

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 9

Lanchester, March 2008

For contact information, see page 2

CLIFF HUDSPITH RETIRES

Cliff Hudspith, Village Handyman, or to give him his correct title, Maintenance Operative, retires at the end of March. Cliff has spent 11 happy years with the Parish Council. Prior to this, he spent 34 years in the Prison Service, joining at Durham, transferring to Usk for two years, followed by Medomsley for 13 years. He then travelled the country in a recruitment role, finally returning to Durham, first as a Training Manager, then Security Manager. Cliff intends to spend his second retirement on DIY in his home, and being even more involved with his family.



CRIME IN VILLAGE

LEAD THIEVES

On 5th March, 3 people from Lanchester were arrested in connection with the thefts of lead from premises in the village. The three people aged 20, 16 and 14 are all from Lanchester. They have been interviewed and bailed for identification procedures. No lead has been recovered from the individuals who cannot be named at this time. I would ask that people remain vigilant at all times as the most recent attempted theft of lead was at a garage in Foxhills Crescent last week.

Insp Andrew McConnell

TWO YOUTHS ARRESTED

It was previously reported that two men were assaulted on Front Street on Lanchester 16th June 2007. This was not reported to the Police but captured on the CCTV and passed to the Police. PC Hutchison managed to trace the two victims and persuaded them to provide statements. PC Hutchison was then able to arrest two youths in connection with the attack. One of the two youths was later charged with two assaults and recently pleaded guilty at Consett Magistrates Court. The case was adjourned until the 5th of March, when the sixteen year old from Burnhope was given four months' imprisonment.

ELECTION PUBLIC MEETING

As you probably know, the District Councils are being merged with Durham County Council to form one 'unitary authority' for the whole of the county. There will be elections for the new authority councillors on May 1st. Also, prospective councillors are more likely to make commitments before an election than afterwards. Lanchester Partnership is arranging a public meeting in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm on Friday 11th April to which it is inviting all of the Lanchester election candidates. It will be a

good opportunity for you to ask them about their policies and those of their parties.

You might want to ask for example about car parking or about conservation, development control or devolving powers, the link bus or litter collection, teenagers or ...etc.

The candidates will be encouraged to give straightforward answers to questions, but questioners should not be unduly aggressive.

Afterwards, there will be time for coffee and conversations. All will be very welcome to attend.

NEW BELLS FOR CHURCH



Andrew Mills and Tom Blyth, from Hayward Mills Associates in Nottingham, hauling one of the two additional tenor bells from their van to All Saints' Parish Church in the village

Article and more pictures on page 4

STABBING AT MANOR GRANGE

Further to our previous article on this bizarre case, the charges were due to be put before Mr Constantine on 14th March, but as he has changed his legal representation, his barrister, Tony Davis, has only recently been handed 'the brief'. Judge Richard Lowden agreed to adjourn the plea hearing and bailed Mr Constantine to return to court on March 31st.



Dear Village....

**THE
VILLAGE
VOICE**

**IT'S ALL
ABOUT PEOPLE**

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

Dear Sir,

On the unexpected death of Gordon Reed, his wife Betty and her family wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their help, support and condolences and for the abundance of the cards and the flowers that were received.

Particular thanks go to Canon Spence for his care and support, together with the very appropriate funeral service and tribute he provided

to Gordon as the members of the family wished.

Thanks are also due to the Derwentside Funeral Service, to Crinnions for their generous help with catering, to Tiger Lily Florists and to the Steward and staff of Lanchester Club for all of their help. Donations in lieu of flowers were for the British Heart Foundation and have reached a total of £1000 to date.

We continue to be overwhelmed at the huge response from everyone and at the evidence of people's high regard that were provided for Gordon.

H E Reed
32 Brookview
Lanchester

Dear Sir,

My daughter Sarah, goes to Lanchester EP Primary School and is a member of Durham Stage School and will be taking part in the Disco Inferno Show in May. The stage school have asked whether anyone would be able to obtain any old but wearable clothing that might be thrown out.

They are particularly looking for 70's items such as platforms, wedges, satin trousers, hot pants, lurex items, Afghan coats etc. They are also collecting items that may be suitable for the Decades concert, so any era from 1910's onwards, including hats and accessories. Bridesmaids' dresses and men's suits always come in handy as do items like platform valences from old bedding, or anything where we could use the fabric or trimming.

Please contact-
Mrs Linda
Messenger,
55 Cypress Park,
Esh Winning,
Durham
DH7 9JD
Telephone 0191
3735922

Dear Sir,

We wish to thank Canon Spence and Canon Waterhouse for the time and effort that they gave when visiting in hospital and for their prayers during Mrs Rafferty's recent illness. Also many thanks to friends for their flowers, cards and many kind thoughts.

Mrs Noreen Rafferty
and family.

TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE VOICE

By email:

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

By post:

The Village Voice, c/o
Lanchester Community
Centre, Newbiggen
Lane, Lanchester,
DH7 0JQ

Telephone enquiries:
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DELIVERERS NEEDED

The Village Voice in case of holidays or urgently needs some emergencies. If you replacement volunteer are willing to help your deliverers to cover the local community Manor Grange and Lee newspaper, please Hill Court areas of the contact our Village and would also Distribution Manager, like standby deliverers Mike Stoddart on who could do the job 520291.

KILLER BEES ATTACK IVESTON

Residents of Iveston and Stony Heap woke up on March 13th to find yellow posters displayed around their neighbourhoods warning them of "Operation Killer Bees". There was to be a widespread aerial spraying later on that day to eradicate the killer bee population into the area.

Residents were warned to stay indoors from 9.00 am until 2.30 pm. The phone numbers of BBC Newcastle and the Village Voice were provided. On the bottom of the posters the name of the official government agency was listed: Annfield Pest Removal Information Line (For Outside Operations Listings).

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in is 91. The draw was the Community Draw for made by Mr. F Redfearn the month of February of Computer for All.

Alan Madrell Coach Tours



April 19th - 26th Shanklin Isle of Wight £290
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DAY TRIPS

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Wed 14th May Heighleygate & Boundary Mill £8
Sun 25th May Morecambe £12

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANN

Ann Hunter celebrated her seventieth birthday in fine style earlier this year. Ann, who is an ex-theatre nurse from Briardene, held her seventieth birthday bash in the Lanchester Social Club on the 23rd of February. It was attended by over 100 relatives and guests and the Willow Burn Hospice at Maiden Law benefited from this event.

Ann asked the guests if they would like to make a financial donation to the Willow Burn Hospice instead of giving her birthday

presents this year. They all readily agreed to this simple request from Ann. Her friend of many years and colleague from the hospital, Mrs Pat Ramshaw, arranged a raffle which raised one hundred and seventy five pounds which was added to the total making a staggering one thousand pounds for the charity. Ann wishes to thank all of the people who contributed to making this an excellent birthday which also helped Willow Burn Hospice with such a good amount.



Ann Hunter with the wonderful donations she received for Willow Burn Hospice



in our villages, towns & cities

HOPEFULLY you will have received an "Easter card" from the churches together in Burnhope and Lanchester, and on the back will have read about the HOPE initiative. All of the the churches are involved in *our villages, towns and cities*. This is very much about the churches reaching out to help and make a difference in the place in which they live. There will be a number of events going on particularly as the

weather improves later in the year and hopefully activities which will be of interest to you and your family and be of benefit to the community, OUR community. This event has the backing of the government, of the police, of the media and of your local church. Some ideas, which have been proposed, are a tea-dance in the Social club, a 'be a good neighbour' scheme, and various

children's activities. Looking ahead to September we intend holding a pamper day for all those breathing a sigh of relief after the long summer holidays have finished. If you have, or know of, a community based need we would love to hear from you, and there will be a suggestion box in the post office for your ideas. So watch this space and your local church notice board to see what is happening in our village.

