

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 6 Volume 12

Lanchester, June 2011

For contact information, see page 2

RAINSOAKED CARNIVAL

It turned out to be a wise decision to begin the 2011 Carnival at 12.30 instead of the traditional 1.00 pm. As people arrived at the earlier time the clouds were already threatening in the gloomy sky and the air was cool to say the least. However, it meant that the Lions had that vital two hours when most of the money is taken. Despite the inclement weather and worries about manpower, all the usual popular stalls were there. Lions were assisted by many friends, Stanley Lions and Derwentside Round Table. It was a really good, well presented Carnival.

As well as the aforementioned Rotary, Willow Burn Hospice, Red Cross and the Tennis Club all had their own stalls. The Fire Service turned out and the firemen obviously enjoyed showing the children around the fire engine. The Partnership had a really wonderful comprehensive display which created some considerable interest. They provided free games alongside their stand for the very young which was a good thoughtful idea.



The crowd enjoying Punch and Judy who were making their debut in Lanchester



Fun on the Bouncy Castle which was as popular and as busy as ever



'Jazz in my Pants', a young band from Durham who played with enthusiasm despite the rain

**Continued
>> Page 4**

COUNTY COUNCIL EYES HOUSING IN LANCHESTER

The County Council in its latest Housing Land Availability Assessment has identified three sites

in Lanchester, suggested by landowners and potential developers, for possible house building.

These sites are land at the Green School; northwest of Cadger Bank; and two fields north of Newbiggen

Lane. The Partnership is seeking the views from the people of Lanchester on all of the possible sites.

**Article, Map &
Contacts
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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'm a Lancastrian concerned about buses (or a lack thereof). I've analysed the effect of the changes to bus services for communities within the Consett to Durham corridor. I included all communities which are of similar, and therefore comparable, urban populations and have found that Lanchester (and the much smaller Burnhope which is included for completeness' sake) have been completely cut off from the public transport network after 9 pm every day, and all day Sunday. All other comparable communities to Lanchester remain connected in some way during these times, and some remain very well served indeed, often by

services which continue to receive Council subsidy. (Editor:

Although there is not space to print the full findings, Langley Park, Leadgate, Annfield Plain, Catchgate, Delves Lane, Sacriston and Witton Gilbert, all with similar populations to Lanchester, retain services while Lanchester does not.)

On a personal note, I feel it's unacceptable that the residents of Lanchester are expected to continue to subsidise bus services to the communities immediately surrounding them when they see their own bus service cut to nothing. The No 15 is a service I and my partner use weekly for nights out to Durham, either to dine out, or to visit the Gala Theatre (which I believe is itself subsidised by us), or for weekends away via mainline train services, and we can both testify that it is well-used beyond 9 pm.

Adam Lincoln

Adam has sent his concerns to Durham County Council and has received several replies from Simon Day, Section Manager, Passenger Transport. In the most recent correspondence the Council says it is aware of Lanchester's concerns and has promised a review of the impact of the bus service cuts.

Dear Village Voice

With reference to my letter in last month's Village Voice, I have now received replies from Adrian White, Head of Transport at Durham County Council and from Pat Glass, our MP. Mr White restated the Council's position on the difficult decisions that have had to be made regarding public finance and the provision of transport services. Sadly, I have not been provided with any evidence that our own local councillors offered any resistance to the cuts or are actively engaged in finding solutions.

The DCC stated on August 8th 2010 that they would be making a 30% cut in the transport budget to save £1.3m. The public consultation process began in August 2010 (details unspecified) and on the basis of 268 replies (0.0006% response) DCC decided to cut subsidies to the evening, Sunday and public holiday services. A 0.0006% return is not a consultation and it does not give a mandate to cut services.

DCC knows that bus companies are not obliged to cross-subsidise routes. So with no subsidy and no profitability, services are simply cut. DCC pays out approximately £10m in concessionary fares every year which would seem to give a very strong

negotiating position if it was pursuing a regional rather than route-specific transport policy.

So what about the public face of DCC's transport policies? Durham is ahead of the game on green transport and carbon footprints and has prizes to show for it. A £30m grant to run electric buses in Durham City Centre. Brilliant if you can get to Durham!! More DCC agility/creativity is perhaps needed to utilise the Local Sustainable Transport Fund or consult with Area Action Partnerships to find transport solutions for the rural, and not so rural communities.

In my opinion, the DCC can do a lot more to soften the blow to our community and keep their transport policy working to provide a regional service. Cutting the Lanchester bus services means no access to care homes and hospitals or Durham on a Sunday or public holiday for those who have to rely on buses. That is a very damaging cut.

It's time for those in the DCC to come up with creative solutions and to open a dialogue with the community they are serving. Perhaps it was just a coincidence that my letters began to be answered once our MP was involved.

Roy Quinlan

Dear Village Voice

I have been prompted to write to you, after learning from the letters in last month's edition that we have lost the bus services 15/15a and 130 on Sundays and Bank holidays. Myself, like many others, had no knowledge of this. I was also unaware that Durham County Council funded these services. Last Thursday, two men from the council arrived outside my house in Maiden Law to remove two bus stops. There didn't appear to be anything wrong with them, but they replaced them with two steel ones. Apparently there are two hundred to be replaced.

When I see the cuts that Durham County Council are making to some much needed services it beggars belief why they would waste money on new bus stops.

I would really love to know the reason for this and what the cost was. Whatever the cost, the money could have been better spent on more deserving cases, like keeping our bus services!!!

J Wilkie

Maiden Law bus user

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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20 YEARS' CELEBRATION FOR RED CROSS SHOP

Approximately fifty volunteers for the Red Cross Shop gathered together at the Community Centre on 9th June to celebrate the shop being in the village for 20 years. It began as a unit in Front Street near the Community Centre before moving to the present premises. Brenda Gibson was Volunteer Manager then and remained so until very recently when Tracey Dobson, previously a volunteer, became the paid manager. Michael Bartley, Retail Field Manager, attended the function to give his support to his volunteer staff. There was a lovely buffet available for what was a 'drop in session'.

Tracey presented Brenda with a bouquet of flowers, chocolates, gardening vouchers and champagne. Jesse Goodall made a superb iced cake appropriately designed. In her speech, Tracey gave thanks to Brenda for her 20 years of service at the Red Cross Shop. She congratulated her on her success with the shop and thanked all of those volunteers who have helped in the shop during the last 20 years until the present time. Continuing, Tracey gave thanks to the volunteers who have supported her since she began her new job and helped at the celebration function.



Tracey Dobson and Michael Bartley present Brenda Gibson with a bouquet of flowers and gifts mentioned in the article. Left to right: Jesse Goodall; Michael Bartley; Brenda Gibson; Tracey Dobson and Freda Smith.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

Many of you have contacted me recently regarding bus cuts. The coalition government is cutting £95 million from local transport funding from 2011-12 to 2012-13, forcing councils to cut bus services. This will have a particularly deep impact in rural areas such as ours. It has meant that in some areas of North West Durham, including Lanchester, all Sunday and late evening services have been withdrawn. Buses provide important social value. Cutting a bus route also means cutting opportunities, preventing access to education or work, as well as increasing isolation amongst young people, the elderly and vulnerable.

I have been approached by constituents concerned that without a bus they would not be able to attend appointments at the Hospital or visit sick family or friends. Others work shifts at unsociable hours and have told me that they are no longer able to get to work. Parents have raised concerns that their children will not be able to attend the school that they had expected them to and that their parents, older brothers and sisters attended. I have written to the local bus companies to request a meeting on this matter. What is needed is a better picture of the impact that the changes have made so that we can see whether

the right commercial decisions have been made on the new timetable. I will ensure that the decision makers hear the concerns of local residents and push to make sure that the impacts of these changes are adequately monitored. I would encourage anyone who has been affected to contact me.

