



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCHED ON



Lanchester Brass Band greeted a large crowd with seasonal music prior to the light switching ceremony starting. It was an exciting time for youngsters, especially the girls, when Big Brother celebrity, Liam McGough, along with Georgia McAloon, and Phillip Kelly, (All Saints School), Ben Spraggon, and Sarah Haswell, (EP School), switched on the Christmas lights. Immediately afterwards chaos broke out as many

young people and adults clamoured around Liam for photographs and autographs which, of course, he gave patiently and willingly.

After the ceremony, Liam and the Village Voice Management team with partners were invited to a Parish Reception at the Chapter House. Liam was unable to attend, as he had further engagements for that evening. Also invited to the reception were the families and children who switched on

the lights which was a lovely gesture from the Parish Council.

Neil Fleming, Chairman of the Parish Council, made a fine speech and spoke in glowing terms about Liam and the Village Voice, referring to the latter as a village 'institution' liked by everyone. He also referred to the good relationship between the two organisations and how pleased he was that council meetings were

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Liam, helped by Georgia, Phillip (left) and Sarah and Ben (right), switches on the lights

WELCOME TO THE NEW ST BEDE'S



*The visiting party at the opening of the new St. Bede's School
Front row left to right: Mr R. Christon (Chair of Governors), Canon R. Spence (Vice Chair), Mrs M Matthews (Deputy Head), Mrs M. Bates (Headteacher), Sir Tom and Lady Cowie, Mr I Merrington (School Manager).*

Back row: Guests and architects

A week of celebration marked the official opening of a new Sixth Form Building and other extensive improvements at St Bede's Catholic School.

Sir Tom Cowie returned to the school on Wednesday 21st November to admire the results of his £500,000 donation to the school last year through his charitable trust, which released another 4.5

million pounds of grants to carry out this ambitious project. Governors and representatives of the architects B3 Burgess and the builders Walter Thompson joined Sir Tom and Lady Cowie as they toured the transformed main school building, then the sixth form centre. The Head Teacher Maureen Bates proudly demonstrated the reception area with its

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*A Happy Christmas and
Best Wishes for 2008
to all of our Readers*



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,
I am writing this letter to thank everyone for all the cards and get well wishes which I received after my heart transplant. It is now fourteen weeks since my transplant and I am progressing really well and feel so much better. It is lovely to be able to go out and about and see people again. Thank you all for your warm wishes which have meant such a great deal to me, my husband David and the rest of my family. Thanks again, Kate Wales (Bailey)

TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE VOICE

By email:

lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line to ensure the email is opened)

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Dear Sir

May I through the media of 'The Village Voice' thank the Lions for a very good Firework display they put on, a whole 45 minutes continuously. The crowds were very orderly and kept under control; watching the display was very enjoyable for all ages. The first display I saw at Lanchester was a number of years ago when the Lanchester Band led a parade from the Village Green. By how it has improved over the years, and long may it go on for many more years to come. Lastly thank you to the police for the way they controlled the traffic, also for the ladies who worked hard at the cooking.

Yours truly

Mrs Elsie Gibson,
Annfield Plain

Dear Editor

The Ebchester and Medomsley Ward was successful in gaining £4,500 from Durham County Foundation to support a programme for young people living in the partnership area which the Consett YMCA supplied. Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed these events. We would like to thank everyone involved.

Yours sincerely

C Coombe, Chairperson,
Ebchester Medomsley Ward Partnership

Dear Sir

I would like to thank the person who found my Debit Card which I lost whilst out walking. Not only did they find it but they instantly informed my bank. The bank gave me the telephone number of the finder but it proved to be an unobtainable number.

Jeff Hockaday

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

IDIOTS AT WORK

Friday nights seem to be when the idiots are let out to play by their keepers. On the evening of Friday 7th December, or possibly early the next morning, two windows were smashed in Lanchester library by passing airheads. For an encore, another one was broken on Monday night. Police have a good idea who these people are, but would welcome information from anyone who can confirm their suspicions. The police number is 0845 6060365. People can also report to the section office at Millfield or through the street safe box (anonymously if they so wish).

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for November 2007 is 58. The draw was made by Mrs J Whitley from Richmond Fellowship.

LANCHESTER PLAYGROUP AND TINY TOTS

Lanchester Playgroup and Tiny Tots held its Christmas Coffee Morning on Wednesday 28th November. The event raised a total of £547.95. Thanks to all the Retailers and Businesses who kindly donated the raffle prizes, and thanks to all the people who bought and sold raffle tickets and attended the event making it a great success. Liz Smith, Playgroup Leader

MACEY

This is to introduce my baby sister Macey Jade Lammin, born on the 14th of November weighing 8lb 10oz, here is a picture of Macey and big sister Bradie.

A huge thank you from us all. We are overwhelmed from the cards and gifts we've received from everyone, especially from my customers of Talking Heads.

May I take this opportunity to wish all my clients a very merry Xmas and a happy new year and a great deal of thanks for the understanding and

patience whilst I was pregnant and the time I was absent from work, it means a lot.

I would also like to mention Michelle, Natalie and Kerry-Ann, my staff, I am very proud of them for keeping the salon running as normal and seeing to all the clients needs. Special mention to Michelle and Natalie, who are by far the loyalist people I've ever come to meet, thank you so much girls I really appreciate you and all you do.

Jeni, Jeff, Bradie and baby Macey



Bradie with Macey

TABLE TOP SALE SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who supported the Table Top Sale in Satley Village Hall on Saturday 13th October. Thank you to those who donated raffle and tombola prizes. A cheque for £2150 has been sent to the Great North Air Ambulance Service. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

MORE FUNDS FOR TILLY

Ellie Caile of Lanchester felt so upset for little Tilly she received permission from Tilly's parents to collect for her charity, the Meningitis Charitable Trust. Ellie went door-to-door collecting and made £121.02p. This is indeed a little girl with a big heart. H Spark

THE FUTURE OF CROFT VIEW

Lanchester Methodist Church has been considering the future of their hall, Croft View, in the light of current financial difficulties and increasing costs. They are committed to youth work in the village but wish to look at possible future options for its management. They, therefore, called a meeting of interested groups and clubs, at the Hall, on Friday 30th November. Many local organisations were represented including current users of the premises, County, District and Parish Councils, the Lanchester Partnership, Lanchester Community Association, local schools and churches, and the Durham Rural Community Council. The Rev Gavin Hume said Croft View was formerly the Primitive Methodist Church, and when the two Methodist churches merged continued to be managed by Lanchester Methodist Church. Martin Joyce, Chair of the Management Committee, told the meeting that £60,000 had been spent on Croft View during the 1990's. It was used by the

Boys' Brigade, Anchor Boys, Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, the Youth Club, Bowls Club, badminton players and the Brass Band which had sole use of one room. It was also available for hire, a fact not generally known.

The running costs were £7000 per annum, with users contributing £1000 a year. In addition an estimated £35,000 would be needed in the near future to upgrade the fabric of the building.

The options for the future were (a) selling the building (b) continuing as at present and (c) a management group or community partnership to run it. The first two of these were unlikely.

