

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 10

Lanchester, April 2009

For contact information, see page 2

## EP EASTER SERVICE



*A lovely Easter Service, with readings and lively Easter Songs telling the story of the most important Christian time of the year, was held at the All Saints Parish Church just before the end of term. The service was led by Year 4 pupils of the EP School, supported by Year 2 children. Symbolic items appropriate to this time were placed upon the cross, then removed. Finally each member of the congregation was invited to place a daffodil on the cross.*

## CLEAN UP LANCHESTER DAY



*Nicholas and Malcolm Laverick with David Selby braving the inclement conditions whilst picking up litter as part of the Partnership's 'Clean up Lanchester Day'.*

**(See page 4 for story and other pictures)**

## EASTER MONDAY EGG BOWLING



*Children take part in the egg hunt*

What a fabulous day for the traditional Egg Bowling on Paste Egg Hill!

Over twenty children arrived just after 10.00 am with their parents and grandparents in glorious sunshine, to listen to the welcoming music provided by Noel Jackson, concertina, and Kon Conrad on guitar. Dr

Ian Brunt joined in one of the numbers as well. It was kind of Dr Brunt to allow the event to take place on his land once again as he has done for the last 20 years. The first thing to do was to dye the eggs in traditional materials by boiling them in a large pot situated in a transit van. Burt Hunter carried out this enjoyable

task. Then it was time for the Egg Hunt in the woods while the eggs were boiling, and the eager children followed by parents scrambled through the woods looking for the hidden eggs in the undergrowth. Judges, Noel Jackson and Burt Hunter, awarded first

prize to young Annabel Towse. At last it was time for the Egg Bowling and everyone scrambled up the heights to Paste Egg Hill. As the grass was a bit long, Burt Hunter selected a steep pathway for this exciting event. The boiled eggs had to be intact when they

stopped in order to qualify - any with broken shells were disqualified. The winner was young Jake Toase who bowled his egg almost to the bottom of the path.

The Junior Wildlife Group has just been re-launched and is aimed

*continued on page 5*



*Noel Jackson, concertina, Kon Conrad on guitar with Dr Ian Brunt*





## 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.

### LETTERS

Dear Sirs,  
Eileen and George Goodchild would like to thank everyone who gave and sent them cards, presents and flowers on the occasion of their Diamond wedding anniversary. Thank you is not enough, they were all very kind and we enjoyed ourselves very much. Thank you for making our day a very happy and enjoyable time with friends and family.  
Eileen and George Goodchild

### LOST!

On Monday 27th March, my 2 year old son lost a favourite "cuddly" somewhere between Kitswell Road and the play park next to the doctor's surgery. The toy, known as "bow wow", is a blue and white dog, with a soft, "no stuffing" blue body and a white head. It was well loved and therefore a bit tatty. We have retraced our steps several times, and asked in the local shops, but to no avail. If someone has taken pity on "bow wow", and has rescued him from the gutter, and perhaps given him a bit of a wash, we'd love to hear from you. Please help reunite a boy and his toy. Tel: Mrs Johnson 01207 529505.

### COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for March was 62. The draw was made by Bill Woods of the Gym.

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

*IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE*

## THE WEDDING OF BRIGITTE ROM AND ALASTAIR MURRAY

On Friday 20th March the wedding took place of Brigitte Rom and Alastair Murray in the All Saints Parish Church Lanchester. The day's weather was really unseasonably dry, warm and sunny.

Brigitte was given away by Bruce Cooper who travelled from Sydney with Brigitte's mum Jean. Brigitte was supported by two bridesmaids Mrs Caroline Peters (friend of the bride) and Miss Lindsay Murray (bridegroom's sister). Alastair chose his

brother Stuart as best man and friend Matthew Walsh as usher.

The male bridal party wore cream suits with cappuccino cravats and co-ordinating waistcoats, whilst Brigitte wore a stunning lace strapless dress in ivory by Caroline Castiglano.

The bridesmaids were in exquisite dresses from Coast in Cappuccino. They all carried bouquets of white roses, freesias and hypericum berries. The church looked beautiful and special thanks go to the church flower ladies.

After the service, conducted by Rev Peter Waterhouse, 60 family and friends enjoyed the reception at Beamish Hall where, because the weather was so amazing, they were able to enjoy the champagne and canapes outside in the glorious grounds whilst numerous photographs were taken.

In the evening they were joined by 40 more guests and enjoyed the entertainment provided by Ben Crowther (friend of Alastair) followed by dancing to a seven piece band - Grooveline.



*Alastair and Brigitte in the Church with Bridesmaids, Best Man and Usher directly after the service.*

### 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

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# LANCHESTER AND THE BOLDON BOOK

Since mentioning the Boldon Book in the last issue of the Village Voice when discussing the Village Green, several people have asked what the book was all about. So here goes.