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, or phone my office on 01207 501 782.

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Dear Village Voice

I would like to thank all my friends for their cards and donations for my 90th birthday. The donations were for the flower ladies for the church and it came to over £350. Thank you also to the church catering ladies for doing a lovely tea which was enjoyed by all and made my day special. It was really nice to see all my friends.
Noreen Rafferty

Dear Village Voice

I would be very grateful if anyone can give me the contact details of a local singing teacher. My daughter is returning from university and would love to be able to continue her singing lessons over the summer. She mostly sings classical and show music. I can be contacted at eleanor@ameeca.co.uk.
Many thanks,
Eleanor Johnson

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RAINSOAKED CARNIVAL ... Continued from page 1

The Boys Brigade, who were raising money for Croft View, used a motor home for their magnificent 'cup cake stand'. The British Legion did a very good public relations job with former soldier Mel, with wife Sue, on the stand.

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Showground people must have done quite well as the roundabout and bouncy castle seemed very busy. YMCA enjoyed a good afternoon with plenty of youngsters on the climbing wall but the main new attraction was the 'Punch and Judy' which drew large crowds at each performance with enthusiastic responses from the children and much joyous laughter. The entertainment was excellent. Once again Elldis Transport provided the stage. The Lanchester Brass Band

were on first watched and listened to by many as the rain had not begun at that time. They were followed by a talented young band from Durham called 'Jazz in my Pants'. They were brilliant and played a fine repertoire of jazz music with such enthusiasm. Unfortunately, the longer they played the more it rained. Glenn

Coxon tried hard to keep the Carnival going but by this time the cold and rain were driving people away, some fortunately to the Methodist Hall where hot drinks and refreshments were available courtesy of Lions' Ladies. Glenn Coxon, together with Richard Tones, Emma Coulter (Nightlife) entertained for about an hour with some

fabulous pop and rock. Despite the now heavy rain, their dwindling audience sheltering under the trees appreciated every rendition, and in the true spirit of showbiz they carried on performing. The approximate net profit for the event was in the region of £1000 which, all things considered, was quite a good result.



All the fun of the fair on the roundabout which seemed to be very busy

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A section of the Brass Band who played first, before the rain started!

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An up and coming footballer of the year is obviously enjoying the sport - perhaps he needs to keep his eye on the ball!

RAINSOAKED CARNIVAL ... MORE PICTURES



Tennis Club members before the rain, all smiles

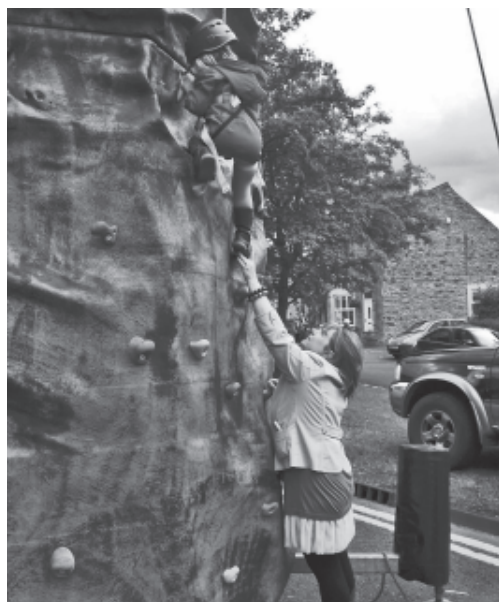


Tennis Club members after the rain, but still all smiles



The ever popular Fish Stall

*Well done that Netball player!
Are the spectators watching with
interest or are they sheltering
from the rain?*



*Anxious mum gives a helping hand on the
climbing wall*

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LIMEWASHING



The Parish Church ready for limewashing. All the scaffolding had to be taken down in preparation for the Sunday services and before any cleaning could be started. A big task, but many willing hands made light of it. We are extremely grateful to all those who came to clean over the three weeks of the operation.

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The deck being lifted on to the new Malton bridge



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COUNTY COUNCIL EYES HOUSING IN LANCHESTER

The County Council is consulting the public on a Core Strategy document setting out strategic policies that will guide development and change over the next 20 years. The document is available online or for inspection at Lanchester library.

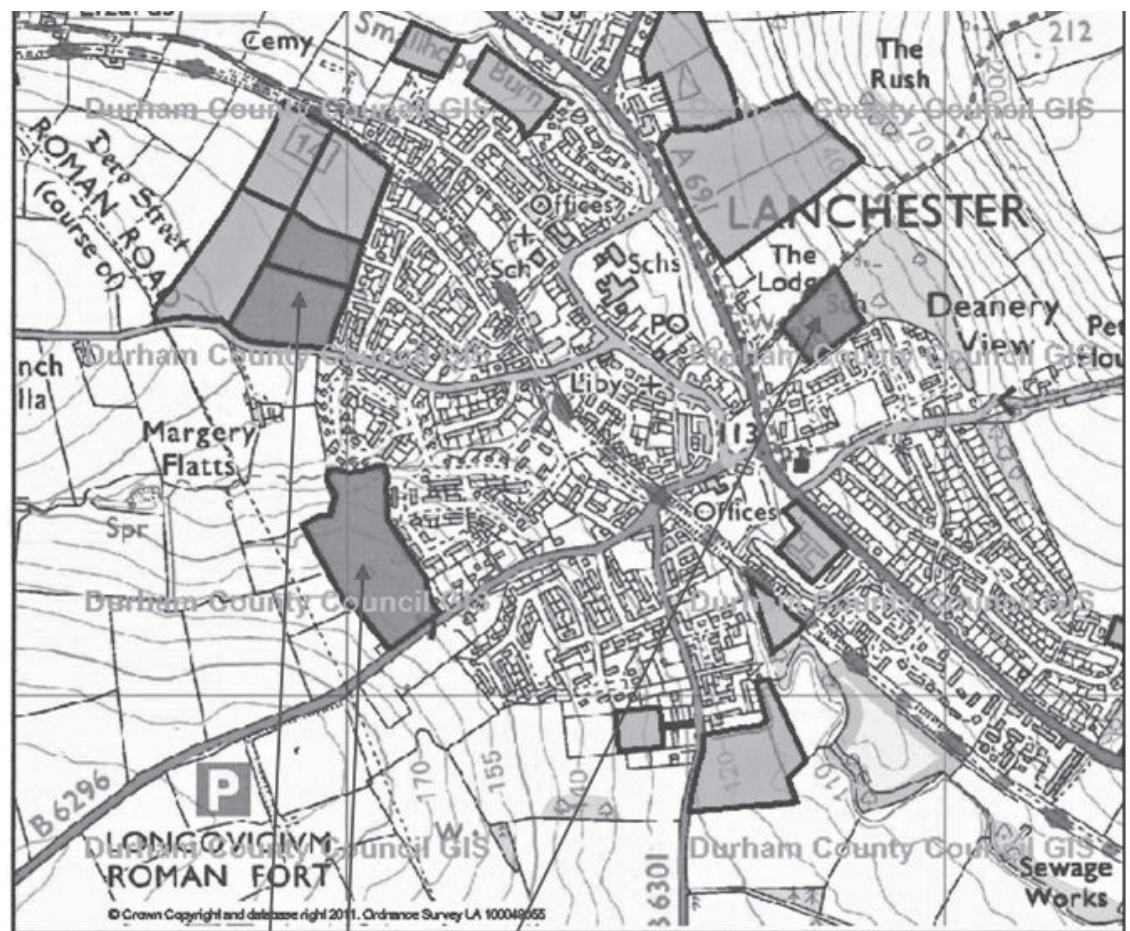
The County has been divided into five "delivery areas"; North, South, East, West and Central Durham. We are part of Central Durham, which of course is centred on Durham City and is to be the main focus of development within the county. Housing development is to be focused on 12 main towns with a secondary group of settlements each catering for between 60 and 600 houses. A specified number of houses is allocated for the remainder of each "delivery areas". In the case of Central Durham 400 units is allocated for distribution, mainly in the unnamed settlements though only Lanchester and Burnhope are mentioned by name.

The latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, a separate document running alongside the Core Strategy, shows three possible housing sites in Lanchester.

These sites have been identified, at least in part, as a result of suggestions made to the planning authority by or on behalf of landowners and potential developers. They are shown in dark grey on the attached plan. Other sites shown in light grey are not regarded by the County Council as suitable for development at the present time.

The three sites are:

1) Land at the "Green School" including the site of the present building and land at the rear presently providing recreational facilities, but not the



Site 3: Ridgeway

Site 2: Cadger Bank

Site 1: The Green School

Map of Possible Housing Sites Identified by the County Council

bowling green in front of the building.

2) Land northwest of Cadger Bank beyond the existing housing frontage, the land is only accessible from Cadger Bank and adjoins land designated as an Ancient Monument being part of the area around the Roman Fort.

3) The two fields north of Newbiggen Lane and west of Ridgeway the footpath and the existing housing in Alderside Crescent, probably accessible only from Newbiggen Lane.

The Lanchester Partnership is concerned about development on these sites. It wants to maintain support for village shops, and it recognises that the people who move into any new houses might shop in the village, however taking each of the sites in turn its views are that:

1) The access to the Green School site is very poor being too narrow for vehicles to pass one another and that widening it would be damaging to the surroundings which together with the distinguished building itself are important features of the conservation area. Moreover, the recreational facilities at the rear of the school are important, providing facilities for all young people of the village, but especially for those living east of the main road and the hard tennis courts are an invaluable facility especially to the thriving tennis club as their grass courts are only available in the summer and even then not in wet weather.

2) Access to the Cadger Bank site from road B6296 is very poor. The road is steep and the site stands

above the road so that it would be difficult to provide adequate visibility without destroying the established roadside trees. Furthermore the site is very prominent in the landscape standing above the existing development in Briardene and seen in views across the valley from the direction of Maiden Law. This site and that at Ridgeway would breach the well defined Village Development Limit as shown in the Village Design Statement.

3) The site at Ridgeway is only a part of a much larger site in which parties have expressed an interest to develop, ie including the adjacent land coloured light grey on the plan. At present the buildings, mainly bungalows, sit well down in the landscape and that part of the village is hardly seen from the west.

The land rises westwards to a shallow ridge and development is largely hidden from view further to the west along the valley of the Smallhope Burn and from the countryside in the direction of Iveston and Woodside Bank. Any new development on the proposed site would breach the visual containment to the detriment of the surrounding countryside and the setting of Lanchester village within the landscape. Once breached it would be difficult to prevent further westward expansion of the village.

The Partnership would be pleased to have your views on any or all of the sites. Please ring Brian Masterman on 520324 or Mike Gladstone on 528114. We would also encourage you to express your views to the County Council.

The Village Voice Page 7

PARISH CHURCH SUMMER FAIR



A happy group - left to right; Diane Oram; Judith Wilkinson; Elizabeth Wharton; Joyce Thomas, Jennifer Smith (background) arranging refreshments.



Dick Hunter (waving a bottle to attract the customers) with Peter Smith on the Tombola.

For some years now All Saints Parish Church has held a 'Summer Fair' in the Chapter House. This year it took place on Saturday June 4th and as always business was

brisk on all the stalls. It is a corporate effort and everyone was working hard to make it the success which it undoubtedly was. Bags seemed to be bulging with bargain

items and everyone seemed to be smiling, which is always a good sign! Tables were set for coffee or tea with a delicious scone oozing lovely strawberry jam and

a very happy atmosphere prevailed. £550 was raised in 2 hours which was splendid and grateful thanks go to anyone who helped in any way to make the fair go with a swing.

Special thanks are due to Elizabeth Wharton who is the main co-ordinator and whose idea it was to hold this fair a number of years ago. Long may it continue! Brenda Craddock

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Full of smiles - left to right Margaret Brown; Sheila Waterhouse; Muriel Tomlinson (customer) and Ann Hunter, organise the Cake Stall which was one of the many successful stalls at the Parish Church Summer Fair.

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Eve and Ella enjoying their morning in firm hands and clinging to their 'gains'?

ENERGY FRED IS LAUNCHED

Lanchester is one of only a handful of communities to benefit from an exciting new energy scheme. The scheme, called "Energy Fred" is the first of its kind in the region and is being piloted in Lanchester and twelve other villages before being rolled out in towns and cities across the North East.

Energy Fred provides free, independent and

practical energy advice to local residents and businesses, advising on every aspect of the money they spend on rising energy bills.

Ronan Jackson, one of the volunteers who is setting up the scheme in Lanchester, said: "With the average home spending over £1200 every year on gas and electricity, and the next price increases set to rocket this Autumn,

Energy Fred is offering free advice to Lanchester residents on how they can reduce their energy costs."

Look at the table below to see how the average home energy bill can be reduced using just some of Energy Fred's recommendations. For further information contact:

Anna Barker

Mobile: 07947044444

Email: energyfred@gmail.com

Cost	Recommendation	Savings	
		From	To
No Cost	Changing energy supplier	£1200	£972
	Turn thermostat down 1 degree	£972	£922
	Turn off standby appliances	£922	£892
Low Cost	Home insulation	£892	£617
	Heating controls	£617	£542
Bigger Cost	Solar PV system	£542	£372
	Solar hot water heating	£372	£259

Gardening in July

July is a time that should be relatively relaxing in your garden: the thrills and hard work of spring and early summer are behind us and we have yet to see many of the fruits of our labours. It is, however, a good month to smarten up and get your hedges in trim.

Borders

The jobs that are important in your border in July include snipping off faded sweet pea blooms to stop seed pods appearing; deadheading roses; lifting and dividing congested clumps of flag iris; and supporting tall perennials. It is also the time to make new plants by layering clematis shoots and pegging down

carnation stems so that they form roots and new plants. To make your own highly scented potpourri, pick lavender flowers as they open as this is when they will contain high levels of scented oils. Otherwise remove dead blooms and shape the bushes. Do not cut back into old wood but trim lightly to encourage new shoots to form.

Vegetable Plot

July is the time to start providing tomatoes with a weekly feed of high potash fertilizer, or more frequently if the leaves pale. Where roots have become exposed due to watering, top dress with compost.

Pinch out the tips of climbing beans as they reach the tops of their supports. You also need to plant out leeks if they have pencil thick stems and pick courgettes regularly so that they do not turn into marrows.

General

In July, your watering schedule must continue and water early or late to avoid sunscorch. You will need to check containers daily to see if they need watering. Feed your house plants and orchids every week and water newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials until they are well established. Cut your lawns as necessary not forgetting to trim the edges.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14.06.2011

Police Report:

As well as reading the latest report (see separately at the end of this report), the Lead Officer informed members that PCSO Gray had sent details of a Speedwatch Session which had taken place outside St Bede's School that day, from 11.25am to 11.55 am and that of over 200 cars which had passed, only a very small number had been travelling over the speed limit of 40 mph. It was a very obvious speed monitor but the idea is to educate the public, not prosecute drivers who are speeding.

