosphere. It was also extremely successful with a massive £3897 raised for Willow Burn funds.



Nigel Cook, MD of Elldis Transport presents a cheque to John Poland, Chairman of the Hospice



It's always nice to win a prize



The Place family learning about fire engines



A seaside treat - candy floss

CELTIC JOURNEY

Pupils of All Saints RC primary school enjoyed performing by mime the lives of the Celtic Saints in the church near the end of term. They were rehearsed and guided by Kevin

and Oonagh, of 'Dare to Dance', who spent two days at the school preparing for the after-school performance. The children had worked very hard and perfectly interpreted the

lives and work of Saints Augustine, Patrick, Columba, Oswald, Aidan, Hild, Cuthbert and Bede. Some of the children read the stories, and did so clearly and faultlessly.



Children from All Saints' Primary School act out the lives of the saints in All Saints' Church

WI NEWS

At the meeting on 6th August Miss Amy Fincham described the work undertaken by 'Childline' which was started in 1986 by

Esther Rantzen. There are 200 full-time, 150 part-time and 1000 volunteers who undertake counselling work and fund-raising.

Nearly 2 million children have been helped with counselling, and every day 2,500 children make calls across the

UK to the 'Helpline'. A visiting member from a Cheshire Institute selected the winners of the 'Most unusual child's toy'. Members

enjoyed listening to the entries for the Limerick Competition which will be judged at the Autumn Council Meeting.



Durham County Executives in the new demonstration kitchen at WI House, Spennymoor, on Celebration Day in June



Lanchester Members enjoying afternoon tea at WI House, Spennymoor, during the June visit

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WILD ABOUT BATS

Lanchester Library's programme of activities for young people started on Tuesday 31st July with a visit from bat expert Gerry White, who had a large audience to hear about the many varieties of

bat. Most eat insects, some eat fruit. The vampire bat (which doesn't live in Britain, Esmeralda) bites animals and conveniently has saliva which stops bleeding. Bats are mammals, the only ones

that fly, so their DNA is very like ours. They fly at night, using echo-location to guide them. The audience left with bat-masks, which they had coloured in, and copious information about bats.



Gerry White demonstrates echo location

ZOO LAB

About thirty children and their minders descended on Lanchester library on Tuesday 21st August to meet Martin from Zoo

Lab. They were introduced to a whole host of creatures - a giant snail, a large millipede, a frog, Madagascan

cockroaches, a tarantula, mice, and a snake. They also learned about the creatures' habitats and how they lived.

LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL LEAVERS SERVICE

The service was held at the Parish Church on Thursday 19th July. The church was filled to capacity with most of the children from school and many parents. In this children led service, a warm welcome was given by Annabel Knowles. There followed hymns and prayers, the latter interspersed with taize chants, which were very moving.

Readings from the bible, by a group of children in turn, preceded a further thirteen classmates talking about their fondest, funniest, embarrassing moments at school and the friendships they had made. Many had enjoyed several school trips i.e. PGL (parents get lost) Outward Bound, at Middleton in Teesdale, and to France, where there

had been some wonderful, memorable times. Presentation of certificates was next on this full agenda. This began with 100% Attendance awards, the Healthy Schools Award, Leaver Certificates for those moving schools, followed by Graduation Certificate Scrolls, a Memories book and Scripture Union book to all the year 6 leavers. These presentations were particularly amusing as Jane Davis, Head Teacher, previously primed by the two year 6 teachers, read out some very amusing anecdotes about every child. A new award was given this year by Lanchester Lions Club to mark their 40th Anniversary. The staff of the school decided to use these beautiful engraved glass trophies for

'citizenship'. The first recipients were, Luke Suddes of year 2 and Ellie Allport of year 6. Ian Murray, Vice President of the Lions Club made the presentations.

This enchanting morning was concluded with a very moving hymn, a 'thank you' speech by Jane Davis, and some appropriate words from the vicar, Canon Peter Waterhouse.



Daniel Holman and Emily Dewar, display the Healthy Schools Award



Vice President of Lions, Ian Murray, presents the new 'Citizenship' award, marking Lions 40th Anniversary, to year 6 pupil Ellie Allport



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BUSSES, BRUSHES, BOBBIES AND BLEACH

What an interesting name for a play! An adaptation by Mrs Grayson and the year 6 children from the EP School, made this more than interesting - in fact, absolutely hilarious.

