THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 10 Lanchester, March 2009

For contact information, see page 2

SUCCESS IN STEREO

and Stephanie Walker have left Lanchester behind as they travel to Japan, China, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and then back to Australia! As well as sight seeing, sunbathing and shopping they will of course be very busy performing backing vocals for Duffy on her tour! The pair teamed up with the Welsh songstress, who is also a twin, after meeting her in a Newcastle restaurant last summer. They gave her one of their demos and were soon contacted by Duffy's management to go down to London for a rehearsal. Since then they have performed with Duffy on television, in Paris and Cannes and on her UK tour. Charlotte said, "It has been a fantastic opportunity and experience for us!" The girls, both Geminis, first hit the headlines by being born on different days - and having different birthdays is about the *only*

Identical twins Charlotte difference between them! They have performed, sang and played instruments together since being very young. They both went to the Westminster University to study the same degree in Commercial Music, before returning to Durham.

Living back home with mum Pauline and dad Stuart, they have turned one room into a recording studio, where they can write, perform and produce all their own music into the early hours of the night. Stephanie said: "This is what we've wanted to do since we were little and we work very well together. We both play the piano and clarinet, and we sang in a gospel choir when we were at university. We've been recording at Loft Studios in Newcastle, so hopefully our first EP will be released in the next few months. We can't wait to launch our own music careers as electro pop act 'In-Stereo'."



Charlotte and Stephanie Walker, who will be in Lanchester on the 25th of April to officially open the new bike track

LANCHESTER HOUSE FIRE



A serious house fire took place during the early hours of Tuesday 17th March, at 4 Cecil Crescent, home of the Anderson family. Some injuries were sustained which needed to be treated at hospital.

Public response has been overwhelming to help the Anderson family. Many tables full of cakes and clothes have been donated by parents of children who attend the EP School where an Anderson child is a pupil. Cakes were on sale for the children and a special coffee afternoon arranged for the adults.

CONSTANTINE **BACK IN LANCHESTER**

David Constantine, living in a caravan at who pleaded guilty at the Teesside Crown Court last August putting his neighbours, Mr and Mrs Ward, of Manor Grange, in fear of violence, and was subsequently barred from his home, has been allowed to return there having failed to sell it during the last seven months. Constantine has been

Hamsterley in County Durham during the interim period since August but claimed that it had affected his medical condition.

The Judge, who was Peter Bowers, lifted the ban preventing Mr David Constantine from returning to his home in Lanchester and gave him a six months suspended jail sentence.

The Village Voice Page 1



Village Voice about Gritting

highlighted problems for

footpaths. The Council's

current policy is to treat

'Category 1' footways only

when resources become

available. This category

covers very busy areas of

busv

Lanchester) and business

areas and main pedestrian

routes. However, some of

complement the County

Council service where the

insurers are prepared to

already spending £750,000

over the £2.4 million set

aside in our winter roads

Although we do not have

everyone's expectations

about footpaths, villagers

will soon have the

opportunity to change that.

After April when the new

unitary council comes into

being, the present policy

Overview and Scrutiny

Committee. Residents

wanting more attention to

their footpaths should

lobby their local County

Lanchester, are Ossie

Johnson on 0191 372 5871

and Richard Young on 0191

3725872. Ihope that people

will take advantage of this

in advance of next winter.

Councillor Bob Young

maintenance budget.

underwrite the risk.

parish councils

on

icy

urban

(including

pedestrians

towns,

shopping

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 telephone no., all of which may be withheld at your request.

Dear Sir

I am 84 years of age and some days ago I had a fall in Front Street outside Spar in Lanchester. Whilst I lay bleeding quite a lot of people came to my assistance and comforted me until the ambulance came. I had a stitch put in my brow but Iamfine now. I would like to thank all the people for their help.

Yours sincerely P Smith, Snr, Greenwell Park

APOLOGY

The Village Voice apologise for printing incorrect phone numbers for Elizabeth's Flowers last month. The correct numbers appear this month below.

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: (01207) 520559

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THE **VILLAGE** VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Sir

I was amazed to read a total of three letters about demands for grit boxes being turned down in the February issue with the implication that DCC are failing in their job in not providing them. Can we imagine the cost? How much council tax we would have to pay to ensure the supply of hundreds of grit boxes all very hilly over Derwentside - not to mention the man power that would have to be The severity of this winter available at the sudden has meant that we are switch in the weather to actually spread the stuff in the early morning. Have we really got to the point where we expect local government to nanny us the resources to meet to this extent.

I would have thought that one of the organisations operating in this village could raise the money and provide the resources. Perhaps the Parish Council could find out the will be reviewed by its cost and feasibility of providing boxes at danger points. Although where would you stop? The Thursday the weather really came to Councillor. These, for Durham I had a perilous journey of less than 50 yards on the flat to the bus stop on the Green, got to Durham and then was unable to get further than the Market Place because the cathedral Cabinet Member for buses had slithered so Highway Maintenance, much on an earlier ride up Sadler Street that they

were just turning back. As an OAP I get so many free services that I wonder if we have lost touch with the reality that money doesn't grow on trees even for the State. And believes that who abolishing district councils will have saved any money at all?

Moira Rutherford

Dear Sir

The family of Paul Smith (Pag), would like to thank the many people who attended his funeral following his unexpected sudden death.

It was a great comfort to all of us to see the church so full of people of all ages, and a wonderful compliment to him knowing he had so many good friends, neighbours colleagues, showing this respect.

We will never forget the kindness and love shown to all of us. It makes us realise that we live in a wonderful community.

The church collection of £450 has been donated to the 'British Heart Foundation'.

Dear Sir

I am writing on behalf of the Woodham Court Residents' Association concerning the difficulties cars experience in making a right turn when exiting

onto what we all know is a very busy Front Street. These concerns are shared by the County Council Highways Department who agreed to make the immediate area to the right of the site exit on Front Street a hatched area to prevent parking and improve sightlines for motorists exiting from Woodham Court.

Unfortunately this hatched-no parking area is frequently violated by other motorists who seem oblivious to the illegality of their actions and in doing so continue to pose a hazard for cars wishing to make right hand exits onto Front Street. Regrettably many of the offenders seem to be 4x4 drivers who seem to equate the size of their vehicle with an arrogance which allows them to be exempt from the law.

The residents Woodham Court would therefore like to appeal to all motorists to respect the hatched-no parking area in the interest of road safety.

Yours faithfully Mark McNally

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for February was 41. The draw was made by George Hastings of Stardust.

