

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 2 Volume 9

Lanchester, February 2008

For contact information, see page 2

KING'S HEAD OBJECTIONS IGNORED

On February 14th Derwentside District Council's Development Control Committee considered an application for two pairs of semi-detached houses to be built behind the King's Head.

The application was opposed by the Parish Council as well as the Lanchester Partnership. Some local residents had written opposing the application - none had written supporting it. At the hearing a letter from Gerry White,

describing the likely damage to otters and other wildlife, was read out.

Then Brian Masterman, speaking on behalf of the Partnership, objected on four grounds:

firstly, parking space that both the village and the King's Head need would be lost;

secondly, people building the houses and living in them would disturb and inhibit wildlife from using this stretch of the Smallhope Burn with its wooded banks, which is

in a unique position and very sensitive as an important link in the strategic wildlife corridor between the Tyne and Tees;

thirdly, the plans required 15 trees to be felled or "coppiced" (that is cut down to ground level) at the start of building and more big trees would almost certainly be very heavily pruned within a few years; and

fourthly, the open nature of that part of the village would be lost. It would be a very heavy price to pay

for only 4 houses (and not affordable ones either!).

However, the committee had a report stating that all of the 15 trees had something the matter with them, so they would have to come down sooner or later. They were told that their officers had put in a lot of work with the brewery to improve the design of the houses; it was now a much better scheme than any of the previous versions and would damage wildlife less, so it should be accepted.

The committee voted unanimously to grant planning permission.

This looks like the end of a very long battle. Village protesters had forced the initial proposal for 4 blocks of flats to be scaled down to 4 semi-detached houses, with not so much damage to trees and wildlife. But they are not happy with a planning authority that voted unanimously against the wishes of the local people and failed to protect the very important wildlife corridor.

LOWLAND CLEARANCES

A sturdy team of workers reported for duty at Malton Nature Reserve on Sunday 3rd February to do some clearance work on the reserve, following an appeal for volunteers by Michael Horsley of Lanchester Wildlife Group.

They were welcomed by Durham Wildlife Trust officer Mark Richardson and given a short introduction to the area managed by the Trust, with a short tour to establish the boundaries. He pointed out the areas of grassland which have to be managed each summer to prevent trees and shrubs from getting established. One large area which was allotment gardens when Malton pit was active will probably be grazed by local cattle. The grassland is important as habitat for



Some volunteers removing invasive gorse at Malton Reserve

invertebrates and many kinds of butterflies and moths. He also referred to the pond which is home to all five native amphibians, and patches

of ancient woodland and hedgerow.

Work to be done will include the thinning of the woodland, including trees which deposit

leaves in the pond, but the team were set to work clearing young trees which had self-set in the grassland beside the entrance track.

After a lunch break they cleared gorse from the heather in another area. This will help different butterflies and insects.

continued on page 8



Dear Village....

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

Dear Village Voice,
This is a very belated "thank you" to the Members of Lanchester Lions Club for a Christmas Lunch.
On behalf of the more senior people in our community, I would like to thank the Lions Club for the wonderful Christmas lunch.

One very snowy Saturday in December, we were treated to a really delicious lunch with super entertainment by local singers (Mrs Margaret Brown and Co). It was particularly difficult to organise such an event because on that day there

was no heating and no means of cooking in the Community Centre! A resourceful group, however, prepared lunch in various homes and portable heaters were supplied!

Therefore, this is an extra big thank you! Despite those practical difficulties we all experienced a wonderful start to Christmas!

Even at the end of the meal we were escorted home safely as the snow continued to falldefinitely Christmas time.

Many Thanks
Mrs Joyce Snowball

Dear Sirs,
Who is crafty now?
How clever of the 'Braes of Derwent Hunt' to get a fox to lay the aniseed trail. Two friends and myself observed the chase at East Buttsfield on Wednesday, the 29th of January this year.

The problem was that the fox was in a state of exhaustion and wanted to retire from this game of fun, its dilemma however, was how it could stop?
Ken Bracegirdle

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for January 2008 is 52. The draw was made by Mrs Fiona Draper of the Playgroup.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

VANDALS AND LEAD THIEVES AT THREE VILLAGE BUILDINGS



The roof at the Derwentside Sixth Form Centre which had been vandalised on the weekend of 15th February

Considerable damage has been done to the roof of the EP school, week beginning 11th February when vandals stripped lead from the roof, broke into a shed and stole some bikes and hurled a scooter on to a roof. During the same week thieves stole fire

extinguishers from Croft View so the building has had to be temporarily closed for health and safety reasons. Obviously, children eg Brownies, Guides, Boys Brigade are very disappointed that their activities have had to be cancelled, as well as

others who use the hall on a regular basis. Derwentside Sixth Form Centre has also been attacked by vandals and lead strippers in recent weeks which has cost several thousands of pounds and great inconvenience with leaks and the like.

VILLAGE BUS LINK



Colin Hepburn, SPAR Manager, presents £70 cash to Karen Bravington, Fundraiser for the Village Link (bus). Regular passenger, Sheila Mann is on the left and Sandra Dent, Assistant Manager, in front. Karen and Sheila would like to thank staff and customers of SPAR for continuously raising money for this worthy cause.

LANCHESTER CARPETS

Contrary to the rumours flying around Lanchester village that Lanchester Carpets is closing, this is definitely not true. 'This so very successful business, which has been well established for nine years, will be in Lanchester for the long

term', says Lanchester based Partner, Stuart Marley. Valentino's have been granted planning permission to extend their premises at the rear of the restaurant and this work is expected to take place, probably in the summer.

TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE VOICE

By email:

lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line)

By post:

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VILLAGE LOSES ONE OF ITS CHARACTERS

IRENE TILLEY

Irene Tilley, known as Irene to family and friends from her younger days, but in Lanchester has always been better known as Renee, died quite unexpectedly on the 10th of January. She is survived by two sisters, Ivy and Moira, four children, Sylvia, Brian, Kevin and Moira and seven grandchildren, Madeline, Karl, Nigel, Gareth, Christopher, Shaun and Ann. She also had a grand daughter Donna who died thirteen years ago when she was only eight years old. Her husband Lawrence died fourteen years ago.

Renee was born at Derwent Cottages, in Medomsley. Her father was a Hind so she spent much of her childhood in various rural locations, such as Shotley Bridge, Snods Edge, Broom House, Kibblesworth, and similar places, whilst her father was working on the various farms. When she left school she worked as a shop assistant in Shepherds of Gateshead - the famous department store of the day; Pumphrey Carrick and Watson who were high class tea and coffee merchants in the Bigg Market at Newcastle, and then for Spillers at the Biscuit Factory in Newcastle where she hand baked biscuits and cakes etc and found that baking was something she continued to enjoy doing for the rest of her life.

She was married in 1950 and lived at what was then Malton Colliery

before moving to Lanchester to a brand new council house on Burnhopeside Avenue where she lived for forty-four years before moving seven years ago to the bungalow on Valley Grove.

She worked all her life. She started work by doing the Twilight shift at the Siris Factory on Durham Road whilst the children were younger; for a few years as a Dinner Lady at the Green School and a cleaner at St Bede's School; but for 27 years she was a cleaner (officially), although she helped people with their shopping and was generally helpful thereby gaining many friends from this time, at Presto (the forerunner of Spar) up to her retirement; as well as the reputation for being "one of the village's characters", words repeated many times after her death by villagers who also said "everyone knew Renee, she will be a big miss".

