

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 8 Volume 13

Lanchester, August 2012

For contact information, see page 2

PROPOSED LYNWOOD DEVELOPMENT

After almost seven years in the pipeline, it seems this project is actually going to take place, and on Monday 30th July, the Developers, Derwentside Homes, held a Consultation in the Community Centre.

Plans were available for viewing and various members of those responsible for their production and the development were present in the main hall from 4.30 pm to 8 pm. These included Steve Martin, Director of Development of Property Services of Derwentside Homes, Russell Edwards, Architect, Chris Morton-Firth of Trinity, Funders for the Primary Care Trust and others.

Plans showing the elevations and layout of the two-storey buildings were very clear and make the whole project look very attractive. There will be 33 two-bedroom flats, with en-suite facilities for

the over 55's to have independent living. 4 of these will be specially adapted for wheel-chair users. 20 will be for rent and 13 for sale.

continued on page 4

HAVE YOUR SAY ON OPENING HOURS FOR THE LIBRARY

In the spring, Durham County Council carried out a consultation about the future of our library service. It concluded that most people agreed with their vision, which included reducing library opening hours to help make budget savings, given the significant cuts in Government funding to the Council. All libraries

are to be kept open but opening hours will be reduced. From January 2013, Lanchester Library will be open 20 hours each week. DCC has proposed four options for opening hours and would like you to be involved in the choice. See page 4 for the options available and how you can have your say.



Graphics of the new buildings to replace Lynwood House

SWIFT ACTION TAKEN

During the recent flooding the Environment Agency identified a derelict footbridge with some fencing underneath that was catching debris and increasing flood risk to properties in Lanchester.

The Environment Agency quickly responded and removed the fencing, along with a large amount of debris, to allow water to freely flow away from village. Durham County Council and the Environment

Agency are working closely together to better understand and reduce the flood risk in Lanchester. They are now planning to remove the derelict footbridge so this situation does not happen again.



Environment Agency workers removing debris



Dear Village....

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

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 am writing in support of Mrs Brown's letter that featured in the July publication regarding the green area which borders the cycle path and Brook View.

I often use that stretch of line when running alone and cycling with my young family and find the decision to let it grow as a 'meadow' as frankly unbelievable. It is not only very unsightly but dangerous as Mrs Brown alluded to, especially when young children run into it when dogs are in the locality. To try and justify what is clearly local authority cut backs as a planned 'meadow' without any public consultation is not acceptable. If it were a

meadow where are the wild flowers? Please come out and say what has actually happened - the grass simply hasn't been cut! I continue to pay council tax and parish council tax and expect to receive the same service as in previous years.

Bobby Hewitson

Dear Village Voice

I've just read Nan Brown's letter in the Village Voice. I live in one of the station cottages which give onto the new 'meadow' behind Brook View.

I'm concerned that the council think that this money saving measure is a good idea. This area is used for walking dogs and the hazard of dog poop should not be ignored. Perhaps the huge amounts of money spent on complicating road use and erecting pointless road signs, so that last year's highways budget gets used up, could be put into the grass cutting pot?

The council owns the land just in front of my house in the station yard. I'm fed up because they've also abandoned

care of that patch. I think the council should have a think about the effect of running down the care and appearance and safety of the environment.

Jim Morgan

Dear Village Voice

Betty and I would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee morning in aid of Liver North. We made the amazing amount of £120.

A big thank you also to June Wallis. She only came in for a cup of coffee, and ended up tirelessly helping us in the kitchen.

Betty Taylor and Janet Tulip

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Lindsay and Peter Jackson on the birth of baby Olivia.

Love from all the family.

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for July 2012 is 50. The draw was made by Mrs Bragan of the Gym.

Do you have skills or knowledge to share?

Richmond Fellowship run a Day Service for older people with mental health issues, based in Lanchester Community Centre twice a week.

On Tuesdays we run workshops, sessions and short courses on a wide variety of topics, from 'Confidence Building' and 'Gentle Exercise' to 'Digital Photography' and 'Digital Animation'. We are currently looking for people who may have skills or knowledge they would like to share with our small group, and would be prepared to hold a workshop or organise a short course. Although we have very limited funds to hire people, we can cover reasonable

expenses for travel or materials, and can provide drinks and biscuits!

We would be happy to hear from anyone who thinks they may have an interesting session to offer - whether it be local history, playing a musical instrument, a talk about local wildlife - the more varied our programme is, the better. Our sessions run from 10-12 or 12.30-2.30 with a maximum of 11 people attending.

If you would like to offer your services or would like further information, please contact the deputy service manager Gail McGee on 07786 191194 or e-mail gail.mcgee@richmondfellowship.org.uk.

Red Cross Shop - Cooker Wanted

The Red Cross Shop needs a 'Free standing Electric Cooker'. This is essential for their Coffee Mornings. If anyone has one in good working order that they would like to donate, it can be collected. Please pop into the shop or call Tracey Dobson, Shop Manager on 01207 529992.

From September our coffee morning costs will be rising. Tea or coffee will be £1.00 and a scone or cake 50p. We have been forced to make this increase to cover costs and still make a profit for the Red Cross. Please continue to support and enjoy the morning, held on the last Thursday of every month.

To contact the Village Voice

To advertise:

Contact John Hurran, Advertising Manager
Telephone: (01207) 520288
Email: villagevoiceadverts@talktalk.net
General and news enquiries: (01207) 520559

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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WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Michael Donnelly and Rachel Bailey

The wedding of Michael Donnelly and Rachel Bailey took place at All Saints Parish Church on 22nd July. The service was conducted by Rev Rupert Kalus and Canon Bob Spence.

The Best Man was David Grogan, the Chief Bridesmaid was Kate Wales, sister of the Bride. She was assisted in her duties by Bridesmaids, Hayley and Angelica Donnelly, (Michael's sisters) along with Rachel's friends, Natalie and Rachael. The Flower girl was the Bride's niece, Anna.

A lovely reception was held at Matfen Hall and the happy couple spent their honeymoon in Sorrento, Italy.



The happy couple, Rachel and Michael, on their wedding day

Lindsay Murray and Michael Carling

On Thursday August 9th at Middleton Lodge near Richmond, the wedding took place between Lindsay Caroline Murray daughter of Heather and Ian Murray to Michael Gerrard Carling. Due to the outstanding weather that day, the ceremony took place in the beautiful

grounds of the Lodge. Lindsay wore an ivory dress with an encrusted sparkling beaded bodice made by Essence, from Just Perfect in Shotton. She carried a very simple bouquet of deep pink gerberas. Her matron of honour was Melissa McLeod sister of

the groom who wore a deep pink dress and Amber Murray niece of the bride was a flower girl. She wore a white dress with a confetti patterned hemline to match the confetti she threw on route to the ceremonial table.