William the Conqueror had a hard time trying to deal with us Northerners. In fact, when he sent out his Commissioners to collect information for his great survey, the Domesday Book of 1086, there were no entries for the lands north of the Tees. The king effectively passed the control of this rebellious area over to the Bishops of Durham. Unlike Bishops of today, these men were rich and powerful Barons, who ran expensive 'prince like' courts from their

Palace in Bishop Auckland.

In 1183, the ambitious Lord Bishop Hugh du Puiset decided to conduct his own survey, to set the rents and debts owed to him by his tenants on these northern estates. His survey became known as the Boldon Book, because the Latin texts place the village of Boldon as the key entry.

According to the Boldon Book, the village of Lanchester was a substantial village with many tenant farmers. It had meadows, woodlands, a mill and a millpond, and a manor farm personally owned by the Bishop.

There were ten 'villeins' who rented the large farms, and other 'cottagers' who

had small plots of land. All these paid stipulated rents to the Bishop, but in addition had other obligations. For example, they all had to mow the meadow land on what became the Village Green, and they had to cart away the hay for storage. They also looked after the Bishop's pigs by taking them to feed in the woodland. While mowing they were paid a subsistence allowance, and for pig duties they were given a loaf of bread. All tenants were required to provide equipment for the Bishop's hunting parties which were held in Upper Weardale.

The survey also tells us that some of the land in Lanchester was not farmed by the local

people. The Bishop's tenants in the neighbouring small villages of Greencroft and Iveston had to plough this land. The Boldon Book mentions some Lancastrians in more detail. Liulf, a highly ranked tenant, had to be the Bishop's personal messenger, and do his legal work. He would attend the Bishop's hunts in upper Weardale, and had to bring a greyhound with him! The Pinder, the man who looked after the enclosure where stray animals were impounded, was allowed to collect grain and thatching

straw from the villagers, but still had to pay the Bishop an annual rent, plus 40 hens and 300 eggs. One very interesting entry concerns the wife of Geoffrey the parson. For some reason the Bishop had given her a farmhouse in an enclosure, and eight acres of land. The survey does not mention her husband, nor tell us why she was the recipient of this very personal generosity. We can only guess at a reason! So there it is, Lanchester and the Boldon Book .....

*Margaret Southworth*

## ILLNESS OF MALCOLM McKENZIE

It is sad to have to report the illness of Malcolm McKenzie who was rushed to The University Hospital of N Durham on Sunday 5th April. Malcolm is a founder

member of The Village Voice when it was started in September of 2000. You will have read many of his articles as one of the paper's main reporters as well as being its

editor for a long time. We are pleased to report that the latest news is that he is improving. We wish him and his wife Anne well and look forward to his return.



The picture shows Malcolm and other founder members of the Village Voice at the Shildon Printers in September 2000. From left to right are Martin Greenland, John Gray, the owner of the printing firm John Smith, Malcolm, Alan Forster (holding a copy of the first edition), Dorothy Maskery and a second of the printers.

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# THE PARTNERSHIP'S CLEAN UP LANCHESTER DAY



*'Professional' Litter Pickers, George Jopling and Martin Durkin, picking near Lynwood House. Both men pick litter most days on the Railway Line!*

village. And they did! Those who were able to brave the dreadful conditions were amazing. The skip was completely filled with cans, bottles, paper and polythene bags, a shopping trolley, dog poo bags and (believe it or not) dozens of soiled nappies. Another twenty-eight people said that they would pick up litter at another time, so all in all, despite the weather, it was a very successful event. The worst part of the village was the entrance to Dora's Wood, where people had fly-tipped a lot of domestic waste. Litter Education Action Focus (LEAF) had been running projects in the schools timed to fit in with the Clean-up Day. They

came to give the young litter-pickers a face painting, but the weather was too bad for children and LEAF's gazebo blew down. However their messages of 'Re use, Renew and Recycle' and 'Don't Litter' have been learned. The District Council, Dave the village handyman and the public spirited residents who pick litter throughout the year have made a big difference. This was the Partnership's 4th annual litter pick and everyone agreed that each year there had been less litter than the year before. But why do people put dog poo into bags then throw the bags into hedges?

## new image

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The weather forecasters said it would be bad on Saturday 28th March, but it was worse! It was appalling - we had rain, hail, gales, minus 2 degrees temperature - yet still sixty-two hardy folk turned out to clean up the



*Organisers and pickers shelter from the rain and cold during The Litterpick day on 28th March.*

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## SIR BOBBY ROBSON TRIP



*Madrell's Coach trip to Seahouses in aid of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation raised a total of £1345.*

*Thank you very much to all who supported this trip.*



## CROSSING PATROL'S 'LOLLIPOP' REMINDER

School crossing patrol Bill McGarry has a permanent reminder of his time helping youngsters cross the road.

Children at St. Patrick's RC Primary School,

Dipton, presented Bill, who lives in Lanchester, with a mini 'lollipop' to mark his retirement after six years.