In the discussion that followed, Debbie Lamb of the Development Trust Association thought that £7000 could be earned by letting the premises, and capital could be raised for refurbishment. The Boys' Brigade spokesman said it would be difficult to find alternative premises for the group's three sections. Mike Gladstone of Lanchester Partnership said that the recent Report



The meeting of some of the 'interested parties' to discuss possibilities for the future of Croft View

on Youth stressed the need for youth clubs in the village, and that the Methodist Church had done a vital job by providing Croft View for youth groups.

Arthur Maughan, of Lanchester Community Centre stated the difficulty of raising money by grants,

as Lanchester is not a 'deprived' area. County Councillor Tom Forster promised to talk to officers at County Hall to gain support.

Many other speakers spoke in support and offered practical help, after which all present were thanked for their attendance. The

Church Council will now discuss the situation, and if appropriate will form a small committee involving those who have already offered to participate and other volunteers. Further meetings are likely to follow as ideas are progressed.

ARTHUR MAUGHAN MBE



Arthur Maughan at the Palace with the MBE he received from the Queen on 6th December

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WELCOME TO THE NEW ST BEDE'S

continued from page 1
beautiful stained glass 'name-plate', the 'inclusion room' which caters for pupils needing special tuition, the staff rooms including a computer suite, the widened dining hall and new corridor to by-pass the main hall. The first phase of the project, two new science laboratories,

had already been opened in March. The party then moved to the Sir Tom Cowie Sixth Form Centre, which Sir Tom officially opened by unveiling a plaque, after a blessing by Canon Spence. Renewing her thanks to Sir Tom, Maureen Bates remembered the gasp from pupils when he announced his gift

to the school last year, and said that even better results could be expected in an environment where every help was available to encourage pupils to achieve their potential. With the pleasing announcement this year that 84% of pupils gained 5 top grade GCSE's and of improved A level

results, there is a high standard to beat. Maureen Bates also praised the builders, who had completed all the work without impinging on the life of the school, including the all-important exam period. On Friday 23rd November came the second official opening by the Rt Rev Kevin Dunn, Bishop

of Hexham and Newcastle, attended by the deanery priests. During the service an Education Candle was lit by joining the flames of four candles carried by the Bishop, a priest, a governor and the head teacher; from this, students lit their candles to be taken to each classroom, symbolising the inspiration of the light of Christ.

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Canon Spence blesses the new Sixth Form Centre with Sir Tom and Lady Cowie and members of the Sixth Form

Bishop Kevin unveils a plaque to celebrate the new buildings as Deputy Head Maria Matthews and Head Teacher Maureen Bates pose for the photographer



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCHED ON

continued from page 1

reported for the whole village to read. Neil thanked the children for helping to switch on the lights before presenting

the four of them with a Christmas gift. He finally thanked the Parish Church ladies for the superb buffet which they had provided. Neil

then invited everyone to enjoy the buffet which made a pleasant social end to a very efficient and well organised evening which was enjoyed by all.



Jonathan Fenwick conducts Lanchester Brass, who provided a lovely atmosphere with their seasonal music



Neil Fleming, presents Georgia, Sarah, Ben and Phillip with a Christmas gift



*Local teenagers, Emily and Hannah, make the most of Liam after the 'switch-on' ceremony.
Photo taken on mobile phone by J Taylor.*

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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

A week-end event which began four years ago with little more than a few trees and a cup of coffee has now become a major entertainment, market, and catering project in Lanchester Methodist Church.

The main attraction is still the Christmas trees provided by church groups as well as village clubs and businesses who display a lot of skill

and ingenuity in creating new motifs and decorations each year.

The decorated trees were provided by The Church Angels, Lanchester Methodist Church Wives and Friends (a tree branch, simply decorated but effective), Lanchester News, Tiger Lily Florists, the Jesse Tree (a tree-stump with a wire 'advent calendar'), Lilydale Pet Supplies, NSPCC, WI

with silver tree and decor, the Thursday Club with another silvery tree, the Amigos who offered mottos from the tree of life, the Boys Brigade with home-made stockings, Lanchester Partnership with its 'boxes' to illustrate its work, New Image with a golden tree decorated with perm rollers, and Alice Guthrie's Sew What with simple but effective nativity figures. In addition there were several crib displays on view.

Entertainment was provided throughout the week-end, starting with

the Salvation Army Band on Friday evening. On Saturday the Operatic Society braved the cold to sing their first set of carols on the church lawn, beautifully appraised in 'Cranford' costume, and Harry Carr's Church Worship Group followed, but indoors.

In the afternoon it was the turn of the EP School choir, followed by Stanley Circuit choir and a talent spot greatly favoured by children.

On Sunday afternoon All Saints School choir entertained, and Lanchester Brass Band closed the musical week-

end with a rousing spot. All this was only possible with the help of an army of helpers who shifted, cleaned, baked, and served refreshments. Oh, and Santa came to reward the younger singers with gifts. Hundreds of people enjoyed the week-end, with refreshments and meals on the go at all times, an array of stalls supporting charities, and the fascinating display of decorated trees. Proceeds of the event were £560, which will go to The People's Kitchen, the Great North Air Ambulance and the young people of the chapel.

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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Rev Kenneth Mankin and Keith Brown brave the cold and snow at the BBQ stall



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11.12.07

The Meeting began by sending Best Wishes to Cllr Mrs Cook who has been in hospital. County Councillor Forster gave his report on **matters of mutual interest**. There have been a lot of changes in the County Council during the past month with 133 new staff employed. The Council's Budget is on track and the Report on Residential Care Homes will go to Cabinet in the next two months. However, Lynwood House has opted out. As National Express has taken over the running of the railway, it is to be hoped that good service will continue. The Local Area Agreement will effect everyone, down to Parish Councils, who, it is hoped, will have a bigger part to play. Lanchester EP School is to have £165,000 spent on the provision of new windows and metal doors in February/March. The Chairman said he

wished to add an Urgent Item to the Agenda. This was that the Clerk to the Council, Jim Owens, had handed in his resignation as at 31st March 2008. Mr Owens was warmly thanked for his splendid 16 years service to the Council and also for giving the Council so much notice so that a suitable replacement could be found. It was agreed that a special meeting be held on Tuesday 18th December to discuss the correct procedure for the appointment of Mr Owens' successor.

Matters Arising. Urban and Rural Initiative Scheme. It was agreed that Cllr Wardle would take action.

Lanchester Cemetery. A copy of the letter received from the District Council was shown to Members; it was decided to keep an eye on the situation.

Siting of public seat on Cadger Bank. As it would

be very expensive to excavate the bank side next to the milestone, the Area Maintenance Engineer suggested placing the seat on the existing footpath west of the cul-de-sac junction. Cllr Johnson asked Members to look at this site and report to him within a fortnight. The milestone here is in danger of being covered by a compost of dead leaves; the County Council is to be asked to excavate the milestone so that it can be seen. Friends of Longovicium have requested that a public seat be sited at the Fort. It was suggested that perhaps a seat not used frequently could be sited there and that the Friends of the Fort would be asked to sponsor a seat and where it should be placed. Kitswell Road - Access to proposed new Play Area. Mr Owen has spent some time verifying the ownership of the land in question and as there is a small area which the Council does not own, the possibility of access on the area it does own will be considered.