Neighbourhood Wardens:

Neighbourhood Warden Team Leader Paul Rutherford introduced Stuart Liddell, Warden for Lanchester and the surrounding area, and spoke about the work they do to reduce environmental crime such as litter, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and low order anti-social behaviour. He emphasised that things have to be reported to them so that they can take action, tel 01207 693693. He outlined ways of tackling the litter problem, including awards to businesses who keep their premises and surrounding area litter-free and litter patrols when they can do on the spot fines.

Community Flood Engagement:

Karen Gibson, Community Flood Engagement Officer, outlined current and

proposed work in the Parish. Part of her job is to help the community write its own plan, appropriate for the area, then set up testing to see if the plan works. She is looking at the situation of the drains in Lanchester and is planning an open Meeting with residents and various Agencies; it is hoped this will take place at the end of September.

Community Emergency Response Plans are also to be set up for other situations such as severe weather; Civil contingencies units will also attend the public meeting and Ms Gibson is hoping to recruit helpers in the village. Training sessions for wardens will be held in Pity Me with different agencies who will give an overview of their roles. This will be run in conjunction with the Climate Change for Schools project. Members mentioned the problem of blocked gullies in the village and also that prevention of flooding would be better than action dealing with the aftermath of flooding. Ms Gibson replied that there are funding opportunities for flood defence products for private dwellings but not businesses. Mike Gladstone of the Lanchester Partnership stated that the severe flooding in 2003 was not caused by the river overflowing but by blocked drains and Ms Gibson said that pressure should be put on the County Council and Northumbria Water.

Correspondence:

Members received:
The Latest LINK newsletter.
Durham Police Authority Priorities for 2011/2012.
An invitation by Lanchester Partnership - Friends of Longovicium to the launch of the new booklet on 9th July.
Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review draft recommendations.

Area Action Partnership/ Parish Councils Committee:

Cllr Burton reported on the AGM of the AAP which took place on 18th May. He said that Speedwatch and Gateway projects had begun in April and May and that Youth Work had been among the AAP's priorities, through which Lanchester had received funding. The Gateway 'dragons' teeth' on the roads entering the village seemed to be effective and there has been a noticeable slowing down of traffic.

Durham County Plan:

It was agreed that before any plans go ahead, the County Council must get the infrastructure right. The matter would be brought up again at the forthcoming Parish Council's Committee meeting on 18th June.

Roadside Verges: The dangerous state of the verges in relation to traffic at road junctions was discussed. Sue Charlton is in the process of making a survey of the verges but it was agreed that the Lead Officer should write to the Highways Authority.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14.06.2011 Continued

Family Activity Day: Members approved the use of Park House Play Area for a joint event between Durham Wildlife Trust and Lanchester Parish Council on 6th August.

Annual Report: The draft Report was approved and distribution through Top Banana agreed.

Chairperson's Announcements: Cllr

Johnson remarked on the excellent event on the Village Green when the new path was officially opened on 9th June. He thanked colleagues and the Lead Officer for their help and support in raising the funding for the first phase of the project.

Questions from Members.: Members are greatly concerned about the potential removal of the

bus service to the Faith Schools. It appears that the views expressed during the consultation period have not been considered and it was agreed that the Lead Officer should write to the County Council asking for details of the consultation.

Date of Next Meeting: This will take place at 7.15 pm on Tuesday, 12th July 2011 in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester.

POLICE REPORT

Reporting period: 26/04/11 TO 24/05/11.
Number of calls for area: 69.
Alcohol seizures 0,
Dwelling Burglaries 0,
Other Burglaries 2 (a garage and plant nursery),
Bogus Callers 0,

Anti-social Behaviour and Motorcycle Incidents 14 (Police are monitoring woods and an area of Lanchester Valley Walk behind Woodlands), Criminal Damage, thefts of/from motor vehicles/gardens etc 5.

Positive policing results: Several arrests made from intelligence given by a member of the public and further police enquires (drug related); Scrap metal vehicles - 2 suspicions reported by a resident and stopped by an officer.

DIANA TREE

The new path on the bypass has brought to light the tree planted by the Parish Council in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. For those who have not seen it and are interested, it is at the EP school end of the path not far from the end.



The inscription on the plaque which looks as if it would benefit from a little tender loving care

The tree, which must have grown since Diana's death in 1997, with the plaque (just visible in the foreground) beside the new path on the bypass.



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COME BACK FOR THE CAN CAN GIRLS?

This was a fabulous occasion for a group of local women, all of whom attended Lanchester EP School and on to Greencroft Comprehensive. Now in their 50th year Sally Hindle, younger daughter of Marlene Cairns, decided to make contact and re-

group for a memorable event from when they were 16 years old (34 years ago!). Six of the original members were able to gather at The Old Mill, Knitsley, during the May Bank holiday weekend for a celebration lunch and photo by the Village Voice. Unfortunately



*The Can Can girls re-create their memorable event at the Empire Theatre, Consett 1976, with lunch at The Old Mill, Knitsley.
Left to right: Hazel Reed, Gillian Burrows, Margaret Snowball, Sally Hindle and Audrey Barron.*

Isabel Atkinson missed the photo call but is featured in the original shown on this page. Some of the women have remained either in the village or in the Durham area. However, Sally Hindle, who organised the reunion, travelled up from London, Gillian Burrows made the journey from Macclesfield - and wait for it, Audrey Barron now lives in Christchurch, New Zealand, but could not resist the call! All had a wonderful day together; perhaps they will attempt the Can Can again in 10 years time!

Can-can? They're working on it?



This is the original article which appeared in The Consett Guardian: The girls of Greencroft Comprehensive School at Annfield Plain can't can-can, but it will be all right on the night. They will be performing the once-naughty dance on April 30th as part of an old-time

music hall evening. Pupils at the school are staging the show in Stanley Civic Hall to raise funds for a play scheme for mentally handicapped children. Eight 16-year-old girls have volunteered to form a can-can team, after a bit of persuasion from organiser Mr Jack

Curry, a teacher at the school. The school hopes the show will raise about £120. Pictured from left to right are: Gillian Burrows, Margaret Snowball, Elizabeth Leary, Isabel Atkinson, Wendy Slade, Sally Hindle, Audrey Barron and Sue Fairish.



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CRASHBUSTERS BACK ON THE ROAD

Ray Price, computer expert of Crashbusters, is back on the road or to be more accurate his feet again. Last winter Ray became a victim of the dreadful weather when he slipped on the ice and broke his knee. He was not able to get around and help people with their computer problems. Ray would like to thank those loyal customers

who took their computers to his home to fix while he was out of action. Ray's mobility has come at a good time for the village Community Centre as he was able to fix an office computer that became a victim of a virus attack (despite using an anti-virus program). As well as operating Crashbusters, Ray offers free advice on simple

problems on Monday mornings at around 10.30 am in the Community Centre. More complex matters will involve a home visit and fee but the Community Centre Computers for All volunteers have had many reports praising Ray's service and his reasonable charges (he does not make a call-out charge).

COMMUNITY CENTRE SOFTWARE UPGRADE

Computers for All at the Community Centre would like to thank the Mid-Durham Area Action Partnership for its grant to upgrade its photo editing and Windows software. Additional savings were made by purchasing some of the

software through the Charity Technology Exchange which offers donated technology products from partners such as Microsoft. This saving allowed the Community Centre to also upgrade some of its computers.

If you want to learn how to improve your digital photographs, come along to the Community Centre on Monday or Thursday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30 am and find out what Photoshop software can do. We offer a free service.

NATIONAL CHILDMINDING WEEK

Lanchester Childminders celebrated a theme of 'aspirations' with a lovely morning of puzzles, cake decorating, art and craft and dressing up.

Fresh fruit snacks were quickly eaten by the children, followed by the fairy cakes they had decorated. A poster was made filled with pictures of

people at work. It ranged from Paramedics, Gardeners to the Prime Minister and Archbishop of Canterbury. Now that's 'aspiration'!



