

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 11 Volume 12

Lanchester, November 2011

For contact information, see page 2

LIONS BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS



Some of the vast crowd at the bonfire obviously enjoying the display

It was a perfect night for this very popular annual event. The skies were clear and for November, the weather was extremely mild. This brought people out in their thousands. Light sticks were sold out in record time as were the hot dogs on the field. The display itself was probably the best ever and very well organised by those now very experienced Lions and friends.

**Continued
on page 4**



Some very young Guymakers this year from the E P School, who did a great job under the guidance of Miss Jackson



Lions and friends who helped to prepare the event: Left to right: Eric Tuffie (London), Christian Vilete (France), Ian Murray, Mike Stoddart, Mark Draper, Tony Corry, Jonathan Harrison, Dennis Laycock, Andy Swinbank, Brian Naylor, Peter Richardson, Martin Durkin, Alan Hill.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



The solemn service at the War Memorial



Terry Cockburn wearing his great grandfather's medals

Story 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 live in Spain. A few years ago I went to the UK for a holiday and whilst there took a trip to Whitby. I found a nice little hotel to stay in; the first night before dinner I went to sit in the lounge. There was only one other person there so we got talking only to find that we knew each other, in fact we had been to school together in Lanchester; his name is Maurice Ridley.

We have kept in touch since with Maurice sending us The Village Voice to Spain. I find it very interesting keeping up with other people I knew at school.

I left Lanchester in 1958 and have moved around the UK until 2007 when I came to Spain to retire. I

have just received the September issue of the Village Voice from Maurice.

I would like Maurice to know how much I appreciate his thoughtfulness.

Sincerely
Clifford Strong

Dear Village Voice

We live in Lizards Cottage, adjacent to the Lanchester Valley walk and wrote this piece, to let everyone know about our owl. Some time ago we purchased a few chickens, enormously enjoying their company and fresh, free range eggs. More recently, our friend, Mavis Datta, asked if we would be interested in a few more, the new additions to have a 'fresh start', after spending a

year as 'Battery chickens'.

These creatures arrived almost bald and looked very unhealthy. The Internet gave information about their required care. They soon learnt about scratching in grass, taking dust baths and lying with wings outstretched, enjoying the warmth of sunlight. Hearing their contented clucking and observing the pleasure with which they enjoy their new found freedom is humbling indeed.

Whoops! I am supposed to be talking about our owl. He was purchased to distract those pigeons, which were intent on making a mess of our vehicles, with their many droppings. It worked very well. As a result, we

decided to move the owl, when we found that numerous crows were invading the hens' enclosure. The owl continues to live with the hens and it is amazing how many people walking past admire him and remark on how patient he is, sitting on his perch. Many also debate long and hard as to whether he is real or not, meaning that we felt we should provide an explanation.

Our owl is indeed very realistic but is in actual fact plastic. He hangs by string, therefore looks as if he is moving. We hope that this clarifies the facts. We have been concerned that people may feel we were rather cruel, the owl always in the same place and also kept awake during the day, when, being a nocturnal animal, he should be asleep.

Ben and Fiona Thurm

JOSEPH'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

November 11th was a very special day for Joseph Massey-Allen, a student at All Saints' Primary School. He was born at 11am, so that means this young man's birthday details read...11 am/11th day/11th month/2011.

Joseph says he realised the significance of this birthdate only when it was pointed out by his mum, and he was enjoying his day as a VIP at school.

A keen footballer, Joseph plays for the Consett under 11 boys team, and he enjoys school. His favourite subject is PE and he also likes History and Numeracy lessons.

He was looking forward to celebrating his birthday weekend with his brother and sister, along with the rest of his family. His ambition is to become a footballer, playing for Newcastle United of course!

A very Happy and Special Birthday to Joseph!



Joseph Massey-Allen



The very realistic owl

To contact the Village Voice

By email:

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

By post:

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BRENDA GIBSON - AWARD WINNER

Brenda Gibson received the President's Cup from the Regional Vice President of the Red Cross organisation on Saturday 12th November. The ceremony took place on a 'Dine and Cruise' day out on the River Tees for Brenda and other volunteers. All had a wonderful time which included a two course roast lunch. This was paid for by the European Union so it did not cost the Red Cross anything to reward Brenda and other volunteers on this fabulous day together. The speech made to Brenda at the celebration covered her

life with the Red Cross and her time as Shop Manager in Lanchester for 20 years. Two things stood out in the citation. "Brenda has always shown great dedication to the aims of the Society and upheld its values. Indeed her name is synonymous in Lanchester with the Red Cross and all it stands for." And finally, "Brenda's commitment and dedication to the Red Cross is phenomenal, always willing to put herself out for others and help where she can. She is well deserving of the President's Cup".



Brenda Gibson (Red Cross) proudly holds the President's Cup with some of the other shop volunteers

VILLAGE VOICE AGM REPORT

The Annual Report was presented by Chairman Brian Oram. He reported the change in personnel during the year by welcoming Ken Todd as Treasurer who replaced John Gray. He thanked John for his dedication and hard work. Since Ken's arrival he has modernised the payment system and is eager to introduce new ideas. The reporting team has been enhanced with Mrs Christine Dunn from Burnhope Primary School and Rebecca Lambert and Hannah Taylor from St Bede's School.

The newspaper is delivered to all households in Lanchester and some outlying areas by a team of approximately 40 volunteers. The deliverers are organised by Mike Stoddart.

Brian thanked Mike and the deliverers, past and present, for all their hard work. Without these volunteers there would not be a Community Newspaper for the village.

Monthly editions of the paper have been published ranging in size from 20 to 28 pages depending upon the volume of news and advertisements. Brian thanked the contributors, reporters and the editorial team. Members of the public and organisations had been encouraged to send in news as this enhances the paper. Half of the issues now have colour front and back pages which greatly enhances their appearance.

The newspaper is wholly funded by advertisements. The co-operative pays for the printing of the newspaper and some expenses for the council members, but no-one received any remuneration for their time and effort. In his forecast for 2012 Brian anticipated that the paper will continue with 20-24 pages, with advertising taking about 20% of the space. Papers with 28

pages have incurred a loss, so reporters and contributors have been asked to limit articles to 300 words where possible.

John Hurran, Advertising Manager, has secured regular long term contract advertisers for 2012 and Brian thanked John for his continued hard work.

The Village Voice has a reasonably healthy bank balance and assets. A recent price increase from the printer has reduced the margins but the paper is expected to make a small profit which should cover the cost of sponsoring the Lanchester Brass Band as well as putting a small amount in the reserve fund.

Brian expected the paper to continue to operate smoothly in 2012. In addition to the General Council and deliverers, he thanked the printers, Design and Print of Tanfield Lea, for their reliable performance.