APOLOGY

Due to pressure of work, some guests did not receive an invitation to the Village Voice thank you event last month. We sincerely apologise for this oversight.



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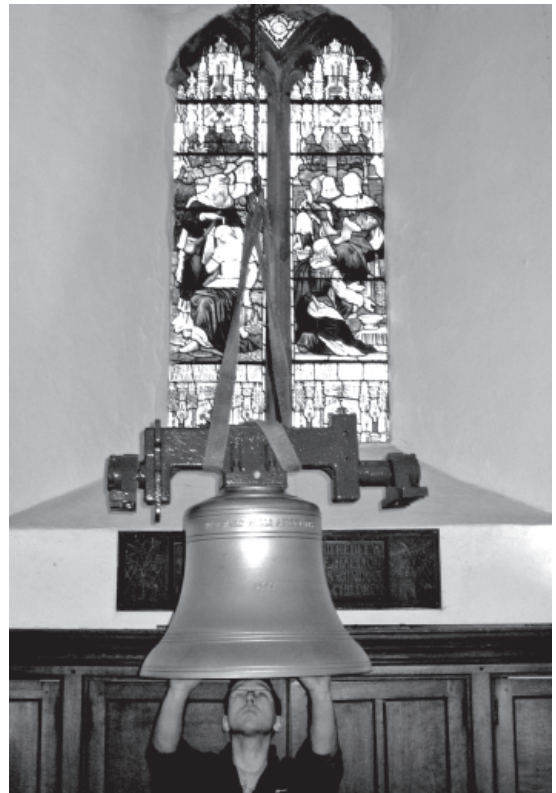


NEW BELLS FOR THE PARISH CHURCH

continued from page 1



Olga Walker (Tower Captain), Andrew Mills, Tony Blyth, both of Hayward Mills Associates, Jennifer Smith, Bell Ringer, Billy Crozier, Bell Ringer, pose with one of the new bells prior to raising it into position



One of the bells being hoisted carefully to its final position in the belfry



"I couldn't, now I can!"

When my friends and I went to theme parks I used to pretend I was scared of heights. The truth is at more than 10 stone overweight I was scared I wouldn't fit on the rides.

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View of one of the bells on the final phase of its journey into the belfry

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The day of March 17th was a wonderful and historic day for All Saints Parish Church in the village. At about 9.30 am two new bells arrived in a van on the final leg of their journey from Nottingham, having been previously cast in Holland by Royal Eijsbouts. An anonymous donor has paid for these two additional tenor bells, so the church now has a total of eight bells in the bell tower. The installation was carried out by two

men, Andrew Mills and Tom Blyth from the Hayward Mills Associates, who are based in Nottingham. Now that the church has an eight bell tower extra Bell Ringers are needed. Training will be given to those who do not have the necessary experience. If you are interested, please telephone the Tower Captain, Olga Walker on 01740 621865 who will be pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

CONSERVATION WORK

Following a very successful day of conservation work at Durham Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve at Malton last month, in March the Lanchester Wildlife Group and some other willing volunteers helped the County Council with their work on the Lanchester Valley Walk. Though the weather was less than ideal, being windy and threatening to rain, a dozen people turned out on Saturday 8th March. The work was organised by Coralie Dickinson, the Countryside Ranger, and her colleague Deborah Ferguson, and was to cut rough grass adjacent to the track and rake it off. This clearance will allow delicate wild flowers like the 'greater butterfly' and 'twayblade orchids', which are not common in the north-east, to flourish later this year. These plants like low nutrient levels and are unable to compete with the strong growth of the grass. The County Council provided the robust mower used and all the other tools needed. The rain held off and a well earned picnic lunch was taken in a sheltered spot. It wasn't until the job had been completed and the volunteers were returning home that the rain started to fall.



Michael Horsley manoeuvres the mower



Volunteers and County officers prepare for grass clearance

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11.03.08

POLICE REPORT This intelligence has been received which enables the Police to target the relevant areas in the village. He also stated that the Police are liaising with the registered owners of buildings which are vacant to ensure the upkeep, security and general appearance of them and surrounding areas are maintained to an acceptable standard in order to deter the attention of acts of anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

Tree Preservation Order Review Ms Karen Fisher, the Biodiversity Projects Officer for Derwentside District Council gave an interesting talk to Councillors explaining that because trees have an amenity value to the local landscape, TPO's are necessary. There are about 200 in Derwentside and these are being checked by an arboriculturist for evaluation. Ms Fisher explained how TPO's refer to individual trees, groups of trees and small woodlands and even an individual tree in each of these; there is, of course, a lot of paperwork involved; these orders can be revoked, revised and also new ones issued.

County Council Report County Councillor Tom Forster was not present to give his usual report on matters of mutual interest, but it was agreed that a letter should be sent with regard to the lack of double yellow lines outside the Community Centre which is causing a traffic hazard and also about the Traffic Warning Speed Sign which was to be erected at the entrance to the village.

PCSO Mullen stressed the need for residents to report any incidents they have been subject to or witnessed; some good

intelligence has been received which enables the Police to target the relevant areas in the village. He also stated that the Police are liaising with the registered owners of buildings which are vacant to ensure the upkeep, security and general appearance of them and surrounding areas are maintained to an acceptable standard in order to deter the attention of acts of anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

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Matters Arising: Replacement of Clerk to the Parish Council. An announcement will be made next month.

Replacement of the Maintenance Operative. Only two applications had been received, although as the closing date was not until 15th March, more may arrive. The Vice-Chairman Cllr Johnson, together with Cllrs Paul Jackson and Mrs Gray agreed to form a panel to arrange a date for interviewing the applicants during the week beginning 26th March. Mr Hudspeth had kindly offered to be called out in an emergency and paid at hourly rates should a successor not be found in time to take over from him when he retires at the end of the month. The Chairman and Members wished to place on record their sincere thanks to Mr Hudspeth who have given over ten years service. The most efficient manner in which he has carried out his duties and the resultant relationship with residents is highly commended.

Public Participation Procedure A report given by the Working Party was discussed and it was decided to postpone any decisions until the next meeting. It was agreed, however, that a different procedure was necessary for Planning Meetings.

Lanchester Rugby Club Mr Parry appears to accept the letter written to him with regard to indemnity.

NHS Dental Facilities As there are many people in the village who would appreciate this facility due to various reasons such as lack of transport, it was decided that a representative would attend Public Consultation Meetings in Stanley to discuss strategy and that the Chairman would write to the Primary Care Service Trust. Residents who would benefit from an NHS Dental Service in

continued on page 7

Lanchester are asked to contact Members stating their own circumstances which would, of course, be treated as confidential and with anonymity.

Public Toilets Again the problems of loans for this project were discussed as well as other problems such as the possible change of ownership/ licensee of the premises (The Queens's Head) where these facilities have been offered. There are also legal complications and other options should be explored. Cllr Mrs Cook mentioned a TV programme which had stated that the Government suggests that all public toilets should be closed and that toilets in public houses be used instead. It was agreed that the Clerk

should write to the Department of Community and Local Government.

Parish Plan Working Group Report Cllr Wardle reported that the Farming, Wildlife and Environment sub-committee is seeking funding to develop an advocacy service to work with the farmers and landowners on countryside stewardship and development. This is to ensure a viable farming community as the best way of maintaining the countryside which everyone values highly.

