

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 7 Volume 12

Lanchester, July 2011

For contact information, see page 2

VIP VISIT TO TENNIS CLUB



Tony Blair doing the meeting and greeting with Dennis Laycock and Michael Hume making the introductions



Dennis Laycock proudly holds the Gold Award for Coaches for Clubs

Former Prime Minister, Tony Blair visited Lanchester Tennis Club on 24th June as part of the Tony Blair Sports Foundation work to promote the 'Coaches for Clubs' initiative. He presented the Club with the Gold Award, being the first to receive this. He even partnered Dennis Laycock, the Club Secretary, in a mini-match.

Story Page 4

DO IT THE WAY THE ROMANS DO

Friends of Longovicium, who are a working group of The Lanchester Partnership, hosted a most interesting morning in the Community Centre on Saturday July 9th. The occasion was to mark the launch of their second booklet called 'A Roman Town at Lanchester'.

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on Page 6**



Gina and Martin Hutchinson dressed as Romans



Anne McKenzie serving interesting Roman snacks

LANCHESTER AGRICULTURAL SHOW



Best in Show in the Horse Section, Martin Surtees cantering around the showground. The grey hunter was also last year's winner.



Foxhounds mixing with the public

'I thought I was at the wrong Show, with everyone in tee-shirts and sandals' remarked a regular exhibitor in the

Canine Section of the Show. For once, the weather was dry, the Show having suffered so much in recent years with

**Continued
on Page 5**



Dear Village....

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

Dear Village Voice

I have read with interest the letters concerning the changes in bus schedules. As a recent bus pass holder I have made extensive use of buses to Consett, Durham, Stanley and Newcastle. I think that the service we have in Lanchester is excellent with buses every half hour to these places. I accept that no Sunday service may have repercussions for some people, as may the lack of services after 9 pm from Durham Monday to Saturday. However I think that this is a small price to pay, given the effects of some of the cuts at the moment. Lanchester must be one of the most affluent communities in County Durham, there is no

shortage of cars about! My experience has been that the number getting on the buses here is much lower than other villages. I have lived in Lanchester for nearly 40 years and whenever I have needed help there have always been neighbours and friends to help, including offering lifts. Maybe it is time now to give something back for those of us who are fortunate enough to have our own transport. My suggestion would be a rota of volunteers on call for anyone who urgently needs a lift at the times when there are no buses available, eg hospital visiting on a Sunday. We could provide available dates and times on a monthly basis together with contact numbers. These could be published in the Voice. I really don't know how this could be best organised and by whom but I feel strongly that if it is a real problem then as a community we should be helping those who are genuinely adversely affected.

What do others think?
Val Hill, Ford Crescent,
Lanchester

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 0PB.

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THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

COUNTY COUNCIL EYES HOUSING (PART 2)

In last month's Village Voice on Page 7 we informed you that the County Council had identified three sites in Lanchester for possible house building and said that the Partnership would be pleased to have your views. A lot of you then told the Partnership that you felt strongly about the proposals.

Accordingly, the Partnership is going to arrange a public meeting, to which the county planners and our councillors will be invited. This meeting will be arranged after the summer holidays. The meeting will discuss:

- (i) The possibility of building on these sites; and
 - (ii) The Village Development Limit.
- There will be more information provided in next month's Village Voice.

YOUR VIEWS ON NHS STROKE SERVICES

A consultation on hyperacute stroke care for people in County Durham and Darlington was launched on 20th June and will run until 11th September 2011.

NHSCounty Durham and Darlington is proposing that hyperacute stroke services are consolidated on one site. At the moment, the service is provided at the University Hospital of North Durham and Darlington Memorial Hospital by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, which runs both hospitals during normal working hours. The two sites work on an alternating week rota to provide out of hours cover.

Hyperacute services are one of the most critical components of stroke care that patients need when they are at their most seriously ill. National standards say that these services should be available 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week, with patients being directly admitted

to a stroke unit where there is access to specialist stroke consultants and where brain imaging and clot-busting drugs are readily available.

Doctors, nurse and managers in County Durham have analysed various care options and believe that providing hyperacute services over the two hospital sites is not sustainable for the future. The details are in the document, which is available to download at www.haveasay.org.uk or you can request hard copies by writing to Hyperacute Stroke Consultation, FREEPOST RRXK-CZGR-TJJA, Gt Lumley Close, Thirsk, YO7 3TD. Your comments will be welcomed.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for June 2011 is 36. The draw was made by Mrs M Dobson of the Thursday Art Club.

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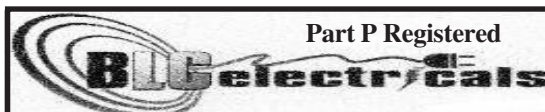
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FAREWELL TO CANON PETER WATERHOUSE

Sunday July 3rd was a special date in the calendar at Lanchester Parish Church. It was the last Sunday when Canon Peter Waterhouse would conduct a service there, the reason being, his retirement. Canon Waterhouse was ordained into the Anglican ministry 40 years ago, in July 1971 and has served as the vicar of Lanchester Parish Church for 28 years. He recalls that the day he arrived in Lanchester to take up his duties, it was absolutely pouring down - a rather dismal Lanchester welcome! However we were able to provide beautiful sunshine to send him off to what we all hope will be a long and very happy retirement with his wife Sheila.

In his last Sunday sermon as our vicar, Peter made several references to his happiness living in the community of Lanchester and indeed said he felt privileged to have lived here among us. He would take with him so many happy memories, when he leaves to live in Whickham.

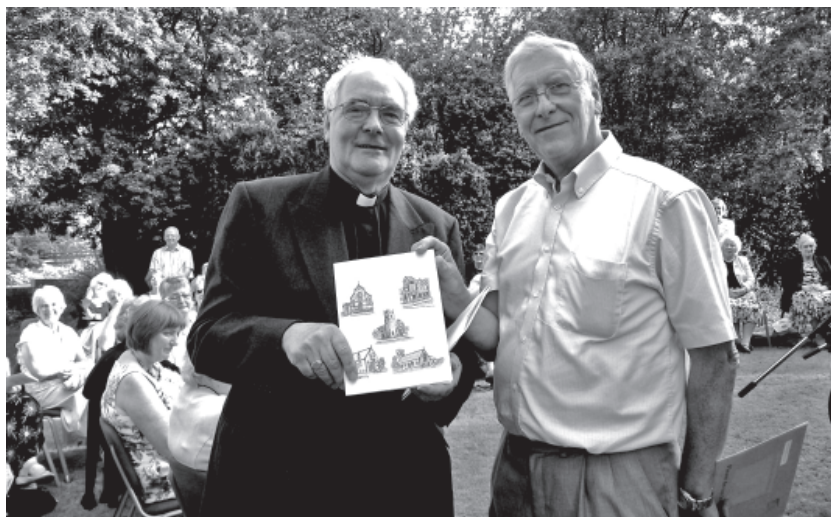
Those of us who knew Peter well are very accustomed to his infectious wit and sense of humour. He can provide a joke for any occasion

and we marvel at how he remembers so many of them. It is this sense of humour, together with his general, cordial disposition and his caring ministry, that has endeared Peter to many, many people.

The church was full on that Sunday morning, as everyone wanted to say farewell and thank Peter for his long ministry. He has meant a great deal to many people and those in special need at various times in their lives have particularly benefited from his kindness, understanding and sincerity. Peter is a man of integrity, a learned man with a deep spiritual faith, and he is very well respected in our community. At the end of the service a church warden, a lay reader, and the leader of the Mother's Union, Margaret Brown, spoke for the congregation in thanking Peter and paying tribute to his outstanding work as our parish priest and wishing Peter and Sheila a long and very happy retirement. A presentation followed and there was an excellent buffet lunch attended by over 200 people.

In the 'Churches Together' evening service at the Catholic Church, more words of

Back row: Sheila Waterhouse; Edith Pierce; Canon Peter Waterhouse. Front left: Matthew Atkinson; right: David Dawson. Edith and the two boys presented gifts from the Parish on the retirement of Canon Peter.



David Hughes, of Churches Together, presents Canon Peter Waterhouse with a beautiful card designed by Harry Carr, of the five local churches in the group.

appreciation were said to Peter from the Reverend Gavin Hume and Canon Bob Spence and another presentation was made. Come back and see us from time to time, Peter and Sheila. Do not forget us, because we will not forget you! Brenda Craddock



Left to right: Canon Peter Waterhouse; Sheila Waterhouse and Canon Bob Spence. Canon Bob presented gifts from All Saints RC Church and the Methodist Churches in the village and also at Burnhope to Canon Peter on his retirement.

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VIP VISIT TO LANCHESTER TENNIS CLUB

On Friday 24th June, the residents of Ford Road and surrounding streets awoke to the sight of no parking cones and police patrolling the area. Their presence was due to the arrival of the former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Tony Blair, who was visiting the club as part of the Tony Blair Sports Foundation's work to promote the

Coaches for Clubs initiative. Tony Blair came to Lanchester with Baroness Armstrong and invitations were extended to Councillor Ossie Johnson, MP Pat Glass, representatives from Leisureworks, the Area Action Partnership and Lanchester Lions. Teachers and pupils from the EP, All Saints and St

Patrick's School, Dipton were also in attendance as well as several Level 1 and Level 2 tennis coaches from around the area.