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LIONS BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

continued from page 1

For such an event the Lions Club which has reduced in numbers in recent years now need help, and many friends of Lions and their Ladies including friends of the Ladies gladly gave their valued services. Thanks are given to those people

and to Dennis Laycock for the loan of his van as well as being there on hand to help. The Lions are grateful and wish to thank the following organisations as well as the above; the Parish Council for the award of a grant towards the fireworks, the Police for

their excellent work, the Community Payback Scheme for help with the fencing and the bonfire, Wharton Landscapes who provided the pallets for the fire, The British Red Cross who waited patiently, but were pleased just to enjoy the display, Annfield Plain Scouts who helped in various ways, Tindale & Stanton for the use of their van and of course the EP school children who made such a brilliant Guy Fawkes. Without the aforementioned it would be impossible to put on

such a large event. Lanchester was just about gridlocked at the end but at the time of writing there have been no complaints about irresponsible parking and the police did a great job of controlling the traffic and bringing things back to normal fairly quickly.

It was certainly all worthwhile with a net profit of £2500, thanks to the generosity of the public who spent money on light sticks, hot dogs and gave donations on the gate.



Lions' ladies Sue Jones (foreground), Judith Wilkinson (right) and Andrea Stoddart, serving hot dogs



The back room kitchen staff, Lions' Ladies left to right: Lestrine Kelly; Helen Robinson and Audrey Gardiner

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The British Red Cross out in force: left to right, Ian Davidson, Sandra Smith, Alice Lish and Elaine Williams.



The money counters: Tony Corry (left), Ken Gardiner (centre) and Martin Naylor

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Another Remembrance Sunday and another special service beside the village memorial, but this year there were two occurrences which made it extra special.

Lanchester is proud of all the men and women from the village who gave their lives in two world wars and Stuart Laing who was a casualty of the Falkland war. It is inevitably a sad occasion but a very dignified one. Members of the village organisations took up their wreaths to the memorial, walking with dignity, thus creating an awesome solemnity. Canon Frank Spence, Reverend Gavin Hume and Reverend Martin Saunders led the service assisted by the Lay Readers of the Parish Church, Mr Stephen Burt and Mr Peter Jackson.

Lanchester Band were in attendance, as they always are to lead the hymns and play appropriate music at the beginning and end of the service. The conductor of the band, Mr Rob Vallance played the Last Post exceptionally well on his Cornet. He is a very accomplished musician. Now the two special Lanchester touches. Those who attended the service will have noted

that there was one extremely smart uniformed soldier present who went forward to lay a wreath. This was Sergeant Michael Gent, who is a Lanchester young man, being the son of Mrs Rosalie Gent. He is part of the Submarine Protection Team which is stationed in Scotland. Every year wherever he is stationed, he visits a War Memorial and lays a wreath for all his friends and mates who have died in Afghanistan. This year he was visiting his mother and asked if he could lay his wreath at our memorial. It was a gesture which we were all privileged to witness, and a proud moment for his mother Rosalie.

Another poignant moment took place as the large gathering of people dispersed reflectively to their various churches. A young nine year old boy called Terry Cockburn, approached the memorial and stood for a moment with his head bowed. He was wearing a set of war medals and a red beret with a gilt badge on the front. He had travelled from Washington with his father to pay tribute to his great grandfather, who had lived in our village for a long time. He was a man many of you will know,

particularly if you are interested in sport. He trained many of Lanchester's young men in running and many

achieved success in this field of sport. His name? Rippon Hall. How proud he would have been of his young great grandson. A

great act to follow for Terry! It was a very apt way to end that memorable service. Brenda Craddock



Rob Vallance plays the Last Post

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BURNHOPE REMEMBRANCE

Yet another wet, cold, foggy day, so the Remembrance service was held in Burnhope Methodist Church. The wreaths were placed at the front of the church.

Mrs Box, ex-Postmaster of Burnhope, brought her two soldier sons, who were most welcome and took the salute for the Last Post and Reveille (many thanks, lads). Thanks also to young Megan who

read the 23rd Psalm and Mrs D Park who led in prayer and read the Roll of Honour with me. Also many thanks for a very nice service to Mrs Val Cole, organist Mrs V Collins and Mrs Mary Goodman and Mrs E Hockaday who took the collection, £50.50.

Thanks to all who took part and to all who attended.

Stan Collins

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

8th November 2011

Lanchester Community Orchard and Allotments Lanchester Partnership.

Sonny Shepherd who, with her husband Paul, owns the land on which this project is to take place, thanked the Councillors for their time and outlined the plans for the land, giving members a drawing of the site. Fruit trees and bushes will surround the allotments with a path round the outside, accessible from Newbiggen Lane, which will provide a very pleasant evening stroll from the village. At present, 30 households have signed up to be part of the Orchard project, paying £10 a year, plus labour, for which they will get a share of the produce. The Orchard project is part of

Lanchester Partnership, which has drawn up a lease, and through this grants should be available.

The allotments (10m x 10m each) are a separate project. 38 people have applied for a plot at £1 per week and Sonny said she has worked with the Lanchester Allotment Association in drawing up the plans.

Chairman Cllr Johnson congratulated Sonny and Paul and said they have the full support of the Council.

St Bede's School Sports facilities.

The school is setting up a working group to develop this project and had asked the Parish Council if they would like to be involved. Cllr Mrs Grey, a Governor at the school, said that she would be willing to

represent the Parish Council.

Durham County Council - review of leisure facilities.

Members received information regarding the new arrangements.

Durham County Council - commencement of civil parking enforcement in North Durham.

This is to be transferred from the Police to a private company (see separate article).

Area Action Partnership Parish Councils Committee.

The Minutes of the last meetings of the AAP and the PCC were received by Members who considered them very useful.

Village Green - further developments.

The cost of the developments will be

around £4,000 and Northern Gas Networks have awarded a grant of £1,305. They received over 100 quality applications but were impressed by that of the Parish Council, which was one of only twenty to receive a grant. It was agreed that those companies/businesses who had expressed interest in donating towards Phase 1 of the development should be approached to see if they are still willing to assist. A National Tree Grant of 150 trees has been received and shrubs and bulbs are already organised.

Christmas Lights Switch-on Event.

The Lead Officer reported that everything is now in place for the family event to go ahead at 6 pm on Saturday, 26th November, on the Village Green.

Locality Map Project.

Members were shown samples of the booklet to be entitled 'Lanchester Wildlife' giving an audit of the wildlife in the Parish, which is to be published in the Spring. Matt Baker has agreed to write the foreword of the booklet, for which volunteers have undertaken research and compiled information. Also to be published in the Spring is a series of seven leaflets showing a map of a Heritage Walk in the Parish and including information about the area. These have also been produced by volunteers, but both projects have been organised by Sue Charlton, Development Officer for Wildlife, Agriculture and the Environment. It is hoped that a launch event will

take place in the Spring for both publications, which were approved by Members, who thanked all those involved for their excellent work.

Training Event.

Cllrs Myers and Clarke reported on the training event they had attended in Shildon last month; as new councillors, both had found it very interesting and informative. The Lead Officer had also attended training for Parish Council Clerks. A member of Durham Rural Community Council had volunteered to attend a Parish Council Meeting and it was agreed that he should be invited to come in January and that Members would meet at 7 pm.