This would have made an excellent sitcom for TV. The scene was set at a typical home with mother, father and two children having breakfast. The group of chairs on the side served at first a bus, then a classroom.

Highly amusing discussions from the old fashioned mother in dressing gown, the dad with a huge moustache, head always buried in a newspaper, and two, sometimes lively, sometimes moaning children, prompted scenes portraying school trips, art classes, and possible jobs the children may wish to do after

schooldays. So the quick fire acts flitted from home to school and the outside world.

All the children in year 6 took part. The chairs rapidly became a bus with a hilarious performance by a bossy bus driver who certainly kept his charges in order.

The discussion at the breakfast table on jobs brought forth two clown-like firemen who really enjoyed acting their parts and two typical 'bobbies' who lined up before the class with a matronly teacher.

A later family chat around the table had the children moaning about boring SATS and wanting creativity in their lessons. This brought on the art teacher who taught them all to produce the same painting of fruit, much to the amusement of the audience.

There was plenty of singing, music, and even a little band, all organised by Mrs Startup, which enhanced the play. The acting was excellent by everyone in the play and all participants seemed to really enjoy it. The final

'Goodbye to the School' song, sung by all the cast had some of the latter, and the parents in floods of tears, such was the emotion of last day at school, before moving on. Another lovely feature at the end of the play and a

complete surprise, was a slide show of the year 6 children as they moved up through the school. This brought more laughter and tears to what was an emotional day for staff, children and parents alike.



An amusing family of four set the scene

WESTLANDS DENTAL CARE

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We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Matthews all the best on her well deserved retirement. We are delighted to announce that we are taking on new patients onto our care plan. The plan enables patients to spread the cost of check-ups and scale and polishes over the year for as little as £8.90 per month. In addition patients on the care plan will receive a 20% discount off all dental treatments required or requested for the whole time they are registered at the practice, as well as an insurance package to protect against unforeseen accidents and out of hours call out.

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We are planning a full practice refurbishment (subject to planning permission) - we now have the plans on display in our waiting room so come along to see our ideas for the future at Westlands Dental Care.

We look forward to seeing you soon

Sharon Robertson

Our new Dentists at Westlands Dental Care



Akash Ghai



Tony Gallagher



Deepinder Somal

BIG BROTHER

Lanchester's Big Brother housemate, Liam McGough from Kitswell Road, has already won £100,000 and is well on track to win the major prize of another £100,000 on the Channel 4 reality TV programme.

Liam, aged 23, entered The House in mid-June and the cheerful tree surgeon gets on very well with the rest of the housemates.

Liam's pal, 21 year old Stephen Behan of Meadow Way in the village reckons Liam can go all the way and win.

Stephen is often on Channel 4's Big Brother, Little Brother programme telling the country about Liam, how well liked he is, about his personality, humour and his girlfriends. Both Liam and Stephen are former pupils of All Saints RC Junior School and St Bede's.



Lanchester contestant, Liam McGough, with twins Samantha and Amanda, in the Big Brother House



Stephan Behan (left) Liam's pal and Phil Hodgson his work mate, on 'Big Brother Little Brother' Channel 4 Photos: Eric Burns

HAIR REMOVAL, A NEW TREND AT THE BLACK HORSE INN, CORNSAY

Three customers revealed all in aid of Breast Cancer Care on August 11th at the Black Horse Inn's beach party and barbeque night. Raymond Gould shaved off his moustache of over 30 years (we're not sure what he found in there!), Kenny Harrison had his head shaved and Ross

Hodgson made customers squirm as he had a total back wax in public. A grand total of £406 was raised in aid of the charity and a good night was had by all. Many thanks are due to the three brave souls and the regulars and friends who sponsored them.

Lynsay Nattrass, a midwife in training responsible for local residents, Ross Hodgson's back wax said: "I was amazed that he didn't flinch even once - he's now claiming that he could cope with going through labour!" As if, Ross!