The Foundation sponsors coaches in the North East to obtain their coaching awards. It is through Dennis Laycock achieving Level 1 and Level 2 Awards and, with the support of Michael Hume from Leisureworks, Stanley, that Lanchester Tennis Club has been able to have such a successful coaching programme. This has led to children participating in the Aegon League and to St Patrick's School, Dipton winning the TBSF District Cup.

The weather was fine and dry and the ground staff had prepared the courts to be at their best for the children to show off their tennis skills and for the guest of honour to play a mini match. He was partnered by Secretary



Dipton St Pats School Tennis Team proudly display the Aegon League Cup which was presented to their captain by Tony Blair.

Dennis Laycock against Michael Hume and Grant Ridley. Mr Blair performed admirably and coped well with the odd interesting bounce, duly noted and recorded by the significant media presence.

Refreshments of strawberries and scones, prepared and provided by the ladies and friends of the club, were available and much enjoyed by all visitors.

The visit ended with Mr Blair expressing his thanks and appreciation to Dennis

Laycock on his valuable voluntary work done for the club. A presentation of the Tony Blair Foundation Gold Award was made to Lanchester Tennis Club, being the first to receive this, and a Plaque to commemorate the Club's Centenary was also given. The award and plaque came as a great surprise to all connected with the tennis club.

To host such an event was an honour for the club, and a great boost in its Centenary Year.

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A FRANCHISE OWNED & OPERATED UNDER LICENCE



Tony Blair shows his style partnering Dennis Laycock in a brief match against two coaches, Michael Hume and Grant Ridley.



Tony Blair accompanied by Jeanette Pickard, hands over the Centenary Plaque to Dennis Laycock who is already holding the Gold Award from The Tony Blair Sports Foundation, presented moments earlier.

LANCHESTER AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Continued from page 1
heavy rain or strong winds - or both! However, it was a little too hot for the dogs and horses, where entries were a little lower than last year but this is no doubt due to economic reasons. The Committee is trying very hard to bring the Show back to what it was before Foot and Mouth, and this year there were Highland cattle, sheep, a very interesting Craft Tent with lots of handmade items for sale, new stalls, Foxhound display and entertainment for children in the form of inflatable slides and a bouncy area. For those who perhaps wanted to try their cowboy skills, there was a mechanical rodeo bull, too. Village PCSO Vanessa Gray helped to man the Neighbourhood Watch stand and the Weardale Search and Rescue were demonstrating their skills too. It took a brave volunteer to be strapped inside the stretcher and covers in the day's heat! Best in Show of the Dog Section was a tiny Boston Terrier, with Reserve an elegant Saluki. However, 15 month old German Shorthaired Pointer Kavacanne Toff N Ready, who belongs to the O'Keefe family in Lanchester, won the Gundog Group, a great achievement. Best in Show in the Horse Section was Martin Surtees on his magnificent grey hunter which was also last year's winner. The horses and ponies were all beautifully turned out and the Show seems to attract a very good quality of competitors. Many classes are National Qualifiers and it is hoped that this will help the Show to continue for many more years, this year having been the 59th.



Our own PCSO Vanessa Gray on the Neighbourhood Watch stand



Weardale Rescue showing their skills



10 year old Elizabeth Doyle from the village with a prize-winning Highland cow



Michael O'Keefe with his Gundog group winner, a 15 month old German Shorthaired Pointer

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DO IT THE WAY THE ROMANS DO

Continued from page 1
Their first booklet was published in 2007 and was called 'Longovicium: Lanchester's Roman Fort'

Since then a great deal of work has been done to produce their second book about the legendary Roman Fort off Cadger Bank. Geophysical surveys have been made of several areas alongside Dere Street to the north, east and south east of the fort. Dere Street was a Roman road between York and Scotland, passing through Lanchester. It still exists in the form of the route of many major roads, including parts of

the A1 and A68. The findings from the surveys revealed an extensive civilian settlement with buildings on regular sized plots, ditched enclosures and secondary streets and lanes. The whole project is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and by Durham County Council. It is all very exciting and 'The Friends of Longovicium' are very enthusiastic about the project. This was obvious in the various displays they had set up and there were some very interesting Roman artefacts, particularly on Mr Martin Hutchinson's

tables. He has painstakingly made many beautiful replicas of Roman artefacts and enjoys giving information about them. He and daughter Gina were dressed in authentic Roman costume for the occasion and looked very impressive. There was also a range of activities for children, a Powerpoint presentation on Dere Street, and an illustrated talk by Rodney Hawkins. Refreshments were available but not the usual tea or coffee and biscuits. Romans did not drink coffee or tea and so various soft drinks were provided which contained ingredients used by the Romans. The snacks also had been specially made by the 'Friends' and were authentic of Roman times. Altogether it was a very interesting and friendly morning, very much enjoyed by all the people



Martin Hutchinson demonstrates a sponge on a stick as used in Roman toilets in lieu (sorry) of paper

who attended. Look out for the free booklets in Lanchester and be sure to take one. Brenda Craddock

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

Many of you have contacted me over the last few weeks regarding the disgraceful phone hacking scandal, the investigation by the Metropolitan police and the proposed BSKYB takeover. I am sure that like me many of you have struggled to comprehend the things that we are being told. What started out as reports of phone hacking by journalists of politicians and celebrities has escalated to unbelievable heights with allegations about listening into and deleting messages from the mobile phone of a murdered child, families of soldiers killed overseas serving this country and terrified messages left by families on the answer phones of victims of terrorism. A full judge led

inquiry into the phone hacking scandal will now be carried out and Rupert Murdoch has withdrawn his bid for BSKYB. This is a victory for the decent people up and down the country who have been appalled by the revelations of the phone hacking scandal and the failure of those in charge at the time to take responsibility.

On another issue more closely related to our village, last week in Parliament MPs voted to get rid of the Agricultural Wages Board (AWB). I voted against. The AWB is a small body that was set up in 1948, costs the Government nothing and sets wages and conditions for 140,000 agricultural workers in England, around 3,360 of whom are employed in the North

East and 260 in North West Durham, including those who work on the farms in and around Lanchester. Agricultural workers are amongst the lowest paid workers and the abolition of the AWB will lead to lower wages in the countryside, and a worse deal for farm workers. That is why I voted to keep the AWB and support a fair deal for those who work in the countryside, and will continue to campaign on this in the near future.

Parliament is now in recess but I will still be working in the constituency so if you need to contact me on any issue of concern, then please write to me at Pat Glass MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, email me at pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk phone 01207 501 782.

COLIN AND JEAN BURROWS CELEBRATE DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Colin and Jean were born at the same maternity hospital in Nelson, Lancashire, just a few months apart, and met about 15 years later at the Independent Methodist Church. It seemed they were destined to meet. They married at Bradshaw Street Church on 16th June in 1951. It is a wonderful achievement to be married for 60 years, during which time they had two children, David and Gillian, and three grandchildren. Sadly, David passed away just over 4 years ago and is greatly missed.

Colin and Jean, who have now lived in Lanchester for 45 years, certainly celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in style. They began by going back to Nelson where they have maintained many close

friendships, and enjoyed a lovely reunion lunch. This was followed by a 'drop in session' at the Methodist Church in the village on Saturday 18th June. More than 120 people attended and were treated to an excellent buffet. The atmosphere was vibrant and the function was testimony to the esteem in which Colin and Jean are held in

the community. On Sunday celebrations continued with a superb lunch at Beamish Hall Hotel for nearly 40 family and close friends. Once again the occasion was supremely convivial and a great delight for so many friends to meet up and reminisce.

Congratulations to Colin and Jean, a truly remarkable couple.



Colin and Jean cut their Diamond Wedding Anniversary Cake at Beamish Hall Hotel

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ALL SAINTS SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR

June 17th was very wet and cold, a really unseasonable day for All Saints Summer Fair, but a large crowd of hardy shoppers turned up to support the event. The Fair was opened by Canon Spence, who paid tribute to the close collaboration which exists between the Parish and the School. Lara Howliston, chairperson of the Friends of All Saints, also wanted to thank the many people who had helped with the organisation of the fair. Hopefully, a sum of over £2,000 will be raised to complete work on the church car park and to contribute to the staging needed for future school drama and musical productions.

All the usual favourite attractions were there, various stalls, hairbraiding for the girls and three different tombolas were held in the School hall. Once again, the local branch of Barclays Bank hosted a tombola, kindly offering to match the sum raised! Teacher Graham Young fascinated the children with his strange facts and performed scientific tricks which were so clever that youngsters were convinced he was a secret magician. Delicious BBQ food was served outside and welcome refreshments were available for tired shoppers in the Parish Hall. Members of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Rescue team were present,



Canon Spence welcomes early shoppers to the Fair

telling visitors of their vital work. The service was founded 40 years ago, and is made up of dedicated volunteers, on call all day, every day of the year. Their work ranges from rescuing walkers in difficulty, to helping in an urban situation, for example

locating lost, vulnerable people. Michael Holgate and Des Lee welcome queries regarding their work and about how you can get involved.



Teacher Graham Young - we suspect he's really a magician!