The children designed and made the sign with

the words 'we will miss you' emblazoned on it.

They also presented him with a photograph of himself in his Durham County Council school crossing patrol uniform.



*Bill McGarry in his crossing patrol uniform with his Lollipop*

## EASTER MONDAY EGG BOWLING

*continued from page 1*

at families. Most activities are centred around the village or Malton with some away days. Look for posters in the village for places or times and also in the What's On page of the Village Voice. For further information, Noel Jackson may be contacted on 01207 560684 or e-mail at noelbats@onetel.com



*Parents watch the children bowl the eggs*

*Burt Hunter boils the eggs using traditional materials to dye them by boiling them in a large pot in the back of a transit van.*



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## ALIVE TO TELL THE STORY

On Good Friday "Alive to tell the evening Lanchester Story", beginning with the miracle of raising Lazarus to life again. With real conviction, Ted Spears took the role of Lazarus and enthusiastically began to unfold the amazing story of Christ's passion and resurrection. The musical itself was shared the musical, full of variety with

songs and music to amuse, to probe, to invoke awe and to arouse emotion. The very accomplished band supported the choir and soloists throughout with some expert timing and musicianship. Also, the following members of the choir took solo parts, Sylvia

King, Kay Moore, Joe Bennett, Bill Carr, Gavin Hume, Paul Pine and Trevor Macadoo, all contributing confidently to "telling the story". Interspersed with the singing were poignant scenes from Jesus of Nazareth and effective dancing led by Ali Grimes and Angie

Winter. All added to the powerful message. Indeed, the whole experience brought the message of Easter alive and everyone left the Church on Good Friday evening of the 10th of April, eager to continue to tell the story of Christ's amazing love!  
*Margaret Coates*

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### **LANCHESTER BRASS BAND PATRONS' EVENING**

On Saturday, April 4th the Lanchester Brass Band held their Patron's Evening in the Methodist Church, and certainly that was the place to be that night! Under the expert conducting of Mr Jonathan Fenwick, the band played gloriously. It was a true festival of music, with a varied programme which everyone enjoyed immensely and the lengthy and loud applause was proof of this.

The audience all marvelled at the talent of the performers on their instruments and there were some

excellent solo performances. These included Helen Griffiths on the Euphonium, Chris Jones (cornet) and Ben Johnson (Flugelhorn). Jonathan presented various awards to members, largely for their great commitment to the group and the work that they do for its smooth running. Billy Bradshaw, Andy Scoins, Rob Ballance, Chris Johnson, Susan Hayton and Chris Jones received awards. The latter was also presented with the new award in memory of Ron Clarkson, who sadly died within the

last year and was a founder member of Lanchester Brass Band. Maureen Clarkson was present to see this award being presented to Chris Jones.

As their final piece, the band played 'All in the April Evening' which was very fitting for the approaching Festival of Easter. The lengthy appreciative applause at the end of the performance merited an encore and then we had to let the players go. Keep up the good work everyone! We are so glad to have you as part of our community.  
*Brenda Craddock*

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*Jonathan Fenwick and the members of the Lanchester Brass Band stand to receive the applause of their Patrons at the end of a particularly impressive concert on Saturday April 4th in the Methodist Church.*



# EASTER SERVICES ON THE GREEN



*The picture shows Canon Bob Spence leading the service on the Village Green on Easter Sunday.*

There were short services on the Green on Good Friday (led by Reverend Gavin Hume) and on Easter Sunday (led by Canon Spence). It was good to have these services in the open-air and to use the green in this way at Easter.

## LENTEN LUNCHES

Lenten lunches have taken place each Tuesday throughout Lent, in the Methodist church for all denominations, because it is a 'Churches Together' initiative. Each person who attended brought a contribution (sandwiches, fruit, crisps,

Pringles, sausage rolls, cheese and biscuits) for a light lunch. Tea, coffee and mugs of soup were available. The lunch was followed by an hour-long session led by one or other of our three clergy. Mr Andrew Conner also led one of the sessions. A special Lent course was

used, which involved listening to a tape for 10 minutes and then breaking into groups for lively discussion. Everyone who came enjoyed the hour of fellowship and discussion and it was fairly well attended, although there was room for more! Perhaps next year?