She and her late husband enjoyed dancing, especially country dancing and for many years attended the Accordion Club at Castleside; at weekends they enjoyed driving out to the countryside - Stanhope, Blanchland; Derwent Reservoir - for meals out, picnics, and similar things.

She was an avid watcher of snooker on the television and did not miss a frame even if it meant staying up until the early hours of the morning. She also liked to watch darts but

was not quite so fanatical about them as she was the snooker. Latterly she enjoyed attending the bingo sessions at the Social Club each Thursday evening and the small sessions at the Roman Catholic Church on alternate Tuesday evenings. Prior to her stroke eighteen months ago, she loved doing her little bit of garden and looking after all her pots of flowers.

After her stroke it was arranged for her to attend two daytime events and she spent Monday mornings at the Richmond Fellowship and Friday mornings at the Amigos, both at the Community Centre and both of which she

enjoyed enormously. However, her primary interest was her family and she was never happier than when she was surrounded by them all.

She will be greatly missed by all the family as she was central to it, but also by everyone who came into contact with her as she was a friend to many and although materially not wealthy she was always willing to help anyone in any way she could.

The funeral was very much a family event with her five grandsons carrying her coffin; Sophie, the fiancée of one of her grandsons delivering a reading from Disguises of Love by Eddie Askew, her

son-in-law, Eric giving the address and all the hymns and readings being chosen by the family. Her grandson, Nigel, produced the Order of Service. The family would like to thank all those who attended the funeral and who gave so generously in donations in lieu of flowers. The total sum raised was £515. £365 was sent to Macmillan Cancer Care and £150 was donated to the Richmond Fellowship.

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LOCAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE IN ITV PRODUCTION

Ivesley Equestrian Centre at Waterhouses, is the side saddle venue for the currently running ITV production of Ladette to Lady (shown on Tuesday evenings at 9pm).

Ivesley was approached by RDF Media during May and June of last year enquiring if they would be willing to provide the centre, horses and staff for the series. They had viewed various centres and they decided upon Ivesley as it catered for all their needs.

The staff at Ivesley were sponsored by Shires Sport and Leisure Wear who provided them with clothing for the series and they would like to thank them for their support. Julie Walker, Chief Instructor at Ivesley was also approached to help with the instruction in the series as she herself is a

member of the Side Saddle Association and teaches side saddle at Ivesley.

Having followed the series the staff are rather annoyed about the lack of credit they have been given in the programme. The publication Horse and Hound ran a feature on the production, using photographs of Ivesley, but yet again no mention of the Centre. As the staff at Ivesley were sworn to secrecy, and as they have held their part of the bargain they are annoyed with the lack of credit given to them.

All the girls worked very hard to make sure everything went well for the production team, as they completely took over the yard and house. All lessons were rearranged and no vehicles were allowed on the yard during filming. The house



Staff at Ivesley Equestrian Centre, Cornsay, get ready to prepare horses for the Ladettes

was used by the Ladettes for their clothing changes, from ordinary riding wear to the Habits that ladies wear for Side Saddle.

Ivesley is not only a Riding Centre, that

provides lessons from beginner to advanced rider, with or without your own horse, but also has accommodation which caters for Bed and Breakfast or Riding Holidays.

For more information on the Ivesley Riding Centre contact them on 0191 373 4324 or visit them on their website which is at www.ridingholidays-ivesley.co.uk.



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PARK AND STRIDE FROM THE QUEEN'S HEAD

The new Park and Stride scheme for the EP School began in torrential rain on Monday morning 21st January. About 60

permits have been issued to parents and childminders. Some did take advantage of the scheme but probably not

quite as many as expected. No doubt numbers will grow as people get used to the idea.



First to use the Park and Stride were Katie Allaker and Michelle Moralee, showing their parking permits, with their children

SAFE CROSSING AT ALL SAINTS

Year 3 pupils at All Saints primary school have been learning all about road safety, and on Monday the 11th of February their third and final session involved showing Area Road Safety Officer Ann Corbett and her team exactly how to get across

the road safely in different situations. They knew exactly how to deal with the dangerous situation when cars are parked along the road, and there were enough training officers to ensure that they were thoroughly quizzed in groups of four. This road safety scheme

started in Easington District three years ago, concentrating on third year pupils, and has resulted in a 57% drop in accidents involving children. About twenty trainers are being recruited to extend the service throughout the County.



All Saints pupils with the Road Safety team in Kitswell Road

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 2008

Police Report. This was given by PCSO Ray Husband, who first of all stated that he is leaving Durham Constabulary at the end of February and that he will be replaced by PCSO Daniel Mullen. The Chairman thanked PCSO Husband for his assistance during his time in the Parish and welcomed PCSO Mullen who was also present.

There has been 85 calls in total to the Police, 55 of which were routine, but there were 3 burglaries (2 from outhouses and 1 house) and 5 thefts of lead flashing from roofs; the Police have a lead on this, however. In addition there were 6 vehicle (motor bikes) nuisance complaints, 2 criminal damage (windows and car damage) and 12 anti-social behaviour complaints. These took place in Front Street and warnings were issued. There were 6 traffic accidents but these were non-injury and one person had been arrested and charged for driving under the influence of alcohol. Front Street and Deneside were described as 'hot spots' but PCSO Husband did say that 2 arrests had been made in relation to criminal damage. He also went on to say that more of the front windows of the Lanchester Arms and Old Studio shop, which had been vandalised had been boarded up; the owners of the property have been contacted by the Derwentside Environmental Officer who served notice to ensure that they make the building more secure. In addition it was requested that the general appearance and upkeep of the building and

surrounding area are maintained to an acceptable standard in order to deter the acts of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. At this point Cllr Johnson read a letter from the property owners who feel that they are doing enough and that the problem is not theirs. The local Spar shop has continued to refuse to sell alcohol to certain individuals whom they believe to be purchasing it on behalf of minors.

PCSO Husband stressed again that the dark winter months see an increase in youth nuisance and rowdy behaviour but that the beat team will continue to focus on the hot spots identified by residents. He also stressed the need for residents to report any incidents they have been subject to or witnessed to the Police as this does help them enormously. Indeed it was due to such intelligence that they were able to stop and arrest an individual suspected of driving while over the legal limit alcohol.

MATTERS ARISING. Replacement of Clerk to Lanchester Parish Council. The closing date for applications had been 8th February and a shortlist would be drawn up so that interviews could take place on 18th February. Photocopies of applications would be sent to the Sub Committee so that a shortlist could be made; as these are confidential they would be returned. Replacement of Maintenance Operative to Lanchester Parish Council. Mr Hudspith is also retiring, at the same time as the Clerk to the

Council. A copy of the advertisement used when the present M.O. was appointed and the job description was circulated to members to peruse. Cllr Johnson suggested a short meeting with this one item on the Agenda take place and a time and date for this were agreed.

Siting of Public Seat. It was agreed that the site be beside the tree and not near the milestone. **Public Participation Procedure.**

The subcommittee recommended that NALC guidance as per their Legal Briefing document should be used as a guideline when making decisions and alterations to the present procedure, which included time allocation and that comments should be minuted. As the subcommittee meeting had just taken place, it was decided that the minutes of the subcommittee meeting should be produced and circulated to Members before a decision on policy is made.