E P SUMMER FAIR



Four varied stalls in a row each with their own interested buyers



Scones and drinks for sale from Alison McDonald and Liz Allison

Once again this summer the weather spoilt an outside event which is always very successful and many children particularly would have been very disappointed. However the school is fortunate to have facilities on hand and all the stalls that could fit into the hall were erected there. The fair was still well supported and at times it was difficult to move around. There was a great variety of Tombolas and sales stalls which space

prohibits from naming. Parents, children and other visitors crowded around spending their money before going into the refreshment area for hot dogs and coffee/tea and scones.

Despite the last minute change it was a good enjoyable fair and if there was any consolation to the teachers, there was no 'soak the teacher' this year but everyone else got soaked as they walked to the school. The total raised will be published at a later date.



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Two of the several busy tombola stalls which were part of the variety of stalls that were erected in the school hall to be out of the wet weather

Sweets & Treats

The official opening of Sweets & Treats was held in some style at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 19th July. About twenty family and friends attended to support Lanchester resident Jane Hudspeth in her new venture. Champagne and wine were opened for a celebratory drink! Jane

said "I like the idea of giving chocolates with presents and this new type of shop in the village will give others the same opportunity". Also on sale will be icecream, milkshakes and an exclusive range of chocolates from Sarah Ashcroft, Bespoke Chocolatier, of Boopster

& Twiggs. www.boopstertwiggs.co.uk. 07504814563. Jane has many ideas of her own which will be added as the shop becomes established and is doing some of the marketing with children, who are invited to write down requests for their favourite products.



Family and friends celebrate the opening of Sweets & Treats

WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT!

Ian Hodgson, who works as a maintenance man at Accept Care, for people with challenging behaviours, recently won the 2011 Great British National Ancillary Worker award. He initially won the North East trophy, which was presented by Keith Chadwick. Then, following an interview in

London, became one of eight finalists in the whole of the country. This award, which was presented by Christopher Biggins, recognised an excellent, person centred service to clients, demonstrating dignity and respect through ancillary services. Ian travelled to London with his partner Julie, and

accompanied by others including his employer and his wife. Ian's final result was achieved by his approach to his role which stems from his belief that to make someone's day better, makes his day better. Well done Ian! From his proud family and all who know him.



Ian with his partner Julie celebrating at the Awards Ceremony



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GATEWAY PROJECT COMES TO MAIDEN LAW

Maiden Law has been chosen along with three of the other villages within the mid Durham Area Action Partnership (AAP) area to receive funding to develop the entrances and exits to their village in an effort to change the driver culture around speeding through our rural villages. Maiden Law is third in the AAP's priority list based upon statistics provided by the Police and Highways Department of the County Council. Representatives from the Police, Highways and the AAP have worked closely with Greencroft Parish Council to form an initial working group with some interested members of the public. The Highways Department has produced an initial design and it's now time to consult with residents in the Greencroft Parish area. The Parish Council is inviting residents in this parish area to

join them on the recreational area opposite the Three Horse Shoes on **Sunday 7th August between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm** to look at the plans. The Parish Council Chairman, Colin Bell, said, "Speeding through Maiden Law is a major problem and this

project's aim is to define the entrances and exits to the village so that drivers are made aware they are entering a residential area. The Parish Council is keen for everyone in the Parish to have the chance to look at the plan and to have their say on what happens next. There

will be a chance to discuss the plans that are proposed and members of the Parish Council will be there to answer any questions."

For further information the Parish Clerk can be contacted by email at greencroftparish@btinternet.com.

ROYAL INVITATION



The picture above shows David Bartles-Smith with his wife Catherine as they pose for a photograph in Buckingham Palace on the 29th of June.

David was nominated for an invitation to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party for his service to Mountain Rescue.

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LANCHESTER WELCOMES NIGERIAN VISITORS

Three visitors from Nigeria were shown the beauty of Lanchester village by Maralyn O'Keefe, a stained glass artist based at The Glass & Art Gallery in Consett, on Friday, 17th June.

Maralyn who lives in Lanchester, thought it an excellent idea to show her visitors the village she lives in.

Dr Stephen Fagbemi, Chaplain of Sunderland University and Revd and Mrs Ojofeitimi, who are from the Cathedral Church of Christ in Lagos, Nigeria, were visiting Maralyn's glass studio to discuss the stained glass, both new and restoration work, she will be doing in Lagos Cathedral.

During their tour of Lanchester they were shown the stained glass in All Saints' RC Church and the EP School, designed and made by Maralyn, and given a very informative tour of the school by children on the school council. They were very impressed with the way the school teaches the children about different

cultures throughout the world and a link between the EP school and a school in Lagos was discussed with Mr Boddy, the deputy head.

After an excellent lunch in the King's Head they all headed back to Maralyn's studio and The Glass & Art Gallery which she co-owns with her husband Ron. Her guests were pleased to be able to take locally made gifts back to Nigeria to remind them of their visit to our region.

Maralyn visited the Cathedral in Lagos in April after being asked to undertake this fantastic commission. She said the experience of this visit was something she wouldn't have missed for the world and looks forward to returning next year.

If you are interested in seeing stained glass being made, come and see Maralyn at work in her studio which is above The Glass & Art Gallery in Medomsley Road, Consett - 01207 583353 - again, somewhere worth visiting with a plethora of regional art.

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Left to right: Dr Stephen Fagbemi, (Chaplain, Sunderland University); Maralyn O'Keefe, (Stained Glass Designer); Folake and Adebola Ojofeitimi from Lagos Cathedral in Nigeria.

LANCHESTER REMINDS ME OF THE BURMESE JUNGLE SAYS VISITOR!

On Tuesday 21st June, twelve members from the Lanchester Methodist Church attended a talk at Emmanuel College from Sasa, an inspirational young Burmese doctor.

Sasa is friends with Inga Andrew, who grew up in Lanchester and who met Sasa in Armenia when he was a medical student and she was helping to run a camp for Armenian medical students.

Sasa has visited Lanchester on two

previous occasions and says that he loves the village, saying it reminds him of his own village in the Burmese jungle! He reminds Inga of how fortunate she is to be able to come back to Lanchester and to call it home.

Sasa grew up in the Chin state in Burma. At the age of thirteen, he left his village and went to Yangon, the capital, to study. Having finished his high school education he returned to his home

village where he became a volunteer teacher at the local school. During this time he witnessed first hand the suffering of the sick, elderly and the mothers-to-be who had minimal access to medical support. This made him resolve to study medicine and come back to ensure his people would not continue to suffer in this way.

In 1999 the villagers all contributed to sending Sasa to India to study

science before studying medicine to be a doctor in Armenia.

Having completed his degree in 2009, Sasa returned to the border region with the intention of establishing a community-wide primary health care system in rural communities in the India/Burma border. He began this work by establishing a training centre for some of the community health care workers, now known as

"Place of Health and Hope". His priorities are local village based interventions to improve health and well-being and reduce the spread of disease. March 2011 saw three hundred and seventeen community health workers complete their training under Sasa's guidance.

If you would like to know more about Dr Sasa, his website is www.healthandhope.org.
Sonia Filmer

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH JULY 2011

Public Participation.

Two residents of Ford Road area attended the meeting to express concern about the speed of traffic along Ford Road and the large number of enormous lorries which do not slow down even through the narrow part of the road. In particular they mention the Lanchester Dairies tankers. This problem is particularly bad for the elderly and people with young children and babies in buggies. Chairman Ossie Johnson assured the residents of the Parish Council's support and it was suggested that they attend the next PACT meeting to discuss the problems there, with the Police. They agreed to do this and the Lead Officer is to write a polite letter to Lanchester Dairies outlining the problem.

Neighbourhood Wards Report.

This report covers Consett North area and the Lanchester section reported a small operation being conducted by PCSO Gray regarding untaxed vehicles and high visibility patrols along Front Street.

St Bede's School Head Teacher Maria Matthews

and Beth Meggeson, Extended Services Co-ordinator, attended the meeting. They are very keen to involve the students from the school with the village community and activities. They are raising money to improve sports facilities at the school and when completed these will be available for use by village residents during school holidays and at weekends. Parish Council members expressed their appreciation and delight at this offer. The students are already involved in the Parish Council's website design and with the AAP, including the use of the speed monitors in the village. They have a Junior PACT organisation and it was agreed that some students attend the next Parish Council meeting in September. The students involved with the Gateway scheme went on to enter a national Road Safety competition and gained 2nd place. It was suggested that Sue Charlton should go to the school to develop projects relating to the Locality Map with students and this was readily agreed.

Correspondence. Details of a workshop to be held by Durham Police Authority, 'Working together to address changes to Policing in County Durham and Darlington' were received.

A letter from Jill Gladstone congratulating and thanking the Parish Council for the village green improvements was also received.

Kitswell Football Field. It was agreed that the Junior and Senior Football teams be allowed to use the field again for the coming season. A further request from a private group for the use of the field at certain times for 'Group exercise sessions' was also considered. It was agreed that these be allowed and that the Lead Officer should work out how much should be charged; this money would be used for donations by the Parish Council.

Help for Heroes. An invitation for an event at Ramside Hall was received.