Lanchester Childminders and children at their celebration

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strawberries and a slice of birthday cake. One of our oldest and most loyal lunch members (Noreen Rafferty) blew out the candles on the cakes.

Do think about coming to join us. You are guaranteed an enjoyable time and there is also the opportunity if you wish, to go into our beautiful church and feel a wonderful sense of peace and love.

Brenda Craddock



Noreen Rafferty and Betty Calland enjoying lunch together



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Customers enjoying a cup of coffee at the Red Cross Coffee Morning which was part of Red Cross Appeal Week. The morning raised £85.37 and the Street Collection £92.66, making a grand total of £178.03. The Red Cross would like to thank all those who supported these two events and those who have supported the Red Cross throughout the year.

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TRAVELLERS ENJOY THE GREEN



Gypsies camp on the village bypass on Sunday 29th May, while the horse grazes away in solitude. No doubt the travellers were on the way to Appleby for the Horse Fair as many have been seen in the area recently.



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TRANSPORT FOR BETHANY

Brian and Linda Haynes are walking the full Hadrian's Wall 84 mile walk between 5th and 10th September 2011 to raise sponsorship to assist with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible vehicle for their beautiful granddaughter, Bethany, who will be 3 in October.

Bethany has an undiagnosed rare genetic neurological disorder. As a result she is severely impaired in both her physical capability and mental development. She will not develop the same as her peers, and will require lifelong support. Bethany

- is registered blind
- suffers from seizures
- has hypotonia (low muscle tone)
- cannot fully support her own head
- has breathing and eating difficulties
- has a beautiful smile (as you can see in the photo above).

Bethany receives excellent support from a vast number of healthcare professionals to develop



her learning and mobility requirements. However, whilst Bethany physically grows at the same rate as her peers, her lack of muscle tone means it is extremely difficult to manoeuvre her in and out of a standard family car.

In the very near future Bethany will require a specialised wheelchair accessible vehicle to replace the family car. We are both in our sixties and the costs associated with the walk are being paid by ourselves. We aim to raise as much as possible in sponsorship. If you are able to assist with this in any way or help towards this goal please contact Brian or Linda at brian.haynes@talktalk.net or telephone 01207 529483.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. Best wishes.

Brian and Linda Haynes



Brian and Linda Haynes with their granddaughter Bethany

THE INVISIBLE DISABILITY

This year marks the centenary of the founding of the Royal National Institute of the Deaf, and to mark the occasion, the organisation plans to adopt a new name, more appropriate for the work they do. Now, 'Action for Hearing Loss' aims to increase awareness and knowledge of this invisible disability, which affects 9 million people - one in every 7 of our population.

Institute volunteers Andy Griffin and Dan Bond introduced a very informative session in Lanchester Library, and they described the fragility of hearing, and how easily the sense can be affected.

Many people who have made important contributions to mankind suffered deafness, including Beethoven, Van Gogh, Thomas Edison and Bill Clinton. Musicians such as Bono, Neil Young and Pete Townshend have all experienced hearing loss, and problems are increasing among young people, who often play their music very loudly.

Deafness can create social isolation and limits interaction between people, and the RNID campaigns to increase awareness about hearing loss, and to promote knowledge about useful technology. Parliament is being lobbied to provide free lip reading classes, as an essential life skill. We can help in communication, by

remembering basic facts. We should face the person we talk to, as facial expression is vital to understanding, and eye contact essential. Speech should be slow and clear, with background noise lowered. Writing things down is sensible. No one should feel excluded from society, and inclusion is possible, with thought, care and patience.



RNID volunteers Dan Bond and Andy Griffin introduce their awareness session in Lanchester Library

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"It was a really good night", says Mary

So that the creature could fly outside. It took time and everyone held their breath. The bat must be saved from certain death. The relief was great when it found the door. We hoped there were no more surprises in store. Consett Rotarians had arranged the night. The 'Silent Films' were an entertaining sight. There was laughter and merriment throughout. The audience enjoyed it without a doubt.

Mr George Hetherington the pianist, was great. His accompaniment of the films absolutely first rate. A pie and pea supper was enjoyed by all. It was a great night in our Community Hall. Maureen Bennett led the evening with her usual charm. And amidst the bat invasion kept her calm! She thanks all the people who came that day. And everyone who helped in any way. Brenda Craddock

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The hall fell silent, not a sound was heard. Something was flying, but not a bird. Frantically flying round and round. A way out it could not find. The main big doors were flung back wide.



Serving the pie and pea supper

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COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for May 2011 is 38. The draw was made by Mrs Sylvia Hocking of the Thursday Art Group.

CULINARY WISDOM

There is a vast difference between the savage and the civilised man, but it is never apparent to their wives until after breakfast. (Helen Rowland)

Fish should swim three times - in water, in butter and in wine (Polish Proverb)

FUN AND FITNESS

Fitness is something we can all relate to and today there are so many fun ways to keep fit. The EP school are masters of 'Fun and Fitness' as every year they hold a 'Fun and Fitness' week and this year, as always, it was really enjoyable and rewarding for the children.

Tuesday was the Bike Ride day, following the railway line to Malton and beyond, depending on the weather. 53 children from years 5 and 6 took part accompanied by a number of staff including Mrs Davis and Mr Boddy, the Deputy Headmaster. Several parents also went on the ride. Everyone came back to school fitter and safely without mishap and very proud of their achievement, especially riding against quite a strong wind.

At school, there were bikes, scooters, tractors and doll's prams and pushchairs to be found in plenty, especially in the Reception and Nursery areas, because it was Wheels Day and wheels mean movement and exercise, which is so good for everybody. The children love Wheels Day and are learning first hand that exercise is essential for fitness and good health. Wednesday evening was the Annual Barbecue and it was a perfect evening for it. The Barbecue food was first class and most efficiently and charmingly




A very happy scene

served by the staff. It was a lovely sight to see parents and children, sitting out in the beautiful setting of the school with its backdrop of trees. One parent actually remembered planting some of those trees when she was a pupil, many years ago! As well as eating there were activities for the children: two Bouncy Castles, a Bucking Bronco, and a Climbing Wall all of which tested

the strength of limbs and muscles and their determination to achieve. One pupil loved the climbing wall so much that he went up and down 21 times! Other pupils opted for a game of football which both boys and girls organised very efficiently by themselves. This was another thoroughly enjoyable evening. Brenda Craddock





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TIGERS WIN LEAGUE

Consett Tigers who play on Kitswell Park cruised to the Russell Foster league 2 Division title last month. Many local youngsters from Lanchester were involved as pictured from top row left to right: Cameron Innes, Josh Lambert, Will Hodgesson, Alex Rawle,

Jacob Lloyd, Matthew Taylor, Matthew Milburn, Billy Hall, Thomas Birkett. Bottom row, Liam Ord, Oliver Bartles-Smith, Jack James, Ben Wilson, Nathan Smith, Sam Grimes, Jonathon Wilson, Jordan Carr. Team coach Paul Milburn said, "the team

played some very attractive and exciting football throughout the season which was very pleasing to watch and the boys are a credit to themselves and the club." Paul would like to pass on his grateful thanks to Mark Ord for his help with coaching throughout the season.



The winning Consett Tigers team

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WEMBLEY TRIP FOR LANCHESTER BOYS' BRIGADE

Early on Saturday 4th June, under a grey cloudy sky, several members of Lanchester Boys' Brigade and friends set off by coach for Wembley in anticipation of a good England win against Switzerland in the European Championship

Qualifier. Arriving at Wembley to a lovely clear sky and very warm weather our anticipation of a red hot England performance was very much in our minds. Unfortunately it didn't quite work out that way but after a mediocre first half at least the second

half picked up and although we had chances to win we did not deserve to. The two-all draw was a fair result. The game did not take anything away from what was an excellent day and an experience that many will never forget.