Lanchester Rugby Club. Cllr Harrison had received a letter from Mr Parry to the effect that as the members were all under the age of 18 they received free insurance from the Rugby Union on condition that the rugby field was roped off at 2 metres and that the pitch was inspected by the coach for suitability. It was decided that a letter should be sent asking for written indemnity.

Among the Chairperson Announcements, it was stated that the External Auditors would be reappointed and permission was given for

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED

Lanchester Lions to hold their Annual Carnival on the village green on 21st June, subject to the usual indemnity being given. The grass-cutting contract is due and it was agreed to award it to A Purves, who submitted the lowest tender, provided the work is satisfactory.

National Health Service- Provision of Dental Facilities in Lanchester. Deferred for report from Cllr Fleming.

Footpath Outside Deanery Cottages, Lanchester. Cllr Harrison stated that he had personally seen to this after Durham County Council had sent a letter saying that they were not responsible for the repairs to pot holes. Accounts to Pay. These included the Christmas lights, hardware and glass and replacement of the seat in the shelter on the village green. Kitswell Road Play Area.

Former Councillor Mr Andrew Adams reported that the hedge to the north of the existing football field was in a bad state of neglect and that replacement was necessary. It needs a protective fence which should be 1 metre away. The old hedge should be cut right back and perhaps some new growth would take place. The hedge would create a new habitat for wild life. Planting needs to take place before the end of March, mulching may be necessary and a license required from DEFRA for a bonfire for the dead wood. Cllr Johnson suggested that instead of moving and therefore providing a new fence (90 metres @ £3 a metre) that the hedge be moved. It was decided that Members looked at the site before the next meeting before a decision is made.

Public Toilets in Lanchester. The original estimate for these toilets, on the premises of the Queen's Head, had been £30,000 but had now risen to £50,000 (incl CCTV), of which the developer would provide 50%. This means that public investment would be £25,000. The Village Partnership expressed interest in raising money for this by grants although nothing has been raised so far. As there are various legal aspects to consider and the subject of maintenance had not been discussed, it was decided to defer the matter to the next meeting.

Lynwood House. A confidential report was received by Members. Date and Time of Next Meeting. To be held in the Conference Room in Park House, Lanchester, on Tuesday, 11th March, 2008 at 7 pm.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

On 7th February members considered the following applications:-

Erection of single storey rear extension at Valentino's Restaurant, 9 Church Street, Lanchester. **RESOLVED** - that the application be not supported in that its size and location could restrict access and parking facilities for neighbourhood traders already using that area. Erection of one dwelling at Oakwood Stables, Durham Road, Lanchester. **RESOLVED**- That while members welcomed the provision of horse riding facilities in Lanchester, the proposed further development at Oakwood Stables be

strongly opposed as creating an undesirable residential development in the countryside, outside an agreed development limit. That the District Council be reminded that this Council, on receipt and consideration of initial applications related to Oakwood Stables, expressed its concern as to likely escalated development of an area outside the above development limit. That the decision of the District Council related to this latest application be consistent with previous similar requests for development within "The Lanchester Village and Conservation Area

Development Limit". Erection of single storey extension at "Stonebeck", Front Street, Lanchester. Erection of first floor extension over existing garage at 10 Deanery View, Lanchester. Proposed widening of access road at Fir Trees, Browney Bank, Lanchester. Erection of Conservatory at 42 Deanery View, Lanchester. Erection of two storey rear extension at 18 Broad Oak Drive, Lanchester. **RESOLVED** - that the above five applications be supported subject to their strict conformity with both District policy and the Village Design Statement.

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DOWN WITH THE LITTER BLOB

Third and fourth year children at All Saints primary school learned all about the evils of litter on Friday 15th February, when Abi Barker of the Groundwork Trust came to help them identify where all the litter was coming from.

The children drew a picture of the Litter Blob, a messy, smelly creature which leaves rubbish all over the school grounds

and the streets in the towns, villages and the countryside. However, there is no litter in the school grounds now, because the pupils cleared it up in their break time.

Next, the children made special litter-picking hats which were nicely embellished with waste paper before the children built 'litter dens' in the school hall.



All Saints pupils make special 'litter-picking hats'



All Saints pupils make a nice mess with 'litter nests'

They all made a 'litter pledge' to put all their litter in a bin in future, recycle rubbish and spread the message to both their parents and their friends. (Litter Education Awareness Focus), which is being well supported by Derwentside District Council.

LOWLAND CLEARANCES

continued from page 1

Although it was agreed by everyone that it would be good to do more work on the reserve, the great crested newts, which are a protected species, will soon be moving about the reserve and so no further work will be allowed until the grass in the small meadows is ready for cutting in August.



Mark Richardson of Durham Wildlife Trust welcomes a group of volunteers to Malton Nature Reserve before putting them to work

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CONCERN OVER LANCHESTER ARMS

Lanchester Parish Council has been greatly concerned at the condition of the Lanchester Arms, which in recent years has deteriorated in the hands of a succession of owners. Lanchester Partnership wrote to the District voicing the same fears, pointing out that PCSO Ray Husband had complained to both the District Council and the building's owners about events that could have (but fortunately did not) result in injury to the public. They reported that they had been told of the police having to enter the building with night-vision equipment. In recent weeks the Environmental Health division of Derwentside District Council has taken action with regard to the security and safety of the former pub and Heart House Studio, now owned by Sendrig Construction Ltd of Newcastle. Work has been done by the Council to make the buildings secure; apparently some people had been entering the buildings. The Council then moved to recover the cost of this work from the owners, who replied to the effect

that they had done everything that is reasonable to maintain the safety and security of the site and that they 'can not be held accountable for continued damage to the premises due to the social issues and vandalism that are clearly focused on this site'.

It is likely that the District Council's Empty Property Officer will make an effort to find a long term solution to the vacant property situation, the two options being to bring the property back into use or demolition.

Perhaps demolition was the long-term intent of a person who came to the Lanchester Arms in February 2006 with some very long ladders. Having reached the roof with one ladder, he continued to the top of the roof with another and proceeded to knock a ridge tile off. He then descended and drove away in his white van.

The sorry history of the once prosperous Blue Bell goes back several years. In July 2003 Hilary Armstrong was concerned when Pubmaster, having failed to find a competent landlord, had boarded the windows. As a result, it was said that steel

shutters were put up inside, though they can not be seen now.

The public house was then advertised for sale at £195,000. In November, a Parish Council sub-committee supported demolition of the building but revised this opinion after strong representations from several speakers at a full Council meeting.

In April 2005, plans to convert the building into flats, with three dwellings behind it, were passed by the District. The owner was then Mr B. McCartney, of Northeastern Properties, formerly director of Eldon Homes which went into voluntary liquidation after construction of Woodham Court. In August a second proposal was accepted with slight amendments to the first.



*The sorry state of the Lanchester Arms.
Note the missing ridge tile.*

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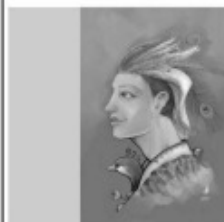
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PARTNERSHIP NEWS

At the February meeting of the Lanchester Partnership, it was announced that the County Council is issuing new contracts for the Village Bus, but that the Partnership, although it raises all the funding, is not involved.

The paperwork for the 'Walking Bus' arrangements for primary school pupils to walk to school from car parks is now complete, and parents and pupils have been informed about the system.

A member asked if illegal parking on yellow lines and pavements was now 'out of control', with

police failing to enforce the law. There was no further progress.

Organisers of the Working Day at Malton had been delighted by the turn-out. Another work-day was in preparation.