The best man was Wayne Park and ushers were Si Collins and James McLeod.

Pink gerberas were the theme of the day and not only were they used in buttonholes, bouquets, wands and corsages they were also used to decorate the lodge house and dining room. The wedding breakfast was cheese tart, shoulder of beef and chocolate brownie, all locally produced with in house chefs preparing. Family and friends came from near and far to celebrate over 3 days at the Lodge and enjoyed hot tub, hot weather and BBQ.



Lindsay and Michael in the grounds of Middleton Lodge

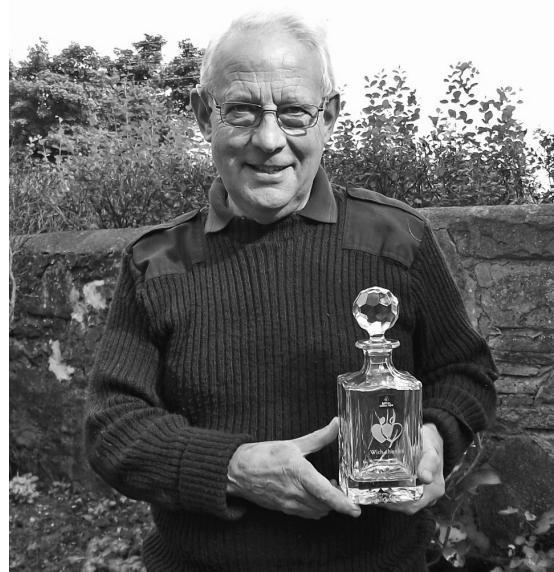
BLOOD DONOR AWARD

Congratulations are due to Chris Lee, of Maiden Law, who received the award of a crystal decanter for donating 100 pints of blood.

Chris began giving blood as an 18 year old when he worked at Scunthorpe Steelworks. In those days it was a way of getting off work for a couple of hours. However, he soon realised the value of donating blood and has carried on doing so ever since.

Chris' last job before retiring was as manager of Todhills Brickworks, Willington. He is now 68 and has donated over 100 pints. The award ceremony happened two years after he reached that figure in 2010 and he intends to carry on donating as long as possible.

The award took place at Beamish Hall in July where about 60-70 other recipients of various awards sat down to lunch together.



Chris Lee, of Maiden Law, who received a crystal decanter for donating 100 pints of blood

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19th October 4 days £180

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DAY TRIPS



Wed 12th Sept Doncaster £12


Sat 22nd Sept Dumfries £12

Wed 10th Oct Barnsley Market £13

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PROPOSED LYNWOOD DEVELOPMENT

continued from page 1

In addition there will be a general lounge, a laundry, and an apartment will be available for residents to rent for visitors. Access to the residential areas will be through gates with coded entry. In the entrance foyer the Community Investment Company will have a café, meeting space and function room.

Most importantly, there will be a doctor's surgery and pharmacy (open 100 hours), which will be accessible from

Durham Road. The surgery will comprise four consulting rooms on the ground floor as well as other rooms on the first floor and during the day there will be designated parking for the staff and three spaces per consulting room for patients. In total there are to be 55 parking spaces on the site. As the access to some of the flats is off Woodland Road, there is some concern that visitors might park in the road, but the planners believe that the number

of spaces will be sufficient according to Durham County guidelines. There will also be parking for electric buggies.

The whole development will take place within the existing site and plans include measures to prevent flooding. Application for planning was to take place that week, so it is hoped that everything will be able to go ahead. Plans can be seen on the websites of Durham County Council and Derwentside Homes.



The Architect Russell Edwards of 'Edwards South Shields' explains the project to people who attended the session

HAVE YOUR SAY ON OPENING HOURS FOR THE LIBRARY

Durham County Council has proposed the following options for opening hours of Lanchester Library:

OPTION 1		OPTION 3	
Monday	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm	Monday	Closed
Tuesday	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm	Tuesday	9.30 am - 7.00 pm
Wednesday	Closed	Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.00 am - 7.00 pm	Thursday	9.30 am - 5.00 pm
Friday	Closed	Friday	Closed
Saturday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Saturday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm
OPTION 2		OPTION 4	
Monday	9.00 am - 1.00 pm	Monday	9.30 pm - 12.30 pm
Tuesday	1.00 pm - 5.00 pm	Tuesday	1.00 pm - 7.00 pm
Wednesday	Closed	Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	10.00 am - 7.00 pm	Thursday	10.00 am - 6.00 pm
Friday	Closed	Friday	Closed
Saturday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm	Saturday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Forms to express your preferred option are available at the Library and should be returned by Friday 28th September.

POLICE REPORT

Reporting period 28/06/12 - 24/07/12
 Number of calls for area 64
 Number of community related calls 3
 Alcohol seizures - there have been no reports of street drinking.
 Burglaries 0.
 Bogus callers 0.

Anti-social behaviour 1.
 A report of youths causing a nuisance in Front Street - they were warned in front of their parents.
 Criminal Damage 0.
 Thefts 2. Petrol Station - a male had made off and was later stopped by police. The male returned later and paid for the petrol.
 Spar - a female was responsible for theft of wine and sweets. The lady was dealt with by police.
 The July PACT meeting was cancelled at short notice as the attending officer was needed for a search of a missing child.

POLICING CHANGES AHEAD

In November 2012 Police Authorities will be abolished and replaced with an elected Police and Crime Commissioner. Your newly elected PCC will have a democratic mandate to hold the Chief Constable to account for the full range of their responsibilities, with six key roles:

- * Representing and engaging with all those who live and work in the communities in their force area and identify their policing needs;
- * Setting priorities that meet those needs by agreeing a Local Police and Crime Plan;
- * Holding the Chief Constable to account for achieving these priorities as efficiently and effectively as possible, and playing a role on the wider questions of community safety;
- * Publishing an Annual Report;
- * Setting the force budget and setting the police element of the Council Tax;
- * Appointing and removing the Chief Constable.

To find out what this will mean for you, visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Durham Police Authority's website at www.durham-pa.gov.uk or call 0191 3835511 for a printed copy.

RED CROSS WINDOW DISPLAY



The Red Cross Shop had a lovely window display for the Olympic Games. They would like to thank St Bede's School and Sixth form College for the loan of equipment.