Councillor Surgery Sessions.

Members were given a new schedule for the bi-monthly sessions held in Park House from 6.30 to 7 pm, on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning on 10th January 2012. Two of the sessions, in March and September, will be from 10 to 11 am and will include coffee. Members volunteered to attend various sessions.

Newsletter.

Members approved the draft quarterly newsletter produced by the Lead Officer.

Financial Information.

Members received the report of the Lead Officer and Cllr Johnson thanked her for the clear and precise breakdown she had produced.

Accounts for Payment.

These were approved.

Date of next meeting. Tuesday, 13th December, 2011, at 7.15 pm at Park House, Lanchester.



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POLICE REPORT

Reporting period: 28/09/11-25/10/11
 Number of calls: 51
 Alcohol seizures 0,
 Dwelling burglaries 0,
 Other burglaries 2 (Entry gained to former 6th form college and theft of till from shop in Front Street during night - till recovered minus takings), Bogus callers 0, Anti-social behaviour and motorcycle incidents 5 (suitable

advice given by police), Criminal damage 0, Thefts of/from motor vehicles 1. High visibility patrols have continued on Ford Road re speeding vehicles. Vehicles that triggered the permanent speed visor were slowed down with hand signals. Crime prevention advice: Now that darker nights are upon us, please do a check of your

own security both personal and property, eg keep curtains closed and a light on during hours of darkness; invest in outside security lights and timers for lights. Make sure all doors and windows are secured when leaving property or when asleep in dwelling. Report any suspicious activity to the police.

PUBLIC MEETING LATE EVENING AND SUNDAY BUS SERVICES

There was lively discussion at the public meeting organised by MP Pat Glass on Friday evening, 29th October, in St Bede's School hall. To answer questions were Peter Huntley, Managing Director of Go North East, Neil Foster of Durham County Council and Adrian White, Head of Transport of Durham County Council. Approximately 75 residents were there (Burnhope residents had expressed regret that they could not attend because of no bus service to get home). Many problems were highlighted - working late evenings and Sundays, visiting Durham hospital on Sundays, getting to and from Durham station on weekends and Bank Holidays, activities such as going to the theatre - all now impossible. There were queries too about passengers who bought a 7-day or monthly ticket and couldn't use it to the full. Pat Glass, however, stressed that we needed to find solutions.

Several were suggested:
 * Extending the 14 bus route from Langley Park to Lanchester
 * Re-routing 78A from Annfield Plain to Lanchester
 * Using a minibus or limited hopper service
 * Using a community bus service
 * Putting on a service for just Friday and Saturday evenings
 * Putting on specific buses for Sunday hospital visiting
 The overwhelming response from the bus company and the council was about economics - there was no magic pot of money to subsidise services and any service must be profitable. Lanchester buses are not commercially viable after 6 pm in the evening. Services between 6 and 9 pm are being subsidised for young people to attend education, but that is where the subsidy ends. Durham County Council no longer has any subsidised services on Sundays. Looking for positive outcomes, Pat Glass

concluded the meeting by saying:
 * The price of the 7-day ticket would be reduced
 * DCC agreed to cost the extended 14 bus route solution
 * DCC will work with anyone who can put on an alternative service
 but the bottom line was that it must break even. **Village Voice impression of meeting**
 Was the meeting well conducted? Yes
 Was the meeting well attended? Yes
 Did people have the opportunity to express their opinions? Yes
 Were Go North East willing to find a compromise that would result in a return of some services? Yes
 Were Durham County Council willing to put one penny towards a solution of the problem? No (unless a continued campaign changed their minds).
 Could a community solution be found? Possibly but unlikely.
 Was there a positive outcome of the meeting? A small one from Go North East that the price of a weekly bus pass will be reduced.

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

On November 7th the commencement of Civil Parking Enforcement in North Durham began. This means that Durham County Council is responsible for enforcing parking regulations instead of the Police. The Council is able to issue a Penalty Charge Notice where a parking contravention occurs. The penalty charge will be recovered through the County

Court process if it remains unpaid. The Police will continue to enforce all moving traffic offences as well as obstruction offences. More information on Civil Parking Enforcement can be found on the County Councils website www.durham.gov.uk/ parking or an information leaflet can be requested by telephoning 0191 3835551.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

I attended a public meeting, a public inquiry and a public hearing this month.

The public meeting I organised on behalf of the people of Lanchester and Burnhope to discuss bus service provision in the area. I want to give my thanks to those who attended from Go-Ahead North East and Durham County Council but most of all I want to thank the people of Lanchester and Burnhope for attending the meeting, making sure that the impact of bus service reductions on our lives is understood and for the positive suggestions made for improvements. There were a number of positive outcomes. Go North East said they would look at running Saturday services on

long bank holidays so that the villages are not left without bus services completely for up to 4 days and agreed to introduce a discounted weekly saver ticket for service 15 to reflect the reduction in service from 7 days a week to 6 if Sunday services are not reinstated. They also offered to provide practical support for the operation of a community bus, such as the training of drivers and provision of garaging.

The public inquiry that I attended was held in Leadgate and concerned UK Coal's application to opencast the Bradley section of the Pont valley. I did not give detailed evidence on the applications, there are far better qualified than I to provide that. I talked to

the Inspector about the impact this has had on the people of Dipton, Leadgate and Pont who have had this application hanging over them for 30 years, who have successfully fought 3 applications and 2 public inquiries and of the importance of this beautiful ancient woodland to these communities.

The public hearing that I attended was with the Boundary Commission where I had 15 minutes to appeal against new constituency boundaries that would stretch from Hadrian's Wall to the Yorkshire border, be unnecessarily disruptive and break long-held community ties.

I remain hopeful of positive results from all three meetings.

Pat Glass MP

THIRD TIME FIGHTING PONT VALLEY OPENCAST MINE BID

Residents in Leadgate, Dipton, Medomsley, Flint Hill, Pont Bungalows and Bradley Cottages are fighting plans by UK Coal to mine 530,000 tonnes of coal at Bradley, part of the Pont Valley. This is their third battle over the last 25 years to prevent opencast mining spoiling an attractive valley. UK Coal's first application was rejected by planners in 1986. The company appealed and this was again rejected by a government inspector in 1988. In 2001 a second application was rejected. In February 2011 Durham County Council's planning committee unanimously refused a third application. Recently a public inquiry has taken place in Leadgate

Workingmen's Club following an appeal by UK Coal against this third rejection. The report of the planning inspector is expected early next year. Pat Glass, MP for NW Durham, made a plea to save the much-loved valley from opencast mining on the final day of the inquiry. She accused UK Coal of 'commercial bullying' for making this third application and told the hearing that she did not object to opencast mining per se, but said that there were massive objections and she suggested that the Pont Valley was one of the community's biggest assets. We trust that the inquiry will once again reject this proposal.