Cllr Wardle suggested the matter be handed over to the Recreation Committee to submit a report.

Finance and General Purposes Committee - amendments to draft estimates for expenditure for financial year 2008/09. £400 needed to repair fence etc. at Hollinside Play Area. More funds may be needed to fence the new football fields. Festoon Christmas Lights may need renewing next year. New play equipment will be needed. May need more money for a feasibility study of the Parish Plan. £500 may be needed for publications if the Council decides to apply for Quality Parish Council.

Parish Plan Working Group Report. It was agreed that Cllr Johnson would chair a joint meeting between the Council and Lanchester Partnership.

Sale of Woodland, Manor House Area, Lanchester. An offer by tender has been made but nothing has yet been heard from Agents.

The Police Report. PC Hutchinson reported total calls for last month: 53, including 2 burglaries, one of a house in Burnhopeside and one of petrol and diesel from Malton. 3 thefts, one of lead, 1 bicycle from a school. 4 road obstructions, 4 criminal damage (cars and the library window), 27 routine calls and 13 of anti-social behaviour in Front Street. Front Street and the lines near the car park at Station House have been identified as 'hot spots'; the police are increasing foot patrols and mobile units and priority rating is being given to many incidents. One individual believed responsible for anti-social behaviour and other criminal activities within Lanchester has been given bail condition to stay indoors between 7pm and 7am until his next court appearance. There have been several alcohol seizures from minors and adults in the company of minors, but the alcohol has been supplied from the shops outside Lanchester P.C. Hutchinson again stressed how important it is for residents to report any incidents they have witnessed. He said they have been pleased recently that the message to report any incidents has resulted in some good intelligence being received. Traditionally the dark winter months

see an increase in youth nuisance and rowdy behaviour, particularly in the run up to Christmas and New Year, so the beat team will continue to focus on the hot spots identified by residents.

A plan has been received from the District Council to create a soakaway near the car park to the rear of Park House.

Shelter on village green. It was agreed that the damaged seat be replaced and the provision of a shelter would be reviewed.

Parking Study. The Parking Meeting had been well attended. It was agreed that the 2 hrs waiting limit in Front Street would be extended to cover the car park behind the Spar shop but that there is a need for secure, all day parking for the village traders. A decision will be made after the January meeting.

Public Participation Procedure. A copy of Legal Briefing for Councillors was given by Mr Owens to Members to peruse and bring back with comments to the next meeting.

Standards Committee Hearing Decision. Members were informed that it was the decision of the Committee that Cllr David Lindsay should be banned from Council Meetings as a Councillor from 1st December 2007 to 31st January 2008 because of remarks made at the July meeting.

Cllr Johnson asked for volunteers to plant 150 willows and alders beside the beck on the following day.

Next Meeting - Tuesday 8th January, 2008 at 7 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester.

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PARISH CHURCH FAIR

Despite the weather on a rather grim and rain swept Saturday morning, the Parish Fair which was held at the Community Centre was filled with eager Christmas shoppers all looking for a bargain. The Vicar opened proceedings by introducing Arthur Maughan MBE, Chairman of the Community Centre. Arthur made a short, but interesting speech, quickly mentioning the Community Centre and

the opening of the new Fitness Centre on the 2nd of January, but generally extolling the virtues of the village, the community, and all the organisations within the village. He finally asked his audience to spend generously in aid of the Parish Church. He was then presented with a bouquet for his wife, Mavis, who attended, but prefers to stay in the background and let Arthur do the talking. These flowers were presented by

Sunday School girls, Rebecca March and Sadie Densham. The Community Centre was humming and some brisk business was being done on the following stalls; Christmas Stall; Bottle (Tombola); Table Top Produce; Tombola; Cards; Cakes; Videos and books; Hampers (Raffle); Deli; Mothers Union Working Party; Fairtrade; £1 stall (Church Wives) and Diary stall.

Much hard work had gone into the preparation beforehand and the result was a profit of £2185.83 which must have been very

satisfying to all those who were involved. Thanks are offered to all those who attended and supported the event in all sorts of ways.



Eager shoppers on the Christmas Stall - and smiling buyer, Jill Densham



Sunday School girls Rebecca March (left) and Sadie Densham, presenting a lovely bouquet of flowers to Arthur Maughan MBE for his wife Mavis

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PIPE NIGHTMARE

Moving into new premises can always create headaches, but the Community Centre's new extension has provided nightmares all round for the organisers. Finding the finance was the first one, but eventually that was solved.

The present problem involved a pipe. When Poplar Builders began to prepare the site for the extension in July, they found a gas-pipe crossing it. They tried to contact someone at British Gas to get the pipe moved, which proved difficult. The Centre staff persisted, and were told by British Gas to get in touch with a Rotherham firm who would deal with it.

The firm sent forms, which were duly filled in and returned. Oh no, they said, it's not up to us, you should go to United Utilities at Manchester.

The latter firm were approached and sent some forms, which were once again filled in and sent back. No no, said United Utilities, British Gas has to do the job.

The pipe had come full circle, you might say. Centre staff again made contact with British Gas's Monty Python system, and either by good luck or some good fortune, persuaded them to agree that they indeed were responsible for the pipe. Right, they said, we can do it in ten weeks time.

The date for the official opening of the new extension had already passed and gone, and now there was to be another two and a half months wait. The building was finished and ready for use, except for the gas-pipe through the middle of it. Appeals to British Gas for an earlier date were

unsuccessful, so it was on Thursday December 6th that a British Gas van, presumably from head office at Cardiff, arrived. Two workers emerged, took out the gas meter and went away.

Following this, Poplar Builders laid a gas pipe from the site of the new meter to the Community Centre's system, and Centre users on the coldest week-end of the year, including guests of the Lions Christmas Lunch, kept on their overcoats. On Tuesday 11th December, British Gas' employees at last connected the new meter. We understand that above pantomime will be costing over £3000. Needless to say, the Community Centre committee could think of much better uses for £3000. Merry Christmas, British Gas!



Bill and Paul of Poplar Builders prepare the trench to relay the gas pipe

ROSALYN BELL - MISS COUNTY DURHAM

Exciting things have been happening to Swimming Teacher, Rosalyn Bell, 21, who lives with her partner in the village. Rosalyn was persuaded by friends and family to enter the Miss British Isles Beauty contest by sending in a photograph on the internet. So many people voted for her that she won the Area Miss County Durham title. The final

took place at the Crown Plaza Hotel, in Chester, where the contestants had to parade on the catwalk in a bikini, evening wear, and casual clothes. Rosalyn came in the top thirty out of a total entry of 11,500! This story is all the more remarkable as Rosalyn has little boy, Harry who was only 3 months old when the competition took place.

She also has another child, Ellie, aged 2. Rosalyn plans to continue her career as Swimming Teacher at the Louisa Centre, unless anything dramatic happens for her in the beauty world.