The brave victims at the Black Horse



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BURNHOPE VINTAGE VEHICLE RALLY

Grim weather was in store for the 81 competitors in the 22nd Burnhope Vintage Vehicle Rally held on Sunday 19th August. Many of the open top

drivers were absolutely soaked as they completed their 160 mile drive. This year the course went north for a change and after leaving Burnhope Picnic

Area, they set off at 11.00 am for Check Point 1 High Mickley, followed by CP2 at Ogle, with a lunch stop at CP3, Bamburgh. In the afternoon they

continued to Check Point 4, Long Framlington, then to CP5 Stamfordham, finishing at Burnhope between 3.00 and 5.00 pm. There were 15 classes of vehicles, and trophies were also awarded for: Best Turned out Car; Best Turned out Motorcycle; Oldest Car and Motorcycle to complete the run; Best performance by a Newcomer, Car and Motorcycle; and the John Murray Memorial Marshals Award. All results were calculated on the day and trophies were presented late afternoon, which is something the

organisers are proud of, as they are the only rally administrators in the north of England who can achieve this.

The organisers would like to thank all those who took advertising space in their programme and all the competitors who generously donated additional money to assist with the running of the event. Marshals are always needed for this rally and should anyone be interested for next year, on the third Sunday in August, please contact Joe Wilson, on 01207 280101.



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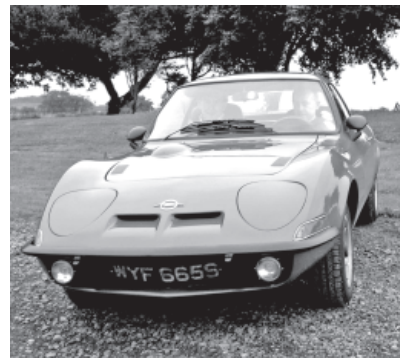
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DRAGON SLAYERS RALLY



A desolate looking campsite

An enormous deluge of rain just prior to the Rally did not prevent about 1000 bikers gathering at Upper Houses Farm for their event on Friday/Saturday/Sunday, the third weekend in July. There was so much mud at the entrance it was difficult to get in and out. There were few bikes in the village as most members decided to walk down the hill for their liquid refreshment, along with some takeaways. Friday night the music was loud and long with the marquee packed, with some in fancy dress. Entertaining that night

were four groups: My Portraits Secret; Skinflint; 2Twenty and Kimera. Saturday night everyone danced to Ask At Casualty; Dr Lipshitz; Full Metal Racket and Smokin Monkey. A gazebo was erected for smokers near the marquee. Bikers came from as far as Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and many parts of England with a particularly large contingent from Hartlepool. There was even a Portuguese biker, but he actually lived in Middlesbrough. These



The Dragon Slayers themselves - smiling despite the rain

kept the trade stalls busy which included: Buckle Mania; Clothing-Badges; Crafts; Army Surplus; Jewellery; Leather Goods; a Tattoo Tent, and two food vans which catered for all tastes.

Silly games were cancelled this year because of the rain but no one seemed too bothered about the weather and there were lots of smiling faces around. Money raised this year will go to the Rainbow Trust which is a charity for terminally-ill children.

Alan Madrell Coach Tours



Blackpool Illuminations
20th - 22nd Oct. £120

Chatsworth House & Nottingham
9th to 12th Nov. £145

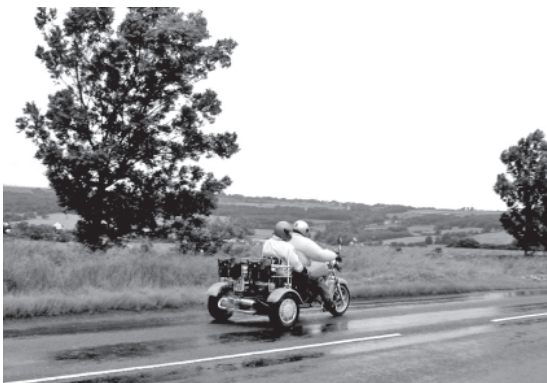
Turkey & Tinsel in Southport
3rd to 7th Dec. £165