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VANDALS STRIKE



The former Derwentside College building, commonly called the Green School, has remained empty since 2010. Now the vandals

have begun to do their worst, as shown by the boarded-up broken windows in our picture. Is this the next village eyesore?

LANCHESTER INFOLIST

Please advise the Village Voice of any errors, omissions or future changes.

Organisation

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Agricultural Society
Amigos
Anchor Boys
Angling Club
Art Group (Monday)
Art Group (Thursday)
Badminton
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Bowls (indoor)
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Brass Band
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Children's Society
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LANCHESTER LOCALITY MAP PROJECT

The Lanchester Valley Conservation Volunteers joined Durham Wildlife Trust on Saturday 22nd October at the Wildlife Trust Reserve at Ragpath Heath to undertake some woodland management. A good sized team of 14 volunteers got to work thinning the woodland, removing sycamore and beech to favour oak, ash and birch. The tree removal also opened up the canopy to allow light

through to the shrub layer beneath.

The team also got stuck in to removing encroaching trees and shrubs along the road verges creating a softer edge to the woodland.

Lunch in the sun was accompanied by a choice of donuts (chocolate, jam or custard) to give vital energy to the hard working volunteers.

If you would like further information about

volunteering or more information about the Lanchester Locality Map Project please contact Sue Charlton, Locality Map Project Officer, on 07585 001 355 or by email: sue.charlton@lanchesterparish.info or visit the website www.lanchesterparish.info For more information about Durham Wildlife Trust you can visit the website at www.durhamwt.co.uk



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Sue Charlton and friends taking a breather from all the hard physical work removing trees and shrubs at Ragpath

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for October 2011 is 99. The draw was made by Pat Wright of the Thursday Art Group. You could win up to £50 in the Community Draw. Call in to the Community Centre for more information and to enter.

LANCHESTER LOCALITY MAP

HEDGE LAYING

On Friday 11th November Mr Derrick Hale, Training Officer for the National Hedge Laying Society, came to Broom House Farm to give a talk on the history and regional styles of hedge laying. Derrick's talk was followed by a question and answer session when the more than 30 attendees asked many questions about this ancient tradition. A lovely pie and pea supper was enjoyed by all, followed by more

questions and a discussion around the tools used and the importance of keeping them sharp.

The evening talk was followed, the next morning, by a practical demonstration, when 15 interested people came along to listen to Derrick explain how to hedge lay and to take part themselves under the watchful eye of more experienced hedge layers from the local area.

The day was very informative and enjoyable and by 4 pm when we were putting the last of the binding to the top of the newly laid hedge, a sense of achievement for a job well done was felt by all those who had taken part.

If you would like to have a look at our handiwork the laid hedge is by the side of Long Edge Lane between Burnhope and Broom House farm.



Some proud hedge layers

Gardening in December

December is a time to start planning for next year but, on the milder days, you need to keep on top of the jobs that you have not yet completed from this year.

Borders

Although most of the trees will be bereft of leaves by now, if your garden is like mine you will be tired of picking up leaves. However, it will still be necessary in this month - but just think of all that lovely leaf mould that can be made and the good it achieves as a soil conditioner. Last year we had snow in November so don't forget to protect tender plants from snow and frosts and move tubs and pots to the sheltered areas of your garden.

House plants

House plants can add colour and foliage to your home. At Christmas Poinsettias are popular and generally plentiful. However, take care if buying one to protect it even when taking it to your car as they hate both the cold and draughts. They need watering little and often and do not like big variations in temperature in your home and they prefer a sunny aspect. It is also the month to plant Amaryllis bulbs. If you are buying a fresh Christmas tree cut a couple of inches off its trunk and stand outside in a deep bucket of water for at least 48 hours. When you bring it indoors keep it away

from radiators and in a well of water.

Fruit and Vegetables

December is time for pruning fruit bushes like autumn raspberries and apple trees whilst they are dormant. Next time you wander around your garden take a hoe with you and remove any perennial weeds that are still showing above ground.

General

I always enjoy ordering my next year's seeds at this time of the year as this sets me off planning and looking forward to Spring. If your lawnmower needs servicing it is a good time to take it to the professionals. Although expensive, it can be very worthwhile in the long run.



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£500,000 FOR WILLOW BURN'S NEW HOSPICE



A computer generated image of how the hospice will look when it is built

The Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust has pledged £500,000 towards the building of the new hospice. Willow Burn secured planning consent in July and acquired the land to build

the new hospice facility and is now eagerly raising the funds to start building work.

The gift, which will be paid over five years, is significant both in terms of its size and the timing.

David Gray, a Trustee of the Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust said: "The hospice will cost £5.7 million to build; phase one will cost £2.2 million and with some funds already set aside and the Sir Tom

Cowie Charitable Trust gift, Willow Burn needs to raise £1 million in the next ten months to be able to press ahead with their ambitious plans in the current financial year." Anyone able to offer help

in raising the funds required should contact Helen Mills on 01207 523292 or Susan Jones, Capital and Corporate Fundraising Manager at Willow Burn Hospice, on 07590850213.

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WILLOW BURN EVENTS DECEMBER

Annual Light Up A Life Service

3 pm, Sunday 11th December at St Bede's School
 The perfect way to come together to remember your loved ones - a time for reflection, celebration and hope.

Christmas Gala Evening

Saturday 3rd December at Beamish Hall, Stanley
 Traditional 3 course meal with entertainment by Hip Operation. Book your Xmas party night - tables of 10 still available. £45 per head. Tel. (01207) 523292 to book. All proceeds to Willow Burn Hospice.

The Spirit of Christmas Carol Service

7 - 8.30 pm, Saturday 17th December at St. Bede's School, Lanchester.
 Fabulous evening of song and festivity when patients, volunteers, staff and supporters come together to celebrate the magic of Christmas.

Willow Burn Tree of Remembrance

Saturday 3rd - Friday 23rd December, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm
 Treasure friends or family who are no longer with us, by decorating our tree in a special way this Christmas. Suggested donation £2.
 Enquiries to (01207) 523294

GARDEN CENTRE CRAFT FAIR



Lanchester Garden Centre held a craft fair on the 12th and 13th of November, Morris (pictured above) played his accordion and a collection for Willow Burn Hospice raised £52.06. The Craft Fair (below) was a tremendous success with approx 25 different crafts displaying and selling their wares in a polytunnel.



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LIBRARY EXHIBITION



Exhibition at the Library during the month of November by Friends of the Fort, of recent geophysical developments at Longovicium.

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A WORLD IN DANGER



Staff of the Environment Agency, Newcastle, led by Michael Rogers of Durham Wildlife Trust, had a Team Building day in Lanchester clearing rubbish from Alderdene Burn, combining this with the exciting new project, 'Shocflood' at All Saints R C Primary School, where pupils are learning how to prepare for and minimise the risk of flooding. Here staff are seen clearing Alderdene Burn and obviously enjoying a different day.