Durham County Council. A review of polling districts and polling places. This is held every four years and the Parish Council is satisfied with

the present arrangements for the Parish but some rural communities would be best served by postal votes

NHS County Durham and Darlington - Hyperacute Stroke Services public consultation. Cllr Jackson agreed to respond to this consultation which proposes to consolidate the service in Durham in order to provide a better service.

Go North East. A letter was received with regard to the reduction in services. The reply gave an explanation of why these evening and Sunday services had been removed, namely due to lack of subsidy by the County Council.

Area Action Partnership/ Parish Councils Committee. Cllr Burton reported on projects which have affected the village, such as Gateway/road safety/Highways/Speedwatch, Youth support and engaging young people, the railway paths and the opening of a Credit Bank in the Community Centre.

Housing in Lanchester/ County Durham Plan. Concern was shown with regard to plots of land identified by current owners as they are

outside the development limits as outlined in the Village Design Statement; it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Durham County Council drawing their attention to this.

Donation. A request had been received from a young person in the Parish who had undertaken a 200-mile bike ride to raise money for Willow Burn Hospice asking for a donation. The Chairman suggested £50 and this was agreed.

Kitswell Park - Annual Play Inspection. This was received.

County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership - training event. Details were given to Members.

Maintenance Progress Report. The Lead Officer was asked to write to David Maddox, the village Handyman, to thank him for the excellent job he has done in keeping the village clean and tidy.

Annual Return 2010/11, Financial Information. Accounts for Payment. These were all accepted.

Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday, 13th September, 2011, at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester.

POLICE REPORT

Number of calls 66, from 25th May to 16th June Burglaries 2 (empty school premises and farmyard), anti-social behaviour 5, thefts of/ from motor vehicles/ gardens 2 (child's bike and windscreen wipers stolen from parked car). A Community Speed Watch took place outside St Bede's School on 14/06/11. 2 pupils assisted with tally. Total vehicles - 210, less than 40mph - 204, 41mph to 42mph - 4, 43mph to 45mph - 2,

therefore no warning letters issued.

Police attended the Lions Carnival but no problems. Police will attend the Agricultural Show on Sunday 3rd July to provide a high visible presence and hand out information packs.

Road markings have been placed along the 40mph stretch of the A691 at entry points.

A traffic survey is being carried out at Cadger Bank at the request of a resident.

FLOOD PREVENTION

If ever your property floods please ring the Council Highways Action Line on 0191 370 6000 to report it.

That is the clear message that emerged from a meeting that the Lanchester Partnership, held with the County Council.

Unless the Council have 3 incidents of property flooding reported in a 2-year period they will not do repairs. So if you don't report any incidents they will not

make any improvements. Following the flooding in June 2003 the Council has been regularly inspecting the drains for which it is responsible.

We understand that Northumbrian Water were doing the same, but it appears that they have reverted to their pre-2003 system of not inspecting or doing anything until something goes wrong. It is not clear whether they also plan to pay the costs of those whose properties are flooded

when it does. If you would like to write to Northumbrian Water their address is:

Customer Centre, PO Box 200, Durham, DH1 9WG. The Environment Agency is responsible for Smallhope Burn. It has been carrying out detailed studies and it is reviewing its work.

If you would like to be a flood warden please contact Karen Gibson, the Community Flood Engagement Officer, on 01388 824 021.

CENTURIONS' PRESENTATION



Members of the Centurions with Rob Colgrave and Lynne Simmons holding the cheque for £4000, presented by Chairman of Centurions, Roy Bennington, alongside right.

The Centurions gathered at The Ram's Head, in Langley Park on Wednesday the 30th of June to distribute some of their funds from money-raising activities. The Ben Hur Rally held in Lanchester

during the early part of May was a huge success in terms of the rally itself and financially and was well reported in the Village Voice earlier in the year. Other funds were raised at the Christmas party

and donations collected from the sales of Air Ambulance 'patches' at the rally. This was done with the authorisation and co-operation of the aforementioned Great North Air Ambulance

organisation who rely on charity donations for the completion of their work. During a convivial evening with members at the Ram's Head in Langley Park, a cheque for £4000 was presented to Great North Air Ambulance representatives,

Lynne Simmons and Rob Colgrave, by Chairman of the Centurions, Roy Bennington. More donations to other charities will be presented later this year and we look forward to them repeating their visit to Lanchester next year.

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Gardening in August

August is a time that revolves around holidays: fine and warm weather and visits to the beach and countryside. After all the hard work of spring and early summer we can go on holiday without worrying so long as there is a helpful neighbour to water our vegetables and containers. If you are not going away you can offer to do this task for your neighbour.

Borders

If you have returned from holiday to find that your baskets and pots look dry, straggly and past their best, think about starting afresh with some autumn and winter plants like pansy, viola and primula. The important jobs for this month include: pruning summer-

flowering shrubs over 3 years old as they finish flowering; removing the faded flowers of annuals and late-flowering plants like dahlias to encourage further flowering; giving topiary plants like buxus a trim to keep them in shape; pinching out the growing tips of fuchsia to increase the number of shoots that can be used for cuttings; and, after cutting back the stems of perennials, giving them a liquid feed.

Vegetable Plot

August is a good time to harvest shallots and onions. Runner beans tend to be my easiest crop but remember to keep picking both these and courgettes and water them both every few days to keep them fruiting. Any outdoor tomatoes need to

be stopped by snipping off the tops once they have developed three or four trusses. This can be done by making a cut in the stem about two leaves above the uppermost truss. Potatoes of second cropping varieties like Carlingford or Charlotte, planted now in large pots or bags (which are still on sale in DIY stores) can be put in a cold greenhouse in October and provide a harvest for Christmas.

General

This month continue to mow your lawn(s) and compost all of the clippings remembering that your compost heap is the 'engine' of your garden. Thinking ahead you need to order your spring bulbs such as tulips and daffodils for planting in the autumn.

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LMVC ANNUAL CONCERT

The 43rd Lanchester Male Voice Choir concert opened to a packed house in the Methodist Church. The rousing number "Rachie" showed off the choir's rich, sonorous harmonies followed by a gentler setting of "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill".

The solo artiste was Charlotte Heslop, a young classical singer from Spennymoor. She sang "Vergin Tutto Amour" by F Durante, a setting of "An Silvia" (Schubert) and the ever popular "Panis Angelicus" by C Franck, all with musicality and skill. The Manchester Reed Trio (clarinet, oboe and bassoon) performed Mozart's Divertimento No 2 in B flat with technical skill and virtuosity.

The choir returned to complete the first half with A S Sullivan's uplifting "Lost Chord".

After the interval the choir continued with a trio of Henri Mancini numbers, arranged by one of the choir members, Brian Sharpe, "Dear Heart", a piano solo featuring

Noreen Bridgewater and finishing with the haunting and nostalgic "Days of Wine and Roses". Charlotte Heslop then sang her last set for the evening. It was clear from the audience's reaction that she has a promising future in music ahead.

The Manchester Reed Trio returned to play "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring", a wistful "Moon River", and a humorous "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill",

featuring a "prominent" bassoon part.

The evening ended with something unexpected from the choir "Back to the 60s". The music exuberantly ran through hits of the 60s ranging from "House of the Rising Sun" to "Sealed with a Kiss" and finally lunging into the energetic "Da doo ron ron". A thoroughly enjoyable evening of contrasting music.



Charlotte Heslop, soloist, being congratulated by the choir

MINISTER'S MUSIC

A good number of adults and young people gathered in the Methodist Church on July 9th for a concert given by the Methodist minister Gavin Hume and friends. Reverend Gavin Hume has been writing songs and hymns for many years and has made two CDs which were available to buy. The music played at his concert was for a third CD.

The music and songs had a religious theme reflecting his thoughts and beliefs. They also addressed life issues eg, 'Who am I? How did I come into being? Who created me? Who made the universe? What can we do to bring peace to the world? How do we

build good relationships? What is Love?'

The words of the songs had a clear message for everyone. We are 'Children of God' and to be truly happy we need to surrender our lives to God.

Gavin had four friends playing their instruments to accompany his singing and one of his sons Cameron played bass guitar to accompany two of the songs. The

other instrumentalists were Sarah Hay on drums, Dave Hay bass guitar, Paul Bolton electric and acoustic guitars and Darren Murrell saxophone. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Brenda Craddock



Rev Gavin Hume

ANYTHING GOES



Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society in their beautiful costumes for the finale of their performance

The Lanchester and District Operatic and Choral Society seem to me like the river that just keeps rolling along - and getting stronger and better as it goes. This offering of "Anything Goes" was superb. We were taken, both by song and costume from the end of WW1, through all the hardships between wars, depression, abdication, films, right up to WW2,

and although some of the songs reflected the mood of the times, some were just fun. From the first song, showing the women in black waving to their men as they came back from the war (which moved me and many others to tears) we were enthralled by the stunning music, acting and obvious sincerity of the choir. It was good to be able to sing along when invited

to, watch the costume changes before our eyes and listen to the fantastic music produced by the band and enjoy the antics of the resident comedians Michael and Ron. Summing up - an excellent show from start to finish, helped by the smooth voiced narrator and the pictures on PowerPoint. Thank you very much for an evening to remember, David. C.