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LANCHESTER VILLAGE GREEN

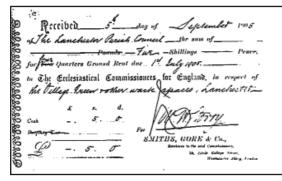
Lanchester Village is Green. The annual rent of the old village green. Estates Commissioner recorded in the Boldon Book of 1183 as one of the great manors owned by the Bishop of Durham. This land that the Church controlled included the meadows and pasture that Throughout the centuries the Commissioners continued to own this village land, but on 6th June 1899 they signed a ninety nine year lease agreement with the Lanchester Parish the Parish Council to

Records show that the Parish Council often involved the local community in their development plans.

Then, without warning in would later become July 1960, the Parish Lanchester village green. council were notified that the Ecclesiastical Ecclesiastical Commissioners had sold the village green to a company of land speculators. The Council and the people of Lanchester were shocked, especially as this news coincided with the Council, which allowed controversial plans to build a new bypass develop the area of the cutting through the area

Lanchester Parish Commeil.

The Parish Council cheque for five shillings for the 1905 rent to Messrs Smiths Gore and Co for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners



The receipt from Smiths Gore and Co for the 5/received from the Parish Council.

This is the first article by Margaret Southworth she has promised a follow-up next month. Anyone who has thoughts about the

Village Green: memories of its uses and how it might best be employed in future, please write to us with your views and ideas. Editor

BRITISH RED CROSS APPEAL WEEK LANCHESTER

Is there anyone who Appeal Week, 3rd - 9th would like to help with May, 2009. Please contact collecting for Red Cross Elaine on 520563.

was five shillings. Letters were sent to the Church Commissioners stating that the village green was very special and was an integral part of the village. However, the sale stood. Then on 22nd November 1960 Lanchester Village Green was the subject of the following House of Commons Question, tabled by Mr Ainsley, MP for North West Durham. 'To ask the honourable Member for Chelmsford, Second Church representing the Church Commissioners, if he is aware that the Lanchester village green, County Durham, including its war memorial and grounds, formally on lease to the parish council from the Church Commissioners, was sold to Park Grounds Rents Limited, of 98 Park Lane, London, without the knowledge of the council; ... will he make a statement.

Following this national publicity, events moved very swiftly. Under public pressure, the Church Commissioners bought back the land, and arranged for its transfer to the Parish Council in the form of a free gift. They became the custodians of this public space on behalf people of the Lanchester

As reported in the last issue of the Village Voice, (Issue 2) The Green is still a very special place in the village. Long may this continue.

Margaret Southworth

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THE WEDDING OF ANTHONY FISH AND DEBORAH LAWSON

wedding took place at the Methodist Church on Saturday 21st February, conducted by the Reverend Keith Jump.

The theme for the wedding was 'Snow/Ice'. The Bride wore a strapless gown chosen from the Bonny Unforgettable Range supplied by Exclusively Yours Bridal Shop at Wingate. The dress colour was Platinum Ivory with embellishments of crystals and silver beading. The train was similarly styled. Deborah's friend Miss Carolyn Wynne-Williams gave her an Ivory Wrap to complete a most beautiful outfit.

Deborah wore a Tiara made from Swarovski Crystals with matching Bouquet which complemented her stunning dress. It was a beautiful idea which will long be treasured.

The Chief Bridesmaid was close friend Carolyn Wynne-Williams. The second Bridesmaid was another close friend, Mrs Joan Whitehead, who accompanied three lovely flower girls, Georgia Megan Smith, Jacey Lamb

The Bridesmaids wore Alfred Angelo taffeta dresses in Blue Frost with capes made from ice blue silk overlaid with white organza. The Flower Girls wore ivory organza dresses with ice white furry caps and matching hand muffs. The Bridesmaids designed their own flowers which consisted of bunches of gypsophilia delicately sprinkled with silver glitter and fastened with ice blue

The Best Man was Adam Morris. The Ushers were Steven Brown, Billy and Geoff Austin The men's buttonholes were a single white akito rose with gypsophilia. pageboys were Deborah's two nephews, Oliver George Lawson and Edward Sydney Lawson. Mr George Wilson did the great honour of giving the Bride away in place of the late John Lawson, Deborah's Dad. Her brother Andrew gave a reading during the service. There followed a wedding breakfast for about 60 and an evening reception at the Royal Derwent Manor. A

Tony and Deborah's and Harriet Rose Ventress. mini honeymoon was a stay at the Royal Derwent followed by a break in Scarborough, but the real honeymoon will be a holiday in Cyprus in the summer.

> Anthony and Deborah would like to thank the following people who provided service, help and advice, which made the day so special.

> Wedding invitations and the cake were provided by Hazel Wilson. Windsor Classic Limousine Hire provided a 1935 James Young 'Bromley' Classic Rolls Royce. Tiger Lily Florists arranged flowers and designed the button holes for the men. Last minute adjustments made to the wedding dress were carried out by Alice Guthrie, of Sew What. Joan Gray, of Sterling Crafts, advised and provided the Crystal Bouquet, Tiara, and Jewellery for the Bride and Tiaras for the Bridesmaids, all of which were handmade.

professional Each company listed has placed an advertisement alongside this article.



The happy couple in the Methodist Church amidst the flowers.

CROFT VIEW HALLS-THE FUTURE

It was decided at a these halls. The meeting standard and with the meeting held on Friday the 13th of March that the Croft View Halls. which cater primarily for the youth of our village, (Boys' Brigade, Guides, Brownies, maintenance cost for to bring the halls up to

felt that this could be achieved and a further meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd April to formulate a business plan and to discuss the details for a proposed Youth Club, Brass Band agreement with the etc.) must be run on a Methodist Church for viable financial footing. the future running of The Methodist Church Croft View. It is cannot continue to estimated that around cover the ongoing £35,000 will be required

help of the people of Lanchester we hope to start raising this money as soon as details are finalised. In the meantime Croft View Halls are available for hire to anyone or any organisation that is looking for a venue.

Please contact Eric Hepplewhite on 521323 or by e-mail erichepple white@btinternet.com.



The bottom hall at Croft View when it was a church. This photograph was kindly sent by Eric Hepplewhite.

GLENN COXON'S NEW BUSINESS

Starting a new business I have been in the vehicle in hard times, some might say it's madness, but it's the credit crunch which has inspired me to do it. I, Glenn Coxon, have teamed up with STL Commercial Ltd to start a business servicing and repairing caravans, motorhomes, cars, vans and horseboxes.

Due to the economic service. climate I feel that customers need a local service centre that can provide top quality service with credit crunch rates.

trade since 1986. I also own a caravan. This is why I can relate to, and understand customers' requirements. I have experienced poor service myself after paying high rates. This has spurred me on to build this new business with an honest, convenient, trustworthy

There are a number of reasons why I can provide top quality service by very experienced staff without charging high rates. People are often misled

when it comes to maintaining a warranty. Please be aware that your warranty is still valid using my services and you do not have to use nominated companies.