*Mrs D Horswill (93) and Mrs Peggy Atkinson (89) at the Lent Lunch on the 24th of March*



## 'OLIVET TO CALVARY'

Holy Week leading up to Easter Day could not have had such a good beginning. This beautiful service was held in the Roman Catholic Church on Palm Sunday, April

5th. It was another 'Churches Together' initiative and so the choir consisted of people from every denomination. We have some multi-talented

musicians in Lanchester, as I am sure you know and the whole 'performance' benefitted from this. With Mr David Hughes directing and Mr Bill Gray accompanying on the piano, we could not go wrong. The soloists, Mr Richard Woods, tenor and Mr Ian Gray, bass were superb! This great work was interspersed with appropriate Palm Sunday hymns with which the congregation could join in and a holy peaceful atmosphere and a sense of unity was present throughout the service. Brenda Craddock



*David Hughes Musical Director and Bill Gray accompanist pose for a photograph at the Churches Together initiative.*



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# PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2009

This meeting on Tuesday April the 14th was preceded by the Annual Village Conference. Councillor Ossie Johnson chaired the conference and there were two main items to report. These were:

1. the two new appointments made very recently for clerk and village handyman were giving the greatest satisfaction;
2. a village resident expressed her concern about the amount of cycling that is taking place on the pavements in the village. She was able

to quote two incidences when a nasty accident could have occurred and was very narrowly avoided. Mr Johnson said that the Highway Management should be alerted, as the safety of the people of Lanchester is paramount.

Mr Colin Burton suggested that the Village Voice could perhaps bring this matter to the whole village. It could alert people to see this problem and inform them of general safe cycling. It was pointed out that both the primary schools in the

village have cycle proficiency classes but, of course, the message must go beyond the schools to the general public. It was pointed out that that cycling on pavements is illegal. One of the councillors suggested that when the new cycling tracks are opened at Kitswell Road, good safe cycling could be emphasised. The view was expressed that there ought to be more consultation between the police and the residents of Lanchester. The CCTV cameras are present in the village but are they being used effectively?

approached about the matter. It was suggested that St Bede's School be asked what their policy was concerning litter so that some strategies could be put in place. The garage across the road from the school was approached about the litter they encountered but they did not want to co-operate with any strategies that could be put in place. Mr Wardle said the school had had a litter-pick day and that there was a definite improvement especially at the bottom of Maiden Law bank near the bus stop there. Councillor Margaret Gray said that as a governor of the school she would monitor progress on this issue of litter.

There was a considerable list of **correspondence** dealing with issues that had gone before and there was a lengthy note of the event which takes place on Saturday April 26th namely the grand opening of the **Kitswell Road Project**. A really excellent programme for this event has been drawn up and it is hoped that there will be a significant number of people there. It is great news for the youth of our village and must be recognised by the community of Lanchester. A great deal of hard work has been carried out by a number of people to ensure its success, and it is hoped that the sun will shine to make it a never to be forgotten event. Councillor Johnson expressed his

absolute delight that the project had come to fruition and it would prove to be a big asset to the village. He suggested that a letter be sent to Mr Simon Green to thank him for all his hard work.

**Croft View Hall** and its future were to be further discussed at a special meeting and Councillor David Lindsay agreed to go and represent the council. Its outcome would be brought to the next meeting.

The **financial statements** were presented and were shown as very positive.

On a final **business** note it was stated that the mole catcher is doing a sterling job of eliminating the moles whose little 'earth hills' seem to be everywhere in Lanchester and the village green especially is looking much healthier.

Councillor Johnson closed the meeting but not before he asked if the Village Voice could express the council's very good wishes to **Mr Malcolm McKenzie**, who, it was reported, is very poorly in hospital. They want him to know how much they appreciate the extremely hard work that he does for them in so many ways and they are so sorry about his illness. They hope he is soon very much better and look forward to the time when he can attend their meetings again.

*Brenda Craddock*



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# LANCHESTER VALLEY WORK PARTY

Deborah Ferguson, Volunteer Co-ordinator from Durham CC, managed to get a few volunteers, via Michael Horsley, to carry out repairs and remove

vegetation from the steps into Dora's Wood on a fine morning, on Saturday 4th April. Some of trees and bushes alongside the path were also thinned out.

Numbers of volunteers for this very worthwhile project were low and more support to help with this project would be much appreciated for work in the future.



*Michael Horsley, Rachel Jackson and Ken Johnson, hard at work clearing the steps into Dora's Wood*

## Gardening in May

You can almost see your garden growing this month as the warmer weather and longer daylight hours boost growth. There are lots of salad and veg crops to sow now and many seeds will germinate within days.

### Lawns

Continue to cut your grass regularly and it is still a good time to apply selective weedkillers and fertilisers if you did not do it last month. Laying turf is the fastest and most reliable way of getting a good lawn and this is especially true in May when warm temperatures encourage the roots to establish quickly.

### Borders

Continue to provide some support for your taller perennials this month so that they do not flop later in the year. If you have any camellias, rhododendrons or azaleas remember to

deadhead them. You also need to deadhead any tulips and narcissus. For the best results, it is useful to dig compost into the soil prior to planting out your summer bedding. Remember to harden off any tender bedding plants raised under glass and to only plant them out when any risk of frost has passed. This is usually at the end of May. It is also useful to sprinkle some fertiliser around the base of your hedges and shrubs.