A poignant World War song

LANCHESTER BRASS BAND PATRONS' EVENING

On 29th June the Band held their Patrons' Evening in the Methodist Church. It was an evening enjoyed by everyone. The Band played a variety of music including traditional marches, contest music, solos to include light classical music, film music and religious music, the latter being two Salvation Army marches containing elements from hymn tunes. The programme also included a guest band called 'Jazz In My Pants' This is a new venture by younger members and friends of the band. It is

less than a year old but has already had a number of engagements around Durham, plus an invitation to represent the county in Germany and in the Durham Brass Festival. Their lively outdoor style is influenced by the fabulous street bands who come to Durham for the 'Streets of Brass' in July. The band is very proud of them! The concert is also the occasion when prizes are awarded to band members. The receivers of awards were delighted and two of these were

members of the same family, who live in Lanchester. Mark Draper was awarded a trophy for the most improved member because he has only learnt to play the instrument in the last two years and plays it very well indeed. His son James, aged 13, is a very talented young man and received the trophy for his excellence in playing the Tenor Horn. Pete Bradshaw who plays percussion, also received an award for his much appreciated contribution to the administration and organisation of the band. His three children, Ellie, Catherine and Billy (who played the 'Last Post' at the last Remembrance Sunday Service) are all members of the band, a very musical and talented family.

We hope to see more of our Lanchester community at the concert next year and do



Mark Draper and son James with their awards

remember that if you are at all interested in playing an instrument, or wish to know more about the band or even wish to hire them for an occasion, please contact our

secretary (0191 3860357). Brenda Craddock (Brenda was too modest to say that she received a cup for Enthusiasm and Commitment at the Patrons' evening. Editor)



The young Jazz Band



Rob Valance, the conductor, with the band

ALL SAINTS CONCERT



All Saints School Choir who sang so beautifully, conducted by Miss Eggleston

What a delightful concert in a full hall at All Saints Primary! Mr Senior, of Durham Music Service, with the help of Mr Robinson, from St Bede's Catholic School, brought their pupils from All Saints and the latter to the stage to perform in public - many for the very first time. There were no obvious nerves - just sheer pride and talent.

The evening passed so quickly with pupils playing a variety of brass instruments performing pieces of music from Grade 2 to Grade 8 which they had to pass for their examinations.

It was a fast moving concert in which Mr Robinson accompanied soloists on the piano and Mr Senior joined those playing brass instruments when a duet or ensemble was required. The music was so enjoyable and varied from marches, popular music, to jazz. The evening began with brass then continued with a

wonderful performance of very familiar songs by the All Saints School Choir conducted by Miss Eggleston. They began with 'Zipitty Doo Dah' and ended with the Morecambe and 'Wise 'Bring me Sunshine'. This was very appropriate as the sun seemed to shine in their faces with smiles and the sheer joy of singing and performing.

The end came too quickly with an ensemble playing some fine marches, one of which was 'March through Georgia', the jazzy 'Bonny and Clyde' and 'Pop goes the Weasel'. It was a brilliant end to the concert and left everyone on a high.

Fortunately, Mr Senior had received some examination certificates that day and was able to make presentations to three of his pupils before the very appreciative audience retired for scones made by Mrs Barnes, with tea and coffee.



A brass ensemble who played so professionally, encouraged by Mr Senior




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LIVING WATERWAYS

Lanchester EP School welcomed Michael Rogers, Durham Wildlife Trust, and Sue Charlton, Development Officer for the Parish Council into the school for their Creativity Week. The purpose was to raise awareness of local rivers and ponds and the wildlife in them. The funding was provided jointly by the aforementioned 'Trust' and the 'Parish'.

This was a whole school project so the teaching in the nature reserve on site had to be done in small year groups which took a week. Three ponds were created by digging holes in the ground and inserting firm plastic liners as the clay soil was unsuitable for natural ponds. Excited children enjoyed wearing gardening

gloves, picking up spades and trowels and making sure the ponds were level. When finished the pond would be filled with aquatic plants and the wildlife would then form naturally over time. Many frogs had already been seen in the reserve as if waiting for the opportunity for a new home.

Children were involved in a question and answer session with Sue Charlton and Michael Rogers and seemed to have considerable knowledge. Questionnaires were given out at the end of the project to complete a survey of garden ponds and those in the vicinity of the homes of the children. Further information about this project appears below.



Year 3 children excitedly preparing for a new pond in the nature reserve at the school. Sue Charlton is in the background.

THE LANCHESTER GARDEN POND SURVEY 2011

After all the wonderful work the EP school children have done to create four brand new ponds in their school woodland, we would like to find out where all the other ponds are. Ponds are a valuable home for all sorts of wildlife including very rare animals such as the great crested newt. As part of Lanchester Parish Councils' Lanchester locality Map Project we are trying to find out where all the ponds are in the Parish, including garden ponds. This information can be very valuable and can help us plan where new ponds should be created to help our wildlife thrive in the countryside.

To take part in the survey you can download a survey form from the Lanchester Parish Council website (www.lanchesterparish.info) and follow the links for the Locality Map

Project, Get Involved section. Alternatively you can give Sue a ring on 07585 001 355 and a copy will be posted out to you. Forms will also be available to pick up from the Community Centre, Library and Lanchester Nurseries.

Any information you can supply would be appreciated even if it is just the location of a pond, but if you would like to complete the whole form, that would be great and Pond Conservation have some very useful information on their website on how to pond dip safely www.pondconservation.org.uk/bigponddip. Pond conservation has also kindly allowed us to adapt their big pond dip form for our survey and we will be letting them know our results to fit in with their national survey on ponds.



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A Loft Clearance Sale was held at the Community Centre on Saturday morning 2nd July, with Country Markets in the adjoining hall. A change of policy to help those

stall holders who make very little was to give donations rather than hire a stall. This seemed to increase the number of people showing their goods, but business was

LOFT SALE

generally fairly quiet, possibly due to the warm weather outside. Total profit for the Community Centre was £50.

Our picture, right, shows members of the Lung Foundation at their stall. The Breathe Easy Group for North Durham is a friendly, informal support group for anyone affected by lung disease; carers and relatives of the person who has a lung condition are very welcome too. The group meets in Lanchester Community Centre on the second Wednesday of each month (although not



usually in August) from 2.00pm until 4.00pm for a cup of tea, a chat and often there is a speaker with knowledge of lung disease. Sometimes there is a quiz, beetle game etc or easy exercises. Outings

are also arranged every month for lunch, trying out different pubs in the area. For further information please phone: Jill Gladstone on 01207 528 114 or Betty Welch on 01207 563 117.

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CRICKET ... I SPOKE TOO SOON!

After hailing the good weather in the previous article I obviously jinxed things for the weeks that followed as at least three weeks have now been lost to wet weather. That hasn't helped the firsts to rise up the table and they sit fourth bottom at present. If they can get back playing they should make progress. The seconds are sitting in fifth spot and within striking distance of the top teams. Paul Burn has clocked two centuries against Tynedale and Burnopfield to add some much needed runs to the team. Paul is second highest wicket taker behind Marc Ramshaw as the side seeks

to recover from the loss of three choice bowlers through injuries. A strong second half could see them challenging for a trophy. The thirds have highest hopes of picking up a trophy of all the sides. They currently sit second in the table having lost twice by the smallest of margins in what have been some very entertaining games. Andy Smith is highest run scorer but five others have scored fifties as well. The side have a strong bowling attack with all five bowlers contributing wickets well, Stu Beaumont leading the way with most wickets at a miserly average. The team are in both cup semi

finals at present, the outcomes of which will both be known by the time this goes to press. All of the junior sides sit mid-table, all having a 50-50 record of wins and defeats. The 18s lack older players but have seen good knocks from Chris Ledger and Greg Patterson to guide them to victory. Lee Murray has returned from injury and is scoring freely for the 15s supported by Greg Patterson, Dan Smith and Jack Ramshaw. The 13s have seen David Selby, Connor Hunt, John Lawson and Chris Tully all make retirement scores of 25 as the side show improvement through the season.

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SUCCESS FOR ST BEDE'S BIATHLETES

The team of Year 11 girls from St Bede's finished 2nd overall at the British Biathlon Championships; making them the second best school in England. Jessica Coyle, who finished second overall in the individual competition, went on to represent England at the British

Championships. Jessica continued to excel and finished the competition as National Champion - first place in a very experienced field of Biathletes. The school would like to thank the Consett Rotary Club for their donation towards the transportation to the event.



Representatives of Consett Rotary Club at the presentation at St Bede's school

WESTLAND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Head Teacher Maria Matthews, Daniel Horsley with the iPad2 he received from Westland's Partner, Akash Ghai (right)

On Wednesday 6th July, St Bede's welcomed Akash Ghai, senior partner in Westland Dental Practice, to the annual Sixth Form Awards' Ceremony. This very exciting award is targeted at the student who has shown outstanding commitment to his or her studies throughout the year. This year the iPad2 was presented by Akash to Year 12 student, Daniel Horsley who has conducted himself and his studies in an exemplary manner. Mr Ghai told Daniel that he truly represented all that was exceptional about young students: "Give your very best, never give up and believe in yourself: then you will achieve." The Westland Dental Practice is very much a part of the Lanchester community. Last year it sponsored our rugby and football strips and this year it has made this fantastic commitment

to our Sixth Form students which will be continued into the future. We are all thrilled with this wonderful award and very grateful to the generosity of all in Westland's Practice; it will certainly give all our students a goal to aim for.