Donations £1,325 had been held over for donations during the last financial year and it was agreed that money should be given as follows as requests had been received from these charities: £200 for

maintenance of Parish clock; £500 Willow Burn Hospice; £250 Butterknowle Hospice; £100 Victim Support, Co Durham.

Questions It was agreed that a letter should be written to the District Council expressing concern that a building under construction in Ragpath Lane may not be for agricultural purposes and that clarification be given as to the actual purpose of the building.

Decision of District Council - Planning Applications

Conversion of existing gin gang to form new dwelling, conversion of four existing barns and byers to create four live/work units and construction of three holiday cottages (Resubmission) at Middle Newbiggen Farm,

Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester GRANTED Erection of four dwellings with associated access and parking at King's Head Hotel, Station Road, Lanchester. GRANTED The meeting ended with all the Council Members thanking Mr Owen for his 16 years of dedication, professionalism and efficiency he had given to the Council. He was wished the best of luck for the future. A special farewell evening will be held for Mr Owen and his

wife, family and friends on the 17th April in the All Saints Parish Centre at 7 pm. Mr Owens also thanked the Council for their support.

Date and Time of Next Meeting. This will be the Annual Village Conference and will be held in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester, on Tuesday 8th April, 2008 at 7 pm to be immediately followed by the monthly business meeting of the Parish Council.



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JIM OWENS RETIRES



Jim Owens, from Malton, who successfully completed 50 years with the National Health Service, has just retired again, having served 16 years as Clerk to the Parish Council. The photograph shows Jim working as conscientiously as ever, taking minutes at his final Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 11th March.

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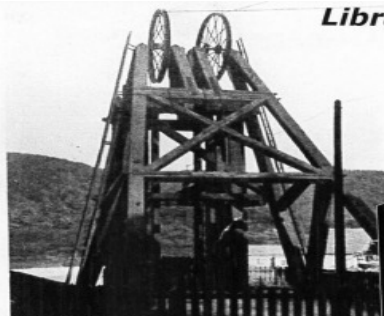
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CRUFTS DOG SHOW AT THE NEC, BIRMINGHAM 2008



Proud Owner/Trainer, Mavis Datta, with her medal winning Norwegian Elkhound, two year old Freya, whose Kennel Club name is Cakirjo Moonlight Shadow. At Crufts she came 3rd in the Beauty Class and 2nd in Show Class restricted to bitches who have gained the Good Citizens Obedience Award.

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Freya, my Norwegian Elkhound and I set off for Crufts on Sunday 9th March just after 1.15 am, joining one of the two Hound buses at Bowburn Services which left about an hour later. We had an uneventful journey this year, arriving at the NEC about 7am, when it was still very quiet. The Elkhound judging started at 9 am, which gave me plenty of time to have breakfast, groom and exercise Freya and change into my show gear. This year I handled her myself, so included in my kit was a bottle of Rescue Remedy. However, I didn't take any because as soon as I looked in the catalogue and saw we were in a big class with some very strong opposition, I relaxed, thinking we hadn't much chance. I must admit I did have hopes, because since Crufts last year, she has been to six Championship Shows and won five of them, but I knew that we had never met most of the other bitches here as I don't travel very far. Many of the exhibitors go to nearly all the Championship Shows and there are more than 20. But it all depends on the day - your dog's performance, your handling, the other competitors and, of course, the judge. The judge is supposed to compare each dog with the Breed Standard, not with another dog, but of course no dog is perfect and it depends on what the judge thinks is important - c o n f o r m a t i o n ,

condition, movement, personality, etc. Although there are not many Elkhounds (there were 79 at Crufts), there are a few large breeders, who all show and judge and everyone seems to know everyone else. Many breeders handle dogs for owners. Most people are friendly but Freya and I are virtually on our own as her breeder bred only the one litter then had to retire through ill health and went to live abroad. None of her brothers are shown and her only sister was exported. At last, after all the dogs and the puppy and Junior bitches had been judged, it was time for me to go in the ring. Mrs McDonald, the judge (of Salukis usually) liked everyone to run the dogs first before each individual presentation, and Freya did this nicely. She goes well with plenty of space but doesn't really go well inside. But it was a big ring covered with green rubber and she maybe thought she was outside! It is nerve-wracking waiting for the judge to make a decision and keeping the dog's attention, looking nice and standing still, but eventually, after more running, Mrs McDonald decided. We were third, behind a breeder from Ireland and another big breeder from Hereford, so I was delighted. She was also entered in a class for bitches who had won a Kennel Club Good Citizens Award. Freya had just gained her Gold Award (after a lot of hard work), and she was second in this class.

After a rest, a glass of wine and some sandwiches, I went round the stalls, where the goods range from canine and human clothing, from the exotic to the country style, food, grooming gear, medication (insoles to correct human foot problems for £250!), and toys - which you can't really imagine unless you go. There were at least three hundred stalls in that hall alone, and there are five halls as well as the main one. We could see the agility and other competitions taking place on a huge television screen, but if there was sound, you couldn't hear it. In our hall alone there were 30 judging rings. Freya's number was 21,988! A lot of dogs to make a noise, although most of them are quiet and well-behaved. The bus home was supposed to leave at 6 pm but a lady and her granddaughter did not arrive so we waited and waited, trying to find them by various means. It turned out that they had gone home earlier by train. So we didn't leave until 7.30 pm. Again an uneventful journey until nearly home, when, after dropping off some people at Newton Aycliffe, the driver went down the wrong side of the dual carriageway. We were glad to get off again at Bowburn, finally reaching home at just after midnight. But a day which we will all remember anyhow. Mavis Datta

LEST WE FORGET

One of the last groups of people to be honoured for their work during World War 2 was the Land Army, but recently it was announced that members of this very essential force were to receive badges. One man who has worked tirelessly to get proper recognition for the 'land girls' is Jack Geddes, a former Lanchester lad now resident in Witton Gilbert. As an ex-serviceman (he was in the RAF) he attended a reunion to dedicate a plaque to the Polish, American and Canadian forces who fought in the war and happened to learn from some ladies present that the Land Army did not receive service medals. Apparently Winston Churchill considered them to be civilians, perhaps not realising that they had been conscripted, and King George VI had said in 1953 that there would be 'no more medals'. Until recently, the British Legion did not invite the Land Army to march to the Cenotaph.



Jack Geddes, who now lives in Witton Gilbert, in his World War 2 RAF uniform

Jack Geddes wrote to his MP Gerry Steinberg, who brought an 'early day motion' in the Commons and petitioned PM John Major for support. Jack continued to campaign, and later wrote to the Queen to point out that

Australia was honouring its Land Army, yet those in Britain were still waiting. Now pressure from him and others has brought success, but sadly many who served in the Land Army are no longer with us.

SUPERMARKET FOR LANCHESTER

After many rumours and long discussions with the various authorities and other interested parties the matter of the vast land area at the site of the old Maiden Law Hospital has been resolved. Booths Supermarkets of Preston intend to make this their first venture into the North East. They already have two upmarket stores at Windermere and Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria. The financial press has been very much involved in this

project and it is likely that Tesco could buy this smaller group and turn Lanchester into one of their 'Tesco Towns'. There is also a possibility if this were to happen that they would 'gift' the village with a Sports Centre, similar to the arrangement that Safeway had with Hexham. KPMG have been retained as financial advisers to the scheme and at the outline planning stage Architects, SMAL(UK) LTD, who are experts in

supermarket design have been retained to advise on a suitable scheme for this county site. DSA Associates together with SG (Design L'cr) Ltd. have been jointly appointed as the Landscape Architects. There will be a meeting of all interested parties early in April where it is likely that some very important decisions affecting the village will be made. All this is obviously of great interest to Lancastrians so it is a case of watch this space.