DAY TRIPS

Ambleside & Windermere 11th Sept. £10
More day trips to be announced soon

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A trike flashes past



The hat men from Hartlepool explore the village

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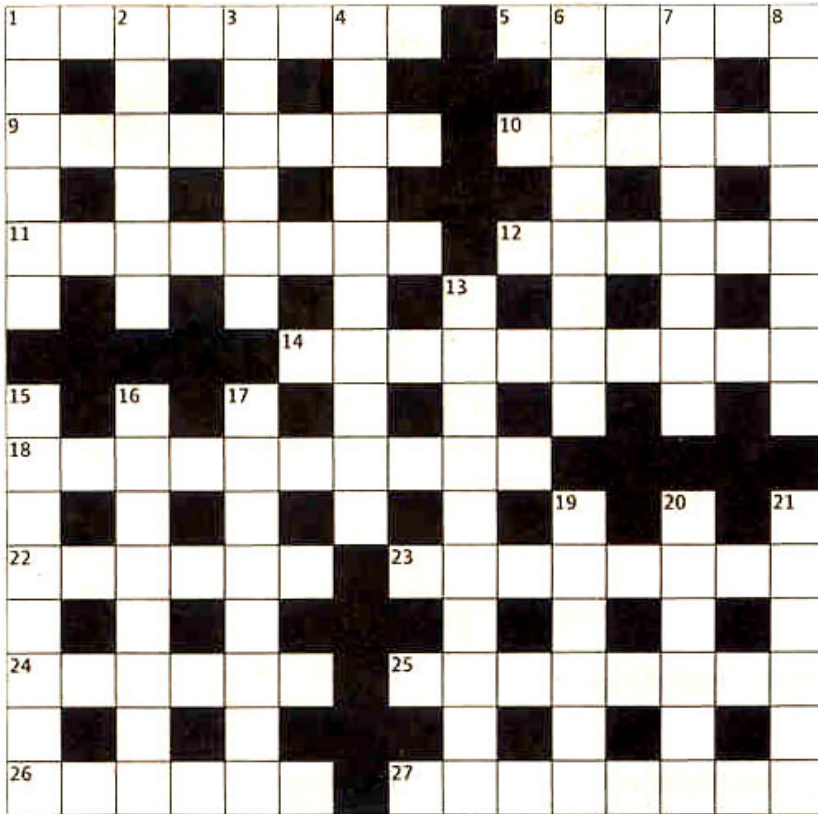
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CROSSWORD 16



ACROSS

1. Improvement by repetition (8)
5. He of the famous Last Stand (6)
9. Pain in the neck (8)
10. Aphrodite's lover (6)
11. Air component (8)
12. Cliché (6)
14. Cut-out artist (10)
18. Greedy (10)
22. Channel island (6)
23. Stirrer (8)
24. Sleeve found on 22? (6)
25. Snake found in South America (8)
26. Insect on its knees! (6)
27. FA stayed for festival (5-3)

DOWN

1. Easily led applicant drops headgear (6)
2. Bubble air through (6)
3. Military pageant (6)
4. Circles with the same centre (10)
6. Support (8)
7. Returning insect with mixed venom is real (8)
8. Herb (8)
13. Rebellion in rush to altered National Exhibition Centre (10)
15. Herb (8)
16. Herb (8)
17. People of letters in microlite ratings (8)
19. Play-things for bulls and bears (6)
20. Drunk or drugged (6)
21. Dismal (6)

Name _____

Address _____

Please send your entries to The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0JQ.

CROSSWORD 15

We are sorry to say that gremlins found their way into the crossword grid last month and there were two rogue squares, as shown in the solution on the right. Nevertheless, there were entries from six astute people who correctly solved the problem. The winner in the draw was Andy Gordon of Deanery View who will receive the £10 prize.

CROSSWORD 15 SOLUTION



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LADY LIONS DONATION



Janet Ridley of Willow Burn, receiving a cheque for £300.00 from Lion President Mark Draper, donated by Lanchester Lions' Ladies

CENTURIONS PRESENTATION

The Cricket Club was crowded with bikers for the meeting of the Lanchester Centurions MCC on Wednesday 1st August, as there was a major presentation to Great North East Air Ambulance.