Climate change has become a vitally important matter for public debate, and it is reassuring to know that future generations will be much better informed about the subject. The Climate Change Schools Project was established in 2008, and since then, thousands of young people from nursery age to college level have been involved in over 50,000 hours of activities investigating climate change and its effect on local communities, as well as its world wide consequences.

On November 2nd, pupils of All Saints' Primary School took part in an

Environment Day, using climate change as a theme across the curriculum. Team leader Harriet Thew and her Environment Agency colleagues introduced a variety of activities, in which the pupils collaborated, used their imagination and creative skills, and learned valuable lessons in a fun way.

Year 3 class thought about recycling, they designed and made litter collecting robots from waste materials they had salvaged from home. The reception class found out how global warming has affected the life of the polar bear, making animal

masks to illustrate their work.

Other students researched flooding in Lanchester in past years, and found out how flood risk can be minimised, and how we can best prepare for flooding. Class 6 interviewed staff from the Environment Agency, and asked questions about the diverse tasks they carry out and the skills they have to practise when doing their jobs.

All Saints' students worked hard during their Environment Day, and had to think very carefully about some of the problems that will have to be faced by society in the future.



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Year 3 class designed and made litter collecting robots from waste materials they had salvaged from home



What will happen to the polar bears?

REMEMBERING HENRY DANCER AT THE E P SCHOOL

A moving ceremony was held at 1 pm on 17th November at the EP School.

The school has developed a memorial garden for Henry, a former pupil who lost his battle with cancer a year ago, aged 12. A short service of blessing and dedication was held, attended by Year 6

Pupils, Henry's close friends from St Bede's as well as family, parents and staff from both schools.

Revd Hume led the service and Head Teacher Jane Davis also gave a fitting tribute. A plaque reading "The Henry Dancer Garden" added to the beautiful

flowers, lavender and roses.

A further plaque reads, "No gift bestowed upon us is so precious as children. They are proof that God still loves us. They are the hope for the future". Henry's family thank the school for their continued care and support.



Henry's close friends with Jane Davis and Henry's Mum, Jane

SATLEY SUNFLOWERS



A recent Sunflower Club session in Satley village hall where the children's theme was autumn leaves. They made place mats, head bands, bags, and had a leaf spotting competition. Since then they have been busy planting the flower beds and tubs in the village with spring bulbs. The children in the photo are Ralph, Will, Fern, Georgia and Florence.

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The Lanchester Red Cross Winter Fair held at the Red Cross premises in Front Street in Lanchester between Monday 7th November and Saturday 12th November raised a massive total of £225.

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Betty Johnson (who was the raffle winner), Betty Walton and Tracey Dobson (Manager of the Red Cross shop) looking at some tempting goods in such a large array at the Red Cross Fair



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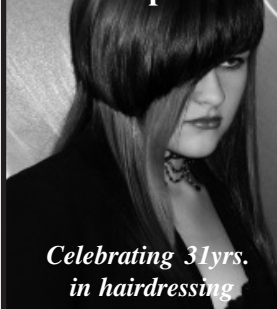
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The raffle raised a further £235.60. The shop would like to thank everyone who visited the Fair and those who also bought raffle tickets. A list of prize winners is on display in the shop.

Special thanks go to the following local businesses for their help and support:

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- * Lanchester Nursery

* Emmerton Greengrocers and
* Sweets & Treats all of whom who donated prizes and the like so willingly for the Fair.

Thanks are also given to all the volunteers who sold raffle tickets, who helped with the Fair and who donated items for the Luxury Hamper.

Your continued support and donations for the Red Cross are much appreciated at this time of the year in particular.

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MEMORIES OF A STEEL TOWN



Garry O'Hagan among his audience after his presentation on the 'Conside Trilogy'

It's now more than thirty years since steel production ended in Consett, yet proud memories about our great industrial past survive among local people. Garry O'Hagan, former steel worker, introduced his book 'The Conside Trilogy' in Lanchester Library on October 17th, taking his appreciative audience on a fascinating trip into local history. He described how an increasing demand for iron goods during the

early Eighteenth Century encouraged local entrepreneurs to seek suitable areas in which to establish ironworks. Conside, as Consett was then known, was a small village, its name probably coming from the Old English meaning 'Side of the hill top'. Ironstone and coal were found here, and Consett eventually became an important industrial centre with the formation of the Derwent Iron Company in 1840.

By 1856, the ironstone was running out, and alternative supplies were brought from Cumbria and Cleveland, then from northern Spain when British prices were raised. Consett grew up around the works, people attracted there by the promise of jobs. 'The Company' as it was generally known, owned collieries in the area, mining coal required to make coke for the steel making process.

Garry O'Hagan tells an absorbing story of the

rise and eventual demise of our steel making industry, and the interconnection between steel and coal mining with the railways, bringing raw materials into the region and transporting finished products out. The audience included several ex-steel workers, and many memories were kindled by his collection of slides showing a

landscape which has changed dramatically over the years.

Many people were not even born when steel making ended here, and this was a fascinating reminder of our heritage. 'The Conside Trilogy' by Garry O'Hagan is on sale in Lanchester Library, the price of £12 includes a donation to Willow Burn Hospice.

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LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The November Meeting, held on Friday 4th in the Community Centre brought a Full House, as Members and visitors arrived to see a series of slides shown by Mike Richardson of Durham. Mike is an annual visitor, by popular request, and as usual had his audience enthralled by his interesting comments and beautiful slides of Durham, in colour, during the sixties. Many of the buildings shown were demolished - indeed there were some photographs of the demolition in

progress - and everyone reminisced about the city as it had been. The police box in the market place, the interior of Greenwell's showing huge hams, cheeses and loose biscuits in glass-topped boxes, all symbols of past times.

The Chairman John Thompson welcomed members and visitors when introducing Mike and then thanked him profusely at the end of his show; everyone was so interested in the photographs that no-one noticed that time had

flown and that it was time to go, so there was no time for questions. However, there was just time for the Chairman to remind members of the Christmas dinner in the King's Head on Friday 2nd December and that there would be no January meeting. The next meeting will be on Friday 3rd February 2012 when the speaker will be J Michael Taylor on the subject of 'The Art of Robert Stephenson'. This promises to be a very interesting evening and all are welcome to attend.



Mike Richardson who showed slides of Durham in the 1960s to the History group

SPONSORED RIDE AT OAKWOOD STABLES

Very cold rainy weather greeted the thirty four riders who joined in the sponsored ride at Oakwood Stables on Sunday morning 23rd October. Such was the inclemency of the weather that even the Village Voice reporter was invited to partake of a shot of port whilst waiting for the start. This was most gratefully received. The ride to the

Gill Bridge, and back along the Lanchester Valley Walk was about 14 miles. Riders, including children and adults, set off in groups of five every fifteen minutes between 10.00 am and about 12.00 midday. They returned during the early afternoon to the stables, by which time the weather had improved and they were made welcome with a



The first 6 riders to leave the stables were right to left: Michael Suddes; Sadie Densham; Erin Densham; Charline Dixon; Pauline Dodds (Oakwood Stables) and Toni Bibby.