Lanchester Boys' Brigade members and friends outside Wembley

LANCHESTER COMMUNITY TABLE TENNIS UPDATE

The Table Tennis Club at the Community Centre goes from strength to strength with the purchase of a fourth table and an auto-robotic server thanks to funding from the County Durham Community Foundation and Leisureworks.

The 'robo-server' is a really popular addition to our resources as it gives the opportunity to practise intensively, developing and perfecting new skills.

We have entered two teams in the Northumbria Summer League and so we are broadening our experience and enjoying the opportunity to meet players from around the area.

With the fourth table we need more space, so we are changing to Friday nights and the Main Hall at the Community Centre. We may well decide that we really need two nights per week

so that everyone gets plenty of opportunity to play. In that case we would hope to meet both on Wednesdays in the Small Hall and Friday in the Main Hall (7.00 - 9.00 pm on both nights).

We always have room for new players of any standard (including complete beginners). Please phone the Community Centre on 521275 to check which night(s) we are meeting. We'd love to see you!

CRICKET - BUSINESS IS PICKING UP

It has been a mixed start for our senior clubs, but at least all the games are getting played which is good news.

Stu McPhail's first team had a tough start facing the top two from last year and neighbouring Annfield Plain and lost all those games. However things have improved recently with comprehensive wins over Chopwell, Ashington and Morpeth.

Prolific opener Paul Underwood had missed the opening fixtures but has returned with a century and a fifty in those three victories. Aussie pro, Nathan Hudson is starting to settle in and contributing with both bat and ball. Durham Uni player Luke Blackaby has made telling contributions with unbeaten scores to guide the team home. Masoud Mirza is also making an impact again as teams struggle to cope with his wily spin bowling. Steve Murray's second string made a very

positive start to the campaign with veterans Paul Burn and Tony Halliday making big contributions with the bat, the latter being unfortunate to be out on 98 on his return to the team at Lintz. However, injuries to the bowling line up have caused the team to falter with a couple of defeats at Morpeth and against Ashington.

The thirds have had a great start winning five of their six games, three of them in cup competitions. Veterans Andy Smith and Neil Graham have put in good scores whilst James Robson has had successive unbeaten half centuries.

Youngster Greg Patterson has also had a score of 76 against Durham City, for his first senior half century. The wickets have been shared across the bowlers with Craig Smith taking most but unfortunately he has work which will take him

away for the rest of the season.

The junior teams have had a difficult time, with all sides losing key players from last year, for various reasons. All teams have picked up wins but expect to be low finishers in their tables. Many clubs have had problems with junior sides and several have been unable to get enough interest and have dropped out of their respective age group.

Whilst we have just enough players for now, anyone interested in playing cricket should get themselves down to the club on a Saturday morning and we will help bring them on into the teams.

The club has just taken possession of a new piece of training kit having secured a grant to purchase a bowling machine. This allows the players to practise in smaller numbers and with greater accuracy of bowling to improve batting technique.


Stuart Wright


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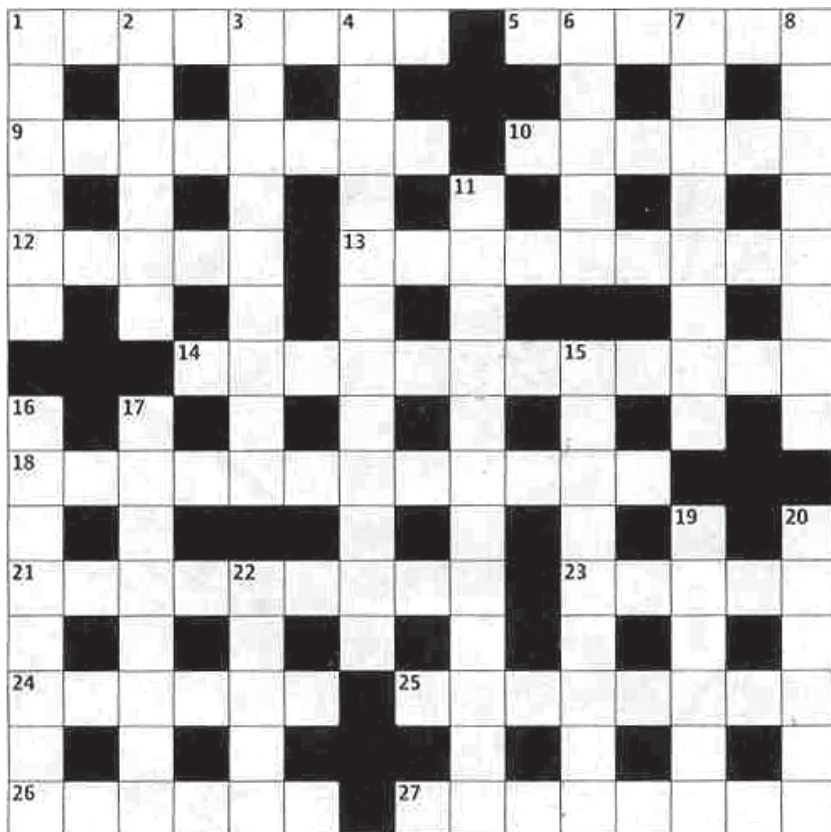
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CROSSWORD 62



ACROSS

1. Someone who kept you warm? (3,5)
5. Lose it (3,3)
9. Club rice for hot pot (8)
10. Bird sleeping in Gascon dormitory (6)
12. Reason (5)
13. Fake headgear invention (9)
14. Social lepers turn day into night (5,7)
18. Mixed up witches fled a charge of double exposure (7,5)
21. Inherited Neil's cart (9)
23. US state (5)
24. Edict (6)
25. Popular name for Italian males (8)
26. Stockings (6)
27. Changing gear gives pointless distress (8)

DOWN

1. Supernatural (6)
2. Skivvy (6)
3. Crotch cover (9)
4. Defoe novel (4,8)
6. Run away from scalpel operator (5)
7. 11th November symbol (3,5)
8. Took off (8)
11. Night-time rambling (12)
15. Sir Walter Scott poem (9)
16. Occasionally (3,3,2)
17. Ludicrous (8)
19. Native N American (6)
20. Looks like beginner is blameless (6)
22. Austere (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 61

ACROSS

9. porcupine
10. peril
11. tiger
12. legendary
13. Lucifer
14. Arizona
17. Bahai
- 19,22 see-through
20. spell
21. allegro
22. see 19 across
24. see 4 down
26. mimic
28. sting
29. groundsel

DOWN

1. spot

2. tragic
3. putrefying
- 4,24 across pillar of society
5. Belgrade
6. spin
7. area code
8. flay
13. Libya
15. instrument
16. Allah
18. holistic
19. Stone Age
22. toy boy
23. utmost
24. oust
25. cage
27. cell

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.

CROSSWORD 61

There were 16 entries in last month's crossword competition.

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

Test your skill on John Wilson's latest challenge.



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SUDOKU

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

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

WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members and visitors to our June meeting then June Wallis did the reading.

Members voted on resolutions for the AGM and were asked if they had any ideas for speakers or were interested in being Group Convener. The list is out for diaries and calendars and tickets are here for Jane Austin's Christmas.

Edmundbyers has invited 8 members to a fashion show and members were asked to put forward their names if interested.

This year's county challenge is to grow a fiver so Ann Carr is opening her home for afternoon tea with sales table and raffle on 17th August, 2-4 pm. Tickets are £1 and

available at the next two meetings.