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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service, which was held on Friday March 6th in the Lanchester Methodist Church, was attended by some 75 ladies, all of whom commented very positively about the event. The beautiful readings, an excellent choir, a very thought provoking address, some lovely hymns together with a very receptive congregation, all of which contributed to a service which was enjoyed by everyone who attended it.

*Brenda W. Craddock
(Leader)*



Members of the choir, singing beautifully

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PLANNING DISASTERS

One of the most important functions of Lanchester Partnership is to monitor planning applications and to make representations to the planning department at the Civic Centre, Consett for their consideration.

However, the realisation is growing that neither the planning officers nor the District Council's Development Control Committee are prepared to take note of arguments from the Partnership about the desirability of some projects in Lanchester. This is exemplified by the decisions to dump four dwellings on the King's Head car park and allow Newbiggen Farm to turn into a village, as previously reported. Both the above were opposed in Lanchester but were shooed through up at the Civic Centre.

The disillusionment caused by the rejection

of local wishes is increased by the short time given for objectors to planning applications to speak at District meetings. Five minutes is allocated to objectors, and that is not five minutes each, but for all of them no matter how complicated the issues may be. In practice objectors choose one spokesman for Lanchester, but he or she has insufficient time to put forward a closely reasoned case for rejection covering all the planning issues which arise principally from the District Plan being swept aside. In the case of the King's Head there were four main issues, none of which could be dealt with within a minute (the planning officer's report extended to more than 20 pages). Cynical observers have noted that whatever is said by

anyone present, including Councillors, the views put forward by the last speaker, Alex Watson, are normally voted for.

There is also disquiet about the system by which developers go through a process of negotiation about details of their application with planners, but from which objectors are excluded. There is a real danger that inexperienced planning officers might be unduly influenced in their recommendations and that the time and resources expended in negotiation are used to persuade members to accept unacceptable proposals.

Current plans include a house at Oakwood Stables, a six-foot fence around the EP school and a container for storage in the school grounds. We'll see what happens.

ST BEDE'S WELCOMES VISITORS FROM BANGLADESH

St Bede's Comprehensive School welcomed visitors from Bangladesh on a tour to study the UK education system sponsored by the British Council.

Twelve guests spent the morning at St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Lanchester, on March 12th. They met staff and pupils and had lunch with them, and also stopped for prayer. The Bangladeshi visitors were in County Durham to establish links between their own schools and schools in the UK. They spent two days in Durham after visiting schools in both Birmingham and London.

Mohammed Nazrul Islam Khan, Joint Secretary of the Bangladesh Ministry of Education, was delighted with the visit.

He said: "We're very pleased to come and we've had a very warm welcome here. For many of this group, this will be the experience of a lifetime. We want to connect UK schools with our schools through international exchange. Nowadays, the world is more globalised, there is much more movement of services and people. If we could also learn from each other about education, we could all benefit.

Our relationship is not personal, but institutional and it will last forever."

St Bede's Deputy Headteacher, Maria Matthews, said it was a new cultural experience for the school to welcome the visitors from Bangladesh. She said: "We are a Language College, so it's really

important that it's not just about Europe, but about the breadth of international experience; an opportunity for our students and all of us to learn more about a different culture. They wanted to pray and we provided prayer mats and a compass to find the direction of Mecca.

"The visit went extremely well. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have them here and to talk. They asked very searching questions about us as a school - our achievements, primary links, parental support, and about our culture as a faith school - and our students talked about the wide range of international experiences they have had. They were great ambassadors for the school."

The visitors - all education professionals, from both



A Bangladeshi visitor talks to pupils

government and private sectors - were in the UK as part of a British Council initiative to expand its Connecting Classrooms school-linking project to Bangladesh in 2007-08. The Connecting

Classrooms project aims to support the mainstream education system of Bangladesh through projects incorporating three themes: intercultural dialogue, active citizenship and skills for employment.

CRANE MOVES IN TO START REFURBISHMENT OF DENTAL SURGERY



Major work is starting to give Lanchester's dental surgery a complete make-over

NEW POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER FOR LANCHESTER



PCSO Daniel Mullen (right in our photo), who has replaced PCSO Ray Husband as our community officer, has been seen recently in the village accompanied by PCSO Darren Stephenson, the officer from Leadgate, getting to know the ropes and some of the people of Lanchester.

LANCHESTER.TYPEPAD.COM

It seems to be a well-kept secret that a website has been set up for Lanchester, through the good offices of Richard Eyres.

The idea is for everyone, and that means you, to upload information, questions, whinges, and notices about events. There is no limit to what you can send except common sense.

If you type 'Lanchester' into your search engine, you'll find:

1. All Saints Parish Church, an interesting site created by Lynn Hedley;
2. Lanchester Motor Company;
3. Wikipedia;
4. Lanchester models (more antique cars);
5. Lanchester Community Centre, with lots of useful information hosted by Communicate;
6. Lanchester Press about FW Lanchester 1868-1946;
7. Daimler and Lanchester owners club (more cars);
8. Genuki-Lanchester history;
9. John Lanchester, a writer;
10. Elsa Lanchester, an actress.

On following pages you will find :

All Saints RC church website;

Lanchester Brass Band web-site (4 years out of date); and 'Lanchester For Sale' which offers a lovely motor car to a discriminating and rich buyer.

The Lanchester Village website is not, sadly, on the front pages. Nor is there much on it, not even from the Parish Council, which is surprising. But now it's top of the bill in this article. Get clicking and take part. Type in questions or problems, notices about events that you are either holding or have taken part in. Make the site part of the Village.

BEER FESTIVAL

Richard Windmill, mine host at the Queen's Head, was well satisfied with the reaction to his first beer festival over the week-end of Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th February, opening up at 10 am on the first day, when the greatest numbers attended, including members from the local CAMRA branch who

popped in over the weekend.

There were live sporting events on the televisions, with 6 nations rugby and the football.

The festival was such a success that another beer festival was immediately planned for the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend, with between 25 and 30 cask ales.



The barrels of real ale await the visitors at the Queen's Head

EGG FLINGING CHAMPIONSHIP

A new way of raising funds for charity has been devised by Lanchester Junior Chamber of Commerce, and all are invited to participate in teams of two at the event to be held on the village green.

The competition is very simple. One member of a team throws an egg to another member, who must catch it unbroken. The distance apart of the

two contestants is gradually increased until the recipient fails to catch an egg unbroken after three tries.

Old clothing should be worn, but plastic aprons and helmets are provided by the organisers.

The Junior Chamber would like to thank Caged Chickens (Holdings) Ltd of Lanchester for supplying the eggs. The competition starts on

the first day of next month, with the first fling at 6 pm. Entrants must pay £4 per team to enter.

SPICE BUS AT ALL SAINTS



Class 3/4 enjoying their time on 'Ellie' the SPICE bus organised by Derwentside District Council, who were conducting a survey with the children about summer activities to be provided this summer. There was an extensive number of questions which the leader asked children, about types of activities enjoyed most, and the times and places where information would be best provided.

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COURSE ON ROMAN 'FINDS'

Members of the Friends of Longovicium are currently learning about Roman 'finds' from Dr Bob Collins, Finds Liaison Officer for Northumbria.

Dr Collins has generously given his time to provide a training course over four mornings, held in the Museum of Antiquities at Newcastle University, including ceramics, coins,

brooches, beads and other objects.

Five members of the 'Friends' have also had detailed training in recording the finds. The records can then be loaded onto the Portable Antiquities web-site which is available to the public.