The business location is next to Classic Coaches at Annfield Plain. We offer a collection and delivery service and work weekends, as this is often a more convenient time. Ihope people will use local trade and at least give me a try so I can prove what I have set out to do. Cheers Glenn



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POETS LISTEN TO READINGS BY THE AUTHORS



Poets and listeners at Isam Hussein's poetry evening where everyone was invited to a reading of poetry written by contributors of the North East Poetry Journal on Wednesday 4th of March in the Community Centre dining room. Visitors were invited to either listen or to participate.

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AMY AND LUCY CELEBRATE AT THEIR 30th PARTY

Amy Bell and Lucy Ward, who are lifelong friends, celebrated their birthday reaching 30 years of age. They celebrated the day with a fancy dress 'bash' at the Cricket Club on the 14th of March. Lots of their friends attended the party and the theme was from the 70's. A good lively time was enjoyed everyone with appropriate disco, dancing, and a faith supper.



Amy and Lucy, looking extremely good at 30, having a great time at their joint birthday party, seen here cutting their birthday cake.

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41st ANNUAL **GENERAL MEETING** OF LANCHESTER **COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

opened the meeting by increased presence of welcoming all those present. Arthur Maughan (Chairman) reported that after a two year period of incurring losses, the Community Centre made a small profit in 2008. The financial restructuring since the loss of all external funding has now been completed, and the business has continued to expand with the income increased by 20% during the past year. This was after excluding the income for special The new projects. Exercise Centre, which now opens for seven days per week, provides an excellent facility for the people of Lanchester as well as generating a small profit. A stairlift has been installed which gives full access to all of the areas of the Community Centre to the disabled. Arthur Maughan concluded his opening remarks by thanking John Wilson (Manager), Margaret President, Dr Ian Brunt; Laycock (Exercise Supervisor), Maurice Swift (Caretaker) and Rose Moir (Cleaner) for their excellent work during the year of 2008. John Wilson (the Manager) reported there has been a decrease in vandalism and general nuisance to visitors throughout 2008; this

Dr Ian Brunt (President) could be due to the staff since the new Exercise Centre has been open. 2008 has been a year of continued expansion of the scope of activities provided by the centre, particularly in the provision of more activities for younger people. John also thanked staff the volunteers for the excellent work they carry out to ensure the Centre runs smoothly. Bill Waite (the Treasurer) presented accounts and reported a profit of £3000 for 2008; which has been reserved for carrying out essential redecoration of the Community Centre. Copies of the Treasurer's report are available from the Community Centre. The various sections the Community Association gave their reports, which are also available on request. The following were elected as Officers for 2009 Chairman, Arthur Maughan; Vice Chairman John Wills; Secretary, Harry Taylor; Treasurer, Bill Waite. The President closed the meeting by thanking the members present for their various contributions and interest in this year's AGM and wished everybody a very successful 2009.



Left to right: Bill Waite (Treasurer), Dr Ian Brunt (President), Arthur Maughan (Chairman) and Harry Taylor (Secretary)

VILLAGE VOICE LUNCH



Members and partners of the Village Voice Management Team enjoy their annual lunch at The Old Mill at Knitsley.

From left to right are John Gray; Mr and Mrs John Hurran; Mr and Mrs Brian Oram; Mr and Mrs Mike Stoddart; Mr and Mrs Malcolm McKenzie; Mr and Mrs Datta and Mrs Margery Reece.





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PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2009

POLICEREPORT:

given by PCSO Vanessa Gray for February:

Rowdy Nuisance 7 Vehicle Nuisance 7 Theft 3 Burglary 2 (+1 attempt) Vehicle crime 1 Criminal damage 1. Theft refers to a gas meter stolen from outside a nursery in Lanchester; lead theft from the roof of Lanchester Sixth Form College and an unattended but secure car trailer stolen from the driveway of a dwelling in Knitsley. Burglaries refer to one attempted from the delicatessen in Front Street and two actual break-ins. but with nothing stolen, from the Cricket Club and the Solicitor's premises in Front Street. Criminal damage also took place at the delicatessen where the glass panels in the front door were broken. Vehicle damage consisted of two vehicles in Deneside, belonging to the same keeper, had a tyre punctured, again by an unknown person. Enquiries are continuing in all cases.

CORRESPONDENCE

Durham County Council -Parish Paths Partnership. Pathfinders have the forms in hand. Derwentside Wider Stakeholder Forum Meeting. The final meeting before the Area Action Plan commences will take place on 12th March at the Lamplight Theatre. Croft View Hall-The Future. A meeting will take place on Friday 13th March. It will take £35,000 to repair and a money-raising Committee is to be set up. Cllrs Lindsay, Cook, Bob Glass and Pat Glass said they would attend. It was noted that a Brass Band Concert is be held on Saturday, 4th April in the Methodist Church.

KITSWELL **PARK PROJECT.** In spite of three weeks' work lost due to inclement weather, it is hoped that the machines will be off site by 20th March. The financial arrangements are going to plan and final invoices should be received by the end of the month. Monthly site meetings have taken place including one on 23rd February with some of the young people. Eleven youngsters had done trial runs the day before the Parish council meeting and they had suggested some amendments. The company doing the work had been very impressed with how very seriously the youngsters are taking the project. A video has been made for national showing in schools to show how children can be involved A new cricket score board

which is part of the project has been ordered and it is hoped that it will be installed before the start of the season in three weeks' time; the old score board has been removed. A few other amendments have also been made - some examples of these include: a change in the fencing; reduced number of benches on the site; position of the emergency exit; and enclosing the small play area. Some of these have reduced the total cost and others have increased it, but the project is still within budget.

The Launch Event on Saturday 25th April. The Lanchester Brass Band is to attend the event and the Leisureworks Development Team are providing 8 quarter-hour activities. Both the Cricket Club and Rugby Club will put on training and matches and The County Council is to provide bicycle training sessions. The Police and the Highways Authorities will also be there and the Red Cross will be asked to provide First Aid cover.

refreshments. Councillor Glass asked if the Fire Brigade would be invited to attend.

The Celebrity, or rather Celebrities who will perform the official opening are to be both Charlotte and Stephanie Walker (twin daughters of Councillor and Mrs Walker) who are part of the backing group of the pop star Duffy.

Councillor Glass also thought the former village policeman Mel Armstrong should be asked to attend. It was suggested that the Village Voice print a promotional article and Councillors were shown very impressive posters produced by the Lead Officer. One of these was chosen unanimously as the one to be used. Copies of the various posters will go into the Parish Council Portfolio. The Councillors congratulated the Lead Officer on her work.

AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP. It was unanimously agreed that Councillor Colin Burton be nominated to represent the Parish and other Councils on the Parish Council Committee when the new Area Action Partnership comes into being.

PARISH HANDY PERSON. **Progress** Report. The Lead Officer was asked to pass on the thanks and appreciation of the Councillors to Mr Maddox. It was suggested that he might need some new tools and that this would be left to Mr Maddox's discretion.

POWER WELLBEING. Introduced in 2000, the well-being power extended the powers of principal local authorities in England and Wales to allow them to do anything they considered likely to promote the The Cricket Club will be economic, social and

PARISH COUNCIL - CONTINUED

environmental well-being arranged, with other Association and towards of their area unless explicitly prohibited elsewhere in legislation. On 31st December 2008, new legislation extended the well-being power to Parish Councils. In order to qualify as an eligible Parish Council to use this power, there are a number of prescribed conditions that the Council must meet, namely: a qualified Clerk trained in the use of the well-being power; 80% of Councillors trained in the use of the well-being power; a minimum of twothirds of vacancies on the Council filled at the last ordinary elections; a public statement of community engagement. All Members of the Council agreed to take training and it was suggested that perhaps inhouse training could be Lanchester Community all Members agreed.

Councils sharing the cost, and with two or three dates given. The Lead Officer clock, which is an will bring details of community engagement, village community. eg Churches Together, to FINANCIAL the next meeting.

TRAINING. The Annual The report prepared by Training Plan was discussed in some detail. This included some training for Handyperson as well as the Well-being training as has been described previously above.

policy of making donations only to local groups be adhered to. Those receiving monies, therefore, were

the maintenance of the parochial church tower important part of the

INFORMATION.

the Lead Officer was approved, as were accounts for payment.

MEMBERSQUESTIONS

There were no Members' questions nor Chairperson's announcements, but Councillor **GRANTS/DONATIONS**. Johnson did say that as A number of grants and this was the last Parish donations had been Council Meeting under requested but it was the present 2-tier agreed that the Council's system, a letter should be sent to Derwentside District Council Members thanking them for their support of both Lanchester village and Lanchester Rugby Club the Parish Councilitself;

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Gardening in April

The nights can be cold in and, if you are not June when all frosts are April and we must guard gardening organically, use passed. against late frosts. April pellets - sparingly. Beer General

Lawns

level any humps. It is also rubbed off. useful to apply a fertilizer Vegetables at this time of the year.

Borders

achieve this.

and snails can be a pest they can be planted out in

trimedges, fill hollows and aphids- they can easily be surging ahead.

You should plant your onion sets early in April You need to continue to about an inch deep and deadhead your spring cover them with soil so bulbs but make sure that that foraging blackbirds do you leave the leaves to die not pull them out. You can Although the sow sweet peppers and perennials are now tomatoes on a windowsill growing they will benefit and pot them up later in the from a mulch from your month when they are 2+ compost heap and the inches tall. Potatoes provision of support for (especially in plastic bags) the taller ones - netting can be planted. When stretched across the conditions are right you border is an easy way to can start sowing sprouts, broccoli, peas, broad If you did not plant sweet beans, spinach and salad peas last autumn you can leaves. I sow my runner plant the seed straight in beans late in April inside the beds this month. Slugs and in Roottrainers so that

is a busy month of traps can be a useful Keep on sowing hardy preparation in the garden. alternative. Roses will annuals and grow summer benefit from a feed in April bulbs (like Lily) in pots. The lawn has started and also keep an eye open As ever, happy gardening growing now so true-up or for an early attack of in April when growth is

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Satley Parish Council is seeking to appoint a new Clerk To The Parish Council (part time - £600 PA)

Local Government in County Durham is changing and we are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced public sector manager to help lead the Parish Council through the next few years. Satley Parish Council will be seeking to maximise the opportunities for local community empowerment under the new Unitary Council for County Durham

The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills, experience of public administration, bookkeeping and IT skills. Experience of working with community groups would be desirable. The person appointed will be responsible for managing all Council procedures.

Salary will be £600 PA. Appointments will be subject to successful completion of a 6 months probationary period

To apply for the position please send a covering letter and CV to: The Clerk, Satley Parish Council, Satley House, Satley, Bishop Auckland, DL13 4HU Closing date: 30 April 2009

For further information or an informal discussion please contact Colin Hodgson on 0777 442 6107.

THE MAGIC OF HOLLYWOOD

Last year as I left the EP Bede's College, I the young dancers', and School after Gershwin Party' - 'they will not better that the - but oh, the chairs!' This was a comment that I singing; agreed with at the time. harmony;

'fantastic; lovely fabulous

'A listened carefully for many more, all praising I any comments, critical the production and not overheard someone say or otherwise and heard one criticism. I agree following: with all the above and add my praise to them. It was good to see all the great new faces in the choir, This year as I left St costumes; 'nice' to see and the enthusiastic dancing from the girls and boys of the Karen Stewart Dance Academy - their smiles and energy were wonderful to see.

I make two more comments. First, they will never better this year's production - or will they? We will have to wait and see. Second - the chairs were very comfortable! C.



Some of the stars of the show



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Karen Stewart Performing Arts and Dance Academy



A wonderful performance of 'Singing in the Rain'

KAREN STEWART DANCE ACADEMY SUCCESS

week joining Lanchester compete at Pudsey Civic Choral and Operatic Hall and came back with 2 Society, KSDA took a very first place team awards,

Having had a very busy coach ride to Leeds to early Sunday morning and an impressive total of

55 individual trophies of which 11 were first places. Karen, Becca and Jolene would like to say how proud they are of all the dancers.

LOVE LETTERS



Louise Jameson and Colin Baker

citizens, from petulant

immaturity to mature

This rare treat was enjoyed

by an audience of twenty,

some being Dr Who fans

who had enjoyed Colin

incarnation as the Doctor

and Louise Jameson's

appearance as Leela,

companion to another

Doctor. Were the ticket

prices too high for

Lancestrians? Was it too

cold? Who can tell?

Baker's

three-vear

Two celebrated actors appeared the Community Centre, Lanchester to give an excellent performance of the play 'Love Letters' by A R Gurney. The play follows the tragic relationship between Andy Ladd and Melissa Gardner through the letters they exchange throughout their lives as they are kept apart by the ambition of Andy's father for his son, the snootiness of Melissa's parents and sheer bad luck.

Their personalities are revealed by hints of jealousy, insensitivity and stupidity, but with an undertone of a love which comes to fruition only late in life but is destroyed by Andy's political ambition.