### Vegetables

Sowing your vegetable crops in rows is easy and May is a good time to do it. Most seed packets carry good planting instructions about seed depths. You should:

1. make a shallow drill or channel in the soil using a hoe or stick;
2. water the soil to ensure it's thoroughly moist, then leave it to drain;
3. sow seeds thinly along

the row and cover them to the correct depth with fine soil or compost, then pat down to firm the soil;

4. once the seeds come up thin them out to the correct spacing.

During this month you need to continue to pick your rhubarb and cut down any raspberry suckers growing between the rows. You need to hoe weekly to keep annual weeds under control.

### General

Spreading a covering of bark or dark compost on borders gives them a neat finish, helps stop water loss and suppresses annual weeds.

Scrub clean any decking that you have and re-stain to preserve the timber. Also, apply a coat of varnish to your garden furniture.

As always, happy gardening in May and let us hope for fine, warm weather this month to give a good boost to growth.

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## WORTH WAITING FOR: REDUCED HANDEL

After what might well be - according to Reduced Handel's Musical Director Andrew Fowler - the longest ever interval (December 17th, 2008 to March 31st, 2009) between Part One and Parts Two and Three of the Messiah, the audience in a packed Lanchester Methodist Church hummed with anticipation as the programmed 8.00pm start approached. The second part of Handel's "Messiah" was, by popular request, about to begin.

The first part of the "Messiah" had been presented to raise funds for an orphanage in Liberia, a project developed by Mel and Sue Somersall from their involvement with Mercy Ships visiting West Africa. A talented group of musicians - the Reduced Handel Company - had provided their services free of charge to support the project. The evening had been such a success, both musically and financially, that the "second part" had been arranged.

Promptly at 8.00 pm the musicians filed into view

and took their seats. To the two violins, viola, cello and harpsichord - played on this occasion by James Lancelot - had been added Tom Glendinning, Soprano Cornetist with the Reg Vardey band, on trumpet. Shortly afterwards, the singers followed and the audience hushed for the delicate Soprano opening.

Once again, the simple genius of producing the Messiah with only eight voices was confirmed. Each note, each musical phrase, each solo, each chorus showed the beauty of Handel's work in pristine clarity. The audience sat entranced as the four voices through eight singers balanced beautifully with the strings, harpsichord and trumpet ornamentation. Chorus followed Air followed Recitative until, all too soon the first part ended with the Hallelujah Chorus and the audience sat for a moment in appreciative silence before bursting into loud applause as the performers left the floor for a short, and well-deserved, break. The short interval passed quickly and soon the

musicians entered to take their places to loud applause, a welcome which was repeated as the singers followed shortly afterwards.

Again the talented group delighted the audience as they highlighted the intricate detail of Handel's music. All too soon the final chorus was reached and the performance ended. Again, a moment of awed silence held the audience, and then a wave of applause crashed onto the performers. Time and again the performers acknowledged the applause and still the audience would not let them leave, and then summoning them back once again. It was clear that the performance had been an outstanding musical success.

It proved also to have been a financial success for the cause which Mel and Sue Somersall had "adopted" in Liberia. A slide show during the interval had illustrated the project which, thanks to the Reduced Handel Company, again providing their talents "gratis", would benefit to the tune of £1,816.50p from the evening's entertainment.



*"The Reduced Handel Company" Back Row (l to r) Jonathan Stokoe, Nicholas Lawrence, Eileen Evans, Gregory Pullen, Tom Glendinning, James Lancelot, James Morgan (inset) Front Row (l to r) Emily Brown, Rebecca Lancelot, Kathryn Crowder, Mary Tyers, Andrew Fowler (Musical Director), Jason Walsh, Michael Hickman.*



## EP SCHOOL 'CAKE A THON' TO AID FIRE VICTIMS

Girls on duty sell a raffle ticket to Mrs Startup at the EP School. The quickly arranged 'Cake a thon' and Coffee Afternoon in aid of the Anderson family, whose house in Cecil Crescent, Lanchester was gutted by fire on 17th March and reported in last month's Village Voice. An enormous £800.10 was raised to help the Anderson family in their hour of need.



Tables full of cakes donated by parents of children who attend the EP school where an Anderson child is a pupil, to help the Anderson family.

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April is the month when we not only see the lambs in the fields but also a host of spring flowers like primroses, cowslips, wood anemones and celandines.



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## LEAF IN THE LIBRARY

About 15 children between the ages of 5 years and 10 years enjoyed themselves in the Library for an hour being taught to make 'Easter

Pop up Cards' by Melanie Howd, from Groundwork, West Durham. LEAF means Litter Education Awareness Focus and the slogan which Melanie

uses with the children is 'less litter more leaves'. All the children having made their beautiful cards, were given a good quality Bobble Hat with the word

LEAF embroidered on it along with a pledge, which stated 'rubbish in bin', 'recycle where possible', 'spread the litter pledge', and a

LEAF sticker to take home. This was certainly a worthwhile exercise and hopefully the anti litter message will be retained by the children.