Planning

Decisions about the semi-detached houses on the Kings Head car park and new plans for Newbiggen Farm were to be decided on Feb 14th. (see Page 1). There was concern that a proposed extension 7 metres by 7.5 metres behind Valentino's. would virtually fill the yard behind and affect parking. There was discussion as to who really owned the

yard, which was formerly Co-op land.

There was concern about a proposal to build a dwelling at Oakwood Stables.

It was commented that planning conditions about landscaping at Peth Bank Farm had not been complied with after 18 months.

There was also concern about the proposed 'Bradley' open cast site, which is North West of the Leadgate to Dipton road. There is strong local opposition for the usual reason that open-cast mining is a filthy and noisy process which generates extra lorry traffic.

SCHOOL CHILDREN HELP WILLOW BURN

Members of the School Council of Our Lady and St. Joseph's RCVA Primary School wanted to help Willow Burn Hospice and came up with the idea of saving their Christmas Card money. Throughout the school children sent one card to their class and put the money they would

have spent sending individual cards into the envelope with the card. We think they were either very generous or they usually send very special Christmas cards because they raised an amazing £340.40.

The children, Daniel, Chloe, Warren,

Nathan, Natalie and Megan, accompanied by their Headmistress Mrs. Sharon Fenwick wanted to come and share their good idea and give us their cheque in person. Everyone at Willow Burn is very grateful and wishes all of the pupils a very peaceful New Year.



The children presenting their cheque to Angela, Fundraiser of Willow Burn Hospice

VILLAGE VOICE SAYS THANK YOU TO ITS TEAM



Brian Oram thanking all for attending the Village Voice event.

On Sunday 10th February, the Village Voice hired a room in the Community Centre to say thank you to all those who had contributed over the previous year to the production, presentation and distribution of the Village Voice newspaper. Invitations were issued to the reporters, deliverers, advertisers and all the others who had worked in its production.

A light, finger buffet was organised by Diane Oram and a small team of helpers assisted. The event was attended by about forty people.

Brian Oram, Chair of the management team, gave a short speech where, on behalf of the management team, he thanked all of the people for coming and for all their hard work during the year.

The buffet tables were decorated with flower arrangements made by Andrea Stoddart. As the guests entered the hall they were provided with a raffle ticket for the flower decorations and, at the end of the buffet, tickets were drawn by Alice Guthrie, an advertiser from Sew What, for the six winning numbers for the decorations.

During the session a representative sample of the pictures of events that had appeared in the Village Voice each month during the year were projected onto a small screen. These were organised as a PowerPoint display by Christine Monaghan and they provided an excellent focus for the overview of many of the Village events that had taken place throughout the year.

The whole event provided a very useful opportunity for meeting all involved in the production of the newspaper and to express gratitude.



A sample of the organisers and guests enjoying the buffet and PowerPoint display



Alice Guthrie drawing the lucky numbers for the raffle of the Table Decorations



Canon Spence making a point to one of our photographers, Eric Burns, and Malcolm McKenzie, who writes many of the articles

COURT THREAT FOR LANDOWNER



Clutter around Manor Farm

Following complaints about the quantity of building material and other junk scattered around the Manor House Farm complex just outside Lanchester, and the failure of the owner,

Mr Dougal Reed, to clear the site, an Amenity Order has been made by Derwentside District Council.

The Order under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning

Act 1990 requires the site to be tidied. In the event of this not happening, the landowner will be required to appear at Durham Magistrate's Court on 14th March.

DLI 68



ROMAN WALK REVISITED



The stepping stones over the Browney

Members of the Mineral Valleys and Natural England teams joined in a 5-mile walk around Lanchester on 7th February led by County Ranger Brian Page.

The route passes 'Mineral Valleys' has carried out many environmental projects in the last four years, including helping the Friends of Longovicium

with finance and advice while a walk leaflet and historical booklet were being prepared. They have now merged with Natural England.

The route passes Newbiggen Farm, Upper Houses, Middlewood Farm, Colepike Mill and the stepping stones over the Browney shown in our photo.

The members of reenactment group DLI 68 often train in Lanchester Community Centre, though they live all over the region.

Our photographer snapped them on February 10th, wearing only part of the elaborate uniforms the DLI wore in Napoleonic times.

The top picture shows a video being taken of the soldiers on parade. The bottom picture shows two of the soldiers practising with their rifles.

THE WORLD'S EASIEST QUIZ

Passing only requires 4 correct answers

- 1 How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2 Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3 From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4 In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5 What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6 The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7 What was King George VI's first name?
- 8 What colour is a purple finch?
- 9 Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10 What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Answers on bottom of next page.

BUDDING ACTRESSES AND SINGERS



Four girls from the EP School took part in the recent performance of 'Joseph' at the Gala Theatre, Durham. Left to right: Evie Harkin, Kirsty Green, Sarah Messenger and Zoe Collingwood.

SAMBA DRUMS

It's every child's dream. Some children at All Saints primary school can bang a drum for a whole hour, and no-one complains! Of course, it's a lesson, but one they all love.

Every Thursday afternoon this term the children of the third and fourth years are learning samba drumming from Ian Halford as part of the Durham Music Service.

Using the tambourim (a mini-tambourine minus the bells), the ganza, agogo bells, reco-reco and surdu drums, they learn a variety of pulses and work together to achieve a rhythmic sound.

Music making is an important part of the curriculum, as it improves self-esteem, confidence and social skills in a way that can spill over into

other work. The pupils will demonstrate their skills to parents in the last week of term, and they are already sounding pretty good!

In addition to drumming, the children have the opportunity to play violin, guitar and brass instruments with guest teachers and also have a recorder club and choir with Mrs Jordan in their lunch-hour.



Year 3 working with Mr Halford

ANSWERS TO QUIZ OPPOSITE

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|-------------|
| 1 | 116 years | 6 | Dogs |
| 2 | Ecuador | 7 | Albert |
| 3 | Sheep and horses | 8 | Crimson |
| 4 | November | 9 | New Zealand |
| 5 | Squirrel fur | 10 | Orange |

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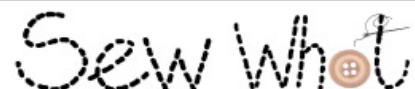
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EP AWARDS (and all things mathematical)

This was certainly an evening with a difference and well supported by parents and children from Lanchester EP school. It was an opportunity for parents who did not fully understand the modern approach to mathematics to learn.

The evening began with an informal visit to classrooms where teachers were available to watch different methods of teaching maths with whiteboards, computers and games. In one classroom Mr Peter Taylor, Leading Maths Teacher for Durham, was

teaching children and adults with varying methods.

After the allotted half hour for the aforementioned, everyone trooped into the main hall where Jane Davis, Head Teacher, introduced the evening. This consisted of maths games, short lectures and the presentation of awards achieved by the school during the past few months.

Games, as a way of teaching maths included, 'Countdown' (from TV), Last man Standing, hilarious, because of

enthusiastic children, and 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' (TV also).

Mr Stephenson, Miss Bestford and Mr Taylor, who gave two talks with children participating, were involved in the games. The latter, much to everyone's amusement, dressed similarly to Batman for one of his talks.

Interspersed with these activities were the presentations. The school received awards for the following: 'Basic Skills' presented by Mr Malcolm Webb, former Head Teacher; 'Investing in Children', presented by Eleanor Seed; Active Mark Certificate, presented by Mr Phil Keay, Head of Greencroft;

'Healthy Schools', presented by Malcolm Cook, Non Executive Director (NHS); and an Anti Bullying Award, presented by Tom Cunningham, Durham CC.