The comedy of the play lies in the witty revelation of American society through the eyes of two baffled children as they grow up to be confused adults, gleefully revealed by Louise Jameson and Colin Baker as the starcrossed lovers. Sitting in armchairs at both sides of the stage, they skilfully evolved from primary school brats to senior

WALK FOR WATER AID

bright sunny Sunday 15th March replaced the one cancelled through icy conditions in February.

children Church to watch a film on enjoyed Water Aid.

A sponsored walk on a Just over 30 adults and When the film ended they gathered set off on a walk to Malton. together at the Methodist On their return they refreshments.



Walkers (and a dog) gather outside the Methodist Church before their walk

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You may have thought of a group you would like to start - please contact us and we will try to help you start up if we can.

Finally please remember this is your Community Centre and the more you put in the more you get out. Feel free to drop in or contact us for more information. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

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SLIMMING EXPERT WINS AWARD

Helping people achieve their dreams, especially when it comes to losing weight, is no mean achievement. Slimming World's Consultants are well known for being the most dedicated when it comes to real help and support through one of the most difficult things anyone ever has to do in their lives. So winning a special award for doing just that is pretty exceptional.

Lesley Suddes, who holds a group at Lanchester Social Club Wednesdays at 6.00 pm, says "This job is so very special. Watching someone change from having no confidence, being embarrassed about

their size and wearing shapeless clothes to someone who looks and feels great and enjoys eating healthily, brings its own rewards, but to have your work recognised in this way is, I must admit, a very proud moment for me."

In the last three months Lesley has helped members lose more than 385 lbs (27½ st), making Lanchester one of the best weight losing areas in the country. So well done to Lesley and well done to the slimmers Lanchester.



Lesley Suddes

FUNDRAISING FOR PERU VISIT

Grange, both from Lanchester, but attend Durham 6th Form College, are busy along with 13 other students, raising money for a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Peru. The visit takes place in July this year and it costs in the region of £4000. Already one coffee morning has been held at the Community Centre, and they took a stall at the Table Top Sale on 7th another fundraising effort.

Lucy Dunn and Robyn At Christmas these two brave girls did the Boxing Day Dip at Seaton Carew! Robyn is also going to abseil off the Hartlepool/ Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge in April! It seems quite obvious that they are extremely determined and willing to put themselves out to raise the necessary money.

Whilst in Peru they will visit a school for a week where they will help to build a Library. They are

looking forward to considerable travel and hoping to experience many areas of Peruvian culture.

A Coffee Morning will be held at the Community Centre on 9th April from 10 am - 12.00 which they hope will be well attended. The girls would like to thank the people who have supported them so far and look forward to this being continued until they raise the required amount.



Lucy Dunn (left) and Robyn Grange, at their stall at the Table Top Sale

PTA CONCERT

The Parent Teacher raising concert on 27th primary school held a fund-

Association of All Saints February in Lanchester Community Centre.





(Kevin)

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Leary, Clare Kelly, Tim Madeley and Katy Gray, Jonathan Yates and last but not least PTA chairman. organiser, MC and joke Conlin, Chris dispenser Colm Doyle.



Jonathan Yates

IT'S A MATTER OF DEBATE AT ST BEDE'S

For many years St Bede's influence of dangerous sixth form has provided its student population with opportunity practise and develop their debating skills within the tutorial program. It is intended to prepare the students for their university courses when skills such as these will be extremely useful.

This year the debates have spanned the past few weeks culminating in the final on the 4th March. The 13 form groups participated vigorously against each other until only Aiden and Campion remained. The series of rounds covered topical issues such as the skinny models, the NHS providing medical treatment for people with self inflicted problems and the final debate consisted of the issue of money as a source of happiness. Since the topics were well balanced there were many great points being made for and against every motion, making it increasingly difficult for the judges to decide which form to put through each round.

After much heated debate Aiden was the winning form group who had been against the motion that, "This house believes that money is the source of happiness". James McKenna, the second speaker for Aiden said, "This experience has given me a lot more confidence in putting across my view point and talking in front of large groups of people. Alsoitfeltgoodtorepresent my form, who were brilliant support for both me and Megan."

The debates are a great experience for any member of the sixth form at St Bede's and also it very beneficial for when it comes to filling out the UCAS form for application to university. This year it was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils.

Claire Hogarth

TABLE TOP SALE



Enthusiastic sellers from Karen Stewart's dance classes at the table top sale held in the Community Centre on 7th March

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EXPOCHEF EXCITES AND ENCOURAGES CHILDREN TO EAT HEALTHIER

On Tuesday 10th March, Jimmy, the chef, came to All Saints RCPrimary. His mission: to encourage the children to eat healthier and to prove healthy food tastes just as good as unhealthy food. Instead of sugar and salt, he flavoured his food with honey, herbs and spices. The first dish Jimmy made (with the help of Alasdair Nairn Year 5) was a Chinese salad. Some volunteers tried it and almost all of them liked it.

old, helped Jimmy to make healthy burgers. These were very popular with the tasters!

As a healthy alternative to sugary drinks, Jimmy showed the children how to make smoothies with fruit and natural yoghurt. These were delicious!

The Expochef then had a quiz about fruit and vegetables and a boys' and girls' team battled each other to be champions. The girls won by one point.

Next Emily Conlin, 8 years Jimmy finished by making a vegetable tagine. This contained lots of different vegetables, some more unusual than we normally eat. Twelve volunteers tasted it and all thought it was really nice.

> The Expochef left a small recipe booklet and a certificate for each of the children. Everyone left looking forward to trying the recipes at home.

> ByGeorgiaMcAloon,James Draper, Rebecca Symonds and Bethany Winter.



There was no shortage of volunteers at All Saints primary school to test the smoothies. Just something some of their friends had made earlier with yoghurt, pineapple juice, honey, strawberries and bananas. They all agreed it was delicious.

WORLD BOOKS DAY

The 5th of March was the culmination of careful preparation for Word Books Day by the pupils of All Saints primary school. The older pupils had first had to find out from their juniors about their tastes in reading. Then during their regular visits to Lanchester Library they had selected a book which they thought would fit the bill, and on the 5th they read the stories to their 'buddies'. It was obvious that both readers and listeners concentrating hard, and the exercise was a success.