Rosalyn Bell, the County Durham winner, as she appeared in the British Isles Beauty Contest



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WALKING BUS

Richard Chwieseni, the new proprietor of the Queen's Head, has kindly given permission for

Lanchester EP School to use their car park for a 'Walking Bus'. It is hoped that this will happen early

in the next term when the scheme hopefully will receive the Council approval.

SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE

The rain fell but still the people came to the Chapter House in large numbers on Thursday 6th December. The Christmas edition of the monthly Open House saw the ladies looking especially glamorous, and the men doing their annual stint as waiters, complete with bow ties. The food prepared on site, as usual was excellent, and a really convivial time was had by all.



After struggling for 10 minutes, Eric Gaskill, left, eventually had to ask for help from Alan James to sort out his bow tie



The wonderful smiling waiters were: Left to right back row; Eric Gaskill; Alan James; David Massey; Front row left to right: Maving Taylor; John Brown; Dick Hunter.



The Church Ladies who prepared and helped with the lunch. Back row left to right: Isabel Appleton; Margaret Brown; Elizabeth Wharton; Di Oram; Betty Reed; Front row left to right: Jennifer Smith; Brenda Craddock; Phyllis Reed.

WILLOW BURN FAIR

Despite bad weather and two fairs on the same morning, Willow Burn Fair, at the Lanchester EP School began with plenty of Christmas shoppers. Something entirely new was a visit from Santa Claus, seen for the first time this year in the village. He, together with Lisa Corfield, Fund Raiser for Willow Burn, opened the Fair. Lisa made a lovely welcoming speech and

thanked everyone for coming, and those who supported the event in various ways.

There were lots of stalls, mainly from Willow Burn with many donated products, and some stalls hired out to others. Stalls included: Christmas Raffle; Adult and Children's Tombola; Cake Stall and Ginger Wine; Pies; Bric a Brac; Plants; Merchandise; Books;

both Hand Made Aromatherapy and Hand Made Cards; and of course, refreshments were available. This hard working effort by all those involved raised a total in excess of £1300 at the time of going to press with the money still coming in.



Lisa and Santa open the Fair



Two happy raffle sellers. Now what are they laughing at?



Toys 'r' us? Are the children helping or deciding?



Margaret Webb with two Annes either side serving the teas

NATIVITY PLAYS FOR FOUNDATION AND INFANT CHILDREN AT LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL



Foundation Stage children at Lanchester EP School who appeared in a delightful presentation of the Christmas Story, told through nursery rhyme tunes, with an appropriate adaptation of the lyrics



Infant children from the Lanchester EP School presented an animated, enthusiastic, lovely Nativity seen through the eyes of 'The Bossy King'.

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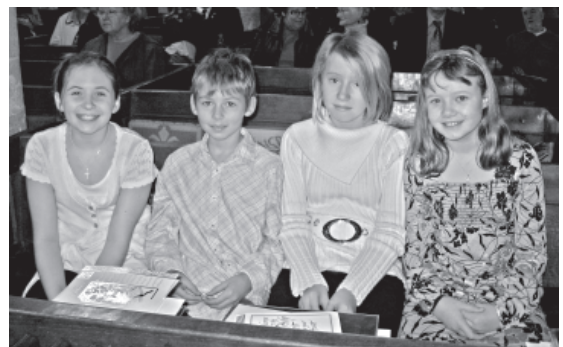
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CONFIRMATION



Children from Lanchester All Saints Parish Church were confirmed, at a Deanery Confirmation Service led by Bishop Stephen, at St Andrew's Church, Stanley, on Wednesday, 28th November, 2007. Left to right: Sophie Taylor, Kieran Jewitt, Stephanie Rogers, and Rebecca March. Sadie Densham, Louis Caile and John Dawson were also confirmed on that evening.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Children from Lanchester All Saints Parish Church received their First Holy Communion on Sunday, 2nd December 2007. Left to right: William Tatham, Annabel Simpson, Chloe Taylor, David Dawson. Front: Matthew Atkinson.

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LIONS' CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Lion President Mark Draper, who compered the evening

It was a change of venue this year for the Lions' Christmas Concert which was held at the EP School. Lion President, Mark Draper held the evening together and began by introducing the Lanchester EP School Choir along with some fine dancers coached by choreographer, Anna Startup. They danced, whilst the choir began in lively fashion with some

Christmas rock songs. There followed some fabulous singing by the combined efforts of All Saints and EP School Choirs. 'Turn down the Lights' was sung just beautifully. Then it was the turn of the All Saints Choir to go it alone and they delighted everyone with sweet renderings of 'Mary and the Angel', 'No Room', and 'Silent Night'.

The Woods and Murray families are always great entertainment and this concert was no exception. Dressed in Victorian costume they sang unaccompanied, five lovely carols. This set the scene for a grand finale with the Lanchester Brass Band, who played a mixture of carols and popular Christmas songs. Jonathan Fenwick, conductor, led them in

his own inimitable flamboyant style, amusing the audience and particularly the children in the process. A couple of encores followed and the concert seemed over in a flash. Lion President Mark thanked everyone and it was time to depart. The money raised was in the region of £250.00 and will be used to fund the Senior Citizens' Party.



Some great dancing by year six girls with the choir singing in the background



The combined All Saints and EP School choirs who sang so well



Woods and Murray Families sing unaccompanied in Victorian attire



Lanchester Brass band conducted by Jonathan Fenwick

LIONS SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY

Following the success of last year by moving this function to a lunchtime, the Lions were pleased to

welcome about 100 guests to their midday party. The room looked inviting and so did the food. The welcome sherry was followed by Florida Cocktail, Roast Pork, etc and Black Forest Gateau. The entertainers were the Bower Singers who began singing together when they were only 8 years old. They sang a medley of Christmas songs, folk songs etc and delighted the audience with their lovely performance. There was a free raffle for the

table decorations followed by a visit from Santa Claus, who gave everyone in the room a present, before all

departed into snow and sleet outside. It was a lovely beginning for the Christmas period for the

Senior Citizens in the village with two groups attending from Burnhope and Langley Park.



Vice President Ian Murray, compered the occasion



A smiling group of 'Seniors' at the table, obviously enjoying themselves

ALL SAINTS PTA FAIR

A cool but fresh morning brought the crowds out to All Saints PTA Fair. Canon Bob Spence opened the Fair in his own inimitable style, impressing upon his audience how much he loved being associated with the school, and how the money raised on the day would go towards developing the Wild Life Garden and Picnic Tables.

And, of course, he asked people to spend generously. There was so much activity in the form of stalls, that space prohibits naming them all, but among them were: Crafts; Cards; Bottle Tombola; Home Produce; Lucky dip; Reindeer Food/Sweets; and a sell out Raffle. That was just some in the main hall. In

the side rooms there were Childrens' Games, whilst in the Parish Centre there was Badge Making, Santa's Grotto and new for this year, and very busy too - a Chocolate Fountain. However, what must have been the busiest area was the Australian BBQ. The queues were long, the service excellent. This was an absolute winner on a cold day. The wonderful

smell even attracted passers by who had no intention of going to the Fair. The BBQ was run by David Toner who recently returned to the UK, and his Australian wife Allison. Despite the previous attraction, the refreshment area was also extremely busy. The hall was full, the atmosphere was lively and the money raised was in the region of £1500.