The evening ended with soup and drinks, courtesy of some year six pupils with a little help from their adult 'friends'.



Parents and children in the classroom to assist the understanding of the modern approach to mathematics



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Eleanor Seed presents the 'Investing in Children' certificate to Sam Hume, Sarah Messenger, Henry Dancer and Ben Spraggon



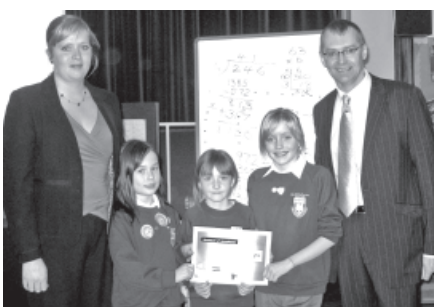
'Basic Skills' certificate to Kirsty Green and Zoe Collingwood



Mr Phil Keay presents the Active Mark (Sport) to Michael Ledger and David Dawson. Left to right: Phil Keay, Jane Davis, Malcolm Webb. Front; David Dawson and Michael Ledger



Jane Davis, Head Teacher, presents Michael Ledger, representative of the school football team, with the trophy for winning the Derwentside Winter under 11 competition



Left, Tom Cunningham, Durham CC, presents the Anti Bullying Award to Lauren Petrie, Katie Waller and Anna Crowe. shown with Rachel Crowe, Anti Bullying Officer

See the Easter Lambs at ...

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MORE DONATIONS FROM ELDDIS



*Nigel Cook MD of Elldis Transport,
Angela Lowes, Diane Morgan and
Shirley Routledge of Willow Burn Hospice
Photo: David Wood, The Northern Echo*

As you remember Elldis Transport launched Trucking4Willowburn on the 1st July 2007 with the aim of raising £50,000 over the next 3 years by donating 15p for every mile the truck travelled. As a result of their amazing generosity they have already broken through the £10,000 mark. On top of the monthly mileage based donations Elldis sent electronic Christmas cards and donated the £2,000 they would have cost to Willow Burn. Both we and Nigel Cook the Managing Director of Elldis knew this was coming, what none of us knew was how enterprising Nigel's wife was about to be. She organized a surprise 40th birthday party for Nigel and asked that donations be made to Willow Burn in lieu of birthday presents. An amazing £1,105 was raised, a tribute to Nigel's popularity and his wife's powers of persuasion!

PANTOMIME FOR CHARITY

The Braes of Derwent Hunt Supporters Club performed Jack and the Beanstalk at The Civic, Consett, at the end of November, for three nights. The profit made was £2000, increased by a donation of £500 from HSBC. Lynne Kristiansen and Violet Coulson, who

played Willy and Nilly in the Pantomime, presented the cheque to Angela Lowes, of Willow Burn, along with other members of the cast.



Lynn and Violet from Braes of Derwent Hunt Supporters Club, present a cheque for £2500, to Angela Lowes, of Willow Burn Hospice

LADIES WHO LUNCH

We decided to start off 2008 at one of our most favourite haunts - the Blue Bell at Kip Hill - a hostelry that never fails to deliver, either in its warm welcome or super food and we were not disappointed on either count. We feasted on mince beef pie, chicken curry, sausage and cheddar mash, chilli con carne

and spaghetti carbonara followed by profiteroles, ice cream, spotted dick, raspberry pavlova and a truly scrumptious, just right sticky toffee pudding with of course cream, all followed by some lovely coffee. What a good start to another new year of gourmet indulgences.

The Gourmet Girls



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BEADWORK WEEKEND



These demonstration pieces by Elaine Peel include three crackers, two tree decorations and a 'yard of stars'

There was a good response to the fourth weekend of beadwork in Lanchester Community Centre on the 2nd and 3rd

of February with expert Elaine Peel. The theme, by popular demand, was Christmas decorations. Fourteen ladies

(gentlemen don't seem to opt for beadwork, allegedly because they have clumsy hands) learned to make intricate patterns with a variety of glass beads with their own specialised names such as drops, daggers, seed beads, silver lined and crystal. This detailed work, using narrow

needles and nylon thread, needs concentration and keen eyes. They began on Saturday by making 'a yard of stars' – a decorative 'rope' of beads decorated with tiny beadwork stars. There was much more to try, and on Sunday many of the remaining eight craftswomen had completed a beadwork 'cracker' or a number of Christmas tree decorations, ranging from tassels to 'humbugs'.

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Myrna Carr still hard at work on a second day of beadwork

LANCHESTER LIONS' RACE NIGHT

There were lots of winners at the Lions' Club Race Night on 22nd January. The Lions' Club Charity Account benefited to the tune of £388, one lucky punter won £60 on the last race and others won bottles of wine and cash for backing the winners.

Thanks must go to Dave and Lesley Wilkinson for running the night at no charge, and to ADI, Griffin Transport, Spar, Rowland Fabrics, Lanchester Social Club, Consett Cricket Club and Durham Dairies for sponsoring the races.



Lions and guests enjoying the Race Night: left to right: Lestrine, Martin, Gillian, Alan, Helen, Tommy and Tony

WI NEWS

At the February meeting Lesley Hutchinson gave a glass decorating demonstration, and also showed other crafts in which she is interested. Members then transformed plain glass vases, bowls and plates into decorative items using mulberry paper, serviettes and varnish.

Many beautiful pieces of glass jewellery were entered into the monthly competition. Every member received her County News and was also given a 'Flora' pro-active weekly planner and recipe cards. A poem about starting tasks and not finishing them was read out, and caused much amusement.

'BUY AT' GETS OFF TO A SLOW START

Just before Christmas the Community Centre launched a "buy at" web site. The principle is that if supporters go to the "buy at" site then follow links from that site to major online retailers the Community Centre gets a percentage of any money spent. My wife and I recently bought something from Amazon. It was quick and easy and the best value around. By simply linking from the Community Centre 'buy at' site the Centre will make some money at no extra cost to us.

Unfortunately this simple means of raising money has not caught on with the local community in the way it was hoped. Perhaps this is because the site was launched too close to Christmas and there was not enough time for word to get around the village. Thus far the site has raised £11.52 but the Community Centre will not get paid until £20 is raised.

Can we urge any one who is considering buying goods or services online to check out the Community Centre site at www.buy.at/lanchestercommunitycentre and see if the online retailer they are using is listed there. The process is quick and easy and only needs a few clicks of your mouse once you have put the "buy at" site in your Favourites.