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ALL SAINTS AND EP SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

British summer weather causes all sorts of problems with outside events. Both schools had to change their original dates and coincidentally both happened on the same day in glorious sunshine. Despite the date change parents, grandparents and childminders turned out at both venues in large numbers.

Both schools had a similar format with a carousel of eight games (All Saints) and 12 games for the larger school. However, children are the same everywhere and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the 5 minutes or so spent doing these various activities and gaining points for their house



Anyone for hockey? EP children showing their hockey skills by hitting the ball into the hoop

teams. At All Saints St Hild were the winning team, and at the EP Romans walked away with the trophy.

The competitive side was particularly enthusiastic with the 'proper' races though even some of

these involved eggs and spoons or skipping ropes. Both schools invited mums and dads to take part and that is where the real competition took place particularly among the men! Thankfully there were no serious injuries

despite one or two fallers. The EP always have a teachers' race (take note All Saints). In this race competitors were tied together in twos and carried eggs and spoons. The winners will not be mentioned as there

seemed to be a bit of chicanery at the end and possibly a steward's enquiry, so the matter will rest there.

Two lovely events in both schools, so well supported and enjoyed by all.



One on the younger groups of EP lads running their hearts out



A hard fought race by the younger children (All Saints)

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All Saints children passing the large ball as many times as possible

NURSERY AND RECEPTION SPORTS DAY

Despite one or two dark clouds and a few heavy raindrops, the weather remained fine and warm for the 'Foundation Sports Day at the EP School on July 6th. There were a good number of parents and family members present and the children from nursery and reception were as usual very enthusiastic participants.

There were ten different types of races, including a sack race, an obstacle race, and tricycle race, all thoroughly enjoyed by the children as they moved from one race to another in a rota system. The level of skills involved in the races were matched to their age and so no-one was left out or seen to be inadequate. Every child gained confidence, achieved and felt good about themselves, which is how it should be.

There were cheers and claps and shouts of encouragement all around and a terrific atmosphere prevailed. It is great to win something but in this school all the children are winners and encouraged to believe that it is the taking part which is important. As adults we know this to be true and appreciation of one another and what we have to offer, together with a positive attitude at all times, makes for a much happier person. The Sports morning ended with every participant receiving a certificate and an ice lolly. Once again a very satisfying and enjoyable morning for everyone.

Brenda Craddock

Our pictures, right, show the exciting tricycle race and pupils lined up ready for their race: On your marks, get set ...



SPONSORED TODDLE

Nursery children began their Sponsored Toddle for Barnardos well wrapped up for the

intermittent showers. They enjoyed a warm up session in the yard with exercise and toddling

around in a circle with the adults who accompanied them, to the music and singing of 'The Toddle

Song'. Then it was off to the Play Park at the other end of the village and back. This was repeated in the

afternoon with the children who attend Nursery at that time. The total raised will be published at a later date.



Nursery children begin their Sponsored Toddle for Barnardos

WIMBLEDON UMPIRE AT TENNIS CLUB TEA

Sunday 10th July saw the tennis club hold their annual Strawberry Tea. Over 80 people attended on a fine day when both adults and children were able to enjoy playing on the tennis courts. It was a new experience for some to enjoy a game on grass courts.

It was also a pleasure to have ex-members of the club present, who had played many years ago. They were able to see the changes to the club

but also how much of it remains the same.

A delicious strawberry tea was enjoyed by all, after which an informative and interesting talk about Wimbledon was given by Mrs Joan Durkin. Mrs Durkin was a former umpire at Wimbledon during the 1970's and 80's. She gave an insight to behind the scenes at the All England Club and amusing anecdotes about the players at that time.



Joan Durkin entertaining members at the Strawberry Tea

TENNIS TIME-LINE EXHIBITION



As mentioned in the last issue of the Village Voice, this fascinating exhibition portraying the 100 years' history of Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club has been on display in Lanchester Library during July.

The work is of a very high standard. It is quite amazing how many photographs, maps and minutes etc

were available to make this exhibition so interesting.

Those from the Tennis Club who put it together have made a tremendous collective effort to research the major world events that have occurred during the last hundred years to coincide with the development of the Tennis Club.

Our picture on the left shows the Tennis club Time-Line Exhibition in the Library

OPEN FLOWER EVENING

Lanchester Flower Club on Friday 24th June held the first of two Open Meeting Demonstration Evenings in Lanchester Community Centre. Over seventy ladies attended.

The Demonstrator was Mildred Stafford from Rushyford. The theme was "Nature's woven Mantle".

Mildred is a NAFAS area demonstrator, who in 2005 was chosen to be a member of a prestigious team from Northumberland and Durham area to go to the Chelsea flower show and this team won

a coveted Gold for their wonderful flower arrangements - quite an achievement.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful and most entertaining evening with some fabulous arrangements and great ideas. It was felt Mildred was "The Picasso" of the flower arrangers' world, she was so good.

The entire evening's flower arrangements were raffled at the end of the night, much to the delight of the winners. Thanks once again to all who supported and helped on the evening to make it such a success.



Mildred Stafford with some of her wonderful arrangements

THURSDAY CLUB CREAM TEA

Before the day itself, thanks must be given to the 4 ladies who volunteered to organise the event this year, Carole Bennett, Naomi Little, Betty Taylor and Janet Tulip - thus allowing the show to go on the road. July 13th dawned, not totally amazing, but the afternoon transformed itself into a beautiful summer's day, just right for a cream tea afternoon, a cream tea which was in aid of the great North Air Ambulance as usual. The Main Hall of the Community Centre was very quickly packed to capacity with a good natured crowd of folks come together to enjoy the event and support a really good cause. The scones were baked by Thursday Club ladies, our raffle prizes were enhanced by the following sponsors' donations: Tesco, The Blue Bell at Kip Hill, New Image Hairdressing, Lanchester Kitchen,



Knitsley Farm Shop, Lanchester Pharmacy, Lanchester Greengrocers, Matthews Country Store, Lanchester Pet Supplies, Morrisons, Lanchester Hardware, Lanchester Garden Centre, the Post Office and Newsagent. We also had support from Asda, Sainsburys, Spar and Lanchester Dairies. Elaine and the needlework girls put on their usual display of lovely embroidery for everyone to enjoy, Maving Taylor provided the delightful flower arrangements and Neville Hartley made beautiful music on the piano throughout the afternoon. £576 was raised and the Thursday Club would like to thank all who came along and supported our fundraising afternoon.

Yummy scones - what a treat!

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

Finbars - light airy decor, snowy white tablecloths and napkins, a red rose on the table - set the scene for a very special occasion, it was our 20th anniversary. Even to us it seems unbelievable that we've been meeting for lunch for the past 20 years, gone like flash. It all began with a few WRVS ladies deciding that as well as helping others they should have a treat for themselves and so the inaugural meeting was held on July 21st 1991 at 2 The Paddock, the then home of Sonia Farthing who came back up from Robin Hood Country especially to celebrate the occasion with us - 'well worth the train fare', she said. We came up with 2 criteria, to meet on the 3rd.

Friday of the month and to keep the group to 8, 2 carloads and a good number to fit nicely round a table and that's how we've continued. There are 5 of the original group, 2 having left the area and one of our number sadly having died. Talking about old times we said how we always looked forward to our afternoon out together and we still do now, travelling the county and further afield to enjoy a good lunch and natter. Finbars is rather lovely having opened in 2010 in Durham where Knights used to be, it has attentive staff, extremely pleasant surroundings and a very good menu - 2 course for £15, 3 course for £17 + the a la carte. Olives, bread and butter were brought to the

table while we waited for our food and in some cases enjoyed a super glass of champagne. We sampled slow cooked leg of duck with warm potato salad and frisee, seared lambs liver with creamed potato, onions and crispy bacon and off the a la carte menu, smoked salmon with waffles, creme fraiche and a side salad. For puds it was dark chocolate pannacotta with kirsch cherries, creme brulee, blueberry sorbet and strawberries with lemon curd.

All totally divine - a truly superb meal to mark a most important date. How lovely to think that after all this time we're still all such good friends - and long may it continue!