Canon Bob Spence opens the Fair



Adam, Chloe and Lucy visit Santa



Busy Christmas Stall

LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

At the beginning of the recent Lanchester EP School Christmas Fair, it was quite difficult to walk around or hear yourself speak. The seasonal music was loud and the hustle and bustle of adults and children gave the hall a great atmosphere. There was a long queue to see Santa Claus and people crowded around the stalls and other money raising

activities, eg games, tombolas, etc. The stalls were exceptionally busy and everyone was spending money as if it was going out of fashion. The Fair was divided into various sections. In the main hall there were probably about twenty stalls. Some were commercial - those selling cards, crafts, jewellery, farm produce, party

goods, children's books, and 'funky wellies', but most were being run by the 'Friends of the School' and pupils. One classroom was devoted to crafts for sale made by the children during Enterprise Week. This area was extremely popular, especially with children who were involved in the manufacture of the

products. On sale were, cards, crackers, candles, sweets and badges. School calendars designed by the children were also on sale at £5.00 each. In another classroom homemade soup was available, also made by the children, with a little help from a teacher. This idea also came out of Enterprise Week. Probably the most popular

activities were the Face Painting, Bracelet Painting and visiting Santa. For 20p per head, the latter was really good value for parents and very exciting for the little ones. Things eventually began to slow down towards the end of the allotted two hours. The total raised for school funds by 'Friends of the School' was a massive £1200.



Left to right: Kristian, Callum, Dylan and Courtney visit Santa with their Christmas lists



Joseph runs the Bean Bag Throw

BRING AND BUY FOR BLUE PETER

Lanchester EP school held two 'Bring and Buy Sales' for the 'Blue Peter Appeal', with pupils from the junior and upper end of the school eagerly spending their money. The grand total going to the 'Blue Peter appeal' will be £172.82. In addition to this, £290.41 was raised at the 'non uniform yellow day' earlier in the week, for 'Children in Need'.



Lanchester EP children, years 1 and 2, bargain hunting

THE VILLAGE WEB SITE

A new web site for Lanchester has been set up through the good offices of Richard Eyres, and it is hoped to develop links to other existing websites. Anyone is invited to log on to www.lanchester.typepad.com and offer opinions, comments and information about matters that affect Lanchester.

At present there are short comments about a solution to the dangerous state of Ford

Road, the Government's abolition of the District Council and inevitably, dog dirt.

The Village Voice is aware of all sorts of concerns expressed by Lancastrians; why not air them on the web and get some feed-back?

People who have no access to the web can get on line at Lanchester library or at Computers for All in the Community Centre. Helpful staff are there to get you started.

THE GALLERY Old Photo Forum

Anyone interested in history, and in particular old photos of the region, can log on to <http://www.oldphotoforum.com/gallery/> and enjoy

the site created by Ian Truswell and Dave Forster.

In addition you can contribute photos to the collection.

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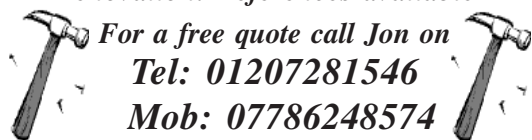
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LANCHESTER THEATRE GROUP PARTY

On Monday, 26th November, the members of the group who visit the Little Theatre, Gateshead, every month held their first Christmas party. This was organised by Pam Bygate, who does such a difficult and time-consuming job of organising the theatre outing each month, and again Pam had everything running smoothly.

The evening started with a quiz as everyone arrived, followed by a game in which everyone joined, getting up from the tables and moving round to ask each other questions. By this time we were all

ready for the delicious buffet provided by Crinnions (so much food there was enough left for everyone to take home to enjoy later) followed by another two games which involved everyone. The evening passed all too quickly, and it was the general opinion that this should become an annual, if not bi-annual occasion!

During the evening Liz Smith thanked Pam for all her hard work and presented her with a beautiful necklace as a token of appreciation from the theatre-goers. Also Mike Gladstone thanked members for



*Pam Bygate,
Organiser*

their donations to the village bus, which not only help to keep the bus running but enable grants to be applied for. In all, a very successful evening and we look forward to the next one. Mavis Datta



Members of the Theatre Group enjoying their party

MOTHERS' UNION CHRISTMAS PARTIES

A warm welcome greeted about 30 members of Lanchester Mothers' Union when they arrived at the Three Horse Shoes, Maiden Law, on the evening of Thursday, 6th December for their Christmas Party. Outside it had been wild and wet, so the warmth and brightness of the conservatory, where the group was accommodated for the meal, was lovely. The meal was excellent; a choice of three dishes

for each of the three courses, including a vegetarian main course, was more than adequate, especially as we had all opted for the 'pensioners' meal. With crackers to pull to get us into the mood, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and there was a great deal of hilarity, which cannot have been due to the jokes in the crackers! Another group of about 20 had enjoyed a lunch at the Three Horse Shoes

on Tuesday 4th December. This occasion was highlighted by the presentation to Mrs Nancy Walker of a certificate for 50 years' Membership of the Mothers' Union - a great achievement.

Many thanks to our Branch Leader Margaret Brown for organising these two parties which set our Christmas celebrations off to a good start. Mavis Datta

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This was a Christmas Concert with a difference. Held in the fine surroundings of All Saints' Parish Church, there was music and singing for all tastes. Christmas was very much an over riding theme but the Bower Singers and Friends made it a night to remember with their versatility and many talents.

The Bower Singers opened the concert with some lively folk songs and afterwards there were solos, duets and varying pieces of music. The Three Fivers (men) came on stage in casual clothes to entertain with country songs, and later in the concert arrived on stage, suited and booted,

with a medley of Louis Armstrong and Frank Sinatra numbers.

At one point there was a recitation of a very amusing Geordie monologue, and the Bower Singers sang some familiar Geordie folk songs, with great animation and wonderful Geordie dialect.

One of the more well known guest performers was Dr Ian Brunt, first playing folk music on his Northumbrian Pipes, and later he had the audience spellbound, with his adaptation of 'The Snowman', on the church organ.

Both solo singers, Jim and Audrey were wonderful and also sang a duet. Audrey's rendition of 'Road to

Bethlehem' towards the end of the concert was very moving.

The Bower Singers concluded the concert with 'I wish you a Merry Christmas' and finally the lovely 'Let there be Peace'. Pianist, Richard, played

an enormous part in the concert with his accompaniment to so much of the singing. At the interval there was a raffle, mulled wine, ginger wine, Christmas cake and mince pies. John and Margaret Brown

arranged the evening and sold every ticket making the evening a huge success. The total raised was an amazing £840.50 which was divided between All Saints' Church, Lanchester and St John's, Burnhope.