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CELEBRATION OF EUROPEAN SONG AND DANCE

This wonderful concert brought closure to the Comenius Project at the EP School which lasted for two years. The name came from Jan Amos Comenius (1592-1670) considered to be the father of education. Thirty two countries from Europe are involved in this British Council sponsored project. The village school became involved with reciprocal visits to seven countries: Spain, Portugal, Holland, Poland, Greece, Turkey and Italy learning much about the culture,

language and dance from each place.

The concert was originally planned for 'thunder' Thursday 28th June - and had to be cancelled because of power cuts and floods. All 259 children from Reception to Year 6 performed at Consett Empire Theatre - it was the climax of a two year, very interesting, demanding, but exciting project. Each year group took a different country and performed the dance. Older classes then combined with the younger children to sing a selection of songs from the different countries. Year 6 and Reception sang the Italian song and Year 1 and Year 3 sang the Dutch song and Year 2 and Year 5 sang the Portuguese song. They were all dressed in their country's colours. The



Children showing off their skills at Greek Dancing at Yannis Restaurant

Explorers Group began the evening with a 10 minute tour of Europe. They addressed the audience in the different languages (including English!) and asked for

some audience participation as well! Therefore, the whole gathering at the theatre became polyglots!

The event took some rehearsing and was a logistic headache, trying to organise so many children on and off the stage. However, the event was really well received, with many very complimentary comments about the evening.

The following morning the reception year children arrived at Yannis Greek Restaurant and performed some fabulous Greek dancing. The atmosphere was superb as the Greek music blared out from the speakers. At

the end of their performance Valia, one of the young ladies who helps at the restaurant was on her feet showing her professionalism. She persuaded unsuspecting teacher Mrs Lowry to join her in some excellent impromptu dancing. Not to be outdone, Yannis, father of Peter, the owner, joined in and gave a magnificent show of his dancing talent. It really was a super morning thoroughly enjoyed by the children and the parents and families who turned up to watch. The children were generously rewarded with lots of free boxes of pizzas to take back to school for lunch.



Yannis cannot resist getting up and showing how it should be really done! Valia is in the background.

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EP LEAVERS SERVICE

The Lanchester Primary EP School Leavers Service was held at the Parish Church on the penultimate day at school supported by many parents and families.

After a very brief introduction by Rev Rupert Kalus it became largely a children led service beginning with a welcome from three pupils. After the first hymn several children related briefly their fondest memories of being at school. Most were highly amusing and as with the second group who spoke later, many of the most memorable incidents happened at PGL trips or Middleton in Teesdale. This seems to indicate how important these away activities are to the children and their education, and how much they enjoy them.

The service continued with prayers read by the children and hymns all beautifully sung by the choir. Rev Rupert Kalus gave a short address using the analogy of an 'Apple Tree' story to encourage and help children take their next, very important step in life. The awards are exciting for the children. There were many 100% attendance pupils who qualified. It must be an enjoyable school to attend!

The Rotary Award was presented by Mrs Fiona Wood OBE, President of the Rotary Club of Consett. The proud recipients were very enthusiastic members of the Gardening Club, Tom Bartles Smith and Daniel Marston.

Year 6 Graduation Certificates were then presented. Each child came forward to hear some very nice things said about them by Head Teacher, Jane Davis, and Deputy Head, Chris Boddy, often very amusing, at times even embarrassing. Rev Rupert Kalus presented the children with a bible, graduation certificate and a book 'It's Your Move', a guide to joining a secondary school, before they returned to their seats. The Lions' Citizenship Award Year 2 was given to Matthew Walker and for Year 6, Archie O'Dair. Both pupils were given excellent citations about their worthiness to receive this prestigious award. The Henry Dancer Memorial Award was presented to Liam Smith. This award is given to the boy who has the very special character and qualities reminiscent of Henry, who lost his life at such a young age.

The service closed with an address by Head Teacher Jane Davis who thanked parents for their support, her staff and pupils for the hard and dedicated work they had put in during the year, mentioning the best ever SATS results, and success in football. Mrs Davis also offered best wishes to Mrs Jarvis who is ill in hospital and congratulated and thanked Mrs Malpass, Cook for the last 9 years, who has just retired.

The service closed with a blessing from the vicar and final hymn. The retiring collection was for the MacMillan Appeal.



Left to right: Tom Bartles Smith, Daniel Marston, Matthew Walker, Archie O'Dair and Liam Smith all clutching their respective awards referred to in the article.

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COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS

Durham County Lanchester Valley Walk Rangers, Charlotte Wilkinson (Senior Ranger) and Mike Munro, set up a stand at the entrance to the

conducting a survey at the same time. Their job is to:

- plant trees;
- mend fences;
- clear vegetation;
- help with guided walks and events;
- check countryside sites and footpaths;
- report problems;
- help to fundraise;
- complete surveys;
- pick litter.

It is quite a comprehensive workload but thoroughly enjoyable as they are out in the fresh air getting plenty of exercise and meeting all sorts of interesting people.



Local resident Bernadette Lowes chatting to Rangers Charlotte Wilkinson and Mike Munro

Could this be you? Some of the benefits you could enjoy are: meeting new friends; exploring the countryside; learning new skills; keeping fit and having fun. It all sounds like an excellent idea.

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FLOODS AT MALTON

Thanks to Andy McConnell for these pictures showing the floods at Malton caused by the torrential rain on 28th June.



The seat at the waters meeting



The raging torrent seen from the new bridge

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NEW LIFELINE FOR ELDERLY COUNTY DURHAM RESIDENTS

Help, support and a listening ear will soon be available to elderly people in County Durham, thanks to a new Big Lottery Fund award scheme.

The Silver Knowledge project will offer a number of services to vulnerable older people through a telephone befriending scheme, as well as providing financial advice and help with tasks such as gardening and shopping.

The project, which has been awarded £99,475 of funding from The Big Lottery Fund's Silver Dreams Fund, is led by Derwentside Homes and includes partners Durham County Council, Durham City Homes, Durham Council for Voluntary Service, the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership and

NHS County Durham and Darlington.

It is planned that the telephone befriending service will be just the start of the scheme, with help also offered in areas such as health, finance and odd jobs in the future. During a recent survey, 25% of elderly people questioned said they had experienced loneliness, with more than 70% of those said they would be interested in using a local telephone befriending scheme.

The Silver Knowledge scheme will begin in September and will operate as an 18-month pilot.

Any older persons living in North West Durham who may be interested in volunteering to help the project, or individuals who feel that they may benefit from the telephone befriending scheme, can obtain more information from Angela Hodgson by calling 0800 093 0092.



Phone volunteers waiting to take calls

Gardening in September

In September the sun is still warm, there are flowers to enjoy, and the tomatoes are still ripening. The bumper crops in September make all of the hard work of the previous months worthwhile, but there is still plenty to do including the taking of cuttings, pruning before autumn really sets in and continuing planting for next spring.