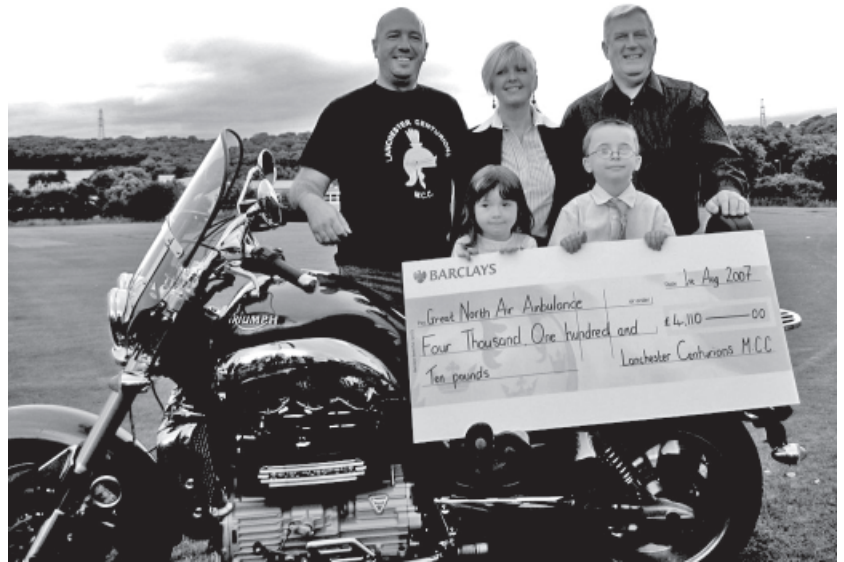
On behalf of the Centurions, little 4 year old Rosie Wright, of Chester 1e Street, presented a cheque for £4110 to Mandy, of the Air Ambulance Organisation. Many will remember that Rosie received multiple injuries a year ago in a tragic accident, when the Dreamspace marquee at Chester 1e Street playpark broke away from its tethers, rose several hundred feet into the air and came crashing down. She was air-lifted to hospital in record time.

Wayne Tilley, Chairman of the Centurions, opened the evening with a brief introduction, expressing the essential need for the air ambulance service. John White, of the Prison Officer Charity Fund endorsed Wayne's views and said, 'that if it were not for Air Ambulance, Rosie would not have been at the event today'. He also indicated what a wonderful service it was and that the money raised by the Centurions, with raffles, discos and the Ben Hur Rally, was matched by the Prison Officers Charity Fund. Mandy, a Fund Raiser for Air Ambulance, replied very eloquently and sincerely to the two speeches. She was also extremely grateful for this massive cheque and was really

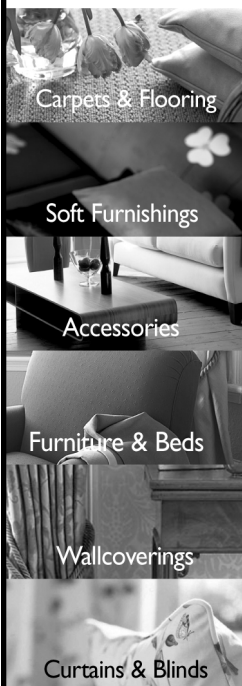
pleased that Rosie had made the presentation. Mandy also mentioned that Great North East Ambulance was not a huge charity but it did take £2.5 million, without government funding, to

keep three helicopters in the air, which were always on standby. The second week in October there will be an 'Air Ambulance Week' in the North East finishing on the 14th

with a BBQ, and Treasure Hunt from Darlington to Durham. Further details will follow nearer the time, but all are welcome. The Centurions website is www.lanchestercenturions.co.uk.



Rosie Wright presents a cheque for £4110 to Mandy of Gt North East Air Ambulance. Left to right: Wayne Tilley, Chairman, Centurions; Mandy; John White, Prison Service; Rosie, aged 4 and her brother Jack aged 6.



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Lanchester Early Music Festival

On Saturday 1st September at 7.30pm the concert named 'Masterpieces for a Connoisseur and Friend' will be held in the Parish Church. This comprises Music for the Court of Anhalt-Cothen by J S Bach, with Concertos, Sonatas, Triosonatas and Organ Works, with Brian Stewart (flute), Philip Cull (oboe & oboe d'amore) and Dr Ian Brunt (harpsichord & organ) playing under the soubriquet Hexham Collegium Musicum.