The Bower Singers and Friends

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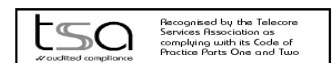
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JINGLE ALL THE WAY

The Community Centre was full on Friday evening 23rd November for a demonstration of flower arranging by the renowned Graeme Armstrong, of Whitley Bay.

As the title suggests, the theme for this evening was Christmas. Helen

Tomlinson gave a short address as she introduced, and welcomed Graeme to the Lanchester Flower Club.

He began with a Christmas welcome and went on to produce seven magnificent arrangements of wonderful colour and flowing skills,

based on winter and Christmas themes. He kept the audience involved and interested with his excellent sense of humour and lively commentary. Seasonal refreshments were enjoyed by everyone and Maureen Clarkson gave a vote of thanks.

LANCHESTER NURSERIES CRAFT FAIR

Lanchester Nurseries held a Craft Fair on Saturday, 8th December. There were about 20 stalls covering all varieties of hand made crafts, ideal for

Christmas shoppers. Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society, in Victorian attire, entertained the shoppers with a lovely rendition of Christmas carols.



Flower Demonstrator, Graeme Armstrong with Chairperson of the Flower Club, Helen Tomlinson



Victorian clad Operatic society entertain the shoppers

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WI NEWS

"Fascinators" was the fascinating bursary-aided course which attracted President Jennifer Macdonald and Vice-president Ann Carr to WI Denman College, Oxfordshire, on 26th November. During an intensive and most enjoyable 3 days they each made 3 fascinators with the help of a couturier milliner. Fascinators, according to the tutor, were first seen in the 1940s. They were more recently revived when Sophie, Countess of Wessex, requested no large hats to be worn at her wedding to Prince Edward. The Durham room accommodation and food were excellent and there was much laughter shared with 6 WI members from other Institutes. Different courses available at the same time included Silversmithing, German Literature, Digital Photography and Researching your Ancestors, and were all open to non-members. The large mural in the craft room was designed by Constance Howard for the Festival of Britain; it was executed by Goldsmith College, London, with some of the work being

done by WI members. Lanchester's action-packed Christmas Party on 3rd December was introduced by Eve Gamblin who described a traditional and less commercial German Christmas which is spread over 5 weeks. Special spicy (no ginger!) biscuits seem to be the highlight of every gathering. The biscuits date from when the shepherds who were minding their flocks were also baking bread which on their return from Bethlehem had dried into biscuits and, miraculously, had not burned. Many biscuits are pretzel-shaped: some believe the shape is the symbolic shape of rope used at the crucifixion or it is like a Christian in prayer. Stollen cake represents baby Jesus in swaddling clothes. Home-made Hansel and Gretel gingerbread houses, advent wreaths with 4 candles, transparent and star window decorations, small wooden figures and wooden frames holding candles are used to decorate homes. Decorating the tree is yet another occasion for a celebration with the candle-lit tree being placed in the window for everyone

to see. Children leave out their shoes to be filled by St Nicholas wearing a white robe and gold hat accompanied by his companion Campus with horns, hooves, tail, wearing a shaggy brown fur coat and carrying an empty sack. Red cabbage is served with a roast on Christmas Day.

After a Faith Supper with wine, members listened to the Lanchester Male Voice Choir who were smartly attired in blue jackets. The programme included a wide selection of songs; Noreen Bridgewater played a piano solo and the 'Lantones' Barbershop Quartet also entertained. After a well-received and professional performance the choir was invited to join the Faith Supper. Then the party games began with a noisy Chinese raffle, Pass the Parcel (with forfeits) and Musical Statues! Everyone enjoyed the fun including the speaker and several Annfield Plain WI members.

The 'Living Tree' looking resplendent in silver and white survived a second year to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year!

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Jennifer Macdonald and Ann Carr making Fascinators at Denman with mural behind

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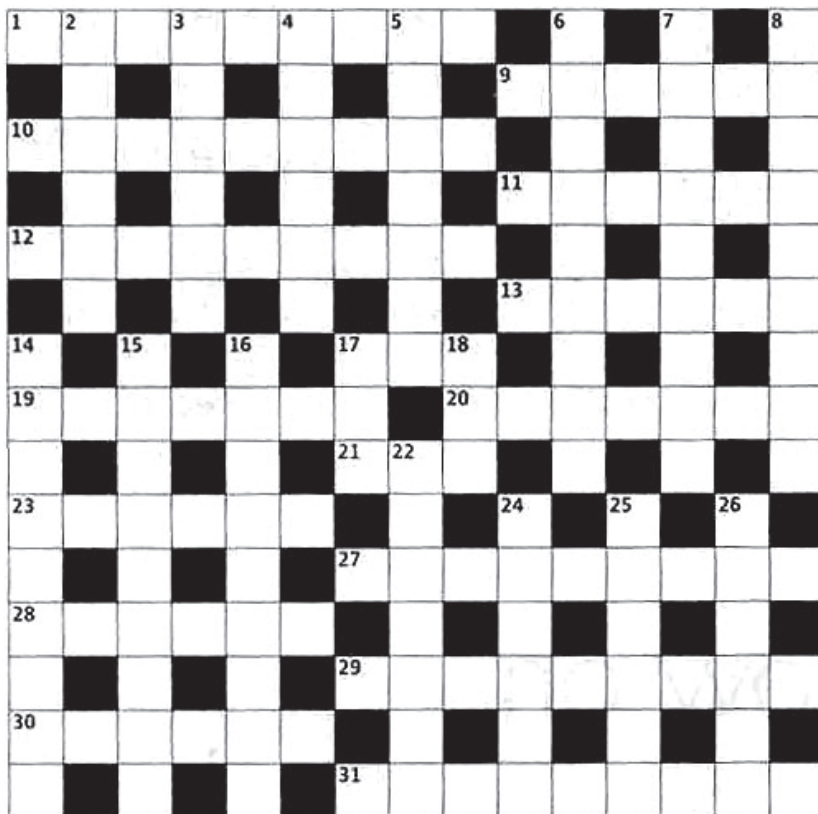
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CROSSWORD 20



ACROSS

1. Shape pins for joy (9)
9. European capital (6)
10. Ease patch into low cost chair (5,4)
11. European capital (6)
12. Lasting (9)
13. Metal in Art Deco Baltic gallery (6)
17. Night flyer (3)
19. Breaktime (7)
20. Facilitator (7)
- 21,27. Self humiliate (3,6,3)
23. Observe (4,2)
27. See 21
28. European capital (6)
29. Jazz, New Orleans style (9)
30. European capital (6)
31. Everlasting (9)

DOWN

2. European capital (6)
3. European capital (6)
4. Car manufacturer (6)
5. Bird doesn't make a summer (7)
6. Face absorbs Sally Army pledge denial (9)
7. My sailors reformed friend badly (9)
8. Blizzard (4,5)
14. Sheep found in Yorkshire (9)
15. Broken crime bone put together again (9)
16. Pet door is saver (9)
17. Poem (3)
18. Tennis replay point (3)
22. Cruel (7)
24. Help (6)
25. European capital (6)
26. European capital (6)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 19

ACROSS

1. medico
4. scrapped
9. assets
10. revolver
11. discriminatory
13. barometric
14. mate
16. tame
18. brainchild
21. Windsor dynasty
23. too trite
24. niggle
25. ringworm
26. marram

DOWN

1. meat
2. dossier
3. catacomb
5. credibility
6. amoral
7. Pavlova
8. dirty deed
12. interpreter
13. bathwater
15. sciatica
17. monsoon
19. integer
20. escrow
22. team

CROSSWORD 19

There were 9 entries in last month's competition and the winner in the draw was Fred Heppell of Lee Hill Court, who wins the £10 prize. Test your skill on John Wilson's latest challenge.