All Saints' primary school pupils reading to their younger 'buddies'

WORLD MATHS DAY

World Maths Day is a Global Event which falls on 4th March. It seems to be an excellent method of concentrating on Maths for a day in such an interesting, competitive way which can only be good for young children. This is the third year that the EP School has taken part and whilst lessons are continued in the classroom, each year group uses the Computer Suite in turn where they can log on and compete with children on line, from 160 countries. Everyone in the school takes part and the enjoyment can be

seen on their faces as they enthusiastic about the tap into their keyboards. Excitement rises as they solve the mathematical problems as fast as possible and often win against children from eg 24 Canada, China, Kuwait, Lanchester EP School Switzerland, or even children recorded over children from their own. or neighbouring schools. They can continue to carry out the exercise at home on their own computers until the 24 hours are completed if they wish and many of them do continue in their free time, such is their enthusiasm. Mr Taylor, Maths Coordinator, is extremely

project and the benefits that it brings. Last year 182,455,169 children from around the world gave correct answers during a period. hour 30,000 correct answers. This year they more than doubled that number, recording 70,023 correct answers, which was a wonderful effort by the children!

The project, which is free, is organised by a company called MATHETICS, which is based in Hong Kong.



Aaron, Alice and Anna glance away for a second from their numerate speed task at the EP school

All Saints pupils also competed 'on line' on World Maths Day with

pupils of other schools at so much that they continued home and abroad in maths tests. Some enjoyed this they got home.

to play in the evening when



A junior boy from the EP school reading to two Reception class children in the library on World Books Day

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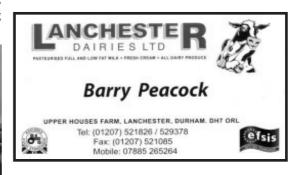
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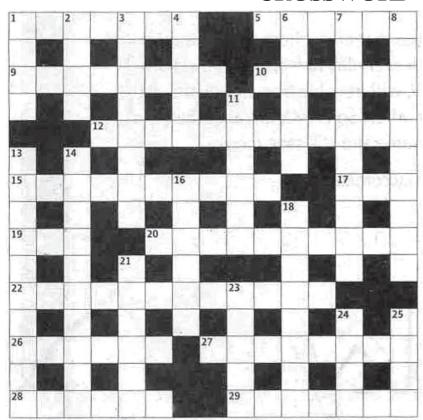
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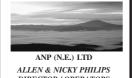
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CROSSWORD 34

There were 21 entries in last month's competition. The winner in the draw was Maisie Raine of Upper House Farm who will receive the £10 prize. Have a go at this latest challenge by John Wilson.

- 1,9. Deceitful person (fig) (5,2,3,5)
- 5,24. Canadian emblem (1,5,4)
- See 1 across
- Shoots from hidden position (6)
- Boston ore fee makes prisoners' wish (4,2,2,4)
- Where Duke Ellington usually played (2,3,5)
- Hostelry (3) 17.
- Retreat (3)
- 20. Electricity consumers (5,5)
- OK nice ICI is a 22. furniture supplier of repute (4,2,6)
- Tool in theatre pantry makes hole in head (6)
- 27. See 4
- 28. Neaten again (2-4)
- A feisty type of clothes (4,3)

DOWN

- Satisfy (4)
- 2. Grows old (4)
- 3. Aural orifices (3,5)
- 4,27. So use Bennet on night-time feature (2,3,2,2,4)
- 6,18. Mischievous behaviour (fig) (6,8)
- Person that bluffs about their strength (fig)(5,5)
- Sense a rite to become Oriental (10)
- 11,21. Fifty gaze on lurid barfly (fig) (6-6)
- Typical season (4,6)
- Attention! Sect takes 14. in Brown and the German (5.5)
- Paradoxical (6)
- 18. See 6
- 21. See 11
- 23. NE zoo for layer (5)
- 24. See 5

DOWN

25. Buginailing native (4)

sidearm

seduction

to sit on the fence

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 34

1.

2 3.

4.

ACROSS

satisfy 5 charade

- disadvantageous 10.
- near thing 12. mendicant
- 14 mates
- 15 ashen face cream
- cofferdam
- 21. draft
- 23.

punitive damages

- precast tea tree

vearn cathartic argot a dog in the manger

- ensigns
- affidavit
- macadamia 15. alcopop
- 17 Matisse 10
- extra midst

THE BORDER REIVERS

Philip Nixon introduced his film about the Reivers, narrated by Denis Dunlop to the History Group on March 5th.

He blamed Edward I for starting four centuries of rustling, murder and destruction, but then the Nixons never needed an excuse

was true that Northumberland suffered from intermittent wars between England and Scotland. The borders were devastated by both sides and the inhabitants decided not to try to live peacefully, but to prey on their neighbours to the North and South, stealing their cattle and holding prisoners for ransom. They built solid stone houses known as bastles and preferred to steal cattle in autumn, when they were well-

The 1249 Laws of the Marches created Wardens who were supposed to keep the peace, but local Wardens were in league with the Reivers and Wardens from the South were ineffective. When the Reivers were not killing strangers, they carried out family feuds with great loss of

The death of Elizabeth I was the signal for massive raids, stealing

of Scotland and 1st of England punished the Reivers with mass executions without trial. Relative calm returned, with smaller groups of 'mosstroopers' maintaining the thieving tradition.

The film was illustrated with contemporary and specially created images and overlaid with sound effects of wind, horses hooves, shouts and pipe music.

Though some members would have preferred more detailed facts and identification of the buildings shown, this was appreciated as an impressive production, and of course, all the up to 4000 cattle, but facts were in Mr Nixon's the new king James VI book which was for sale!

No adverse weather could keep 22 members and 1 guest away from Lanchester WI's meeting on Monday, 2nd March, in the small hall of the Community Centre. Following the formal part of the meeting, led by President. Jennifer Macdonald, during which members discussed, amongst other things, plans for their summer trip, Jean Forster introduced the speaker for the evening, Mr Ian Wilkinson, Scene of

Since 1990 Mr Wilkinson has worked for Durham Constabulary on the **Forensics** Team. investigating scenes of crime of all descriptions, from house burglaries to murders! Bornin Zimbabwe in the 1950's, he told members that prior to his move to Durham, he worked with police in Zimbabwe,

CrimeOfficer.

WI NEWS

covering the community in a Landrover, sometimes having to return to base with more than just evidence - suspects and even the odd body had to be transported back!

MrWilkinsontalkedabout the three main stages of investigating crime scenes: photographic, forensic fingerprinting. Members gleaned lots of advice on the dos and don'ts should you discover you are victim to a crime scene mainly touch nothing, call the police first (before your next of kin) and, should vou need to enter the house following a breakin, pick your way round the skirting board to avoid contaminating footprint evidence. Forget the cup of sweet tea for the shock, furthermore, because steam can contaminate any fingerprint DNA!

Members were absorbed in what Mr Wilkinson had to say that they had little social time left for tea, biscuits and chat. Jennifer Macdonald gave the vote of thanks and the competition -Most Important Quality Needed for a Scene of Crime Officer - was won by Pat Campbell, with Jennifer Macdonald being second. Muriel Gibbons won the raffle

On 26th February, four members attended a cookery evening at WI House in Spennymoor. Julie Clarke demonstrated, with a large portion of humour, how to make Beetroot Soup, Sauté of Beef with Port and Mushrooms, Roast Vegetable Plait, Chocolate and Amaretto Torte and quick Lemon Cheesecake - all delicious!