Rhoda Joyce won the raffle and the competition winners were Shirley Lamb and Jennifer Macdonald.

Our speaker was Barry Peacock from Lanchester Dairies. Barry started by handing out tubs of their delicious ice-cream then told us how from 5 staff and 1 van they have built up, in 19 years, to over 77 men, 36 trucks and three tankers. They use only local businesses for all their needs from printing and transport to milk and not only supply your local milkman but also

amongst others Asda, Tesco and Greggs. They are also the hub for local producers who supply the supermarkets doing all the administration which means the local suppliers are paid a very fair price every 28 days for their goods, a system which works for everyone and showed us how supermarkets are working with local people and suppliers to try and help the local economy. What an interesting and informative talk this was. Jennifer gave the vote of thanks and the evening finished with refreshments.



Barry from Lanchester Dairies sharing his experiences with a packed WI

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Ham, Pea and Mint Pasties

Makes 4 large pasties.

FORTHEPASTRY

175g/6ozs cold butter, chopped into chunks
350g/12oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting
½ tsp English mustard powder

1 egg, beaten for glazing

FORTHEFILLING

50g/2ozs butter
1 onion, finely chopped
200g/8oz peas, frozen or cooked fresh
100g/4ozs thickly sliced ham, chopped into small chunks

Small bunch mint, leaves picked and finely chopped
250g pack ricotta

1. Tip the butter, flour and mustard powder into

a food processor with ½ tsp salt and whizz until you can't see any lumps of butter. Add roughly 4/5 tbs cold water, a spoonful at a time, while pulsing until the pastry comes together. Tip out onto a clean surface, bring together into a ball and chill while you make the filling.

2. Melt the butter in a frying pan. Add the onion and gently sweat for 10-15 mins until really soft, but not coloured. Stir in the peas for 1 min, then turn off the heat and stir in the ham, mint and ricotta with plenty of seasoning.

3. Heat oven to 180C/

160C fan/gas 4 and divide the pastry into 4 equal pieces. Roll each piece to a neat 16-17cm circle-cut round a saucer or lid. Brush the edges with a little of the beaten egg, spoon quarter of the filling into the middle, then bring up the opposite sides of the pastry and seal. Crimp to make a pasty shape. Carefully lift onto a baking sheet. Repeat with the rest of the pastry, then brush the finished pasties all over with egg. Bake for 35-40 mins until golden and crisp. Leave to cool slightly, then serve either warm or cold.

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Wed 10th Aug Hawes & Yorkshire Dales £11

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Swim 100 miles in a day

On Sunday 26th June at 10 swimming pools across County Durham, you can join forces to swim as far as you like as fast as you wish from one length to 100 lengths. Everyone's contribution will be recorded as swimmers across the county aim to reach a cumulative total of 100 miles, raising money for charity as they swim. Entrance to the pools on the day will be free of charge and residents are encouraged to make a donation to charity. Belle Vue Swim Centre Consett will be supporting the North East Air Ambulance (8.30-10.00am) and The Louisa Centre Stanley will support Willow Burn Hospice (9.30-11.00am).

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 2nd July, KAREN LEIGH, Top Class Singer
Saturday 9th July, ASHLEIGH, Top Female Singer
Saturday 16th July, DAVID WALTON, Voted Best Newcomer 2010
Saturday 23rd July, AMY SAXON, Top Girl Singer
Saturday 30th July, AARON JACKSON, Super Young Vocalist

LMVC Annual Concert

Lanchester Male Voice Choir will hold its 43rd Annual Concert in the Lanchester Methodist Church at 7.30 pm on Friday July 1st.

Our guest artists will be The Manchester Reed Trio, consisting of Clarinet, Flute and Oboe. Our local Young Artist will be Charlotte Heslop, an up and coming soprano.

Tickets priced at £7; Patrons and Concessions £6; Children £3; are available from choir members or from John Wills, tel: 01207 520 249.

Gavin Hume concert

On Saturday 9th July, Gavin Hume, our Methodist Minister who is also a singer/songwriter, is presenting a concert at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Methodist Church introducing his new album of songs 'Beyond all reason'. The album includes a variety of styles, from piano ballads to some more upbeat pop/rock songs and will be available on the evening. It can also be downloaded from iTunes or Amazon. Entry to the concert is free, with donations to CLIC Sargent.

Beat 'n' Blow

Presented as part of the Durham Brass Festival on Saturday 2nd July at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre, 'Beat 'n' Blow' is a very energetic, 9-piece marching band playing dance music arranged for voices, horns and drums. With a singer, two drummers, two trumpets, tuba, trombone and two saxophones, the band creates a unique sound and live experience. Tickets £5 from the Community Centre, tel 01207 521 275.

Paradiso Club

The last 'Social' of this series will be held on Sunday July 3rd in the Main Hall of the Community Centre starting at 7 pm. The Social will involve raffle, refreshments and a chance to see the film GREENFINGERS: Directed by Joel Herschman, starring: Clive Owen, Helen Mirren, David Kelly, Warren Clarke.

Based on a true story, Greenfingers is a heart warming and inspiring tale of triumph over adversity. Colin Brigs is serving a sentence for murder, and has given up on life. When transferred to an open prison in the heart of the Cotswolds he teams up with one of the "lifers", the ageing Fergus who has an eccentric passion for gardening, and his existence gradually takes on a whole new meaning. Membership of Paradiso Club £5 pa. Entry to Social £2.50. All are welcome.

Mothers' Union

The July meeting on Wednesday 13th, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, is the AGM. After the business has been completed strawberries with cream and Cava wine will be served.

WHAT'S ON?

Book Launch

On Saturday July 9th from 10.30 am till 2.30 pm, The Friends of Longovicium, part of the Lanchester Partnership, will be holding an event in the Community Centre to launch the book they have produced about the civilian vicus (settlement) which was situated next to the Roman fort in the village of Lanchester. Members of The Friends of Longovicium (the Roman name for Lanchester) will be giving talks about their work at Longovicium and civilian life in the vicus.

There will be an exhibition and displays on view within the Centre. It's a family friendly day with something for all ages. Light refreshments are also being provided.

Free copies of the book will be available to members of the public.

Loft Clearance Sale and Country Market

Lanchester Community Centre will be holding a Loft Clearance Sale on Saturday 2nd July from 10 am to 12 noon. Lanchester Country Market will also be on at the same time, selling cakes, jams and much more. Refreshments will be available.

WI

Our next meeting will be held in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 4th July at 7.00 pm. We will be having a Strawberry Cream Tea and a demonstration and sale of strawberry cheesecake by Helen Archer of Satley Cup Cake Co.

The competition is a pretty hat so we do hope you will all be able to come along to what is always a lovely social event in our WI calendar.

Time-Line

As part of the Centenary celebrations for Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club, a 'Time-Line' is being displayed in the library throughout the month of July.

With the help of maps, photographs, minutes and anecdotal evidence, this will show the history of the club since 1911. Alongside this will be a portrayal of world events during that time. It will be an interesting display for young and old that may provide memories for some and for the younger age group, illustrate how much and what has changed in the last 100 years.

Come and visit your local library, it's free!

Open House

All are welcome at the Chapter House on Thursday 7th July. A sandwich lunch is served between 11.30 am and 1.00 pm.

Short Circuit Walks

July 9th, 10.30 am, Washington and Penshaw Monument, 5 miles. Meet at Wildfowl/Wetlands car park, off Pattinson Road, NZ33 1563.

July 23rd, 10.30 am, Cheviots, 5.5 miles. Meet in car park in Wooler at N end of High Street, next to Information Centre, NT989 282.

Derwentside Byways and Bridleways

July 5th, 7.00 pm. Meet at Thornley Woods Woodlands Centre just off the A694 near Rowlands Gill.