Name _____

Address _____

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

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SUDOKU

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

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

LANCHESTER PHARMACY REFURBISHED



*A smiling staff at the newly refurbished Lanchester Pharmacy
Left to right: Emma; Maria; Sheryl and Gemma*

NEW FLORIST



*Julie Webb, proprietor of Tiger Lily Florists, a new shop,
in Front Street, Lanchester*

FOSTER MADDISON HELP ALL SAINTS' CHILDREN TO SELL SCHOOL

On Monday 19th November Alice Landale from local estate agents Foster Maddison visited Class 3 at All Saints' RC Primary School. The children wanted to know how estate agents wrote reports, because that was their literacy task for that week. They wanted help to write a report about their school, so that they could sell it! The children had first checked their task with Head Teacher Mrs McKenna. Alice explained to the children that they needed to list the number of rooms and to describe other benefits of the building and grounds. Alice answered a lot of questions about her role as an estate agent for Foster Maddison in Lanchester. Alice even told the children about a house they had for sale which was on the market for over one million pounds. The children fulfilled their task and wrote their reports about the school, which they used to show

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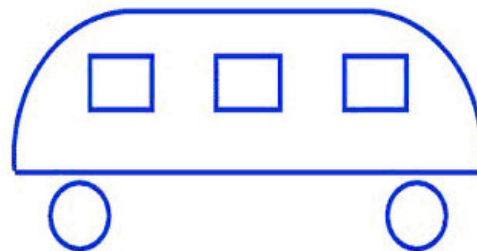
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How smart are you?

A PRE-SCHOOL TEST

Which way is the bus below travelling? To the left or to the right? Can't make up your mind? Look carefully at the picture again. Still don't know?

Primary school children all over the UK were shown this picture and asked the same question. 90% of them were right. See page 23 to find the answer.



their prospective buyers around on the Friday (these were children from Class 2!) Happily for the children, teachers in Class 3 Mrs Jordan and Mrs Phillips, advise us that even after a lot of interest, the school was not sold to any of the prospective Class 2 buyers. So it's lessons as normal, and a big thank you to Alice Landale and Foster Maddison in Lanchester for all their help.

New Year Ceilidh

There's still time to get your tickets for Lanchester Wildlife Group's New Year's Eve Ceilidh - on 31st December, of course, in the Community Centre. Doors open at 7.30 pm and the first dance to the "Angels of the North" starts at 8. There will be a Faith Supper (that means you bring your own food) and you bring your own drinks too. Tea and coffee, music and a roof over your head will be supplied and tickets are a mere £6, concessions £5. Tickets from Elaine 520063 or Noel 560864.

WI

At 7pm on 7th January Jackie Mills will talk in the Small Hall of the Community Centre about being a Denman Judge and will demonstrate scone making. The competition (voluntary!) is '3 fruit scones'.

There will also be an Auction and members are asked to bring a contribution. The £27 subs (Lanchester £10.75, National £9.55, Durham Federation £5.70) now due covers 12 varied meetings, an interesting and colourful monthly WI 'Life' magazine and a monthly 'County News' listing events. Lanchester's WI 2008 programme will include topics such as Derwentside Listed Buildings, Food in the Archives, Gold, Farm Chutneys etc Why not make a New Year's resolution to try a meeting? We do *not* sing 'Jerusalem'. Visitors (£1) are welcome to attend 3 meetings before joining. Some calendars and diaries are still awaiting collection. Tel: 01207 520012 for further information.

The Village Voice Page 22

Wildlife Group

Rachel Jackson is the speaker at the group's meeting on the 8th of January in the Community Centre, starting at 7.30 pm. Rachel is a former junior member of the group and is now an officer of Durham Wildlife Trust. Her subject is 'Great Crested Newts.'

Junior Wildlife

On Saturday, January 12th, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon, in the Community Centre (upstairs), the subject will be 'Seabirds and Mammals'.

Mothers' Union

The meeting on 9th January is the annual Wave of Prayer service, with Eucharist and an enrolment, meeting in the Chapter House beforehand and going into church for 7.30 pm.

Parking Solution?

At the next meeting of Lanchester Partnership Mr David Wafer of Durham County Council will discuss his plans to bring in a two-hour parking system in Front Street.

This has already been considered by the Partnership and Parish Council, and could be an important step towards giving everyone the chance to park in the village centre.

Other topics to be discussed include the Village Bus, planning applications, the Parish Plan, care provision, provision for young people and the environment.

Anyone in the village is welcome to come and get involved. The meeting starts at 7.30 pm on Monday 14th January.

An Evening with Bruce Grobbelaar

Goalkeeping legend, Bruce Grobbelaar, who played for Liverpool, will be visiting the Lanchester Cricket Club for a football 'Talk In' on Friday 18th January, beginning at 7.00 pm. The evening will also include a top comedian, and Crinnions will supply a 'Curry Buffet'. A terrific evening of entertainment, laughter and food is provided for only £15.00 per head. Get your tickets early by calling Steve Robinson on 07834762265.

Apology - Cricket Club

In the November issue of the Village Voice, in the What's On page, we printed an article, 'Football at the Cricket Club', with an incorrect ticket price. We understand that this caused considerable inconvenience, and wish to apologise.

Film Club

Little Miss Sunshine

The Film Club announces its choice for showing on Sunday 20th January in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm.

It is a comedy about a charming but dysfunctional family starring Steve Carell, Toni Collette and Greg Kinnear. A family of six trek from Albuquerque to the Little Miss Sunshine pageant in Redondo Beach, California to fulfill the dearest wish of 7-year-old Olive, an ordinary little girl with big dreams. On the journey the family contend with broken dreams, heartbreak, a broken down VW bus and the bizarre Little Miss Sunshine competition itself. A feel good film for dark January days!

WHAT'S ON?

Flower Club

At the meeting on Wednesday 23rd January, starting at 2 pm in the Community Centre, the guest speaker will be Ross Menzies of Corbridge physic garden. All are welcome to attend.

Family History

Genealogy sessions are normally held in Lanchester library on the morning of the last Thursday in each month, but in January the session will be on the 24th, from 9.30 to 11.30 am.

Sunday Bridge

There will be a bridge afternoon on Sunday 27th January in the main hall of the Community Centre to support the Centre's funds. All bridge players welcome.

Lions' Race Night

An exciting Race night where you will be able to win great prizes, will be held at the Social Club, on Saturday 26th January 2008, beginning at 7.30 pm. Tickets are priced at £5.00, are available from any Lions member and will include supper, and a disco to finish. Contact: Brinley Jones on 520372.