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super BBQ to put the finishing touch to a great worthwhile day.

Entrance fee was £10.00 which was, in effect a

donation to charity, and sponsorship was raised as well by those who took part. It is expected that the total raised will

be in excess of £2000 for 'Care for Casualties' which has been a magnificent effort by everyone.

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THE ROCKING HORSE WINNER

Am I the only one who thought Nobby Dimon's play 'The Rocking Horse Winner' was a metaphor for the current world financial crisis? It is pretentious to think D H Lawrence who wrote the book on which the play was set was predicting the current situation, but I was surprised the programme notes did not make the connection.

Living beyond your means, pinning your hopes on gambling, "a devil's bargain" as one of the characters put it. The central character drives himself to insanity with his obsession with horse races and his wish to get his free-spending mother out of debt.

Nobby adapted the story because of a scary film he saw as a child and a remarkable play he has produced. He relied heavily on visual imagery of the growing boy frantically riding his rocking horse desperately hoping to be given the name of a winning horse. His friends and family are

seduced by his successes and without ill intent usher him into a breakdown. I was particularly impressed by Simon Kirk's portrayal of Uncle Oscar; one never quite knew until the end if he had the family's interest at heart or he had his own devious agenda. However it must be said all the parts were well played by this very professional company. As is often the case with Nobby's productions the set almost upstages the acting. It is seldom a piece of scenery brings a gasp

from the audience, but that's what happened when a hat stand turned instantly into a car. Sadly it was reported after the show that North Country Theatre is to lose its Arts Council Funding. In my opinion if any group deserved funding it is this one, as it takes superb drama to people in their local village halls. Fortunately the group will continue with funding from their many friends and supporters. There will be many who want to see more of Nobby and his fine band of actors.



Nobby Dimon calls for bets on the Zetland Gold Cup

WI NEWS

The November meeting was our 86th birthday outing and we all met outside Peter's at 9.30 to catch the coach and enjoy our special day. Our first stop was for coffee at Langley Castle, it was a beautiful run as the trees, still holding their Autumn leaves, were covered with frost and as they glistened in the bright sunshine we were able to sit back and enjoy the scenery, warm and snug in our coach. We were given a very warm welcome by the staff at Langley Castle

and went upstairs to a lovely room with comfortable couches and oil paintings where coffee and biscuits were served. Not only did Anton the hotel manager give us a very interesting talk on the history of the castle (including the ghosts) and how it developed into the hotel it is today, we were also shown one of the individually furnished bedrooms which was very grand with the many special touches found in the best hotels.

Our next stop was the Boatside Inn at Warden for lunch which was very tasty and filling, after lunch a free raffle was drawn which was won by Pat Campbell and Angela Vellaman. Jennifer informed us that thank you cards have been received from Nancy Walker and Tina Bickerdike for our Grow a Fiver cheque. We then boarded our coach again and carried on to enjoy a short visit to Hexham where members had time to shop or see the Abbey before



Hotel manager Anton giving a short talk to members on the history of Langley Castle

arriving home just as it was getting dark. This was a very enjoyable birthday trip

with good food and good company; a special thank you to Jen and June who arranged it all.

TABLE TOP SALE

Karin Bravington continues to work tirelessly to raise money for the Village Link Bus, started ten years ago by Lanchester Partnership, which is essential for residents and trade in the village and is a lifeline for many. Evidence of appreciation of and support for Karin was evident at the Table Top Sale which she organised, held in the

Social Club on Thursday, 10th November, from 11 am to 1 pm. The main hall of the Club was crowded even before 11 o'clock when about a dozen stall-holders began selling their goods. These included jewellery, bric-a-brac, clothing, books and home made cakes and pies. The tombola did a roaring trade and the raffle did well, too; both

had a lot of excellent prizes. Coffee and tea, with cakes, were available and there was a really happy atmosphere as people sat and chatted or bought items or tickets.

An amazing total of £420 was raised and Karin would like to thank her usual team of loyal helpers with the refreshments, the stall-holders and all those who bought tickets and spent

their money to make the event so successful. She is also very grateful to the Social Club for being so accommodating without any charge and to the shops who donated lovely prizes for the tombola.



Karin Bravington and helpers at the bar



The crowded hall

THE Soundpower ORCHESTRA & SINGERS

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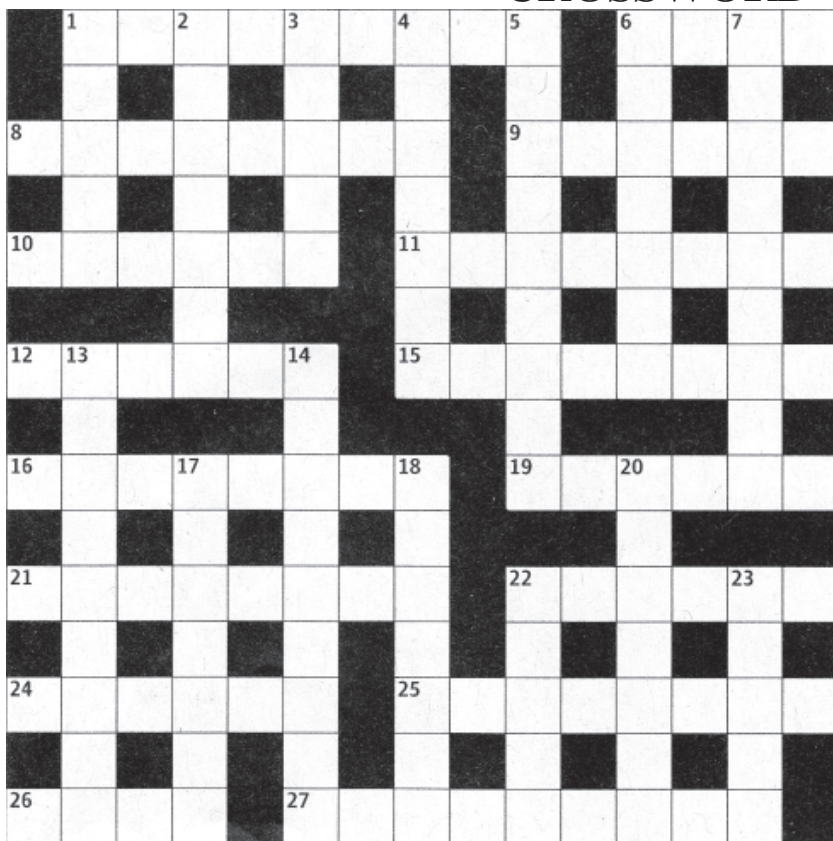
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Tickets on sale at Lanchester Sub Post Office, 19 Front Street, Lanchester, Tel. 01207 528813
Tickets can also be purchased by phoning 07974387276 or 07853386379.