Borders

You need to continue deadheading annual and perennial flowers like penstemons, dahlias and roses in order to extend their performance. September is also a good time to plant new perennials while the soil is still warm, start to divide herbaceous perennials and to plant out new biennial plants sown

earlier in the year like foxglove, wallflower, violas, bellis and sweet william. You need to plant hyacinth and amaryllis bulbs to ensure colourful blooms at Christmas. As in the borders you need to continue to feed and deadhead your hanging basket and container plants. Prune climbing and rambling roses once they have finished flowering.

Vegetable Plot

Keep harvesting your crops during the month and, if you have a glut, try freezing, pickling and storing so that you can use them later in the year. Start the autumn clean-up by removing any crops that have finished and clear away weeds to leave the plot clean and tidy for the winter. When peas and beans finish cropping just

cut the plants to ground level leaving the roots in the soil to give off nitrogen into the soil as the roots break down. It is important to pinch out the tops of tomato plants if this has not already been done so that the plants put their efforts into ripening the fruits. Take hardwood cuttings of currants and gooseberries.

General

Sow green manure such as mustard or rye grass on uncultivated areas to improve the soil. If you have clay soil now is a good time to improve before it gets too wet by digging in organic matter from your compost bin. Although you still need to mow your lawns, raise the height of the cutter and feed the lawn with an autumn fertiliser.



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WI NEWS

President Jennifer MacDonald welcomed visitors to our August meeting; Janet Tulip gave the reading.

Lists were out for Diaries and Calendars, the Nutcracker ballet 7th February £20, the Mousetrap, 13th February £26.50, (money taken at the September meeting), the group meeting and Satley birthday party as well as our Birthday meeting in November which will be a Greek Evening at Yannis.

This month members enjoyed visits to the Chairman's Garden Party, Kimono talk and Paxton House.

Our speaker this evening was Glynis Grainger speaking

about Mary Eleanor Bowes - The Scandalous Countess. We were enthralled by a story which included greed, child neglect, corruption and adultery. She became heiress to the vast Gibside estate aged 11 and her mother soon had her married off to John Lyons with whom she had 5 children. He then left her and she moved to London, taking many lovers, ending with Andrew Robertson Stony who had tortured and murdered his first wife then married Mary for her fortune before finding out he could not touch her money. He then imprisoned and tortured her to release

her money; she escaped but he kidnapped her and demanded she returned. She escaped again and in January 1789 she became the first woman to be granted a divorce. When she died in 1800 she was buried in Westminster Abbey and her actions are seen as the beginning of women's rights. This was a wonderful talk that brought history to life.

Tracey Dobson won the raffle, competition winners were Jessie Goodall and Maureen Clarkson.

Jennifer gave the vote of thanks and the evening ended with refreshments which included delicious ice cream sent down as a treat from Lanchester Dairies.



Member Phyllis Reed playing Jerusalem on a £75,000 Steinberg grand piano on our visit to Paxton House

A LEVEL RESULTS

A Level students once again celebrate record results at St Bede's. Over 50% of the students achieved A*, A or B grades - an outstanding achievement; 99.7% achieved passes and 12 students attained 3

or more A*/A grades, an increase on last year. Despite the media stories, once again over 80% of our students got into their first choice university. Students worked incredibly hard and have been supported

by a dedicated team of specialist teachers.

We wish them well as they set off on the next stage of their journey into medicine, nursing, teaching, law, physics, mechanical engineering, and much more.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

I do not know what has happened to the sun this summer, but fortunately the Durham Miners' Gala did fall on one of the more reasonable days we have had. Gala day was especially busy for me, starting at 8.30 am when my husband and I were picked up by coach on the village green by the Crookhall banner group. We were then dropped just opposite the old County hospital where we met up with the band, who had set off at 4.00 am from Yorkshire, to play the banner in. This year the Crookhall banner had a black sash on it to mourn the recent death of John (Beck) Dixon who had been the mainstay of the

Crookhall banner group for as long as anyone could remember. I marched into Durham with the Crookhall banner, but once we reached the racecourse I had to get back to the market place as quickly as possible to meet up with the rest of my family and the new Burnhope banner to march in with them before rushing off to the County Hotel to meet up with the parade to the podium for the political speeches. Good footwear is a necessity!

Hopefully most people will now have cleared up from the recent floods that hit the North East and the village. In the aftermath of the flooding I met with the Minister for the Natural

Environment and Fisheries, Richard Benyon MP and Communities and Local Government Minister, Bob Neil MP together with representatives of the Environment Agency and the Met Office. We discussed what the government will be doing to support local authorities and other statutory agencies in clearing up after the floods and to make sure that people affected by flooding can continue to get insurance at a reasonable cost in the future. If you are still having problems with flood damage or with insurance payouts

please get in touch. My monthly column would not be complete without mentioning the Olympics. What a fantastic result for Great Britain and Team GB; a total of 65 medals and coming third place in the table. This firmly places Great Britain as a world-leading sporting nation and our sporting triumphs will inspire a generation of young people. Our athletes, the volunteers and the history and pride of Great Britain were all on display. I have too many favourite moments to mention and look forward to the Paralympics starting. Finally, I want to say congratulations to all those students in North

West Durham who worked hard and received their A-Level results this week. Whether they were the grades you hoped for or not, I wish you every success for the future. At the time of writing this article GCSE results are yet to come out so I wish all those awaiting their results the best of luck.

I am always keen to hear from constituents so if you need to contact me on any issue of concern, please write to me at Pat Glass MP, Gledstone House, 26 Newmarket Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5LQ, by email at pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk or phone my office on 01207 501 782.

AFGHAN MEMORIAL

Capt Nicky Jefferson and Sgt Sonia Clapp are to undertake a gruelling challenge in an 11 day running endurance event to mark the 11th anniversary since the Afghanistan Campaign began. This arduous event will start at the National Memorial Arboretum, Stafford on 27th September and finish at Ternhill, Shropshire on 7th October.

Nicky Jefferson was brought up in Lanchester. She was educated at St Bede's School before joining the Army 21 years ago. She has progressed through the ranks and was commissioned from W01 to Capt in 2010. Her parents, Thomas and Brenda Jefferson still live in the village.

Nicky and Sonia want to commemorate the lives of serving personnel killed in action during the eleven year Afghanistan conflict by running the equivalent of 17 marathons in 11 days. They want to raise money for ABF The Soldiers'

Charity because after 35 years combined service, they want to give something back to those who have given so much in the service of their country.