July 19th, 7.00 pm, meet at 'The Oak' pub at Medomsley.



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'Anything Goes'

That's the title of this year's presentation by Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society to be held in the Methodist Church on Thursday and Friday 14th and 15th July. It's a miscellany of popular songs from the 1920's and 30's - a time when the people of our country were recovering from the horrors of one World War only to be thrust into another only 20 years later. Foot-tapping tunes by song writers such as Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Ivor Novello and Cole Porter lifted the spirits during years when events such as the General Strike and the Wall Street Crash brought further misery to the people.

We hope to relive these years and feel sure that our costumed cast and live band will send you home 'with a song in your heart'! Tickets are available from any society member or by calling 01207521458.

Willow Burn Hospice Summer Fair

Willow Burn Summer Fair this year will be held on Saturday 23rd July, at the Hospice, Maiden Law, from 1.00pm until 4.00pm.

Charity Concert

The Rotary Club of Consett will present a Variety Concert in the Empire Theatre Consett on Wednesday 13th July at 7.15 pm to raise funds to help local charities.

Tickets are only £5 each and are available from the Empire Theatre on 01207 218171 or 01207 507899.

PACT Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th July at 7.15 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. All welcome.

Cream Tea

The Thursday Club will be holding their annual Cream Tea in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance on Wednesday, July 13th, in the Main Hall of the Community Centre, 2-4pm. Tickets, only £1, can be obtained from any Thursday Club member or from the Post Office.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting on Tuesday 12th July will be an outdoor meeting. Please ring 520063 for arrangements.

Junior Wildlife

On Sunday 17th July there will be a visit to Rabbit Bank Wood. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.45 am.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 27th July at 2.00pm in the Community Centre, there will be a demonstration by Kathleen Gibson, "Having Fun with Flowers".

Dramatic Flowers

Durham Dramatic Society is holding a Flower Extravaganza at the City Theatre, Fowlers Yard, Durham, as part of its 25 years celebrations.

The Extravaganza will consist of 35 flower arrangements, which reflect and interpret some of the plays performed by the Society over the past 25 years. They will be displayed in the Theatre and in the workshops, also in Fowlers Yard. The Society is grateful to the craftspeople in Fowlers Yard for their support.

The Extravaganza will be open on Saturday 16th July from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, and on Sunday 17th July from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. Tickets cost £2.50 and can be obtained from Wendy Smith on 0191 3848983 or 07958176227 or at the door. The arrangements will be sold at 4.00 pm on Sunday.

TO KNITSLEY FARM SHOP AND BEYOND

Well, the Vaseline Diaries may be over, and a serious hats off to those chaps for their achievement, but cycling and its entertaining potential are still alive and well in Lanchester. You may have seen us, the Lanchester and District Ladies Cycling and Scone Eating Club, speeding along the line, heading in the direction of Knitsley, working up an appetite for something tasty and local.

And it has to be said that the staff there have unfailingly welcomed us, even when we've been dripping wet, muddy and (let it be whispered) a bit sweaty. Because what started as a six mile round trip on dry days has evolved into a hardcore and ever lengthening ride. We laugh in the face of rain, hailstones and thunder.

But we cry in the face of wind, especially when we're on the moors just outside Stanhope in the middle of a torrential storm and someone's wheel falls off. Actually, we didn't cry, we never do. We calmly repaired the bike and continued on our squelchy way.

We've discovered several things over the last few months of our cycling adventures, and almost all for free, courtesy of the wonderful network of disused railway tracks around our area. The first thing is that it's much better to check your handle bars are securely attached to your bike before you set off so that you don't have to go to Jed's for an emergency set of Allen keys and a bit of a helping hand (thank you Jed). The second thing is that the Hownsgill Viaduct is stunning. The

third thing is that any route you believe to be 'all downhill' before you've ridden it on a bike almost certainly is not. And finally, we now know it is perfectly possible to transport a large portion of uncooked Chinese stir fry through the Durham countryside with nothing more than a conveniently placed pocket and a willing friend.

So if you do see us riding by in our cycling motley then give us a wave. We're the ones with the scone crumbs round our mouths and the wind in our hair. We may have progressed to padded cycling shorts and luminous tops, but we're still the same old amateurs underneath.

Today Knitsley, tomorrow the world (but only if you can get there via the Consett Crossing).

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Many thanks to all those who gave generously to the whole Christian Aid week effort in Lanchester and Burnhope. The grand total raised was £3241.71.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

On our last outing we ventured into Durham to Oldfields, conveniently sited near the Gala car park, even drop offs by the restaurant entrance being possible. One of our less mobile members was dropped off by the door and Bill Oldfield himself came out and assisted. The restaurant is quite small and intimate with the staff being unobtrusively attentive. They have a lunch and early bird menu offering 2 course for £11, 3 course for £14 with sides for £1.50. They have special breads and the variety is displayed on the blackboard. When we

were there it was a sunflower seed option, soup of the day was Lanchester asparagus and we were very tempted - but - we all decided to opt for a 2 course meal and - you've GOT to have a pud. We did however have some of the lovely bread brought to our table and it was quite delicious. We then sampled for main course, smoked haddock, garden peas, mature cheddar and mustard sauce with a side order of new potatoes, Joe Simpson's braised shin of beef and Yorkshire pudding with a side order of claphot and bacon steak, braised Savoy

cabbage, venison sausage with mustard. For puds there was dark chocolate and rice crispy cake, marshmallows and honey, sticky toffee pudding with butterscotch sauce, cinder toffee icecream and Lanchester rhubarb compote, ginger beer jelly with jersey icecream. And we do have to say, all quite yummy! There is a discretionary service charge of 12.5% but hey, after such a superb meal and service you'd leave a tip, most definitely. We were all agreed - absolutely gourmet!

The Gourmet Girls

THE NEW LOOK VILLAGE GREEN

June 9th saw the launch of the new facilities on the village green. Children from local junior schools played an important part in the celebrations, with some being the first to complete the new walk. This attractive path is approximately 330 metres long, and avoids the busy village centre. Other youngsters showed their skills at traditional maypole dancing, then relaxed with orange juice and buffet food!

Councillor Ossie Johnson welcomed everyone and introduced John Taylor from CDENT (County Durham Environmental Trust), and Billy and Julie Austin from Lanchester Dairies, with Barry Peacock, General Manager of the Dairies. CDENT funded a grant of £15,200 from money available from the Government's Landfill Communities Fund, and Lanchester Dairies contributed



Children from the primary schools on the green with food provided by the Parish Council. Lead Officer/Parish Council, Sally Laverick, helps with the buffet.

£1,500 to allow the funding to be released. The improvements also include surface work to an area beside the church, tree work on the green, the installation of a Parish Council information board, and a circular tree seat. The seat will allow

people to enjoy some quiet time in the very centre of the village, and bears a plaque in remembrance of Walter Austin. 'Wally' was born in Conssett, and after service in the Merchant Navy, worked for the War Department and for

Marconi. He and wife Cissie moved to Upper Houses Farm in the early 1950's, where sons Billy and Geoff and their wives Julie and Sandra later established Lanchester Dairies. Wally played a full role in village life, as a keen historian he was a

founder member of the Antiquarians (now the Local History Group), and also served on the Parish Council.

The green is at the very heart of the village, and these developments will enhance our community for years to come.



A group of well known villagers try out the new seat.



Cutting the ribbon to officially open the new path are left to right; John Taylor (CDENT), Councillor Ossie Johnson, Julie Austin and Billy Austin.



Well practised children from the EP School demonstrated Maypole dancing for the occasion.

NEXT DEADLINE
Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by 19th July. The deadline for **adverts** is 17th July.

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