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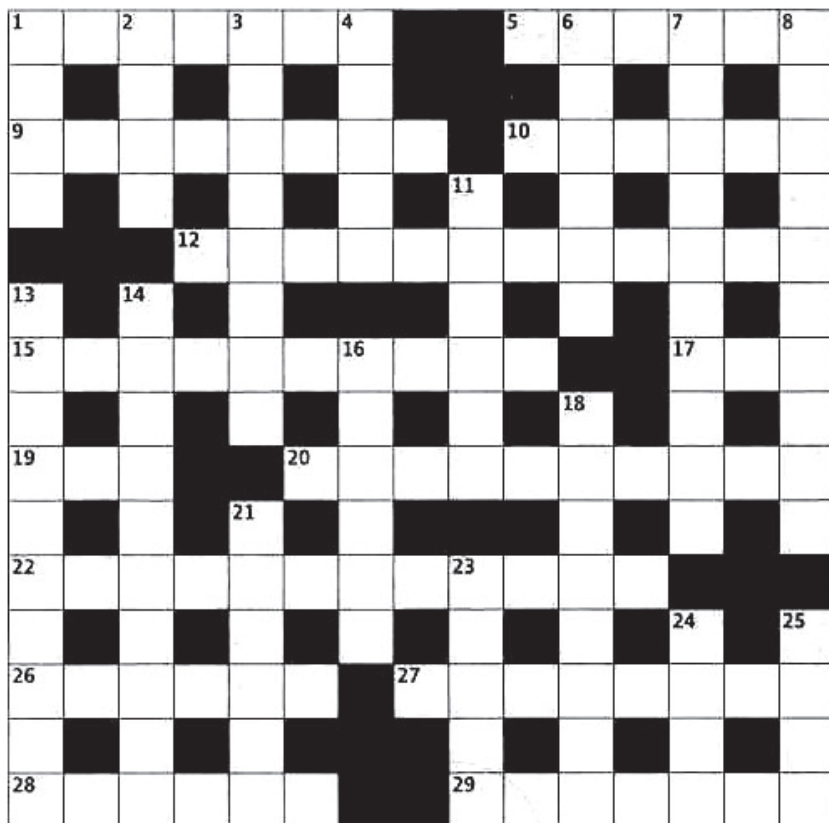
Daniel Smith

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CROSSWORD 22



ACROSS

1. Lead (7)
5. Nursery (6)
9. R e t r e a d s become saw-like (8)
10. Show first lady has tiny income within (6)
12. Head's mean man is exposed (4,3,5)
15. Subjugation (10)
17. Consume (3)
- 19,22. Basis of a moral code? (3,12)
20. A 50cc gunner is killer (4,6)
22. See 19
26. D o r i a n incursion (6)
27. Celestial body (8)
28. Hot spring (6)
29. See 14

DOWN

1. Snug (4)
2. Geek in dinner dress (4)
3. Undiminished, a French sailor confused date (8)
4. Central idea (5)
6. Violate (6)
7. Recover from cloven case (10)
8. Simple (10)
11. Fits in in Eton's ongoing story (2,4)
13. Looking after (10)
- 14,29. Giving help, mum cries any poison? (4,1,5,7)
16. Noises (6)
18. Resting place requires pad lock (8)
21. Container is a farce (6)
23. Salts that purge (5)
24. Asian desert (4)
25. I nod for god (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 21

ACROSS

9. hot potato
10. sheer
11. reached
12. tremble
13. huge
14. impresario
16. freshen
17. proviso
19. near Durham
22. opus
24. lived-in
25. termite
26. nanna
27. insomniac

DOWN

1. Church of England
2. strangle
3. mocha
4. cardamon
5. porter
6. aspersion
7. member
8. freedom of speech
15. shady deal
17. practise
18. implicit
20. advent
21. rancid
23. aroma

CROSSWORD 21

There was a much better response to last month's crossword competition - 20 entries. The winner in the draw was Mr K Raper of Humberhill Drive, who wins the £10 prize. Test your skill in John Wilson's latest challenge.

SUDOKU

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

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

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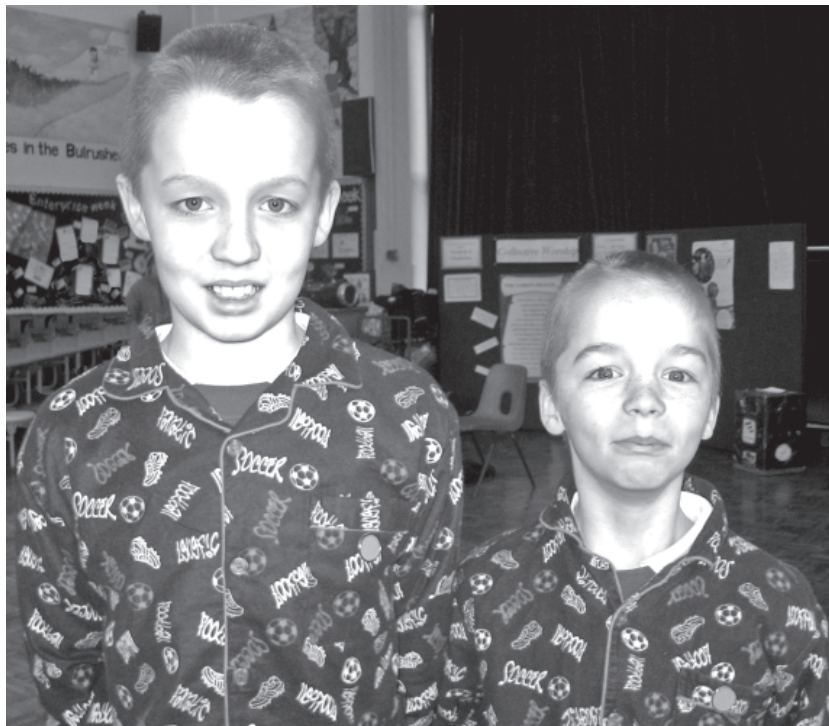
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SWIMMING SUCCESS



Congratulations to John Dawson who came first in the 'Back Stroke' at a recent Swimming Gala for Derwentside District and his younger brother David came second in the 'Breast Stroke'.

CRICKET CLUB NEWS

Sadly, Lanchester Cricket Club was burgled on 13th February. Many bottles of spirits were smashed and some cans of beer along with some small change from the till were stolen. Police were called and fingerprints were taken. Also stolen was the club's charity bottle - a very large old whiskey bottle full of change that is donated to charity every year. It is estimated that the bottle contained between £40 and £50 and was due to be donated to the Macmillan Cancer Unit. If the person responsible for the theft is reading this and has any sense of remorse, they can put £50 in an envelope and post it to the cricket club and we will make sure the money gets to where it was intended. Everyone other than club steward, Bill Underwood, helps to run the Cricket Club

as a volunteer, so this kind of mindless vandalism and theft greatly affects us and with winter always being a very difficult time for the club financially, loss of stock is a real problem. The Cricket Club is a community resource for everyone in Lanchester and we are trying very hard to encourage new membership whilst getting young and older people alike interested in actually playing sports and being active physically as well as in the community as a whole. It isn't easy, and being vandalised and robbed certainly doesn't help, but we are committed to being an community based club, accessible to everyone and if you are interested in getting involved please come down to the club, have a drink and a chat with us. You never know, you might find something that really interests you!

NETS:

Junior nets will continue to take place at Greencroft Comprehensive School on Fridays from 4pm to 6pm. Sessions cost £1.50. These nets are for players aged 8-15. Any parents or prospective new players who require further information can contact Bob Gardner on 07980238187 or Andy Allen on 07786918021. Senior nets at Greencroft School every Sunday from 4pm to 6pm continue, though more senior players need to attend. Each session is £3 and newcomers are most welcome. Please call first team captain Lawrence Pearson on 07930997201 or vice-captain Andy Allen on 07786918021 for more information.

David J Rafferty

**See page 20 for
Cricket Club
Events**

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LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

Country Market

The monthly market to supply all your needs in pies, cakes, vegetables, eggs and so forth is on Saturday 1st March, starting at 10 am.