*Children in the Library who created 'Pop up Easter Cards with Melanie Howd*

## LAMPS IN THE CIRCUIT

A seat at the Theatre was on offer for the pupils of the EP School on Wednesday 1st April. The Kinetic Theatre were visiting the school with their performance of 'Lamps in the circuit'. There were only two performers, James Ashton and Kate Sefton but together they took five parts! They both said how rewarding their work was because at the same time as helping youngsters to appreciate theatre it was also a learning experience for them.

In this case pupils would be learning more about electricity; circuits, electrons, positives and negatives, batteries, insulators and conductors, energy sources, electric currents,

elements, were all part of the action and vocabulary of the play which was actually performed in pantomime style and included audience participation. At one point several children went on

stage to take a part in the play and there was good background music and some solo singing performances by the actors.

As in all good pantomimes, good

triumphed over evil, which in this case was Polly over the wicked Electra. In the question time which followed the play some children asked very pertinent questions, proving that they had

been listening and learning and it was obvious that the children had had yet another rather ingenious and very enjoyable, learning experience.

*Brenda Craddock*



*Children at the EP School learn about electricity through drama*



## OLIVER



*Billy Connolly (Bill Sykes) and Carina Smith (Nancy)*

From the 23rd - 27th of March, St Bede's School put on a production of the much-loved musical Oliver. The week was a resounding success and tickets were sold out for nearly all the performances, due to the huge support, not just from the family and friends of those involved, but also from the local community as a whole.

Students from all year groups were involved which gave the production a great range of acting and musical talent as well as encouraging mixed year group friendships to flourish. Elizabeth Davis in year 12, who played Mrs Sowerberry the undertaker's wife, said that, "It was great to be involved in something like

this as it gave the opportunity to get to know people that otherwise there would be little chance to meet."

The cast had been practising religiously for many months to perfect the show and this was clear through the degree of professionalism displayed throughout the performance. Carina Smith was amazing in the role of Nancy, Billy Connolly was truly terrifying as Bill Sykes and Connor Robinson delivered a great performance as Fagin. Not to mention Simon and Tim Biasi who, in their respective roles as Oliver Twist and the Artful Dodger, commandeered the stage with their talent. It was

clear for all to see the huge potential that these two brothers possess. During the interval, food and drink were available to purchase and there was a raffle announced by Mrs Bates before the second part of the performance began. For those who did come along to support people involved, no doubt the cast and school would like to take this opportunity to thank you. Oliver was a great show and thoroughly enjoyable for the cast, everyone who worked on it behind the scenes and of course the audience. At the end of the evening it was announced that next

year's show is to be 'Godspell' so it's advisable to book your tickets as soon as they come out as no doubt it's going to be another sell-out. I'm sure the cast

cannot wait until that time comes around and they can be back on stage doing what they love. It's true; they've caught the acting bug!

*Claire Hogarth*



*Elizabeth Davis, Rebekah Fenwick, Anna Costello, Carina Smith (Nancy), Connor Robinson (Fagin), and Tim Biasi (Artful Dodger) at the dress rehearsal*



*David Hopper, Simon Biasi, Andrew Fiddes and Hayley Johnson on stage along with members of the chorus*

## BILL 'N' GEOFF'S BIRTHDAY COMPETITION

As part of our Birthday celebrations, we're giving local people the chance to choose two new flavours to add to our current range, Chocolate Heaven, Farmhouse Pleasure, Strawberry Delight and Vanilla Sensation. We're setting a competition in two sections, for those under 16 years of age and the second category is for those over 16. You must think of a new flavour, give it a name, and present your ideas for the packaging of the product.

"Bill 'n' Geoff's Ice Cream" comes from your own local Lanchester Dairies and is made from milk and cream from farms in the Tyne and Derwent Valleys. We use only simple and pure ingredients, producing a luxury ice cream which is extremely popular across the North East. Perhaps you could use the local aspect of our product in your competition entry to reflect local traditions and background.

To enter our competition, email us at: [Billngeoffs@lanchesterdairies.co.uk](mailto:Billngeoffs@lanchesterdairies.co.uk) OR send your ideas by letter to: "Bill 'n' Geoff's new flavours", Upper Houses Farm, Lanchester, Durham, DH7 0RL. Closing date is 29th May 2009. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in both categories. Look out for our Birthday celebration tasting day in Lanchester during July! GOODLUCK Andy Allen

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# EGGS TRAVAGANZA

On the last day of the Spring Term (April 3rd) at the EP School, parents, members of staff and children from nursery to Year 6 had all decorated an egg for the competition of 'Best Decorated Egg'. There was a wide variety of styles and design including - An Eggcentric Scientist, An Eggstatic Avalanche, A Ballerina, Mickey Mouse and his companion Minnie, Trigger the Horse, Egg Spider, Mad Professor, An Easter Chick Parade, and The First Easter Egg. The latter had the advantage of being placed on a base of cardboard amidst the essentials of an Easter garden showing the symbols of Easter, namely the Cross and the Easter Tomb from which Christ emerged alive; in other words The Resurrection. The theme of New Life and New Birth is at the heart of the Easter Message and this was reflected throughout the school in pictures painted by the children and in displays, the most lovely one being a cross decorated entirely with beautiful yellow daffodils.