Dr Collins' tutorials have all been accompanied by detailed printed notes and

actual Roman objects to be identified, giving a very clear picture of the subject, together with recommendations for further reading.

The 'Friends' are grateful to Dr Collins for his help and hope to reciprocate by locating objects which have already been found in the Lanchester area and record them on a permanent data base.



Dr Rob Collins shows a Roman amphora to Martin Hutchinson, Anne McKenzie, Don Mason and Alan Williams

LIBRARY JUNK CRAFT

Lanchester library is well known for its interesting craft events for children. This one

was organised by the Groundwork Trust. The theme was to make works of art from

junk supplied by Groundwork Trustee Gemma, and here you can see the results.



The children with their artworks made of rubbish

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GREASE - THE MUSICAL

For three nights during March St Bede's School and Sixth Form College was transformed into Rydell High, USA. As the curtain opened the sound of American accents resounded around the hall and the players amazingly were able to keep this up throughout the whole performance. Originally, Grease was staged as an amateur production in a Chicago trolley barn. It took a satirical view of morals, dress, manners and music of teenagers at the beginning of the rock and roll era. The plot revolved around the attraction between greaser Danny Zuko and the virtuous Sandy Dumbrowski. It became better known in the UK, of course, with the film version in 1978, starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton John. The props were very effective, particularly Danny's car 'Greased Lightning'. The singing, choreography, movement and dancing were all to an exceptionally high standard led by Sandy, (Hannah Shield), and Danny, (William Connolly). Other soloists played a huge part in the



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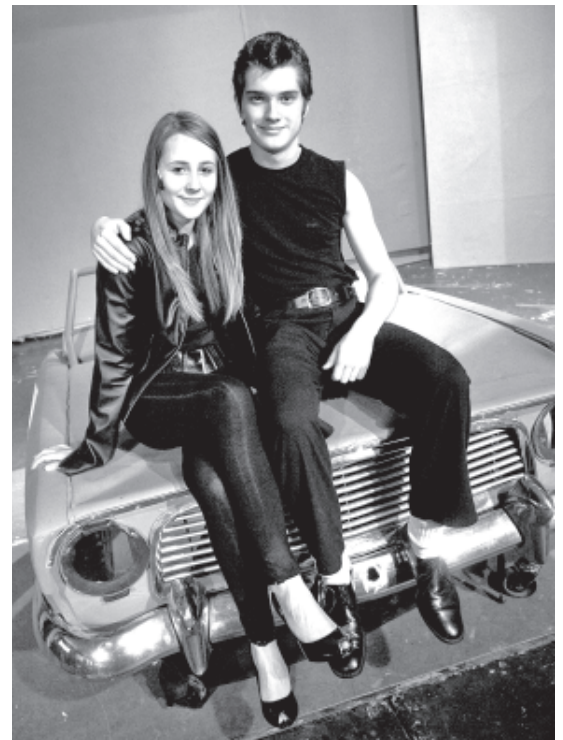
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musical and had the audience tapping their feet and clapping. The chorus and cheerleaders wowed the audience with their colourful costumes, movement and singing. The Handjive song was particularly enjoyable to watch and hear. The band made up of music teachers played an important part in the whole production and were appreciated by everyone.

This was a slick, fast moving professional performance with rapid costume changes and scenery movement.

Credit goes to the whole cast but there were many people, too many to mention all, who worked in the background. However, it would be remiss not to congratulate Mr Andrew Robinson, Musical Director, and Mr



Stars of Grease, Hannah Shield (Sandy) and William Connolly, (Danny), share a moment together

Christen, Producer, (and Chair of Governors), for their magnificent contribution.

The musical was a huge success, very enjoyable to watch and went like greased lightning.

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The cast come together for the finale of Grease
Photos: Paul Green, upmyway photography

THE BUNSEN TOWERS MYSTERY

On Thursday 28th February the Kinetic Theatre Company presented a thrilling mystery play to the massed ranks of the pupils of Lanchester EP School. To find out who had made off with Lady Lydia's diamond, a teacher and two pupils were recruited to help the famous detective Hercule Parrot by checking on the crucial timing of the suspects' movements.

The cast of two took on a number of roles, with Nicki playing Lady Lydia, her romantic daughter Poppy and the maid and Paul playing the detective, Lydia's potty father the major and Miles the chauffeur. As well as overacting outrageously, the cast conspired to explain about molecules, why lighted candles won't make a lift rise and other matters which young persons need to

know. Several young folks were privileged to put on silly hats and play the role of molecules, led by the Major wearing a colander and a molecule hat on his head.

All this delightful nonsense was great entertainment and may even have been educational, in a chaotic sort of way.

And how did the detective manage to assemble all the suspects at the end to unveil how the crime was done? Elementary.

Left: Lady Lydia and Hercule Parrot, alias Nicki and Paul of Kinetic Theatre, dance gracefully



Above, the potty Major, also played by Paul, with the children, wearing silly hats and playing the role of molecules



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WI NEWS

The March meeting began on a sombre note with Jean Forster highlighting how important it is to recognise the symptoms of a stroke. If the simple rule of 'S T R' is applied then a stroke can be more easily identified. Ask the patient to **S** - SMILE, **T** - TALK, **R** - RAISE BOTH ARMS, and if there is any difficulty in achieving these requests then it may possibly be signs of a stroke and medical help can be quickly summoned. Jean then read the more light-hearted 1943 'Guide

to Hiring Women' with 'Eleven Tips on Getting More Efficiency Out of Women Employees'. These included "Tip 1 - Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters, they're less likely to be flirtatious, they need the work or they wouldn't be doing it, they still have the pep and interest to work hard and to deal with the public efficiently; Tip 3 - General experience indicates that 'husky' girls are more even tempered and efficient than their

underweight sisters; Tip 6 - give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that they'll keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes. Women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but they lack initiative in finding work themselves." There were a few raised eyebrows amongst WI members! Phil Penfold won the raffle. The competition for a photo of 'an old building' was won by Jennifer Macdonald

(Bath) and Shirley Lamb (Durham). Mr Watts Stelling gave a talk about 'Listed Buildings in Derwentside'. Members were surprised to learn there are 311 listed including 27 in the Lanchester area. The seven Grade I buildings are: All Saints Church, Lanchester; Ushaw College; Mary Magdalene Church, Medomsley; Old Priory, Muggleswick; frontage of Tanfield Village; Derwentcote Steel Furnace, Ebchester; Causey Arch, Brook Villa, Prospect House, the Queens Head Pub, and 27 and 39 Front Street are Grade II listed. The 1935 telephone box, Ebchester, and the pigsty at Board Cottage, Iveston, are unusual Grade II buildings. Members found this information fascinating and asked the speaker many questions.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS CONTEST

A contest begins next month to see who can save the most daylight for daylight savings time. The rules of the contest are simple: Beginning with the first day of daylight savings time, contestants will be required to save daylight. Whoever succeeds in saving the most daylight will win. Only pure daylight will be allowed - no dawn or twilight light, though light from cloudy days will be allowed. Moonlight is strictly forbidden. Light could be stored in any container.

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

It was like a film set in Lanchester down at Knitsley Mill - full of diners from the village - obviously there are lots of us living the high life and lunching out regularly.

On a particularly cold February day the Mill was a haven of warmth. They have a super menu although we decided to try their amazingly good value lunchtime set menu of £7.95 for 2 courses which included a glass of wine and a cup of coffee.