The Gourmet Girls

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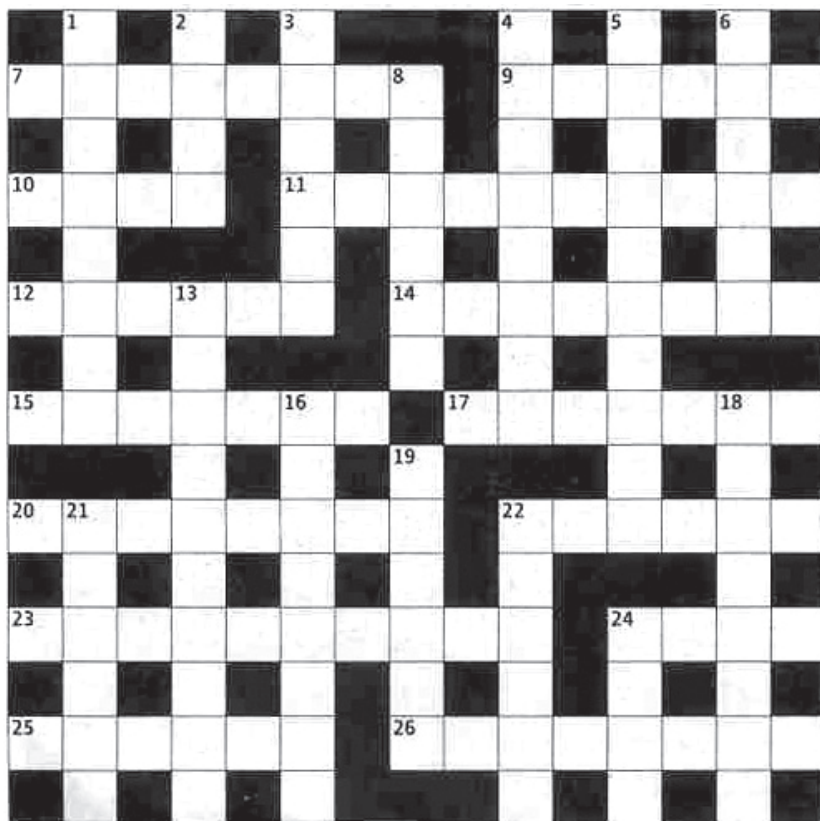


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CROSSWORD 63



ACROSS

7. Confused start after trick makes difference (8)
9. Goes with happy, size and wave (6)
- 10,2. Type of accommodation (4,4)
11. Well guarded Scots town! (10)
12. Inhabitant of Heraklion? (6)
14. Upindome dive (5,3)
15. I'm with fruit charge (7)
17. Ran, seen into trap (7)
20. Fragrant flower (8)
22. Bug (6)
23. A cord shirt used for awful deeds (6,4)
- 24 across and down
Not the main event (8)
25. Withdraw (3,3)
26. Willy-nilly (8)

DOWN

1. Moral hog produces 3D image (8)
2. see 10 across
- 3,19. High kicker (6,6)
4. Point to job release (8)
5. Decorations (10)
6. African president (6)
8. Fat from sheep suet (6)
13. Beginning of time (3,4,3)
16. Greed shown by financial institutions covering up ID (8)
18. Lancashire town where co-op movement was born (8)
19. see 3
21. Cries (6)
22. Mad (6)
24. see 24 across

Name _____

Address _____

Please send your entries (by deadline date on back page) to The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

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CROSSWORD 62

There were 18 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Jill Ramsey of Percy Crescent who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

Test your skill on John Wilson's latest challenge.

ACROSS

1. old flame
5. let rip
9. crucible
10. condor
12. logic
13. falsehood
14. solar eclipse
18. flashed twice
21. ancestral (apologies for typing error in clue)
23. Idaho
24. decree
25. Giovanni
26. nylons
27. aggrive

DOWN

1. occult
2. drudge
3. loincloth
4. Moll Flanders
6. elope
7. red poppy
8. parodied
11. sleepwalking
15. Lochinvar
16. off and on
17. farcical
19. Pawnee
20. novice
22. stern

SUDOKU

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

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

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WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members and visitors to our June meeting then Eileen Curnow shared a poem with us.

Tickets are available now for the group meeting.

Thanks were given for the summer outing from members and friends.

Pauline Griggs won the raffle and the competition winners were Pat Cottrel and Maureen Barker.

Our speaker this evening was Helen Archer from the Satley Cupcake Company. This company was set up last year by Helen and Elizabeth who are mums wanting something to do which fitted in with family commitments. After they saw friends going to local supermarkets for birthday food they saw a gap in the market for healthy cupcakes so the Cupcake Company started. All their



Rhoda Joyce, Shirley Lamb, Breda Branscombe, Jean Forster, Maureen Barker, Pat Cottrel, Jennifer Macdonald and Ann Carr wearing their competition hats.

cupcakes are made with no additives just good fresh natural ingredients baked as their mums would bake, they also use seasonal flavours such as blackberries in autumn and strawberries in summer. Their first stall was at Stanhope Farmers Market which went so well they moved on to other markets and shows as well as catering for parties.

Helen brought some cupcakes she had made

earlier with her so she could demonstrate icing and then invited members to have a go. Several members did and this was great fun because as usual it was not as easy as it looked.

For anyone looking for a finishing touch to their party Helen can be contacted on 07908137404 or 07518914006 or cakemakers@thesatleycupcakecompany.co.uk. Jennifer thanked Helen for

coming and sharing her experiences with us and wished them all the best for the future before inviting her to join us for our strawberry supper served with homemade punch. We also sampled some of Helen's cupcakes which were a delicious addition to the refreshments.

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GARDEN PARTY FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN



A garden party organised by Pat Davies in aid of the Save the Children Fund raised £504 in spite of the sudden rain storm which drove everyone indoors.

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Stew LaLa (Honey Mustard Chicken Casserole)

Serves 2

Ingredients

2 chicken legs
seasoned flour
oil

1 garlic clove, crushed
1 red onion, sliced
100g button mushrooms
250ml medium cider

250ml chicken stock

1 tbs clear honey

1 tbs wholegrain mustard

Method

Heat oven to 190 C, 375 F, gas mark 5.

Dust chicken with flour and fry until browned.

Fry garlic, onion and

mushrooms for 5 mins.

Transfer to a suitable dish and add cider, stock, honey and mustard.

Cover and cook for 1 hour.

Thicken if required and cook for another 15 mins.

Serve with seasonal vegetables.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

W I

Our next meeting will be held in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 1st August at 7pm.

The speaker will be Ethne Brown giving a talk called from Puppy Dog to Guide Dog with the competition - Woof-Woof!, anything with a doggy theme.

Why not come along as a visitor, you will be sure of a warm welcome.

The WI Grow A Fiver Challenge this year is afternoon tea at 5 Burnside, 2.00-4.00pm on Wednesday 17th August. The tickets priced at £1 include a scone or cupcake and tea. There will also be a sales table for which items will be welcomed and a raffle. This event is for ticket holders only and open to WI members and those waiting to join with tickets available at the August meeting. This will be a lovely social event in our WI calendar and a chance to catch up with friends.

Children's Craft Sessions

In Lanchester Library on Thursdays, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th August from 2.15 pm to 3.15 pm. Only £1 per session. Children under 8 years MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Living Waterways and Locality Map Celebration

Please come along to our FREE event to be held in the Play Area to the rear of Park House on Saturday 6th August, 10 am - 5 pm. Join Durham Wildlife Trust's Living Waterways project for a celebration of river wildlife in County Durham and find out more about Lanchester Parish Council's Lanchester Locality Map Project.

There will be a variety of displays about wildlife in the area and ongoing wildlife trust projects such as the Otter Project and Heart of Durham project and a chance to meet Lanchester Parish Council's Farming, Wildlife and Environment Development Officer.

There will also be activities for children including face painting, a nature trail and other wildlife and farming based crafts and games. Country Market will also display local crafts.

This event is funded by the Environment Agency and supported by Lanchester Parish Council. For more information please contact Michael Rogers at Durham Wildlife Trust on 0191 584 3112 or email mrogers@durhamwt.co.uk.

Country Market

The next market will take place in Lanchester Community Centre on Saturday 6th August from 10.00-11.30am. The usual cakes, scones, pies, jams, chutneys, crafts and plants will be on sale.

Barbecue

As part of the Centenary celebrations, Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club will be holding a barbecue on Saturday 6th August. Play starts at 2.00 pm and the barbecue will be lit at 4.00 pm. Adults £6.00, children £3.00. To book please ring 01206 520278 or email den.lizjane@gmail.com.

Short Circuit Walks

6th August, 10.30 am, Craster and Howick, 5 miles. Meet in the car park and Visitors' Centre in Craster NU258199.

20th August, 10.30 am, Beltingham and Willimoteswick, 6 miles. Meet approximately half a mile beyond Beltingham, close to footbridge over river NY781643. Contact Derek Coleman on 0191 2670890 for more information on this walk.

Derwentside Byways and Bridleways

2nd August, 7.00 pm. Meet at the Moorcock Inn on the moors road near Waskerley.

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

6th August, Gerry Garcia, Sensational Irish Vocal Entertainer

13th August, Chrissy, Excellent Female Entertainer

20th August, Federation, Top Class 3 Piece Band in Concert Room (Cover Charge of £2 applies)

27th August, Sonya, Popular Singer

WHAT'S ON?

Early Music Festival

On Saturday 13th August at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Parish Church, Hexham Collegium Musicum, Philip Cull (oboe), Dr Ian Brunt (flute, harpsichord, organ), Noreen Bridgewater (harpsichord) will present 'A Musical Postcard from Hamburg', a programme of Trio Sonatas and Chamber Music by Georg Philipp Telemann, C P E Bach and Johann Quantz.