An independent judge, Jill Gleghorn, a school links Inspector from County Hall, had judged the eggs, having visited the school the day before. She had said what a difficult task it had been because all the eggs were of a very high standard. There was a first and second prize winner in each of the classes and Mrs Davis read out the names of the successful pupils. They were then each given a boxed Easter Egg. Their



*Easter egg competition prize winners*

delighted faces said it all. There was a very captivating surprise by the nursery children. They provided an Easter Parade of Easter Bonnets, all of which were very beautiful and creative. They confidently paraded round the hall in their hats, so that every class in the school could see them.

Parents had been invited for coffee/tea for the last part of the afternoon so that they could look at all the Easter Eggs. It was a very successful and happy afternoon. The previous day the Inspector had been very impressed with the school, staff and pupils and commented on the very happy atmosphere in the school. The pupils benefit from excellent learning experiences and the dedication to their needs of the head teacher Mrs. Davis and all her staff. A warm welcome always awaits you at the school.

*Brenda Craddock*



*Easter symbols including the cross*



*Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade*



## THURSDAY CLUB 29TH BIRTHDAY PARTY OUTING

March 19th was the 29th birthday of the Thursday Club and we celebrated the event in the sumptuous surroundings of Langley Castle.

We set off mid morning, arriving at the castle in nice

time for a quiet sit in the delightful great hall before moving on to the Josephine restaurant for lunch. We enjoyed a super meal of for starters soup/ smoked salmon and prawn salad/cheese and apple

tart, main course was lamb/ salmon/a vegetarian choice, puddings were lemon parfait/crumble/choc terrine followed by coffee /tea with mints.

We called into Hexham on the way home, arriving

back in the village by 6pm. Wonderful weather, a captivating castle, fantastic food, super scenery, convivial company and a little retail therapy all added up to a really good day out for

the Thursday Club. Celebrations continued into the April meeting when, instead of the usual biscuits, we ate birthday cake with our coffee. We all agreed ... one of the best.



*Thursday club members at Langley Castle*

## PERU GIRLS

Durham 6th Form College students, Lucy Dunn and Julia Wilmott (Robyn Grange was unable to attend), held their Coffee Morning at

the Community Centre on April 9th to raise more funds for their visit to Peru in July. Lots of people turned up to support them and they

were helped with the event by parents and grandparents. On sale were some mouth watering cakes and there was an excellent tombola.



*Martin and Chloe buying a Tombola ticket from Lucy and Julia*

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## VINTAGE TRACTOR RUN

For the first time the National Vintage Tractor Road Run came to Durham, organised by Brian Watson. Entrants came from all over Britain many of them flying their national flags. Entrants from as far away as Somerset, Norfolk, Wales and Ayrshire were spotted coming through Lanchester in a colourful cavalcade. Some entrants pulled trailers where friends and family travelled to enjoy the County Durham landscape on a fine sunny day.

The route was 25 miles, both on and off road, and 370 tractors took part. The event took place on Easter Sunday beginning at Ushaw Moor College, with new modern tractors on view as well as some trade stalls. The circular route included Witton Gilbert, Maiden Law, Lanchester, Esh Village, Quebec, Cornsay Colliery, New Brancepeth, Esh Winning and Bearpark. The event raised money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Epilepsy Action.



*Some of the tractors trundling along Newbiggen Lane*



*One of the Welsh drivers proudly displaying his national flag on the Tractor Run*

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Oakwood Stables, who took part received a Lanchester, put on a rosette or a trophy. There followed a BBQ, ideal for Monday for Liveries, Helpers and Stable Hands. Many donations were made by those who attended and the sum of £93 was donated to Willow Burn Hospice.

## SUCCESS FOR LANCHESTER BOWLER

Malcolm Rose, a men's 4-wood member of Lanchester Bowling Club, who competition indoors at Consett. Not bad for someone who had never played full mat bowls before this season.



# LANCHESTER HISTORY SOCIETY

John Gall, President of the History Society, gave a very interesting talk to the group on 3rd April on the restoration of his house, Hollinside Farm. His family had lived at Hollinside since 1929 and he inherited it from his brother. It took 2½ years to carry out the renovation work, and in 2007 part of a Roman altar

was found. It was the upper part, known as the capital, where the Romans would have made sacrifices and offerings to their gods. Previously in 1986 Nick Greenwell had ploughed up the lower part, showing that it was an altar to the god Jupiter, as Jupiter's emblem of a wheel was carved on one side of it.