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LEAF

Lanchester library is a good place for children to have fun and maybe learn a thing or two.

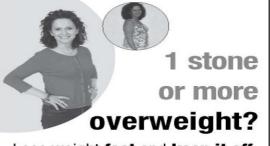
On Thursday February the children were helped by Melanie Howd of Groundwork Trust to learn about litter and the effect it has on the animals we share our world with. They also converted some old CD discs into 'litter catchers', just as native Americans made dream catchers to keep evil away. The discs were lavishly decorated with glitter and feathers, changing from rubbish to

things of beauty and trapping just one piece of litter as a warning to litterlouts.

Melanie's work was funded by Derwentside District Council as part of the Leaf (litter education and awareness focus) campaign.



Melanie Howd working with the children in the library



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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Village Spring Clean

This will take place on Saturday 28th March between 10.00 am and 1.30 pm. With the support of the District and Parish Councils, the Partnership will have a tent on the Village Green. Fromityou will be able to collect litter grabbers, black bags, etc and afterwards some refreshments. Please come and help for an hour or so, wearing gloves and strong shoes.

History Society Grand Designs

The speaker at the next meeting will be Mr John Gall who recently retired from the post of Deputy Director at Beamish Museum. Mr Gall, who is also President of the Society, arrives with a wide brief and a very broad knowledge of the history of the North East.

The talk will be held in the Community Centre at 7.30 pmonFriday3rdApril.

Open House

You are warmly invited to Open House for lunch and the opportunity for a quiet time in the Parish Church on the following Thursdays: April 2nd, 7th May, 4th June and 2nd July.

Short Walks

The 'Short Circuits' group meets on Saturdays at 10.30 am. On 4th April they meet at the cul-desac in New Shincliffe, map reference 295402, to walk 5½ miles, and on the 18th at Warkworth Dunes picnic site, map ref NU 255064, to walk 5½ miles. Bring a picnic.

The Byways and Bridleways group starts its 2009 programme at 7 pm on Tuesday 14th April at the Three Horseshoes, Maiden Law. Ring 0191 371 0605 for more information. On 28th April, sametime, meet at the Punch Bowl Inn, Craghead. Ring 0191 371 8854 for more info.



Every Tuesday starts 9.00pm. Entry Fee 50p. Everybody welcome.

Sunday Night is Music Night. Join Our Singers & Musicians from 8.00pm. All Welcome.

Alan Madrell Coach Tours



Cotswolds & Chocolate
May 8th - 11th £165 per person

Llandudno & North Wales June 8th - 12th £180 per person

DAY TRIPS Wed 22nd April Skipton Market £10 Sat 16th May Gretna Green & Gateway Outlet Village £10

For brochure ring **0191 3733145**

3 Ivy Terrace Langley Park Durham DH7 9XW

Help on Lanchester Valley Walk

With the signs of spring around us now is a good time to get some fresh air and exercise. encourage you a working party is being arranged for Saturday 4th April on the Lanchester Valley Walk adjacent to Dora's Wood and Oakwood. The steps down into the wood need some attention to clear off encroaching vegetation and re-surface them. Then the bushes alongside the section from here to Oakwood would benefit from some trimming back.

Tools and expertise will be supplied by Deborah Ferguson of Durham County Council. There will be jobs for all levels of fitness so everybody is We'll be welcome. meeting on the Valley Walk by Oakwood at 9.45 ready to start at 10.00. Come in your old clothes and bring your own refreshments as we will have a break for lunch and a chat finishing about 2.30.

Just come along or if you would like more information please contact Michael Horsley on 01207520764.

Mothers' Union

The April meeting is on the 8th, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, when Anne Heywood will speak about the Lindisfarne Gospels.

Coffee Morning for Peru

Please come to the Coffee Morning at the Community Centre on Thursday 9th April, from 10.00am-12.00, to support two Lanchester students, Lucy Dunn and Robyn Grange. They attend Durham Sixth Form College and are raising money to visit Peru this summer, to help build a Library for a school.

WHAT'S ON?

Lanchester Brass Patrons Concert

Lanchester Brass Band Patrons Concert is being held at the Methodist Church on Saturday April 4th, beginning at 7.30 pm. It will be a full evening of quality entertainment featuring soloists and small groups as well as the full band. Non patrons are welcome at a cost of £2.50 per head which may be paid at the door. Those who wish to become patrons may do so on the night as the Secretary/Treasurer will be available in the hall. For further information please contact Ruth Nordmann on 07880 723372.

Lanchester Wildlife Group

"Paste Egg". Monday 13th April (Easter Monday). Meet 10 am behind Derwentside College in the car park. Bring an egg, not already boiled. Donations in bucket. vellow Traditional egg dyeing. Members' evening. Tuesday 14th April, 7.30 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. "Wildlife in and out of the village" and cheese and wine.

Wildlife for Families.
Sunday 26th April.
"Ponds". Meet 10 am at
Malton Picnic Site.
Usually finish by 12 noon.

Village Conference

Everyone with something to say about the work of the Parish Council or to ask questions has the opportunity to do so at the Village Conference, which is held at 7.15 pm on 14th April at Park House. The Conference is immediately followed by the Parish Council meeting.

WI

The April meeting will be heldat 7.00 pm on Monday, 6th April, in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. Visitors are very welcome, admission £1. The Speaker will be Lesley Holburn, who is demonstrating Fabric Painting for members to "have a go". Don't forget to bring your aprons to protect your clothes. The competition is A Pretty Scarf. Members and guests wanting to go on Lanchester WI Summer Outing on Wednesday, 10th June are requested to bring their £5 deposit too please.

WI Coffee Morning

The WI is holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday, 8th April, in the Chapter House at All Saints Parish Church. Tickets 75p, to include entry, coffee and scone. Sales table for cakes and preserves and raffle prizes to be available.

Film Club

An opportunity to see 'The Magic Flute' directed by Ingmar Bergman.

This enchanting traditional production of Mozart's opera is staged in a replica of the theatre of the Royal Swedish Court.

The film has great charm, is highly visual and the singing is spectacular. It will be screened on Sunday April 19th in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm. All are welcome, members £2, nonmembers £3.50.

Sunday Bridge

April 26th is the date of the last bridge session of the season in aid of Community Association funds. The session in the Community Centre begins at 2 pm, entrance is £3.

Flower Club

At the meeting on Wednesday 22nd April Val Guestof Hurworth will give a demonstration entitled 'Sweet Glows the Air of Summer'. The meeting starts at 2 pm in the Community Centre.