It is followed on Saturday 15th September at 7.30pm by 'The King's Private Musick', music for two bass viols from three centuries by old masters of England, Spain and France, with Greg Pullen and Andrew Fowler (bass viols) and Dr Ian Brunt (harpsichord & organ) as Lanchester Collegium Musicum. The programmes will be interspersed with contemporary readings from journals, eyewitness accounts and letters of the period, giving an instinctive feel

for the vanished world and the people who created and enjoyed this rich musical legacy. Refreshments during the programme interval will be served in the Chapter House. Tickets £8 with concessions £5 and those under 18 years or full-time students free. Admission at the door or reservations in advance by enclosing an S.A.E. to Dr Ian Brunt, The Lodge, Lanchester, County Durham, DH7 0LF, with cheques made payable to "All Saints Lanchester P.C.C."

New Professional Orchestra in Lanchester

The Customs House Concert Orchestra is playing popular music from the movies, musicals and television at Lanchester Methodist Church on September 1st at 7.30pm.

The conductor is George Hastings, the leader Bransby Roberts, and the presenter is Dr Who's Colin Baker. Tickets are £10, £7.50 concessions from Lanchester Post Office. See article page 12.

Music for a Summer's Evening

All Saints' parish generously sponsored David Edwards when he spent a year in Africa 2005/6 at the Kampala Music School, working with poor but immensely talented young African musicians. On Saturday 1st September at 7.45pm David, together with Sarah Kelly and many other talented young musicians of the parish will perform an exciting and varied programme to raise money to continue All Saints' generous support for our brothers and sisters at the Kampala Music School, Uganda. Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Please use the Year Planner

Unfortunately after a long period with no musical events, there is a clash of concerts in the village, the Early Music Festival having been advertised well ahead of the others. Many music-lovers would have liked to attend all these events. What a pity no-one uses the Year Planner which John Wills put up in the Community Centre with a view to avoiding such clashes.

WHAT'S ON?

Country Market

The Community Centre is the place to be on Saturday 1st September at 10 am to stock up with the usual goodies: pies, cakes, jams, vegetables, craft goods, etc.

Lanchester Social Club

Saturday entertainment is free for members and associates in September. On September 1st, Maggie Ross makes her debut, as does Debbie Gold on the 8th. The 15th is karaoke night with brilliant new disc jockey, Dan, and on the 22nd the singer is Kerri. Finally on the 20th the fantastic Johnny Reynolds returns.

Poetry Group

The group meet in the Community Centre computer room on Monday 3rd September at 7.30 pm to read and listen to poetry, self-penned or not.

Many of the group members contribute to the North East Poetry Journal, whose editor Isam Hussain now draws poems from all over the region. The next edition will be issued in September and will be available from Lanchester library.

Isam also publishes limited editions of poetry by local poets, including Maurice W. Cottam, Christine Lowes, Jadzia Race, Ivor and Irene Hogg and Isam himself. Copies can be obtained by ringing 521181.

WI

The meeting on Monday September 3rd, starting at 7 pm, is devoted to Hands-on Card Making, led by Leslie Jerred. The competition is for a favourite card. Visitors are welcome, £1.

Creative Writing

A small group of people who enjoy writing meet in Lanchester library every Tuesday afternoon. They have no 'teacher', but some of them devise topics or stimuli to get the group's imagination working and produce short pieces of prose or poetry. Some of the results have appeared in print.

It's amazingly good fun, and coffee and biscuits are not out of the question. Tuesdays from 2 till 4pm, starting on September 4th. Why not try it?

Scottish Country Dancing

The social dancing resumes at 8pm on Friday 7th September in the Small Hall of the Community Centre.

A class for beginners and less experienced dancers resumes on Friday 5th October at 7 pm, also in the Small Hall. The teacher is Doris Jackson who holds the relevant Royal Scottish Country Dance Society qualification.

Lanchester Community Centre



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MP Surgery

Our MP, Hilary Armstrong, will be available to speak to constituents on Friday 7th of September at the Civic Centre, Consett, starting at 6pm.

Wildlife Group

The group meets on 11th September in the Community Centre at 7pm. The subject is Otters and the speaker Terry Coult.

Mothers' Union

The next meeting starts at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12th September in the Chapter House when the speaker will be Carol Harrop, Mothers' Union Faith and Policy Co-ordinator for the Diocese.

Family Disco

A Family Disco and Supper will be held at the Social Club on Saturday 15th September, beginning at 6.30pm. This function has been organised by Mel Somersall in aid of the 'Mission to Liberia'. Music will be provided by Glenn Coxon. Tickets are available from Mel on 529153, Adults £5.00 and Children £1.00.