We sampled onion soup, carrot and butternut squash soup and a lovely looking and tasting passion fruit sorbet with apple crisps followed by a salmon and a chicken meal. One of our members

opted for the sandwich choice of minute steak, fried onion, mushroom and brie and just one of us added a pud onto the end of the meal and from the sweet menu enjoyed a delicious coffee and amaretto cheesecake. All was quite delicious. Knitsley Mill is set in an idyllic rural setting, rushing working water wheel, ducks on the pond, white turtle doves, all making a totally relaxing lunchtime experience which would be hard to beat.

Aren't we lucky, to be living in such a beautiful area with such choice dining experiences on our doorstep.

The Gourmet Girls

VOCAL DELIGHTS



L to r, Jessica Holmes, Peter Coulson, Bill Gray, Andrew Fowler, Stefan Wade and Paul Fothergill, with Jason Walsh at the piano

Once again Andrew Fowler has put together a programme of all the talents in aid of Mel and Sue Somersall's work in Liberia.

Andrew again brought his team of Jessica Holmes and baritone Peter Coulson, enhanced this year by singer and pianist Jason Walsh, together with Wolsingham School pupils Stefan Wade and Paul Fothergill. Bill Gray also provided piano backing. Lanchester Male Voice Choir was also on parade to provide two sets from their extensive repertoire, under the baton of Harry Carr and accompanied at the piano by Noreen Bridgewater.

The theme of the evening was 'If Music be the Food of Love'. These three elements were joined by humour, exemplified by Andrew's Tom Lehrer offering which started the show, 'My Home Town'. After more classical contributions from Peter Coulson and Jessica Holmes, Stefan and Paul gave assured excerpts from their school's recent production of 'Grease'. In their two sets the MVC skilfully alternated classical and powerful ballads with lighter pieces like 'When I'm 64' and 'Riders in the Sky' and

followed 'the Bold Gendarmes' with a version of 'Cavatina'.

In their second set Andrew and Friends entertained with some classical 'pops' and Paul Fothergill gave a powerful rendering of 'If I Loved You' from Carousel. This was followed by his arrangement of 'Sea Fever'.

The evening ended with some of the team's most appreciated songs, including a bravura performance of Noel Coward's Nina, about the lady who absolutely would not dance, by Andrew in

South American mode, and Rossini's 'Duetto Buffo a due Gatti', a comic but melodious chorus of miaous.

Mel and Sue would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening, which raised £1774 to continue building a boys' dormitory. This is part of an ongoing project to rebuild an orphanage destroyed by civil war in Liberia, and thanks to their tireless fund-raising work the schoolroom and girls' dormitory at 'Lanchester House' in Monrovia have already been built.



Lanchester Male Voice Choir take a bow after their performance

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A GERSHWIN PARTY

There was a new look to the ever-sprightly members of Lanchester Operatic Society for their production on the 20th, 21st and 22nd February in the EP school.

The audience were ranged around three sides of the stage, which was garnished with a loggia to carry the spotlights and some palm-trees courtesy of Lanchester Nurseries. Here and there were clusters of silvery chairs and tables where the ladies and gentlemen of the chorus could sit between scenes and - a very welcome touch - hand out toffees to the audience.

The orchestra were no longer pushed away into a corner but ranged behind the stage. The whole effect was of a palm court nightclub, serving orange squash and whatever Maureen was drinking.

Which brings us to the Fred and Ginger of the Lanchester scene, Maureen Redfearn and Michael Quigley, who as host and hostess for the evening alternated introducing the numbers with sophisticated banter and some intricate dance-steps, as well as a song which could well start a Charleston revival. Judith Cole and Lynn Whitehead gave a running commentary on the life and times of the Gershwin brothers, reading from that essential publication 'GershwinForDummies', a nice touch.

The customary high quality of the singing was much enhanced by the use of head microphones by the principal singers, Anne Marie Ashman, Sharon Murray, Katy Drewett, Richard Woods and Peter Bridgewater.

They managed to pack in most of the hit songs George Gershwin wrote in his tragically short life, including 'Someone to Watch Over Me', 'Embraceable You', 'Lady Be Good', 'Love Walked Right In', 'A Foggy Day', and a medley of songs from 'Porgy and Bess' including Gershwin's most recorded song 'Summertime'. The audience were invited to join in with selected numbers, and song-sheets were supplied with the programme. Presiding over this lively production was producer

and conductor David Hughes, who had good reason to be proud of the latest in the Society's great composers series. There should be special mention of the backroom boys, notably the electricians who had fuse problems on the Thursday night and the troupers on stage who sang blithely through the shock of an exploding spot-light.

Right: Anne Marie Ashman and Peter Bridgewater in full song



Anne Marie Ashman, Katy Drewett, Noreen Bridgewater, Sharon Murray, Richard Woods, Brian Masterman, Michael Quigley and Maureen Redfearn



Orchestra and Conductor: back row l to r Sam Gladdon (trombone), Ian Hall (trumpet), Bill Gray (keyboard). Front row David Hughes (conductor), Caroline Burgon (saxophone and clarinet), Wendy Hughes (flute), Jack Haswell (violin), Stuart Murray (bass guitar) and Ian Murray (percussion)

CREATIVITY WEEK

This well-established event on Lanchester EP primary school's calendar provided hours of work and fun for all the pupils.

On Monday March 3rd story-teller Robin Ellwood read from recently written books to several classes, and kept them completely enthralled, while Maralyn O'Keefe used two techniques to introduce different age-groups to stained glass design. The younger pupils used special paints to make a design on acetate sheets. These will help to inspire a stained glass work that Maralyn is doing for the school. The older pupils made artistic creations based on small triangular pieces of stained glass, and these were made by their expert tutor into hangings suitable to put in front of a window.

On Tuesday actor Lisa Moffat created and rehearsed a 'play in a day'

for year 5 to perform to their parents.

Thursday saw a return visit from poet Paul Cookson, who began the day with a bravura performance of his latest compositions, plus one or two older ones (like 'Do exactly as you are told', a lesson in how to annoy parents by doing literally what they say).

He introduced new characters like the teacher Mrs Eagle who saw everything and Captain Concorde, the super-hero wearing red underpants and a supersonic nose. Every poem had a chorus to be chanted by the audience, and for maximum effect a set of gestures as well.

Throughout the day Paul showed the children how to write poetry, and at the end of the day he gave another performance for the benefit of parents.

On Friday, a busy week ended with a performance by Image Musical Theatre of 'Tom's Midnight



Maralyn O'Keefe completes the last decorative glass hanging as junior school pupils demonstrate their designs

Garden', with Kristian Whendan as Tom, a boy sent to stay with his aunt and uncle, Adele Scott as his aunt and Hattie, the young lady he meets in the past and Tom Plender as the uncle and a gardener. The audience enjoyed the musical play and might well go on to read the book.



Poet Paul Cookson

BARNARDO'S EGG CARE

A special visitor to All Saints primary school was Emma Hardie, Community Fund Raiser for the charity Barnardo's. She explained to the children that Barnardo's offers help to young carers who have to look after poorly parents. They also run nurseries and help with fostering children who need a good home.

She then explained the 'egg care' scheme. Children will decorate, dress up and care for an egg. Their reward will be the cuddly Barney the Bear, symbol of the charity, and in return Barnardo's ask for contributions to their work.