Cricket Club Events

Quiz night will be held on Sunday March 9th. It won't be a traditional quiz with a quiz master. Instead a list of questions and photos to be identified can be obtained from the bar and filled in with your team at your own pace. It will begin at 7.30pm and all quiz sheets should be returned to the bar by 9 pm ish. The winning team will receive a bottle of wine. 50p per person. David J Rafferty

WI

The next meeting will be on 3rd March at 7 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. The subject will be Derwentside Listed Buildings by Watts Stelling. Visitors welcome £1.

Wildlife Group

Tuesday March 11th is Members' Night, though anyone is still welcome to come to the meeting in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. This will be an evening of mini-talks by a number of members.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated this year at Lanchester Methodist Church on Friday 7th March at 2.00 pm. The service has been prepared by the women of Guyana and the speaker will be Anne Marie Hanlon from Ushaw College. ALL WELCOME. (Any queries to Brenda Craddock on 01207 520749 or e-mail SCCofCMF@aol.com).

The Village Voice Page 20

Lanchester Partnership

The next meeting of Lanchester Partnership will be on Monday 10th March, starting at 7.30pm. The group was formed to improve the conditions of life for the community, and is concerned with the Youth Club, transport and environment matters including the Link Bus, the Parish Plan and monitoring development. New members are always welcome.

Lanchester History Society

The Bombardment of Hartlepool

Having lost our February talk to the inclement weather, we can look forward to the talk in March with renewed interest, particularly as the speaker is a well known figure in the village, the Reverend Peter Waterhouse.

On the eve of 15th December 1914, a convoy of 4 battle cruisers, 1 heavy cruiser and 4 light cruisers left a German port with the intention of bombarding Hartlepool and Scarborough. This was to be the first engagement of WW1 on British soil, and is to be the subject of the Reverend Waterhouse's talk.

The talk will take place in the Community Centre on Friday 7th March at the usual time of 7.30pm. Any relevant memorabilia of the occasion will be welcome.

Lanchester Bridge Club Charity Evening

There is to be a fund raising evening in aid of Willow Burn Hospice on Tuesday 11th March beginning at 6.45 pm. Cost £1.50. Donations are welcome for the raffle or directly to the fund. Visitors welcome.

Amigos Coffee Morning

The Amigos are holding a coffee morning in the Community Centre on Friday, March 7th from 10.00 - 11.15am. Tickets price 50p can be purchased from the Newsagents. There will be a tombola stall, raffle and most importantly good company to be enjoyed. We would love to see lots of people there.

Vocal Delights

Sue and Mel Somersall are back in town and raising funds for their Mercy Ships Mission with a generous helping of music. Lanchester Male Voice Choir are joined by Andrew Fowler and friends as well as soloists from Wolsingham School, with accompaniment by Bill Gray and Jason Walsh, in a concert in Lanchester Methodist Church on Thursday 13th March at 7.30 pm. Tickets, price £8, are available from the performers and from Mel Somersall, phone 529153.

MP Surgery

Our Member of Parliament, Hilary Armstrong, will be available to meet constituents on Friday March 14th at 6 pm at the Civic Centre, Consett.

Flower Club

The next meeting of the club is on Wednesday 19th March, starting at 2 pm in the Community Centre. Jean McLure of Saltburn will give a demonstration entitled "It's the Season". All welcome.

Gentle Exercise

Age Concern have organised a morning session at Lanchester library on Thursday March 13th to introduce the over 50's to Seated Exercises and Tai Chi. If you are interested drop in during the morning.

WHAT'S ON?

Easter Eggshibition

On March 24th, Easter Monday, children of all ages and their minders are invited to participate in the annual egg fest behind the Green School. It is important to bring an uncooked egg, which will be wrapped in onion skins and other natural material, boiled by the Wildlife Group team and judged for its beauty. This will be followed by the traditional booling competition down Pace Egg Hill. There will be prizes.

Passion about Health

An event is being held at the Library at 7.30 pm on Thursday 13th March, as part of the Library's support for the 'Passion about Health Campaign' being run throughout the year. January began with Healthy Eating, February has featured Sport and Exercise. Age Concern held seated exercise and Tai Chi on 5th February, whilst March will see the campaign move to highlight Willow Burn and their role in 'Passionate about Palliative Care.

The Library will be holding a raffle and book stall to fundraise for Willow Burn, and Monica, (Librarian), invites anyone who would like to bring/buy a book to come along and do so. There will be talks during the evening about Palliative Care at Willow Burn, by Susan Jones, Angela Lowes, fundraisers, and from a member of the nursing staff.

Hilary Armstrong MP will be attending the event, for which entry is free. Both the Library and Willow Burn Hospice would welcome as much support as possible

Short Walks

Acorn Amblers have a Sunday walk on 16th March, starting at the lay-by where the Annfield Plain road meets the A693. The walk explores the Pontop Pike area, including Dipton and the Bantling lime kilns. For details ring 524803.

The 'Short Circuits' rambling group offer a 5 mile walk on Saturday 29th March starting from the Community Centre, Whitley Chapel at 10.30, map reference NT927758. For further information ring 521427.

Sunday Bridge

Sunday Bridge on 27th January raised a magnificent total of £162. The dates for the next Sunday Bridge afternoons in the Community Centre are Sunday 16th March and Sunday 13th April, starting at 2.00 pm. So if you are a Bridge player and would like to spend a Sunday afternoon in the company of other players, at the same time helping to raise money for the Community Centre, please contact Brenda on 01207 520204 or Liz on 01207 521682 tickets £3.00 each.

Friends of Longovicium

The group, which exists to gather information and inform the public about Lanchester's Roman Fort, will meet in the upstairs Meeting Room in the Community Centre on Thursday March 27th at 7.30 pm.

Subjects for discussion will include the current course on 'finds' at the Newcastle Museum of Antiquities and possible geophysical work around the Fort.

Further Help for Wildlife

Building on the success of the working party in February a second one is being arranged for Saturday 8th March.

Durham County Council manages the Lanchester Valley Walk and some adjacent areas that are of particular wildlife interest. The management of the walk is as a recreational route and this includes making the verges both interesting to look at and good for wildlife. Given the length of the route there is a lot of work to do. Some of it is carried out directly by Durham County Council but they do rely on the work of volunteers. This is where you can help in maintaining the wildlife interest on the sections nearest the village.

Coralie Dickinson, Countryside Ranger, organises and works with the volunteers. As you go further up the line towards Consett there is a bridge over the old line. Near this is an area that is particularly good for orchids. This could be further improved before the orchids start to grow this year by cutting the rough grass and raking the cuttings off. Coralie would like help with this.

The plan is for a group of us to meet by the bridge at 10.00 am on Saturday 8th March and finish at 2.30 pm with a break for lunch. The grid reference for this bridge is NZ148480. Coralie will bring all the tools needed. Only a little physical fitness is required as there will be light jobs as well as heavier ones. All you need are some warm old clothes, a packed lunch and plenty of enthusiasm. Just come along or if you would like more information please contact Michael Horsley on 01207 520764.

The Daniel Smith Blues Band

Piano maestro Daniel Smith and his blues and boogie band will appear at the Community Centre on March 29th at 7.30pm. Described at 'dazzlingly accomplished' in the Guardian, he is seen as a serious challenger to Jools Holland as the UK's number 1 boogie pianist guaranteed to get your feet tapping.