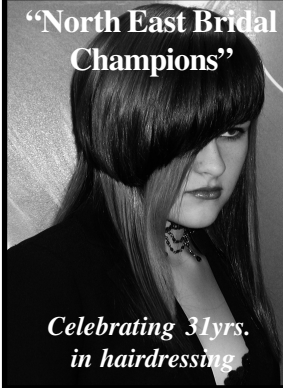
The Soldiers' Charity gives a lifetime of support to soldiers, former soldiers and their families in times of need. Over the past two years there has been a 30% rise in people seeking help and this is expected to increase with the continuing operations in Afghanistan. Any donations in support can be made at www.justgiving.com/afghan-memorial-run.



Nicky Jefferson and Sonia Clapp

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Dec 2nd 2012



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Feb 3rd 2013
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A VERY MUSICAL END OF TERM!



Mr Senior and his brass players

As always, end of term was celebrated in musical style by the students of All Saints' Primary School. The school hall was packed with pupils, performers, friends and relatives on July 18th, and they were welcomed by Head Teacher Karen McKenna. Mrs McKenna was very proud of the attainment of her young musicians, and pointed out that this occasion allowed the youngsters to demonstrate their musical progress, and for many children, this was

their very first performance in public. Music tutors Mr Senior and Mr Coates were obviously pleased and proud of the hard work of their students as they introduced them to the audience. Many of them were awarded certificates, marking their good achievement. Rebecca opened the proceedings with 'Trumpet Tune' and then it was the turn of one of the guitar groups. Their solos included the theme from 'The Flintstones', 'Oh Sinner Man' and 'London's Burning'. A high spot came when the guitarists all stood up while playing their instruments, bringing fond memories of the Shadows to the older members of the audience! Many children from Year 1 and 2 are now learning to play keyboards, and although this was their

first public appearance, they performed confidently, really concentrating while reading their music. The last youngster to perform was Danny, who thrilled the audience by playing electric guitar and singing 'Wonder Wall' by Oasis. Perhaps this was a glimpse of a future Eric Clapton! In closing the assembly, Mrs McKenna expressed her pleasure in seeing the pupils developing their musical skills, and she offered thanks to the music teachers, and to the parents who are always supportive and involved in all aspects of school life. This was an assured performance from all the youngsters, they show a real pleasure in learning about their instruments and a positive enjoyment of music.

KIDS CLUB



Table tennis was one of the events for kids organised by Community Centre staff in August. On the 18th a hall full of young children, mainly girls, enjoyed playing Table Tennis under the guidance of Adrian Evans. Every table was full with young enthusiastic Table Tennis players.

See story on page 13 opposite.



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BRIDEGROOM AND BRIDE

They say that marriages are made in heaven and this one was - twice. Firstly because the combination of songs by Gilbert and Sullivan was splendid and

secondly because the musical was set in heaven. G and S (played by the resident fools Michael and Ron) meet up in heaven and plan

mischievous - by messing up, or trying to, a wedding. They fail but not before a good plot, helped along by well known and not so well known G and S songs,

and some good acting not just by the principals but by all the choir - they took part enthusiastically and well. The show was different from the usual production as it was a local script by a nearly local man.

The quality of the singing and band was its usual

high standard and the one guest singer (Susan Jordan) cannot be faulted. I particularly liked the inclusion of more choir members as soloists and even a member of the band. Thank you again David, Lilian and all who helped with the production - roll on next year. C.



The fabulous cast of Bridegroom and Bride performed by Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society in their 40th year.

KIDS CLUB

Community Centre staff organised a Kids Club during the month of August. It began with 'Tennis' Dennis Laycock giving some coaching to youngsters on Saturday 4th, followed by 'Cup Cake Baking' the following Saturday with expert Sam Lloyd being brought in to teach them. On the 18th a hall full of young children, mainly girls, enjoyed playing Table Tennis under the guidance of Adrian Evans. 'Street Dancing' was due to take place on August 25th (after The Village Voice deadline).

Alison Boyd and Margaret Laycock from the Community Centre made themselves available for these excellent events along with volunteer parents. Films were shown on Mondays at 2.00 pm, with good attendances. It was an excellent programme of events enjoyed by all those who attended which also gave some respite for parents, with their young ones meeting up with others, and being occupied for an hour or so during the school holidays. The

Community Centre hopes to make the Kids Club a regular school holiday event and would like to thank all those who put on the activities and all the volunteers who helped to make them a success.



Two of the individual tables making their 'cup cakes'.

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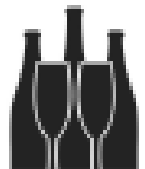
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ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE ...

St Bede's thriving Drama Group has a tradition of hosting variety shows to benefit charities, and at the end of the summer term, their latest show was dedicated to Willow Burn, our local Hospice, as families of some of the group have been supported by the staff at Willow Burn.

In her welcoming address to the audience, Head Teacher Mrs Matthews remarked that although Miss Ramsay was nominally in charge of the School's Drama group, it was really the students who had the ownership of the organisation! The show opened with a

request from the stage for the audience to turn off all mobile phones, this was answered by the cast with a spirited defence of modern communications in the lively song 'Got to Share.'

Philip Richardson, their talented writer, director and musical director, has moved on this year, leaving 'Ramsay's Theatre Nightmares' under new management. Philip was paid a fitting tribute from his colleagues in the Drama Group when extracts from his plays were performed by the students, in the format of the Oscar nominations. Shows such as 'Romeo and Juliet', and

'The Lambton Worm' were remembered, with their humour, dancing, and catchy songs. The summer performance of Umanana was also reprised, with its strong message of care for the environment and the very haunting melody 'Old Whisper'.

The appreciative audience enjoyed music, sketches, dancing and acting with the hard working cast obviously enjoying themselves greatly. Although 'Ramsay's Theatre Nightmares' is under new management, its future is safe in the hands of these enthusiastic and very committed young people.



'An Interview with the Headmaster' and an amusing sketch

LADIES WHO LUNCH

It has been suggested that we go for a while and some of us have been dragging our heels 'cos the last experience hadn't been good, at all. Well, what a surprise we got! It's a shame that 'The Three Horseshoes' up at Maiden Law can't change the outside as it makes you think nothing has changed but, it certainly has. From the minute you step inside the door it has the 'wow' factor - only recently completely refurbished with lovely stoneflagged floors and a

super garden area out the back it looked really lovely. Could the food live up to the new look? Well, yes it could, we were most impressed. We settled ourselves down in the airy conservatory and enjoyed ourselves perusing the menu - half the fun of going out for a meal. They have a really interesting menu and unusual for us we were really really boring opting for old favourites - haddock, chips and mushy peas, scampi and chips and lasagne with

garlic bread and salad. This was followed by sticky toffee pudding served with a bitter sweet toffee sauce with cream/ice cream/custard and a mixture of blackberry sice cream. And it was all absolutely delicious. We thoroughly enjoyed our lunch, we definitely will be back and we suggest that if you feel like going out for a good meal close to home then go up the bank to Maiden Law and give it a go, we're sure you won't be disappointed.