CROSSWORD 67



ACROSS

- 1,6 across Cooker(9,4)
6. see 1 across
8. Mollycoddled(5-3)
9. Desserts (6)
10. Rarely used in river-mussel domain (6)
11. Kindly French buddy receives telegram(8)
12. Thread shortage(6)
15. Torn (8)
16. Loaf and get at Eve (8)
19. Expand(6)
21. Stirrer(8)
22. Exist to ponder and baffle(6)
24. Adapt and eat nut (6)
25. Restricted quarter (2-2,4)
26. Goes with head, heart and belly (4)
27. Had doubts about 23 cuts (9)

DOWN

1. Tree(5)
2. Dog gets the Germansoup(7)
3. Charity(5)
4. Season (3,4)
5. Pinched (9)
6. Commanding Officer takes a pointless biscuit (7)
7. Registration (9)
13. Animated (9)
14. Cruel(9)
17. Squeeze out (7)
18. Messages (7)
20. Severely reprimand priests with TB (7)
22. Wildflower with blue or white petals (5)
23. Goes with trap, well, limit and way (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 66

ACROSS

8. vagabond
9. pliant
10. mint
11. pestilence
12. ignore
14. exorcism
15. jollity
17. askance
20. hanger-on
22. armour
23. plat du jour
24. pelt
25. Sudoku
26. acid test

DOWN

1. daring-do
2. bait
3. topple
4. odyssey
5. apricots
6. like a charm
7. knacks
13. obligation
16. tortuous
18. churlish
19. Angolan
21. all out
22. adroit
24. puts

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 66

There were just 12 entries in last month's crossword competition. Is John Wilson making his crosswords more difficult?

Congratulations to Mrs Rutter from Chilton (Lanchester Country Markets) who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

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.

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

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Iced White Chocolate Bombes

These can be an alternative to the traditional Christmas pudding and can be made a few weeks in advance.

50g/2ozs dried cranberries
3 tbsp Disaronno
50g/2 oz sultanas
100g/4oz white chocolate, broken into squares
a little flavourless oil for greasing
6 amaretti biscuits
2 eggs, separated
2 tbsp caster sugar
200ml/7 fl oz double cream
Tiny holly leaves to decorate

1. Put the cranberries in a small bowl with the Disaronno. Cover these with cling film and heat them in the microwave on High for 1 min. Leave to cool, covered, for 10 mins, then stir in the sultanas.

2. Gently melt the chocolate in a bowl over simmering water. Meanwhile, double line 6 oiled 150 ml pudding basins with cling film. Break up the amaretti biscuits and arrange them on the bases of the basins.

3. Whisk the egg whites and sugar with an electric whisk until thick and glossy, then use the whisk

to whip the cream until it softly holds its shape.

4. Stir the cranberry and sultana mixture into the melted chocolate with the egg yolks and 1 tbsp of the cream. Fold in the remainder of the cream and egg whites. Spoon into the pudding basins, cover with cling film and freeze. They will keep for 6 weeks.

5. To serve the puddings turn them out onto plates and strip away the cling film.

Decorate with the small holly leaves and drizzle with a little extra Disaronno or serve a glass alongside.

CRICKET THIRD TEAM AWARDS

The end of October saw the Hetton Lyons Sunday League presentation night, in which the third team play. The team did well in finishing second to Durham City in the league and were runners up to Sacriston in the Bob Langford Cup. Despite that, the team did pick up some awards on the night, two of which were

surprise ones. Andy Smith picked up the award for most league runs outscoring everyone else by a good 200, scoring over 400 league runs, including an unbeaten hundred at Shotley Bridge.

Colleen Walker was chosen by the league committee as the supporter of the year, as it was noted how she

managed to get to every game and always took time to talk to the umpires and make them feel welcome. The other award went to our tea ladies who were recognised for their super refreshments during the season.

All in all it was a good night for the team and hopefully we can progress again next year.

FOOTBALL

The past weeks had been going really well with five games unbeaten propelling the team into top spot but then they slipped up badly in the past week with a defeat. The month started with a five goal win over the Horse and Groom, Peter Edgell scoring a hat trick, Richard Pearce and John Waugh getting the others. They followed this with an odd goal in nine win over the Scotch Arms. Pete Edgell scored two more goals, with

Kieran Taylor and both centre halves Ross Grundy and Wes Welsh getting on the scoresheet. A draw against Pelton Crown came next, which was an improvement on last year as they lost twice to those opponents. Skipper Phil Bowes got both goals. A 2-1 win over Chester Le Street Whitehills took the team to the top of the league. Goals came from Peter Edgell and Nathan Burnett. There followed two very disappointing

results as they slipped up with a draw against bottom side Blackhill, Ross Grundy and Steve Smithson on target, and then the Scotch Arms gained revenge beating our side with four unanswered goals.

The side is still in a very healthy league position but it could have been even healthier if those last two results had been better. There's still a long way to go and the side can still make sure of promotion.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Come and See!

What is prayer? A conversation between you and God; you talking to Him, Him talking to you. The trouble is, so many of us think that we must clasp our hands together, close our eyes and bow our heads in order to pray "properly", either in church or school, or at home. There are SO many more ways in which we can pray, and we want to invite you to come along to Lanchester Methodist Church this weekend, as we begin Advent, to discover together new ways of praying.

The church will be open from 7 pm on Friday (25th November) until 7 pm on Sunday (27th November) for 48 hours of continuous prayer (the church will be manned all of this time). As you enter the church you will see the first prayer "station" in the porch - an Advent Christmas tree on which to hang the names of those

who you wish God to be especially close to in the coming days. There will be other prayer "stations" at various locations within the church, both upstairs and down, which will be signposted so you can follow the "prayer trail". Feel free to come in with friends or family - this is not something you have to come to on your own although you are of course welcome to come alone. You do not need to have ever been to church before, you do not need to know someone at church to be able to come - this is truly open to anyone who feels that they may wish to seek God, perhaps for the first time or in a different way. Why not take some time out from the busyness of life this weekend? Spend as little or as much time as you need come and see?!

Alison Grimes (on behalf of Lanchester Methodist Church)

Satley Christmas Fayre

Saturday 3rd December 10-12 Satley Parish Hall. Christmas crafts from local artists, tombola, local cakes and jams, teas/coffee. Entry 50p.

Come along and do your Christmas shopping (some tables still available at £5 each).

Proceeds towards the Sunflower Club. Support the children of Satley who work so hard planting tubs, bulbs, putting up nest boxes and keeping the village tidy and beautiful.

Sunday Bridge

Come along to the Community Centre (small hall) on Sunday 4th December at 2.00 pm to play Bridge with a friendly group of people and at the same time help to raise funds for the Community Centre. Only £3 including refreshments.

WHAT'S ON?

Paradiso Club

Refreshments, a Raffle and a Big Screen Film.

The next Social will be on Sunday December 4th, in the Main Hall of the Community Centre 7pm-9.15 pm. All are welcome to join.

Membership of the Club is £5. Entry to each social is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for occasional guest visitors. The entry fee covers everything.