The photo from John Gall shows Nick Greenwell with the two parts of the Roman altar re-united

## AMIGOS COFFEE MORNING

On March 27th Amigos held their annual coffee morning and were overwhelmed with the support generated by the event. We were lucky with some lovely sunny weather and the tables were soon

packed with coffee morning visitors. £263 was raised. Amigos wish to thank all who supported the event in any way; we were all delighted with the turnout and the funds raised.

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

On Friday 20th March we decided to try the "Granary Café" on Delves Lane. On arrival we found very little space in the car park, so we were quite prepared to find the café full as well. Feeling rather hungry by now, we made our way

to Knitsley Mill which is always good value. It did not disappoint. Weather warm and sunny, ducks on the pond and a two-course meal with wine and coffee for under £10. Lovely!! We will return.

**The Gourmet Girls**

Dr Tomlin of Oxford University, a specialist on Roman inscriptions, examined and translated the inscription "To Jupiter Best and Greatest, (erected by) the First Cohort of

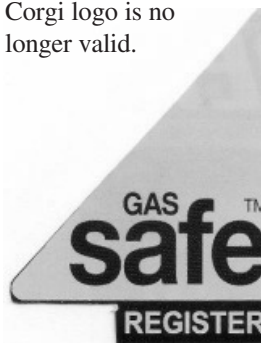
Lingones (an auxiliary unit) part-mounted, commanded by Fulvius Felix, prefect". His research showed that Fulvius was from an aristocratic family from a town in Tunisia. So the

fascinating finds were ordered and erected 2000 years ago in Lanchester by someone from North Africa!

*Thanks to Rodney Hawkins, Friends of Longovicium, for the altar information.*

## GAS SAFETY

You will notice that our Heating and Plumbing advertisers have changed their adverts this month to include the new GAS SAFE REGISTER logo. The Government has introduced this new registration system for Gas Engineers to replace the existing Corgi system. The change took effect from 1st April 2009 and from this date only GAS SAFE REGISTER Engineers should be used for any work in your home. Every Engineer will carry a registration card with their own unique registration number. Before you have any work done please check their ID card which must have the following logo (Yellow triangle with Black letters, the word register is in Yellow). From the 1st April the Corgi logo is no longer valid.



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# ECO FRIENDLY FASHION SHOW



No, it's not Bill and Ben, but teachers, Mark Stephenson and Peter Taylor, swaggering along the catwalk at the Eco Friendly fashion show, much to the delight of the children.

The School Council at Lanchester EP School continuously come up with good ideas which benefit both pupils and the school. The school is trying hard to become eco friendly so the idea of having an Eco Friendly Fashion Show was thought of at one of the recent meetings of the Council. At school pupils and teachers re-cycle, re use and are aware of their carbon footprints. They have Eco Rangers who make sure that lights and computers are turned off when not needed. Appointed Re-cyclers make sure that all paper is re-cycled. Trees have been planted to give something back to the earth, to make up for all the miles that are travelled by road, sea and air.

The fashion show was a great success. Each year group took part and was introduced from the stage by a pupil above the catwalk. Pupils generally walked in pairs or threesomes in their home made, appropriate, eco friendly attire - many with hair dyed green. The younger ones and the older children tended to get it over with by walking quite quickly on the catwalk, while some of the middle year group pupils enjoyed the attention - the lads swaggering a bit, while the girls strutted their stuff and enjoyed posing for the camera. Messages on some of their tops were extremely clever, using the school motto or the letters 'EP' to get the eco friendly message home. It was great fun. Lots of energy and great preparation was put into the event. There was plenty of singing and cheering, the commentaries were good, the costumes were excellent, and the teachers joined in on the catwalk as well, thoroughly enjoying the attention they deserved.



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Chloe, Casey and Erin, of year 4 at the EP School strut their stuff and pose for the picture

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# LANCHESTER'S YOUNG PEOPLE LEAD THE WAY IN LEISURE

*Continued from back page* The culmination of several years work, Lanchester Parish Council in partnership with Lanchester Partnership and the Working with Young People Group developed the project. The bike plans were drawn up by Southern Green Landscape Architects and were refined following several fact finding trips to local bike tracks. The Young People's

Working Group supported by Lanchester District Council Capital Initiatives fund, Planning Gain money and through Lanchester Parish Council. Throughout the build period the young people have been involved in site visits and testing of the track and amendments have been made until the track suited their purpose.

The launch event will officially open the facility with Charlotte and Stephanie Walker from group 'In Stereo' and currently backing singers for Duffy, cutting the ribbon. The event will include match and rugby games and activities for the children, displays and bike safety advice. Entertainment will be provided by Lanchester Brass Band and people attending will be able to watch the cricket training which will be taking place.



*Part of the new Kitswell Park play area*

## JUNIOR CRICKET



*Brian Bell (left) and Alan Rycroft busy packing bags at Tesco's, Annfield Plain, raising money for the junior section of Lanchester Cricket Club. Quite a few members supported the event and raised an excellent £503. Another Bag Pack took place at ASDA the following week.*

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