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THURSDAY CLUB AUGUST OUTING TO DURHAM CATHEDRAL



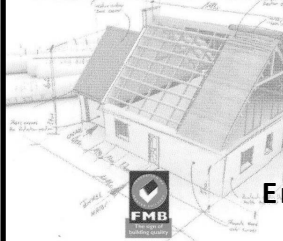
Looking forward to our Cathedral visit

A group of us from the Thursday Club decided to take sanctuary from the awful summer weather in the Cathedral, but as it turned out on August 15th we had some amazing sunshine, at least, we did on the way there, it rained a little on the way home. But that didn't matter 'cos we had spent a glorious afternoon in the company of senior guide Lillian Groves, someone who must totally live and breathe Durham Cathedral. We were booked in for an hour tour and she held us enthralled for two and a half hours. We were taken first to the fairly recently opened Deanery Undercroft Chapel of the Holy Cross, a favourite spot of our guide and we could see why - totally entrancing - if you haven't seen it we suggest you include it in your next visit to the cathedral - unmissable! - and so the tour continued with absolute gems of information throughout the whole afternoon. Just before we made our way to the Undercroft for some very much needed

sustenance, Kate Lawrie asked about the large hidden room behind the huge clock which stands in the south transept of the Cathedral, she had been taken there by a friend during the filming of Harry Potter. Well, of course, our lovely guide could take us there once she had acquired the key from the verger. It did actually lead us into the Chapter House where quite a few of us had been before, but not via the hidden doors that

are at the base of the clock tower - it made you feel as though you were stepping inside Hogwarts and the film set, a lovely end to a fascinating afternoon.

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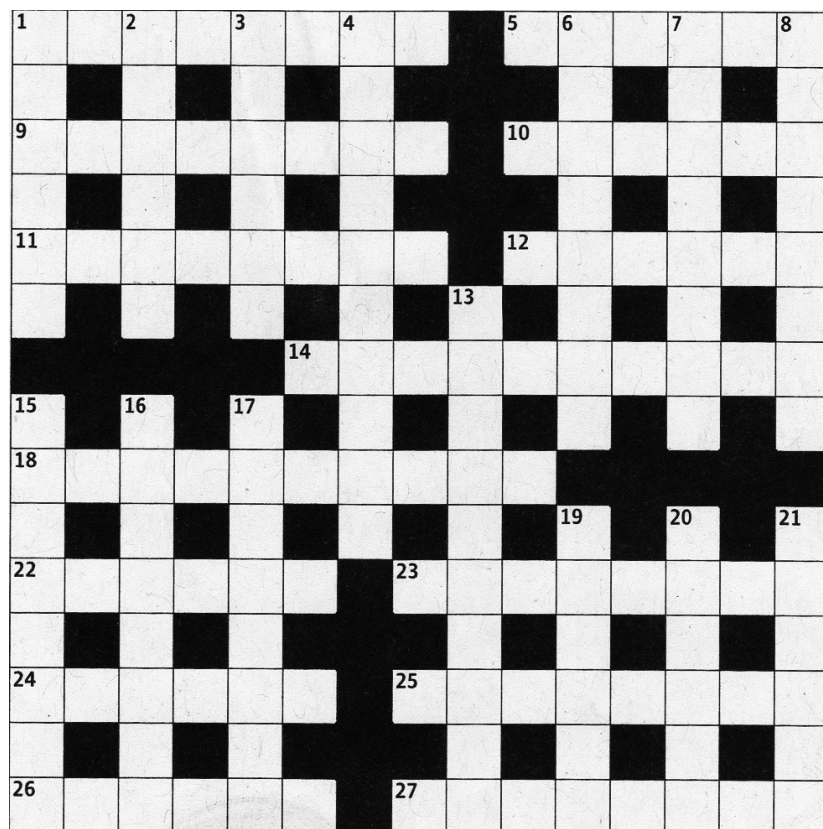
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CROSSWORD 76



Name _____

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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 75

There were 14 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Mrs J Suckling of Woodham Court who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ACROSS

- 1.5. Face the camera (fig.) (5,3,6)
5. See 1 across
9. 1940's male attire (4,4)
10. Venice display (6)
11. Inflated lottery for example (4-4)
12. A maths solution to disorder (6)
14. Contract (10)
18. Overdo (10)
22. Misfit (6)
23. Cleric takes long time to get home (8)
24. DIY tan is pretty (6)
25. American composer (8)
26. Dissolute (6)
27. Seed soup is championed (8)

DOWN

1. Jolly good (6)
2. Drive about at leisure (6)
3. Director of The African Queen (6)
4. Germany's oldest university (10)
6. Four in vase is disruptive (8)
7. Midden (4,4)
8. High (8)
13. Sugar I tout is superfluous (10)
15. Wind instrument (8)
16. Carefully select (4,4)
17. Disturbs (8)
19. Manage with what's to hand (4,2)
20. Bother from O'Hara's shillelagh (6)
21. Favoured in written dedication (6)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 75

ACROSS

9. chicanery
10. vapid
11. boredom
12. own goal
13. exile
14. rehearsal
16. keep your shirt on
19. reprocess
21. extra
22. lambda
23. Jehovah
24. miler
25. capacitor

DOWN

1. icebreaker
2. migraine
3. dawdle
4. beam
5. hypothesis
6. Svengali
7. spoofs
8. idol
14. routemarch
15. Lancashire
17. yeomanry
18. titivate
20. pimple
21. ethics
22. limp
23. jape

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.

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

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TABLE TENNIS UPDATE

It is hard to believe that Lanchester Table Tennis Club only began meeting in October 2009, supported by funding from Durham County Council. Then we had two tables and met once a week for two hours in the 'dining room' at the Community Centre, with about a dozen members. Now, with support from CDCF and Leisureworks, we have five tables, three qualified coaches, we meet on two nights a week and we have about 60 names on our books, including 17 junior players! Many of the junior players started coming following taster sessions we put on during the school day for the local primary schools. They receive coaching every week and as well as being full of enthusiasm, some of these young players are showing real promise! Our adult players range from older teenagers (girls and boys) to senior citizens, from complete beginners to our quickly improving league team players. This is our second year in the Northumbria Summer League, and whereas last year we propped up the fourth division, this year we have finished in third place. Promotion next

year? All our players receive coaching focusing on particular shots which can then be practised intensively on the very popular 'robo-pong' machine (robotic server).