Screening that night will be the film 'THE PRODUCERS' directed by Mel Brooks, starring Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder. This is an all-time classic.

A movie about two theatre producers who take it upon themselves to make a fortune by making a Broadway 'flop'. In 1968 it won an Award for best original screenplay.

There will also be a pre-Christmas mini DVD sale that evening. Do come!

Coffee and mince pies

Lanchester Playgroup and Tiny Tots will be serving coffee/tea and mince pies on Tuesday the 6th of December between 9.30 and 11.00 am in the Community Centre.

There will also be a tombola stall.

All are welcome to attend the event.

Open House

'Open House' at the Parish Church, normally on the first Thursday of the month at 11.30 am, but this month will be held on the second Thursday in December which makes it December 8th.

It will be a special festive 'Open House' as it is our last one before Christmas. All are welcome.

Country Market

The December Country Market will be on Saturday 10th December from 10.00 - 11.30 am in the Community Centre. Cakes, scones, pies, jams, crafts and plants will be on sale. There's sure to be festive goodies too.

Short Circuit Walks

December 10th, 10.30 am, Causey Arch and Biggin's Burn, 4.5 miles. Meet at Causey Arch car park, NZ205562, on the A6076 Stanley to Sunnyside road. You will also have a chance to see the Tanfield Railway in action.

December 31st, 10.30 am, linear walk from South Shields to Tynemouth, 4.5 miles, with a trip on the ferry to add to the fun. Meet at South Shields Metro, NZ363673.

Junior Wildlife

The December meeting, on Sunday 11th, will take place at Malton. Meet at 10 am in the car park.

WI

Our next meeting will be held in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 5th December starting at 7 o'clock. This is the members' Christmas party night with a faith supper and members are asked to bring a little extra for the choir who will be "singing for their supper". As well as the supper and choir there will be a raffle which is always a lovely start to the Christmas celebrations.

To those members who cannot be with us for the meeting and those who help and support us throughout the year the WI send you Season's Greetings and look forward to seeing you all next year.

The competition for the January meeting is a favourite Christmas card so keep this in mind as they start coming through the door.



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A Soundpower Christmas

The Soundpower Orchestra, a collection of musicians, is set to make a return visit to Lanchester Methodist Church for a concert on Saturday December 10th at 7.30pm. They will be joined by the Durham University Chapel Choir and the programme will contain a diverse variety of Christmas music ranging from Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus to Slade's Merry Christmas Everybody. Tickets £10, Concessions £8 are available from Lanchester Post Office.

PACT meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th December at 7.15 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. All welcome.

Wildlife Group

The December meeting, on Tuesday 13th at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, will be the AGM and Social.

Mothers' Union

The meeting on 14th November is our Advent Evening - a service of readings, hymns and prayers followed by refreshments. We will meet in the Chapter House and go into church for 7.30pm.

Lanchester Social Club

3rd December Jeff Wright
10th December Shelley Lawton
17th December Nikki Lawton
No entertainment on Saturday 24th or 31st December.

Lanchester Male Voice Choir

The choir will present the Celebration of Christmas in All Saints' Roman Catholic Church on December 19th at 7.30 pm. For this event we will be joined by the Choral and Operatic Society. Admission is free. There will be a retiring collection for a local charity.

Lions Carnival 2012

A new date and a new venue has been set for the Lions Carnival next year. The next Carnival will be on Saturday 19th May 2012 at the EP School, and this is with the kind permission of Head Teacher Mrs Davies.

We are taking 'The Olympics' as our theme and the EP School will give us the space for a mini-Olympics with all kinds of races, football and so on.

Please make a note of this event to keep the date free in your 2012 diary.

Lanchester Lions Club

HALLOWEEN PARTY

What has now become an annual Halloween Party was held at the Community Centre on Sunday 30th October. Between 60-70 children attended with their parents. They all had a brilliant time particularly enjoying two new events, 'wrapping the mummy' - no, not the Egyptian kind, but four volunteer mums who were wrapped up in toilet rolls by the children. Luminous tattoos were also available for the first time and went down a treat. These were still being placed well after the end of the party. The children also loved the buffet which was well suited to them. The disco music courtesy of Margaret Cooper, who gave her services free,

produced some wild, enthusiastic dancing, especially with some of the scary costumes being worn.

Thanks to those local businesses in the village who were approached and donated willingly to the cause with vouchers and prizes etc.

Vicky Brown once again organised the party, on this occasion with her friend Jeanette Richardson. Vicky would like to thank Jeanette for her help as well as the aforementioned helpers.

The money raised was £131.06 which will be given to cancer patient Barbara Ford, a little girl from Washington. It will be used for her to have special holiday.

See pictures on page 24



Trick or treats around the doors - this looks like treats for two ghostly figures - Michael and Katie Toner really frightened the photographer

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Last month saw us heading back to The Stables at Beamish. They were having a very busy lunchtime but even so we found them to be most welcoming and accommodating bearing in mind that we have a wheelchair-user as one of our party. It has a good ambience, which was greatly enhanced by the big warm and comforting roaring fire. They have the usual economical fixed priced menu + their everyday bill of fare. From the specials menu we sampled for starters egg mayonnaise with pickled salad leaves and main course was breast of chicken with mash in a peppercorn sauce. From the main menu for starters there was smoked haddock on curried risotto with poached egg in coriander cream, chargrilled chicken and bacon caesar salad. Main courses were slow roast belly pork, blanched

savoy cabbage and creamy mash in a red wine gravy and chicken breast with a mild curry sauce, braised patna rice and garlic naan bread. Puds were apple and mixed berry crumble with custard, honey and ginger pannacotta with summer fruit minestrone, dark chocolate cheesecake with a lime ice cream, homemade tangy lemon tart with lemon sorbet, and raspberry and white chocolate crème brûlée with homemade shortbread. Bearing in mind it was busy, we did have a very long wait for our meals, and if you're going to visit it would pay to be there early. Apart from a couple of niggles which could be down to individual taste we found the food to be good and enjoyable.

Somewhere to go if you're looking for a long 'French style' lunch time occasion.

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HALLOWEEN



Some of the younger children gather together for the photograph at the end of the annual Halloween Party at the Community Centre



One of the volunteer 'mummies' at the Community Centre Party

See story on page 23



Peters' trio of witches, Michelle, Manager, Denise and Lisa, always ready to dress for the occasion



Trick or Treat around the doors. Francesca Lawson, Casey Coxon and Chloe Taylor deserved their treat just for their smiles!

BOWLS PRESENTATION EVENING



The annual dinner and presentation evening of Lanchester Bowling Club was held on 9th November in the King's Head. Trophy winners, pictured above, are: front, Alan Wharton, centre left to right, Christine Monaghan, Arthur Maughan MBE who presented the trophies, Pat Rose and Stan Easten, back Paul Monaghan, Mike Stoddart, Chairman of the Club, and John Hurran who was voted the most improved player of the season.

EARLY DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 6th December. The deadline for **adverts** is 4th December.



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