Computer Classes

Anyone interested in classes for Digital Photography (Monday mornings) or Beginners' Computing (Thursday mornings) at the Community Centre should contact the Manager, John Wilson on 01207 521275.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Christmas is a time when the Gourmets take the opportunity to start the celebrations early and this year we returned to the 7 Stars at Shincliffe, where we have come to rely on and appreciate exceptional service and delightful presentation - we were not disappointed.

They had a lovely set Christmas menu which cost £19.95 for a 3-course meal and we once again enjoyed the occasion sitting in their small private alcove which was beautifully decorated for Christmas.

We sampled roast butternut squash soup topped with Northumbrian cheese, duck paté with garnish, and tiger prawns with pancetta,

followed by Barbary duck, slow cooked lamb, brill on the bone and polenta red onion tart tatin. Puds included chocolate pistachio and orange terrine, vanilla and honey mousse with home made shortbread, sticky toffee pud and fig and walnut cake, all rounded off with a good cup of coffee.

During the meal we had all been intrigued and amused with the butter pots - they came in the guise of meal platters with domed silver covers and we all wanted one or two - so we asked about them and possibly we may be able to order some through the 7 Stars. What a good excuse - we'll just have to go back!

The Gourmet Girls

INTERNATIONAL VISIT



Pupils at Lanchester EP School recently enjoyed the visit of students of varying nationalities from Northumbria University. Jane Davis, Head Teacher, has lectured on the M.A. Education course at Northumbria and through David Littlefair, one of the course organisers, who happens to live in the village, organised the visit of the students. Whilst at the school, the students observed and helped at lessons, and were able to compare education in a school in the UK with schools in their own countries. The children, too, were able to benefit from the visit and learned about the differing cultures of their visitors. At lunchtime the children and students all sat together and ate some typical English food and seemed to be thoroughly enjoying it.

Photo: Left foreground: Hajra Choudrey (Malaysia), Christia (Cyprus), Right foreground: Despina (Cyprus) Ixrong He, (China), Nicola McBeth (UK)

LANCHESTER LIONS CLUB

Lanchester Lions Club has existed for 40 years helping the village in many ways. Our more visible events are the Carnival and the Bonfire but Christmas is perhaps our busiest time with the Senior Citizens' Party and other activities. The club is always on the lookout for men who value a sense of community for themselves and their children, to help us to maintain our tradition of service. If you have an interest and want to know more, then read on. If you are still interested after that then please contact any Lions Club member or call Mike Stoddart on 520291 for more information about the club.

WHO ARE LANCHESTER LIONS - Lanchester Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organisation. Lions Clubs work in their own community and also internationally, to foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

WHAT DO WE DO - A stated aim of the global organisation is to work towards promoting good government and good citizenship, but we are not a political or religious organisation.

The thrust of our local activities is to simply help people in the communities that we serve. The

Lanchester area includes Lanchester, Burnhope and Langley Park. We organise events and directly assist people and community organisations.

Internationally, we make significant financial contributions to the poorer nations of the world.

In practical terms we organise community events that we feel are important. These include the Lanchester Village Carnival, the annual Bonfire and Senior Citizens Party among other things. We do take on specific projects that need our resources, and also respond to requests for financial contributions from many excellent organisations, that provide essential services to the community, helping young people, the sick and aged.

Lions International Foundation [LCIF] exists as an emergency fund and is available to allow Lions Clubs International to respond quickly to major disasters or to help, by donating money to important projects where needed. Lanchester Lions contributes to this fund on a regular basis. Lions Clubs International are major sponsors of the work to relieve blindness in poorer countries, by funding large numbers of low cost, but highly effective eye operations. These operations bring massive

improvements to the lives of very large numbers of people. Lanchester Lions Club recently received a Gold Award from Lions Clubs International for sponsoring 40 Eye Camps, one of the few Lions Clubs in the UK to receive this award.

HOW DO WE OPERATE

- We organise and fund activities in a most convivial atmosphere. Meetings are held twice a month, invariably involving a pint during and after the meeting. Welfare and fund raising events are organised mainly in the village and it is often necessary to sell tickets. Lions events are organised to provide good value for money, and are usually very popular.

Club members have an active Social Programme in the local area, but one or two of the more energetic members pursue more vigorous activities like hill walking and cycling.

How smart are you?

Answer of test (page 21): The bus is travelling to the right. When the children were asked, "Why do you think the bus is travelling to the right?" they answered: "Because you can't see the door to get on the bus."

Personal Assistant Required

Personal Assistant required for a lady with disability in Lanchester area. Assistance will include some areas of personal care and also some household tasks.

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CULT HEROES



Left to right: Marco Gabbiadini, Graeme Forster and Peter Beardsley at the 'Football Talk In' at the Cricket Club

What a fitting title for a splendid evening with two football legends, Marco Gabbiadini and Peter (Pedro) Beardsley. For a start the Sunderland/Newcastle connections caused a great deal of banter, not only among the audience but fired up by Graeme Forster, promoter and presenter of the event. The Cricket Club have certainly got it right when it comes to raising money and having a good time. The room was packed with enthusiastic fans of both clubs who also had a major interest in the England team, especially the last match. Marco and Peter began by analysing the England v Croatia game, the players, the manager and the England set up, with their own opinions about who the next manager should be. They were generally very

much in accord with each other. Both were very articulate, witty, down to earth, honest and frank with their comments about other footballers, managers, and clubs that they had played for and players they had played against, both good and bad. Some of the names mentioned in dispatches which caused raucous laughter and surprise by some of the comments by both ex players, with anecdotes and reminiscences, were Paul Gascoigne, Paul Walsh, John Barnes, Gary Lineker, Sir Bobby Robson, Sam Allardyce, Roy Keane, John Terry, Joe Cole, David Beckham, Michael Owen, Joey Barton, Steven Taylor, Mark Viduka, and David Ginola. The list is endless.

The interval came in a flash when pies and peas from Crinnions were devoured with gusto,

whilst the stars busily signed autographs. After the interval there was another money raiser with a 'Head and Tails' game before the final 'question and answer' session. Both players answered questions seriously but often laced with humour, and covered all aspects of football. The audience loved it and participated with the same demeanour. It seemed quite surprising that so many supporters of both clubs held the same opinions as the two experts. Graeme Forster, of G.R.A.S.S. Agency who organised the appearance of the players, held the evening together with a sharp sense of

humour, and mischievous comments. A 'silent auction' of football memorabilia followed by a raffle saw a brilliant evening of entertainment for sports fans come to an end. The total sum raised will be printed in the next issue but no doubt it will be substantial, which is a credit to all those who organised and supported the evening. Next on the calendar for the Cricket Club is an evening with former Liverpool goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar, on Friday 18th January. Do get your tickets early as it will surely be another packed house. See 'What's On' page for further information.

YOUTH CLUB PRESENTATION



County Councillor Tom Forster presents a cheque for £500 from his personal fund to leaders of Lanchester Youth Club Dominic McGough and Jill Gladstone

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NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 15th January. The deadline for **adverts** is 13th January.

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