The emphasis as always is on learning to play table tennis in a fun and relaxed environment. We have dedicated coaching for the children from 6.00 - 7.00 on both nights (Wednesdays in the Small Hall, Fridays in the Main Hall), with the adult sessions following on from 7.00 - 9.00 on both nights. New members are always welcome; just come along!

THE TAIL THAT WAGGED

On Saturday 18th August a fun dog show was staged at Consett Community College and one of our Lanchester pooches picked up a winning prize. Two-year old Louie, who is a Cocker Spaniel from Oakwood, was the clear winner in the 'waggiest tail' competition of the show. Other dog walkers have often commented on Louie's brilliant wag and his form didn't let him down on the day in front of the judge as he completely swept the floor with the competition. The proud owner Gaby McConnell was delighted to pick up the winner's rosette and a great bag of goodies provided by sponsor Day Care 4 Paws.



Louie with his winning bag of 'goodies'

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Cajun Chicken with Pineapple Rice

Serves 4. Takes 25-35 minutes. Easily halved for 2. Add more or less spice to taste. Easy to do.

Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil
1 red pepper, seeded and diced
200g/8oz frozen sweet corn, or 340g can of sweet corn, drained
2 tbsp Cajun spice mix
250g/9oz long-grain rice
1 chicken stock cube
227g can pineapple chunks in natural juice
4 skinless boneless chicken breasts

1. GET THE RICE ON - Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a heavy-based pan with a lid. Add the diced pepper, sweet corn and ½ tablespoon of the spice mix and fry for a couple of minutes. Tip in the rice, pour in 700ml/one and quarter pints water and then crumble in the stock cube. Bring to the boil and stir once, then lower the heat, cover and simmer very gently for 15 minutes until tender.

2. MEANWHILE, FRY THE CHICKEN - Rub

the remaining spice into the chicken. Heat the remaining oil in a large frying pan and fry the chicken breasts over a medium heat for 6-8 minutes on each side or until they are golden brown and cooked through.

3. FINISH THE RICE - Gently stir the pineapple and juice into the rice, then cook for a further 2-3 minutes. Taste for seasoning. Put the chicken breasts on top of the rice and serve.



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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Country Market

On Saturday 1st September, 10 am - 12 noon, come along to the Country Market in the Community Centre for your fresh produce, cakes, pies, jams, chutneys, eggs, plants, etc, and crafts.

Short Circuit Walks

1st September, 10.30 am, Stanhope, 6 miles. A testing walk in the hills north of the village. Meet at the Dales Centre, NY996392.

15th September, 10.30 am, Waldrige Fell, 5 miles. Woods and fells, some slopes. Meet at the car park to SW of village on Edmondsley road, NZ251498.

29th September, Away day to Ullswater by coach. Booking essential. Details from David Moore, 0191 2852925.

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

1st September, Pete McDonald
8th September, Mark Roberts
15th September, Anna Reay
22nd September, Sonia Michelle
29th September, Tony Washington

WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd September in the small hall of the Community Centre at 7.00 pm. The speaker will be Amanda Aberdeen from Wiltshire Farm Foods (delicious meals to your door) with the competition 'A Tasty Treat'.

Junior/Family Wildlife

The September meeting on Sunday 23rd will take place at Malton. Meet in the car park at 10 am.

Baby Group

The Community Centre has taken over the running of the Baby Group which is held on Wednesday and Fridays, 9.30 - 11.00 am. Please come along and join us. We would also like to thank John Toomer, the Mobile Fruit and Veg Man, who is kindly providing us with fresh fruit for the children.

Local History Society

The Society's meetings resume after the summer (!) break with a talk by a former speaker, Ralph Hedley, on the subject of Tyneside artist Bill Saunders. This will be on Friday 7th September, at 7.30 in the Dining Hall of the Community Centre. Everyone welcome.

Open House

Everyone is welcome at Open House on Thursday 6th September in the Chapter House of the Parish Church, when a light lunch is served from 11.30 am - 1.00 pm.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 26th September at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, Marion Hinchley will give a demonstration "Seeing Clearly".

Early Music Festival

On Saturday 8th Sept at 7.30 pm in the Parish Church of All Saints, David Malkin and Dr Ian Brunt will present "Nights in the Gardens of the Alhambra", a Virtuoso Recital of Music for Classical Guitar by Sylvius Leopold Weiss, Domenico Scarlatti and Fernando Sor.

Tickets at £8, £5 concessions, under 18 years free. Admission at the door or reservations in advance by enclosing a SAE to Dr Ian Brunt, The Lodge, Lanchester, County Durham, DH7 0LF, cheques to "All Saints Lanchester PCC."

PACT meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th September at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

WHAT'S ON?

World's Biggest Coffee Morning in Satley

The next monthly coffee morning in Satley Parish Hall will be in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Support Biggest Coffee Morning from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon on Saturday 8th September. Tombola and cake stall. Entrance £1.00 to include tea or coffee.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 11th September at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre, the speaker will be Jim Cokill, Director of Durham Wildlife Trust.

Mothers' Union

The September meeting is on Wednesday 12th 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, when the speaker will be Julie Judson of the Sunderland Street Pastors.

Choral Society Celebrates Again ...

and this time we extend a welcome to all!! Having celebrated its 40th Anniversary in great style the society is involved in another celebration. This time it's Canon Bob Spence's 50th year as a priest in 2013. The choral concert on 8th March in the RC Church will feature pieces which Canon Bob particularly enjoys, including Faure's Requiem, Karl Jenkins Mass for the Armed Man, and Vivaldi's Gloria. The society would like to welcome anyone who would like to join us for this great occasion. Rehearsals are held every Friday at 7.15 pm in All Saints RC Primary School. For further details ring 520427, or 520172 or just turn up!

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club is an independent group welcoming ladies of all ages, meeting in the Small Hall of the Community Centre at 7.15 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month. On September 20th we shall be spending a very pleasant evening in the company of Kathleen and Harry Gilbert who will be giving a talk and slide show of 'Postcards from Brazil'.

Lanchester Reading Group

The group begins on Tuesday 25th September at 2 pm until 3.30 pm once a fortnight. Our choice of books for this session is 'The Hungry Tide' by Amitav Ghosh and 'The Vanishing Life of Esme Fairfax' by Maggie O'Farrell. We would welcome new members. Contact Suzanne Eckford on 01207 529155 or bill_eckford@talktalk.net for further details.