Details are available by ringing Emma on 0191 270785



Emma Hardie from Barnardo's explaining the Egg Care Scheme



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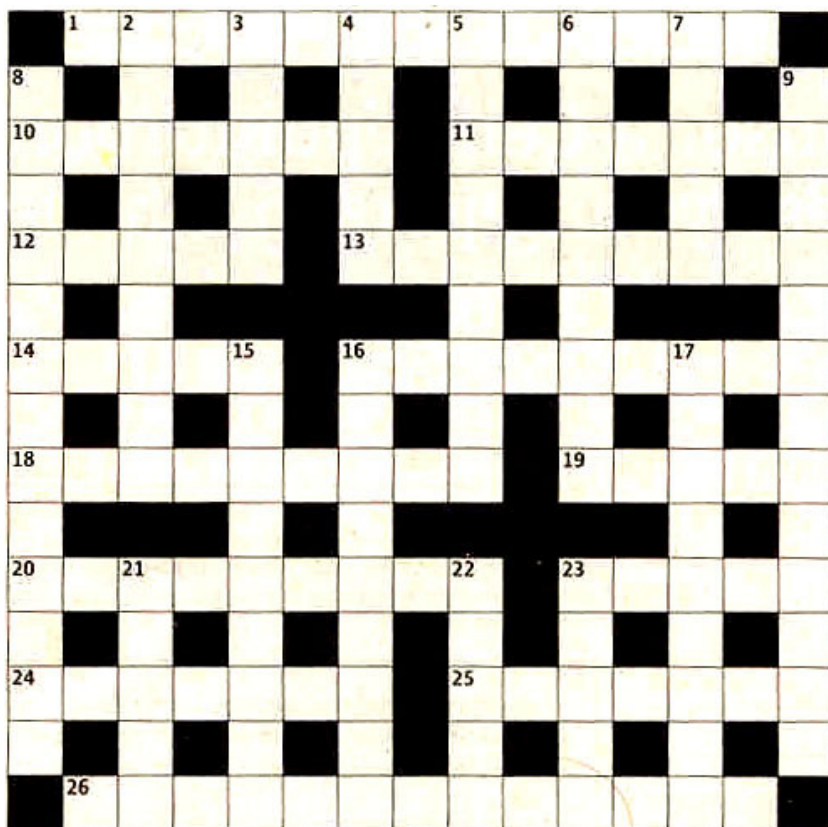
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CROSSWORD 23



ACROSS

1. The games MPs play ? (5,8)
10. A coin is divided capital (7)
11. Month (7)
12. Foe (5)
13. South African language (9)
14. Whinny (5)
16. Order outside troops (9)
18. Betting system realist to reform (9)
19. Follow (5)
20. Go too far (9)
23. Cheviots, Leicesters, Suffolks etc. (5)
24. Pointless slave oil mixture for pits (7)
25. Denier points to all I lost from alligator (7)
26. Employs cover from sure nuisances (4,9)

DOWN

2. Fifty in pain before fog produces magician (9)
3. Irritable (5)
4. Catch illegally (5)
5. Wild animal trainer (4-5)
6. Competition from Tate relic (9)
7. Navigator in replica bottle (5)
8. Global (13)
9. Where Britannia ruled (7,6)
15. Funny (9)
16. Ending (9)
17. Irritable, confused, Pepys' pointless edict (9)
21. Rocker seen in brothel visit (5)
22. Indian inhabitant (5)
23. Greek letter (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 22

ACROSS

1. conduct
5. crèche
9. serrated
10. evince
12. name and shame
15. repression
17. eat
- 19,22. Ten Commandments
20. lung cancer
22. See 19
26. inroad
27. asteroid
28. geyser

DOWN

1. cosy
2. nerd
3. unabated
4. theme
6. ravish
7. convalesce
8. elementary
11. on song
13. protecting
- 14,29. upon a mercy mission
16. sounds
18. mattress
21. carafe
23. Epsom
24. Gobi
25. Odin

CROSSWORD 22

There were 14 entries for last month's crossword competition, though not all were completely correct.

Congratulations to the winner in the draw, Mr D Smith of Kitswell Road, who will receive the £10 prize.

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.

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

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STEELWORKS STUDY

The closure of Consett steelworks is a bitter memory for many people in Lanchester, but for our primary school children it is a historical event from long before they were born. Children from All Saints primary school 5th and 6th year have been involved in an in-depth study of Consett before and after the closure, using archive records.

On Monday 17th of March they were asked by drama consultant Bryony Bell to decide what should be done with the steelworks site, taking into account the needs of business, housing, community use and education. They had to take the comparable costs and benefits into account and come up with the

answers, just as the Genesis Project had to do. The pupils have also looked at the size of Consett and the steelworks at different times from the 19th century onward, and explored the closure through drama, bringing the history alive.

They have looked at primary evidence - real documents from the past - and scanned them for bias. The next project will be to interview the grandfather of one of the pupils who worked at the steelworks, but not before fully professional preparation of the questions. The interview will be recorded, and together with class notes and other material gathered during the study, will eventually be

loaded onto a web-site. This whole project has been led by class teacher Mrs Conlin, and arises from a visit she led to the Old Fulling Mill archaeological museum in Durham. The good behaviour of the children led to an invitation to join the project, involving ten schools in the County. It is led by the NE Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and aided by a substantial Heritage Lottery grant to allow archivists to work in schools.

Mrs Conlin has been impressed by the gains made by pupils in literacy and numeracy skills as well as confidence and would like to see the methods used developed in the curriculum.



Bryony Bell plans the regeneration of the steel works site with a group of 5th and 6th years at All Saints school

WE SAW IT FIRST

A leaflet dropped through my door advertising a play at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle, an adaptation of The 39 Steps. This follows a very successful run of the play in the London West End. A smug thought came into my mind as I saw the Newcastle ticket prices (goodness knows what they charged in London!). We saw it here in Lanchester at a fraction of the price. Congratulations must go

to Nobby Dimon for the national success he has had with this production and we will look forward to the return of his company to Lanchester in November. I have also been hearing a lot recently about the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. They have featured regularly on BBC radio programmes and have had sell out concerts in London and European capitals. Once again we saw them here in

Lanchester in the intimate surroundings of the library.

We are blessed with lot of good amateur talent in the village but we do not get many visits from professional companies. However what is lacking in quantity is clearly made up for in quality. So folks, keep reading the Village Voice "What's On" and support the events in the village. What we get today, the world catches up with later. P Monaghan

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

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LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

Stem Cells Talk

On Thursday 3rd April Professor McGuckin and Dr. Forrass from the Centre For Life in Newcastle will give a presentation called 'Curing the Incurable? The Potential of Stem Cells'. This important evening starts at 7.00 pm in All Saints RC Church Parish Centre.

Country Market

Your favourite source of cakes, pies, eggs, veg. and other desirable things is on Saturday April 5th from 10am in the Community Centre.

Wildlife Group

Lanchester Wildlife Group meet on the second Tuesday of the month, so the next one will be April 8th at 7.30 pm.

The speakers will be Jim Cokill, Director of Durham Wildlife Trust, and its Marketing Manager Adam Eagle. For further information ring 520063.

History Society

Following the excellent talk given by the Reverend Peter Waterhouse, ably assisted by Mr Peter Jackson, we can look forward to another interesting evening when Mr Norman Emery, one time member of Lanchester History Society, and now Durham County Archaeologist, presents his talk on archaeological excavations.

The talk will focus primarily on the excavations currently taking place at the medieval church of St Mary the Less, situated near Durham Cathedral. It will be held in the Community Centre on 4th April at the usual time of 7.30 pm.

Mothers' Union

The next meeting is on Wednesday 9th April, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, when the speaker will be Margaret Bell of Durham Family Welfare Adoption.