On Saturday 27th August at 7.30 pm Gregory Pullen (violin cello and viola da gamba) and Dr Ian Brunt (harpsichord and organ) will present 'A Lifetime Burning in Every Moment', the Unaccompanied Suites for Violoncello BWV 1009, 1011, 1012 and the Sonata for Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord BWV 1028 by Johann Sebastian Bach. Tickets £8/£5 concessions, with unwaged, full-time students, under 18 years free available at the door or in advance by sending a SAE to Dr Ian Brunt, The Lodge, Lanchester, DH7 0LF, with cheques made payable to All Saints Lanchester PCC.

PACT Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th August at 7.15 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. All welcome.

Wildlife Group

At the next meeting on Tuesday 9th August at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Susan Gebbles will give a talk on the Coast and Sea Change.

Ceilidh

The Lanchester Partnership is to have a ceilidh in the Social Club on Saturday September 24th from 7.15 to 11.00 pm. Music will be by the fabulous Steel Strings Band and there will be a bar, but please bring food to share. Tickets from Kate Wicks (Tel: 07944 739 362), Jill Gladstone (Tel: 528 114) or any other Partnership trustee.

Lanchester Reading Group

We would welcome new members when we start our next ten week session on 27th September - 2 pm to 3.30 pm in the upstairs room at the Community Centre.

Suggested books with which to start are: Felicia's Journey - William Trevor (Penguin) The Hare with Amber Eyes - Edmund de Waal (Vintage)

Subsequent books to be members' suggestions. Further information from Suzanne Eckford (529155).

Hadrian's Wall walk for Bethany

Thank you to all those who to date have overwhelmed us with their generous donations and support towards our goal of establishing a fund to assist with a special wheelchair adapted vehicle for our Granddaughter. The businesses and people known and unknown of Lanchester have been

wonderful. There's a long way to go (pardon the pun) but we're putting our best but sometimes aching feet forward to accomplish our aim. We can still be contacted on 02107529483 should any readers still wish to support us. Thank you once more for your kindness. Linda and Brian Haynes

Summer Singing Workshop at Lanchester Methodist Church
During August Emma Trow will be holding singing workshops for Adults and Kids, no experience necessary only enthusiasm.

Adults workshop - Aug 12th to 14th cost £20 (Each sessions 3hrs times various)

Kids workshop - Aug 15th to 17th cost £30 (Times 10am to 3pm)

For more information contact Emma on 07947453803 or email crispyem@hotmail.com

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07854965409

emailclairewhite@thunderrugby.com

Coast to Coast Bike Ride for the Stroke Association

On May 20th and 21st a group of us completed the ride from Whitehaven to Roker.

Gary Smiles, Chris Ross, Graham Meek and I completed the ride quite comfortably, although we had some very much needed assistance from Graham's wife, Michelle. After a good soaking on the first morning she was on hand with dry clothing and supplies of energy drinks and chocolate, and towards the end of each day plenty of encouragement!

We completed the 137 miles in 12 hours of riding time over the two days, and all of us enjoyed it very much and it was a great experience - Hartside Pass was a piece of cake!!! On the Saturday after the day's cycling, a charity

night was held in the Social Club in Lanchester with entertainment from the Lanchester Male Voice Choir and Consett band The Great Escape. Both performed many songs and both went down extremely well with the audience, so a massive thank you to the people in these groups for giving up time to be there for us on the night. We also had various sponsor forms in place and donated prizes from shops in Lanchester, so a massive thank you to Beryl's Hairdressers, Lanchester Fish Bar, Lanchester Hardware, Cathedral Travel, Lanchester News and Lanchester Pharmacy who were all very helpful and generous, and then Lanchester Nurseries and

The County Hotel in Durham who were very generous with numerous prizes.

A big thank you to everyone who donated prizes on the night, and not forgetting Gary, Chris and Graham

receiving generous contributions from their workplaces and family in sponsor money, also friends and family who helped set up the Social Club on the Saturday and bought various things for the night.

A massive, massive thank you to Lanchester lad Jonathon Spry who works for Barclays in London. He has contributed to our cause through Barclays Charity matching scheme and this has helped us massively. In all we have raised somewhere in the

region of £4000, which in our wildest dreams we didn't think we would raise.

To finish, thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising for the Stroke Association.

We are very proud of our achievements and know that the money will be spent very wisely on care, research and support for people and families hit by a stroke.

Andy Allen

Clay Pigeon Shooting Champion

At the British Open Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships held at Bywell in Northumberland, Derek Dixon of Lanchester pulled the bird out of the hat - so to speak - by winning the Veterans Handicap by Distance event.

This Championship is open all members of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association and the Veterans class, to anyone over the age of fifty. Derek

aged 73 beat off competition from all over the British Isles with a score of 97 out of 100. Clay pigeon shooting has been a weekend hobby of Derek's for over twenty years, with occasional foreign travel to sample the hospitality of shooting grounds abroad. Derek is also a former Durham DTL Champion, winning the County Championship in 2006.

Bowling Club says thanks

Lanchester Bowling Club's topsy turvy season continues, wins one week, defeat the next. It would be nice to be top of the leagues but it is good not to be at the bottom. One thing is for sure, we are currently the smartest club with our new shirts. The Saturday team had the privilege of

wearing them for the first time at Pelton Fell, followed the next day by a friendly match against a Bowls Durham Presidents' team. Both teams lost so sadly we must conclude that new shirts do not automatically improve play. However what is good is that we have had

an influx of new players in the last few years and they all now look the part wearing the club's logo on their shirts. One third of the shirts has been paid for with a grant from the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership Small Grants Scheme and the Club is extremely grateful for the AAP's support.

Olympic Torch Honour for David

St Bede's School were asked to nominate a worthy student to carry the Olympic Torch through Derwentside and, after some deliberation, we nominated David Dawson in Year 7. David has shown outstanding courage and determination over the past 2 years. He was diagnosed with a brain tumour when in Year 6 and, after the operation, he had to endure months of intensive radiotherapy and chemotherapy. He was in remission when his dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

David is an excellent swimmer and despite being weak following his own treatment, he threw himself wholeheartedly into sponsored fundraising swimming events for cancer research: he wanted to raise awareness of the

impact of this terrible disease on families. David's courage and that of his older brother, John, is inspirational.

Sadly, the boys' dad died on 8th June 2011. They were with him when he died and at his funeral, David again demonstrated the courage which we have now come to expect from him, when he read a powerful reflection in honour of his dad. We can't think of a better young man to carry the Olympic Torch: he represents, for us, the many young people who deal with enormous difficulties and challenges with incredible maturity and wisdom. The qualities that David displays every day embrace the true spirit of the Olympic Values of Inspiration, Excellence, Determination and Respect.

The Village Walking Group

On Thursday 16th June a coach full of excited and assorted hikers, walkers and those determined to have a day's retail therapy, departed from the Methodist Church at 8.30 am for Keswick, on what is becoming an annual event. Following a brief stop en route at the Rheged centre in Cumbria, the walkers left the coach at Threlkeld making for Keswick along the old railway path.

The afternoon was taken up savouring the many local culinary delights, Lakeside walks, local market, shops, museums, and parks. The well satisfied group returned to Lanchester at 7 pm. As the photo shows, it was an ideal day for walking.

Thanks to Eric Skipsey for the pleasure he has given a large number of village walkers, by organising fortnightly walks in the area.



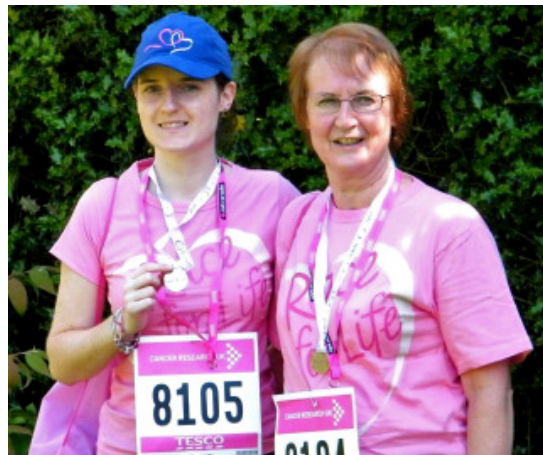
Eric Skipsey, who organises the walks, enjoying his day out in Keswick

C2C bike ride for the Stroke Association



Gary Smiles, Chris Ross, Graham Meek and Andy Allen at the end of their ride in Roker. See page 27 for story.

Race for Life 2011



Liz (on right) and Rachel Allison once again took part in the Durham Race for Life, held on the Aykley Heads course on Sunday 3rd July. With the support of friends in Lanchester and Carlisle, they raised more than £200 for the charity Cancer Research UK. They take this opportunity to say a big Thank You to all who supported them.

Clay Pigeon Champion



Derek Dixon with his medal at the British Open Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships
Article, page 27

Olympic Torch Honour for David

David Dawson who, because of his courage and determination, has been nominated by his school, St Bede's, to carry the Olympic Torch through Derwentside in 2012.
Full story, page 27.



Bowling Club says thanks



The Lanchester Bowling Team who played against a Bowls Durham Presidents' Team, in their new shirts, thanks to the AAP. Story, page 27.

Signed up for Sunderland



Kieran Martin and Tom McNamee, Year 11 students from St Bede's, have been signed by Sunderland Football Club. The school is delighted for both students who have balanced their GCSE studies with a rigorous training programme; and wishes them every success in the future.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by 16th August.
The deadline for **adverts** is 14th August.

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