Skills for Life

A special free course begins in Lanchester library on 20th September from 2 till 4pm. It is aimed at the unemployed and will offer job skills advice.

Short Walk

Acorn Amblers have a 5-mile walk entitled 'Roman Fort and Dere Street' on Sunday 23rd September starting at 1.30 pm from Newbiggen Lane car park. The R.A. group 'Short Circuits' have a 4-mile walk at Frosterley starting at 10.30 am on September 1st from the car park on Main Street (A689) map reference NZ026369.

Film Club

The next film, THE HISTORY BOYS, will be shown on Sunday 23rd September at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. 'Based on Alan Bennett's hit National Theatre comedy-drama, an unruly bunch of bright, funny sixth-form boys in 1980s Yorkshire are in pursuit of sex, sport and a place at Oxford or Cambridge. A maverick English teacher, a facts-orientated history teacher and a young and shrewd supply teacher are trying to help them, albeit with completely different teaching methods. The school is run by a slightly crazed headmaster obsessed with results and getting his school up the league tables. Given all this, can the boys achieve their Oxbridge goal and what can they learn about life, love, history, and film-endings along the way?' (British Film Catalogue)

Flower Club

The demonstration at the Flower Club meeting on Wednesday 26th September, starting at 2 pm in the Community Centre, is 'A Love Affair with Wood' by Audrey Foster of Lealholme.

Durham Diocese Mothers' Union

Lanchester Deanery are hosting an open afternoon in the Community Centre on Thursday 4th October, 1.30 - 3.30 pm, to promote the Mothers' Union. Members will be on hand to answer any questions and visitors will be able to enjoy cake and a cup of tea.

Computer Classes

Classes for Beginners in Computing and Digital Photography will resume in the Community Centre in September. Anyone interested should contact John Wilson, Community Centre Manager on 521275.

Celebrate!

The Friends of Longovicium, Lanchester's Roman fort, are holding a celebration to mark the completion of a major production. The event on 24th September, starting at 7.30pm in the small hall of the Community centre, is open to all those interested in our Roman legacy.

The production of a walks leaflet, an education pack and now a booklet telling the story of the Fort has been achieved by a small committee with enormous help from Christine Corker of Groundwork Trust, Tony Devos of the Mineral Valleys Trust and latterly of Natural England and other professionals to obtain funding and facilitate relations with local authorities.

It is hoped that Durham County Council's Community Heritage Officer Julie Hawthorne and County Archaeologist David Mason will attend the event, together with others who have contributed to the booklet.

The booklets have been distributed throughout Lanchester, and further copies are available from Lanchester library.

Wind in the Willows

On Thursday 4th October in the Community Centre, The Library Theatre Touring Company are performing the Wind in the Willows - The Musical. This is a family show (for all ages) featuring Ratty, Toad, Mole and Badger. The producer informs us that there are eight charming original songs especially written for this production. Tickets will be on sale at the Community Centre at the beginning of September.

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

German "classes" resume in the first week of October in Room 3 of the Community Centre. On Wednesday 3rd at 2.30pm begins the course 'Verbs: Types and Tenses'.

The course 'Survival German' resumes on Friday 5th at 2 pm. The first topic will be 'What to expect at German mealtimes'.

These groups meet for FUN! We are not working for an exam. No previous knowledge is necessary. Each session costs £1. Just pay each time you attend.

Support For Carers

People of all ages may care for a relative or friend who is ill or handicapped. A carer can be of any age, come from any background or culture, and can be men, women or children. There are approximately 10,000 carers in Derwentside.

Derwentside Carers Centre is a local charity based in Delves Lane Village Hall, which helps carers in Derwentside in the following way:

Offer home based respite; offer practical and emotional advice; provide quarterly newsletter; help set up groups; offer one to one support; assist with welfare/benefits checks. The Carers Centre has various groups around Derwentside, one of which is in Lanchester. This is a small friendly group who meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 1.30pm - 3.00pm at Park House in Lanchester.

Why not pop in for a cup of tea and a chat with other carers like yourself, or discuss any confidential matters with a Carers Support Worker.