We are promised 'an exceptional band, punctuated with the unpredictable and laced with Daniel's laconic on-stage humour' and 'an entertaining showcase of great old and new blues and barrelhouse boogie, not to be missed'. The band comes to us under the auspices of the County Council's 'Elements' programme. Tickets from the Community Centre (521275) or Lanchester Newsagents, price £5.

Cycle Loop From Lanchester

A hundred kilometre bike ride will start and finish in Lanchester on Sunday March 30th, organised by Houghton Cycling Club. The participants will not be racing, but trying to cover the distance at a specified average speed. Progress is checked along the route, which includes Blanchland, Allendale, Nenthead and Killhope as well as the fearsome Crawleyside climb out of Stanhope. There is a total of 1800 metres of climbing. All experienced riders can enter, but must download a form from the governing body www.AUDAX.net or phone Dave Cummings on 0191 3863789. They must have third party insurance. The first riders will leave the Community Centre at 9.00 am.

Notes on a Scandal

In the film to be shown at the Community Centre at 7.30pm on Sunday March 16th, two women caught up in a drama of need and betrayal at the heart of the psychological thriller NOTES ON A SCANDAL (rated 15).

The twists and turns of the story are noted in the diary of Barbara Covett (Dame Judi Dench), a domineering and solitary teacher who rules with an iron fist over her classroom at a decaying state-run secondary school in London. Her world changes when she meets the school's new art teacher, Sheba Hart (Cate Blanchett). Sheba appears to be the kindred spirit and loyal friend Barbara has always been seeking. Sheba is having an affair with one of her young students (Andrew Simpson), the relationship with Barbara takes an ominous turn. Barbara threatens to expose Sheba's terrible secret to both her husband (Bill Nighy) and the world, Barbara's own secrets and dark obsessions come tumbling to the fore, exposing the deceptions at the core of each of the women's lives.

Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings

About 200 paintings will be exhibited and offered for sale at Castleside Village Hall on Easter Sunday and Monday. The exhibition will be open between 10 am and 5 pm each day with home-made refreshments always available. Admission will be 20 pence.

Carnival

Lanchester Lions Village Carnival will take place on 21st June 2008. The theme will be Pirates and Princesses.

Calling Junior Footballers

Durham Athletic FC at Fynedoune are looking for players in the school year groups 1 to 5 to play in the Russell Foster league. The club trains at Community College, Sacriston. For more information contact club secretary Michelle on 0191 3719625.

Clean up Lanchester Day

Saturday March 29th
WHEN? 10 am to 2.30pm.
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.
 Light refreshments will be available.
 Volunteers please wear thick gloves and suitable clothing.
 Even an hour of your time will be valued and will make a difference.
 If you can't come down to the Green, please tidy around where you live.



Last year's litter pick

Coming Shortly

On April 12th there will be a Race Night in the Cricket Club and it is hoped as many senior players will attend as possible. Mel and Sue continue their campaign to raise money for a Liberian orphanage with two culinary efforts in April and June. The first is 'Just Desserts', which offers delicious puds as well as music from the Salvation Army band on Friday 18th April in Lanchester Methodist Church, starting at 7pm. Then on Friday 27th June there will be an 'All Day Cafe' at the same venue, with morning coffees, lunches, and afternoon teas, as well as some stalls. Come and stay all day is the theme, from 9.30am till 4.30pm. The aim is to raise £5000 to carry out a new build at the orphanage. For tickets and further details ring 529153. The Library Theatre Touring Co presents John Godber's 'Happy Jack' at the Community Centre on Saturday May 3rd. The C of E Parish Church holds its Summer Fayre, with sunshine and strawberries in mind, on Saturday 14th June from 9.30 to 11.30am. The Partnership Open Day will be held in the Community Centre on Saturday October 4th. North Country Theatre brings Nobby Dimon's version of 'The Prisoner of Zenda' to the Community Centre on 1st November. Organisers, please try to avoid listed events dates. Planning ahead? Let me know when and where. Ring 520559.

SPAGHETTI LEGS COMES TO THE VILLAGE



Bruce Grobbelaar, legend of Liverpool FC

Goalkeeping legend, Bruce Grobbelaar came to the Cricket club for one of their Friday night Sportsman Evenings. What a character! Graham Forster, Sports Promoter, introduced the evening and opened the event with a question and answer session. Bruce handled the questions as well as he handled the ball, in his hey day at Liverpool. He had the audience in stitches, answering topical and historical questions in his own inimitable style. He also showed a serious side as he talked about the new Keegan era at Newcastle. However, when asked about the policy of rotation adopted by Liverpool Manager, Rafa Benitez, he quipped that at least it kept the burglars guessing! He was not always appreciative of some of the tabloids who seemed intent on stirring up trouble for certain celebrity

footballers and managers. His reminiscing about days at Liverpool and his introduction by Terry McDermott to snooker, were absolutely hilarious. There followed a short interval for a meal of curry, prepared by Cricket Club member, Steve Robinson, and then the star of the evening took to the stage again. This time he literally told his life story from the early age of a few months. His early years were spent in South Africa and he played for three junior teams in various parts of the country. His time spent in the army was both funny and fascinating and he obviously was in considerable danger at times. He went on to document his football career and the problems he had getting into Britain and obtaining a work permit. He spent time in Canada playing for Vancouver, then West Bromwich Albion and Crewe Alexandra, prior to

being spotted and signing for Liverpool. He explained about his era of training and diet, compared to now, and described the qualities or lack of, the many managers he had worked for. These included his favourites, Joe Fagan, Bob Paisley, about whom he told some really amusing stories and his least favourite, Graeme Souness, who followed Bruce to Southampton, succeeding the late, great, Alan Ball. He tended to skirt around the match fixing scandals that blighted his reputation, but insisted

that the tabloids were out to 'get him'. To his credit he was confident enough to take his case to the 'Lords', and of course he won, although damages were a pittance. Bruce spoke easily, with fluency, knowledge and great humour. His animation and impressions of the 'Spaghetti Legs' and his commentary on the European Cup Final when Alan Kennedy scored from the spot, had the audience falling about with laughter. In total, Bruce Grobbelaar played over 600 games for Liverpool and had a great career, winding down through the divisions with some smaller clubs including Plymouth, Oxford and Sheffield Utd before finishing with non league, Northwich Victoria. A novel fundraiser during the evening was to select the greatest eleven ever, plus two substitutes, as a tie breaker, to represent Liverpool. Entries were on sale at £5 and the nearest to Bruce's chosen eleven, won. Grobbelaar was definitely in goal! There were some interesting

combinations of players over the years but most of his choices were from his own era of playing. Exceptions included in Bruce's choice were Jamie Carragher and Steven Gerrard from the current team. This long, and good value for entertainment evening, continued with sharp witted, excellent comedian, Morecambe's own, Lester Crabtree. This animated, vibrant performer made the most of anyone who moved from their seat, and could always beat the hecklers. Footnote: The evening only just made a profit and the Cricket Club are concerned that local people do not attend in large numbers. They have held some excellent fundraising events. The entertainment is excellent and good value for money and they do attract 'stars' from the sporting world. On the playing side, they would like to encourage youngsters to join the club before the season begins as they need more local lads in their teams.

SUCCESSFUL YOUNG ATHLETES



Left to right: Michael Ledger, Sarah Haswell, and Arthur Dolan, proudly display their Certificates for attending a 6 week course for Gifted and Talented Athletes, sponsored by Derwentside Schools Sport Partnership. They attend the EP School.

MORE SPORT PAGE 19

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NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 18th March. The deadline for **adverts** is 16th March.

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