Paradiso Club

The Paradiso Club will recommence monthly Socials in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on Sunday October 7th at 7 pm, when there will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a film. The first film of the season will be 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen'. All are welcome and further information will be in the September Village Voice.

York Shopping Trip

Croft View Fundraising Committee are organizing a shopping trip to York on Saturday 10th November. The bus will depart at 9.00 am from the Village Green and will arrive back at approximately 9.00 pm. Tickets £13.00. Please contact Rosemary Naylor 520087 or 07803106615.



New College Durham

Lanchester Community Centre

Start date: Thursday 27th September

Latin American Dancing

Times: 4.30-6.00 & 6.15-7.45 £30 per course

Holiday Spanish

Times: 6.30-8.00 pm £85.00

For advice on these courses and other courses in the community come along to our events session at Lanchester Community Centre on

Tuesday 11th September 6.30 - 7.30

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BOWLING UPDATE

Lanchester Bowling Club still has hopes for a good finish for both the Saturday and Monday teams. While finishing top of their respective leagues is probably out of our grasp we are still in with a chance of second place in both leagues. Now that the Tuesday league has finished the club will be running Jumbles each Tuesday at 2.00pm. These are relaxed, fun events which are good for both experienced and novice bowlers. Finals Day will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 8th September.

LANCHESTER MAN RUNNING GNR

I am running this year's Great North Run as part of a team raising money for the NSPCC's Childline 25th Anniversary appeal. If I reach my fundraising target of £400 from sponsors then the bank First Direct adds a further £400 donation to my total. I have run the GNR previously as part of team Macmillan but last ran it in 2005, and now being the wrong side of 40 it took the carrot that my efforts could make a bank give £400 to bring me out of retirement.

If you are a walker, dog walker, horse rider or

cyclist who use the local rail lines and have had a runner struggle to find the breath to say "hello" as you've passed then you've already seen me training.

I don't expect to beat my best time but if I can reach my fundraising target then I'll be a happy man. If you would like to sponsor me I will be carrying a form when out and about in the village and as an alternative route I have just set up a fundraising page online: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GavinQ> Thank you, Gavin Quiney

Willow Burn would like to thank Consett Sunderland Supporters Club who adopted the hospice over the last season and raised the magnificent sum of £10,340.

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LATEST FROM CRICKET CLUB

The season is now reaching its climax with the firsts looking to avoid relegation and the seconds with real title hopes. At the time of writing there are four games remaining and the firsts sit just above relegation spot having won three games. Their most crucial victory came just before the deadline when they successfully defended a total of 148 at Percy Main thanks to a seventh wicket century stand between Stu McPhail and Dan Storey. However the team has had most games cancelled due to the weather leaving them precariously placed. One saving grace may well be that with Sacriston moving to another league, only one team might be relegated this season improving our chances of staying up. Graham Brinton is the team's top run maker whilst he is second in the wicket stakes behind Kieron Taylor.

The second team are still unbeaten in the league and lead their division with a full two game cushion over their nearest

rivals. With a bit of luck they could have the title wrapped up on the 1st September. Paul Burn again leads the runs total including 133 not out at Lintz. In the same game, Mattie Callaghan made his maiden century as the pair made a club record opening stand of over 240. Paul Burn also leads the wicket haul but is closely and well supported by Andy Allen and Hayden Petch.

The third team are sitting mid table as everyone beats each other in their league. The side is in transition this year having lost their top five batsmen from last time around and introducing several youngsters into the side. Craig Smith and Andy McConnell are the leading run makers with Stu Beaumont topping the bowling charts.

The under 18s had a tough season with no player over 16 in the side, but they gave good accounts of themselves throughout and should be able to build and improve next season.

The under 15s finished fifth in their league, but in

close proximity to the two sides above them. Greg Patterson continues to represent the club at county level and scored four fifties in his seven innings. Remember he has to retire when he makes fifty. His average was an impressive 99.33. Cameron Metcalf, Connor Hunt and 12 year old, Aaron Halliday did well with the ball in support of Greg. The under 13s did well winning four of the five games they played but their lack of matches hampered their league position finishing in fifth. Chris Tully and David Selby opened the batting and did well throughout for their side. Both players also picked up wickets with Aaron Halliday leading the way. After a season without a win, the under 11s got two victories this time around and made good progress. The annual BBQ was a great success and the club is having a table top sale and senior double wicket competition on the Bank Holiday Sunday, again hoping to generate much needed funds for the club.

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CHARITY BOWLS TOURNAMENT

A fund-raising Bowls Tournament held at the Lanchester Bowling Club premises, involved some 36 bowlers drawn from Lanchester, Sherburn Park, North East Prison Service Bowls, and the Hon Vice Presidents' Bowls Association. The weather on 29th July was perfect for a sunny afternoon of bowls, followed by afternoon tea in the Pavilion. Players, donors and kitchen-helpers all ensured that the afternoon was a memorable success, with a grand total raised of



Bowlers from Lanchester with their guests on a lovely sunny afternoon

£240 for Meningitis UK, enjoyed playing bowls Rose. Irene's family were daughter, son-in-law and in memory of the late Mrs and we will miss her", said represented at the three charming grand-Irene Webb. "Irene the organiser, Patricia tournament by her children.

A TRIBUTE TO THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT



Teamwork ... 'You can depend on me, I depend on you'

At the time when so many people are watching the achievements of 'Team GB', the students of All Saints' Primary School offered their own tribute to the Games. Their end of term events are always superbly produced, and this one was truly a very special occasion. The Head introduced the event, reminding the audience that rehearsals had taken place during two school inspections, with children and staff due all credit for their commitment at such a busy time. The whole school was involved in the event, the

pupils entering the Olympic themed decorated hall with enthusiastic cheers, their first song 'A Long Time To Wait' telling of the excitement felt by London, after waiting so many years to host the Games. What followed was an exciting representation of the Olympics, with the youngsters performing the actions associated with various sports and describing in catchy songs the emotions of the athletes. The Olympics celebrated a Festival of Life, was the message, and songs told of the dreams and aspirations of the

sportsmen and women, their desire to do the best they could as individuals, and also working as a team. The sacrifice, effort and loneliness known for many years, until the moment came when they 'started to float on air'. The courage and the level of ability of the paralympic athletes

within the family of nations was also celebrated. Pupils sang of themselves as the 'New Generation', carrying the flag into the future, a thrilling moment, representing continuity and progress in life. Perhaps the most moving moment of the production was when a video was

shown, with various children across the globe watching on TV as elite athletes performed at the highest level. The children were themselves inspired by the London Games to take up a sport, and to become the 'champions of tomorrow' and future Olympians.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 18th September. The deadline for **adverts** is 16th September.

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