Cream Tea for Willowburn

Lanchester Lions Ladies, have organised a Strawberry Cream Tea at the Community Centre, on Thursday 11th October, from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm. Tickets are £1 from any Lions or Ladies member, or you may pay at the door. Please support what will be an enjoyable afternoon, for a worthwhile cause.

Art Exhibition

The Lanchester Art Group is holding its annual exhibition during the weekend of October 20th/21st (Sat/Sun) in the Community Centre. It will be open from 10am till 5pm both days and admission is 50p. Refreshments, as usual, will be available. Everyone welcome.

There will be a very diverse range of paintings on display, and for sale, by the local artists.

Table Top Sale

At the Community Centre on September 22nd from 10am - 12 noon.

Open Day

Lanchester Partnership has an Open Day on the morning of 29th September.

Coming Shortly

North Country Theatre will present The Electrical Wizard of the North on 8th November in the Community Centre. Lanchester Methodist Church has a Christmas Market from 7th-9th December.

Lanchester Cricket Club presents a Sporting Dinner on December 14th with world boxing champion Ricky Hatton.

Celebration of Christmas at the C of E Parish Church on 17th December.

Organisers, please try to avoid listed events dates. Planning ahead? Let me know when and where. Ring 520559.

NATHAN AND MEL SWIM FOR CHARITY



Nathan and Mel battle it out neck and neck

A brave Mel Somersall took on 10 year old Nathan, his grandson, at Belle Vue (Consett) Baths in a tiring swim, so that Mel and Sue can return to the new Africa Mercy, in Liberia, sometime in the autumn.

The swim took place on 2nd August in a lane which was specially closed off for them. Nathan and Mel completed 108 lengths between them, and surprisingly for Mel, Nathan completed the same number as he did, ie 54, but Nathan was ahead by four lengths. Both were extremely tired at the end but it was well worth it.

Mel would like to thank the management and staff at the baths and particularly, all those who sponsored the swim, and others who made donations. Mel would also like his public thanks to go to his fine

grandson Nathan who dreamed up the idea as a way of helping his Granny and Grandad to achieve their aim. By the time all the money is collected the total should be in the range of £1200-£1500.



The end of the marathon swim - both shattered

POTLESS

Sadly the silver polish has been put away at the bowls club for the year. In a close-fought match against Dipton, the club went out of the Tom Burleigh knock-out competition for veterans which was the last chance for glory this year. The league results in the latter part of the year have been encouraging but it has proved too late to

recover from the early season poor form. The silver lining to the cloud has been our results in friendly matches. For some inexplicable reason we seem to do better in friendly matches. Is it because we are more relaxed perhaps? I would like to make clear the comments about the condition of the Barnard Castle green in last

month's Village Voice are not endorsed by the committee of Lanchester Bowls Club. It was simply a misguided attempt by the writer to liven up an otherwise dull report. I wish to apologise for any offence that may have been caused and hope this will not sour the otherwise good relationship between the clubs.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by 18th September.

The deadline for adverts is 16th September.

SRI LANKA TREK FOR HOSPICES

Michael Downes of Lanchester is preparing for a sponsored Trek in Sri Lanka in October, aiming to raise money for three separate hospice charities. 27 year old Michael, who works within KPMG's corporate finance team in Newcastle, will be a member of an 18 strong KPMG team trekking over 75km through Sir Lanka's dense forest, tea and coconut plantations; rapids and also climbing the Unesco-listed rock fortress at Sigiriya.

Local, national and overseas hospices stand to benefit from Michael's sponsorship as he is raising funds for St Oswald's Hospice in Newcastle, the national Help the Hospices charity and the Shantha Sevana Hospice in Sri Lanka.

Michael said "KPMG developed links with Sri Lanka after the Tsunami when we funded the redevelopment of five villages so it feels good to be fulfilling a charitable challenge there and we will be trekking to one of the villages we supported in the South West of the country."

"I am aiming to raise £3000 from this trek so I welcome visitors to my fundraising page www.justgiving.com/treksrilanka and think it's important I train hard to ensure I can complete the challenge. To keep me on track, I'll be doing the Great North Run in September, before leaving for Sri Lanka on 26th October."

For further information please contact Michael Downes on 0191 401 3770.



Michael training for his trek in Sri Lanka

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