Friends of Longovicium

The April meeting of the Friends, who are interested in the Roman Fort and its surroundings, will be in the Community Centre on Thursday 23rd at 7.30 pm. Anyone is welcome to come.

Lanchester Bowling Club

The pre-season Spring meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd April at 7.00 pm in the Bowls Pavilion. All current, former and potential new members, men and women, are welcome.

It is worth noting that bowls is an ideal credit crunch sport. For £35 (current fees) you can play to your heart's content from the start of May to the end of September. The club has bowls you can borrow to get started and a second hand set will not set you back too much if you like the game. The game is very flexible. You can have an hour's "roll up" with other members, a short session of practice on your own or play with the teams for an afternoon or evening (you will be surprised how quickly you may be asked if you want to play). If you cannot attend the meeting ring Ken Raper on 521673.

MP Surgery

Our Member of Parliament, Hilary Armstrong, holds her monthly surgery, where constituents can bring their problems and gripes, on Saturday April 25th at St Patrick's, Consett, starting at 11 am.

Bike Track and New Play Area Opening

There will be all kinds of activities on offer at the official opening of the new bike track at Kitswell Park on 25th April.

Lanchester Parish Council invite you to enjoy the cricket match, as well as rugby training, bike safety, displays, games and activities. Lanchester Brass Band will be on hand to entertain, and refreshments will be available.

Of course the youngsters can try out the bike track (they should have helmets and elbow and knee pads) and the play equipment. The event is held from 1 till 3 pm, with the official cutting of the ribbon by Charlotte and Stephanie Walker of the group 'In Stereo', backing singers for Duffy, at 1.15 pm.

Durham Dramatic Society

Presents 'Map of the Heart' by William Nicholson at the City Theatre, Fowlers Yard, Back Silver St, Durham, from 26th April - 2nd May. Tickets from The Durham Tourist Office from April 6that £6. For further details about the play or how to join and become an actor or behind the scenes helper etc, contact Lesley Anderson on 521678.

Mamma Mia

Lanchester Lions Club are presenting their interpretation of Mamma Mia in the Social Club on Saturday 16th May 2009, 8.00 pm - 11.30 pm. Tickets are £6.00 from any Lion member or call 521929. Ticket includes Pie and Peas. There will also be a raffle. Although dress code is optional, get in the mood, get on the those dungarees, and have a great time finding out just -Who is the Daddy?

Family History in Lanchester Library

A monthly visitor to Lanchester library is John Milburn, who sits at his computer on the last Thursday morning of the month and generously helps all comers to trace their family history.

Flicking with practised ease from one web-site to the other, he can track families back through the generations, but you need to bring as much information as you have, including birth and marriage certificates, to give him a starting point. In April, the date is the 30th, from 9.30 to 11.30 am.

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

5th April, Mark Wilson, Award Winning Vocalist 12th April, Taylor Kaye, Voted Best Female Singer 2008/09

19th April, Karaoke 26th April, Brad Stevens, Country & Western Singer



John Milburn helping one of his visitors trace her family history

Art Exhibition

Members of Castleside Art Club will exhibit and offer for sale over 250 paintings at their next exhibition which will be held in Castleside Village Hall on Easter Sunday and Monday (12th and 13th April). Doors will be open between 10 am and 5 pm and home-made refreshments will be on sale throughout both days. Admission - 20p.

Coming Shortly

The Lions' Carnival will be on Saturday 20th June. All Saints Parish Church will hold their annual Summer Fayre on Saturday 27th June.

North Country Theatre, scripted and produced by Nobby Dimon, will be at the Community Centre on 31st October.

Planning ahead? Please try to avoid published dates above.

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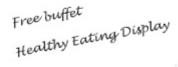
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BIKE TRACK SITE VISITS



Dominic and Ben are the first to test the new tracks

Partnership Youth Group Agent Dave Norcott, all met at the site of the new of whom were there. bike track on 23rd The visit was filmed by February in hopes of David of Izon Audio testing the track. However the previous appalling Derwentside District weather had held up work, and though the general shape of the track could be seen it was impossible to ride it.

around the track. The young people asked for a couple of changes to the bike track humps. These changes were agreed to straight away by the Parish Council Recreation Committee Keith Harrison and a practice track.

the and the Contractor's

Visual for use by Council to illustrate youth work in the area.

Sally Laverick, the Parish Council's Lead Officer, explained the arrange-It was possible to walk ments that she had been making for the opening ceremony on 25th April. Following decent weather and good progress with the track, it was tested on Monday 9th March, when Project Manager Simon the crushed stone surface Green, the Chair of the had been laid on two circuits, one for experts

COAST TO COAST

I have just got underway of life. The Sunshine Fund huge challenge this year. I live in Lanchester, though I work in Washington as MD of Cool Designs Ltd (Air Conditioning). I'm 36 now, and since probably my very early 20's I have toyed with the idea of walking Coast to Coast. The 84 mile route of Hadrian's Wall will be (hopefully) done over 5 days starting 29th May. If that wasn't enough, I am also entering in this year's Great North Run. I did the run back in 1996 when I was a lot younger, fitter and lighter! So, why now? Well, I am doing this madness in aid of The Sunshine Fund that raises money to provide sick and disabled northchildren east with equipment, apparatus and learning aids to improve their quality and enjoyment

with training for what is a provides grants to schools, hospitals, community groups and individual families. So, while this will be a personal challenge, knowing that any funds raised will go towards making a huge difference to the lives of these children will help spur me on.

> Much of my training though will be around Lanchester. We have some fantastic routes locally taking in the cycle route to Consett and the hill up to Burnhope. So, if anyone sees me out and about, words encouragement are much appreciated!

Naturally though, I would like to raise funds and awareness for The Sunshine Fund. So, if anyone can spare anything, no matter how much, I would greatly

COMIC RELIEF

Lanchester EP School decided on a 'Swimathon' to raise money for Comic Relief this year. Every year group took part including three members of staff, Head Teacher, Mrs Davis, Swimming

Teaching Assistant, Laura Peters. The rest of the staff seemed less enthusiastic about the prospect!

the school pool is 25 Relief.

Teacher, Mrs Storey, and metres and most children swam 5 times around before having a rest, then continued. In total 66,150 metres were completed and a massive £484.22 A single circumference of was raised for Comic



EP Year 5 boys swimming for Comic Relief

up a page at www. justgiving.com/darrel appreciate it. I have set birkett where the money

further

goes directly to The please contact dlbirkett Sunshine Fund. For @btinternet.comor07734 information 930092. Darrel Birkett

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NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 14th April.

The deadline for adverts is 12th April.

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