WI

At 7pm on 7th April in the Small Hall of the Community Centre Jennifer Gill from Durham County Record Office will give a slide talk on 'Food in the Archives'. Visitors £1 are welcome. From 9.30 am on 9th April there will be a Coffee Morning (Cakes and Food stall etc) in the Community Centre lounge. The tickets are 50p and everyone is welcome. Names are being taken for the Group Meeting at Satley at 7.15 pm on 9th June; the tickets are £2.50 and include supper and entertainment. A trip is being arranged for 2nd July to Yarm, Tees cruise with lunch and to Stockton (market day) and/or Garden Centre. Members please ring Jennifer 01207 520012 for further details.

Mega Smoothie Roadshow

Lanchester library hosts a special Easter holiday event on Thursday 10th April when the Mega Smoothie Roadshow arrives for children aged 5-12 years. Under 8's must be accompanied by an adult.

The event is from 3 to 4 pm and tickets are available from the library, telephone 521021.

WHAT'S ON?

Passion About Health

A talk on the work of Willowburn Hospice by members of the nursing staff and fundraisers will be held in Lanchester library on Thursday 10th April at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available from the library, telephone 521021. Entry is free, but a donation to Willowburn's funds would be appreciated. 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.

This event has been rescheduled because of a clash with a concert for Mercy Ships in March.

MP Surgery

Our Member of Parliament, Hilary Armstrong, will hold her monthly surgery, where constituents are invited to bring their problems, on Friday 11th April at 6 pm at Citizens' House, Consett

Sunday Bridge

The next bridge session in aid of Community Centre funds will be on 13th April, starting at 2 pm in the main hall. Tickets are £3.

Just Desserts

The next event to raise funds for a Liberian orphanage is 'Just Desserts' on Friday April 18th in Lanchester Methodist Church. On offer from 7 pm onwards are 'Puddings and Brass', including pudding (have the first course at home), coffee, and music from Consett Salvation Army Brass Band. Mel will be selling tickets at £6 (ring 529153).

Amazing Grace

This film, which will be shown at the Film Club on Sunday at 7.30 pm on 20th April in the Community Centre, is an inspiring story of how one man's passion and perseverance changed the world. Based on the life story of William Wilberforce (Ioan Gruffudd), leader of the British abolition movement, the film chronicles his epic struggle to pass a law to end the slave trade in the late 18th century. Wilberforce meets intense opposition from members of Parliament who feel the slave trade is tied to the stability of the British Empire. Several friends, including Wilberforce's minister, John Newton (Albert Finney), a reformed slave ship captain who penned the beloved hymn *Amazing Grace*, urge him to see the cause through. The film club is a village venture and all are welcome. (Rating PG)

Flower Club

At the meeting on Wednesday 23rd April at 2 pm in the Community Centre, there will be a demonstration by Kathleen Marlor of Ryton entitled 'As Time Goes By'.

Stitch In

Wednesday afternoon Needlework Girls will be at Lanchester Library on Thursday 24th April during opening hours (9 am - 1 pm and 2 pm - 7 pm), making and selling hand stitched cards, proceeds to go to Willow Burn Hospice. Come and join us stitching, chatting or buy one or more of our cards.

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Happy Jack

A John Godber play comes to the Community Centre on May 3rd, played by the Library Theatre Touring Company.

'Happy Jack', the main character, who looks a lot like John Godber's granddad, is a miner, a brawler, a conman, a lover, a thug and a comedian, a Northern mixture of tenderness, truculence, humour, pride and pig-headedness.

The life of Jack and his 'other half', Liz, is revealed through a series of vignettes, full of drama and wry humour.

Tickets cost £5 and may be had from the Post Office or the Community Centre, phone 521275.

Social Club Entertainment

Sat 5th April Dazz, a male vocal entertainer

Sat 12th April Cindy Gee, a teenage vocal sensation

Sat 19th April Karaoke

Sat 26th April Karen McManus, female vocalist

Coming Shortly

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.

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

The Partnership Open Day will be held in the Community Centre on Saturday October 4th.

Organisers, please try to avoid listed events dates.

Planning ahead? Let me know when and where. Ring 520559.

Friends of Longovicium

All those interested in our Roman Fort are invited to the next meeting of the Friends in the Community Centre's upstairs meeting room, starting at 7.30 pm on Thursday April 24th.

Lions Abba Tribute Night

Calling all ABBA fans and those who enjoy a good night out at reasonable cost. Come and join Lanchester Lions in Tribute Night to Abba and other great sounds to be held on Saturday 17th May at Lanchester Social Club. Disco-Supper-£5. For tickets phone 01207 520372.

Music at the Three Horeshoes

Every Sunday evening from 8.30 pm, singers and musicians from Lanchester and around about gather in the Three Horseshoes, Maiden Law

to sing, play, or even recite poetry. The music varies widely in style and content but entertainment is always the aim. Geoff Grant is

often on hand, picking out some nifty chords on one of his acoustic or electric guitars and singing some standards from the forties or beyond.



Geoff Grant at The Three Horseshoes

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Saint Patrick's Day was marked at the Queen's Head with as fine a band as you could find from here to Killarny, bejabers etc.

The staff were fully occupied bringing in extra chairs as more people tried to pack into the room

where the O'Boyle Band were ensconced with a fearsome array of instruments, microphones and electronic cable.

The band combines an impressive quartet of talents, with Martin Matthews alternating banjo and electric guitar,

but played like a banjo, dazzling fiddler Dan Hands, powerful vocalist and/or bouzouki player Tony Martin and guitarist Andy McLoughlin.

The music was suited to the occasion, with sets of jigs and reels and a

series of classic Irish ballads like Galway City and the Black Velvet Band.

Those who could not find a seat could hear quite well from the bar, where a few sad people were watching Newcastle United play.



The O'Boyle Band

**KEEP READING 'WHAT'S ON'
SUPPORT OUR VILLAGE EVENTS
See 'We saw it first', page 21**

“SERVE AND VOLLEY”

As summer is fast approaching, Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club will be dusting off the cobwebs in the pavilion and getting ready for the new season. For those residents recently moved into the area, the club is situated along Ford Road, between Smallhope Drive and Ford Crescent. Three grass courts await anyone interested in playing tennis with the season starting late April/ beginning of May. Having grass courts does not stop members playing in the winter as games are played on the courts behind Derwentside College on Sunday mornings, weather permitting !!

By arrangement with Derwentside District Council, coaching will commence on Monday 21st April 2008 on the college courts. Up to year 6 will be at 6.00pm and up to year 11 from 7.00pm. Senior/intermediate coaching will begin on 12th May from 8.00pm. A full programme of social events is planned for 2008. These include B.B.Q., Strawberry Tea and Open Days. Equipment is available for anyone to use, so why not come along and give it a go. Full details can be obtained from the Secretary, Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278.

BOWLING SEASON STARTS SOON

Lanchester Bowling Club is holding its spring meeting on Thursday 17th April at 7.30 pm in the bowls pavilion. All members are asked to attend and the club would like to extend a welcome to any potential new members to come along as well. The club has a growing membership and the

largest number of women members in its history. Whether you are a seasoned bowler or a complete novice you will be welcome in this friendly club. Potential members not able to attend the meeting should give Ken Raper a ring on 01207 521673. The bowling green will be open from the 1st of May.

SPORT RELIEF



Ready set go for the three legged walk



Balancing is the name of the game

Lanchester EP School children paid £1 to

dress in sport gear for the day and as a reward spent the afternoon, one of the mildest this year, playing games and other sporting activities outside. Some of them ran several laps of the field and others

did the same, in three legged style.

It was a great fun afternoon for both children and staff, who also dressed in tracksuits for the day. A total of £197.35 was raised for Sport Relief.



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NEXT DEADLINE

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

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