

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 13

Lanchester, December 2012

For contact information, see page 2

LIGHTS SWITCH-ON



**A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our contributors,
distributors and
readers**

Once again, the Christmas lights shine brightly for both residents and visitors. In this Olympic year, representatives of village sporting clubs were special guests at the ceremony. Our photo shows the lights being switched on by: left to right, Lucia Castro Atkinson and James Klime All Saints School; Andrew Smith and Alice Davis, EP School; with Olympic torch bearer Dennis Laycock (centre) and Ossie Johnson, Chair of Parish Council (right).

Story and more pictures, page 7

The Lions and their volunteer helpers provided an excellent Christmas meal for Lanchester Senior Citizens.

Santa arrived early!

*Lucky Angela Breeze. Lucky Santa too!
They certainly made the most of it!*

Full story, page 6

LIONS SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH



CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS



Lanchester residents are getting into the festive spirit. Just two examples here, left Burnhopeside Avenue and above, Deanery View.



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
In all the discussions about the proposed house building at the bottom of Cadger Bank, I have seen no mention of the existence of a water main running under the site. I can remember this 6-8 inch high pressure pipe being laid in 1966, when the Derwent Reservoir was constructed, and the pipe was needed to transport water to Sunderland.
There are also old mine workings in the area, of course.
W Austin

Thank you from Lanchester NSPCC committee

Our small committee has been busy fundraising over the past few months. In October we held an Autumn Draw and ticket sales from this amounted to £227. Prizes for the Draw included donations from Marks and Spencer, the Metro Centre and more locally, The King's Head Restaurant in Lanchester.
In early December we were fortunate to be given a day in the Tesco store at Delves Lane, Consett to collect for our charity, and this raised £174.
We would like to thank everyone who bought tickets, donated prizes and contributed to our collection in Tesco. We are very grateful for your support for this very worthwhile charity.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

The rainfall that caused the village to flood in June was phenomenal. When compared with climate records it was calculated to be approximately a once-in-100-years event.

But that doesn't mean that the chance of it happening again in our lifetimes is very small - the climate is changing and extreme weather events are becoming more common. In this year alone in County Durham there has been exceptionally severe flooding on six separate occasions.

It will be very difficult to protect ourselves against another phenomenal rainstorm in the future, because all of the straightforward things that could be done were done in 2003-4, when over £¼ million was spent on improvements and repairs to the village drainage system. However three things are being attempted.

1. The Environment Agency is reviewing the

existing river model to improve the understanding of flood risk from the Smallhope Burn in the village. A structural report on the walls which run along the west bank of the Smallhope Burn has also highlighted areas for improvement. The Environment Agency plans to provide each landowner with a copy of the report and offer advice towards any remedial actions identified.

2. The County Council and Northumbrian Water are working together in conjunction with EA to look to see where improvements might be made to our drainage and sewerage system. For example they are considering diverting the surface water running down Newbiggen Lane into Smallhope Burn before it reaches the village.

3. All of our gullies, drains and sewers need to be cleaned and inspected frequently but the

Government has required the County Council to reduce its total budget by 40%. Our County Councillors Ossie Johnson and Richard Young and our MP Pat Glass are making sure that everything possible is being done.

In addition, we should try to protect our own properties. With the best will in the world the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and the County Council are not going to be able to carry out major works in the near future, so if you think that your house is at risk you should consider your own protective measures. Jed in Lanchester Hardware will probably get in some simple products and Karen Gibson, the County Council's Community Flood Engagement Officer, will again display various protection devices in the village in January.
Mike Gladstone

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise:
Contact John Hurran, Advertising Manager
Telephone: (01207) 520288
Email: villagevoice adverts@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.

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for November 2012 is 92. The draw was made by Katrina Wilkinson of The Richmond Fellowship.

Gym Christmas Raffle

Thank you to:
Deano's Restaurant, Lanchester Dairies, Knitsley Farm Shop, Sweets and Treats, Lanchester Wines.
The total raised was £158.00.

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SILVER JUBILEE OF DEACON ANDREW O'CONNOR

Rev Andrew O'Connor celebrated 25 years as Permanent Deacon on Saint Andrew's day at Minsteracres Monastery and in the All Saints Catholic Church on Sunday.

At the gathering in the Parish Centre after Mass, Canon Spence highlighted the significance of Andrew being the first ever married deacon to be ordained in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. He paid particular tribute to Andrew's practical ministry with the unemployed in the difficult years after the closure of the Steel Works in Consett in the 1980s. On behalf of the people of Lanchester, Canon Spence especially thanked Andrew for his ministry at Willow Burn Hospice, his enthusiasm with 'Churches Together' and the expert support at the Solemn Easter Liturgies.

With a full heart, Andrew spoke lovingly of the sense of fulfilment and gratitude he felt for his beloved wife Marie, his

family here and across the continents, the Passionist Community at Minsteracres and all his friends and parishioners.

As lovely gifts were presented, and with a glass of fine prosecco spumante in hand, Canon Spence led us in song:

"Ad Multos Annos Vivas. Plurimosque Annos Vivas." (Many years of life. Many more years of life.)



Canon Spence giving thanks for Andrew's Silver Jubilee of Ordination as Deacon

NSPCC LONGSERVING MEMBER HONOURED



Pat Wills with her award from the Rotary Club

The longest serving member of Lanchester NSPCC Committee was honoured by Consett Rotary Club recently at a celebration dinner and presentation evening. Mrs Pat Wills joined the NSPCC committee when she moved to Lanchester 54 years ago, and has been an active member ever since. She has been a driving force behind many fundraising events and a regular at all the NSPCC activities. Consett Rotary Club has recently revived its earlier practice of presenting Community Awards to people who have been recognised as offering outstanding contributions to the community. Pat was nominated by fellow NSPCC member and Consett Rotary Club member, Mrs Colleen James, who gave a gracious citation detailing Pat's work and commitment during her time with the charity. She was also presented with a cheque for £100 for her charity of choice - no prizes for guessing where that will be going!



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 11th December 2012

Minutes

Ordinary meeting held on 13th November 2012 - approved.
Finance & Development Committee Meeting held on 28th November 2012 - approved.
Planning Committee Meeting held on 28th November 2012 - approved.

Police Report - received. Members were informed that Inspector Dave Turner has been promoted and that his replacement Inspector Chris Davies is in post. In addition PC John Henderson has been promoted and we are awaiting details of his replacement.

Correspondence

(1) Forestry Commission - consultation on three woodland grant schemes. Members discussed and received the information.
(2) Area Action Partnership and Parish Councils Committee - residents survey. Members discussed and received the survey results.
(3) Letter from resident - parking in the village. Members acknowledged that the issues of restricted time parking and provision of disabled parking bays have previously been explored and agreed that a response is sent to the resident informing them of the outcome of these previous investigations.

(4) County of Durham School Benevolent Fund. Members discussed and agreed not to send a donation.

(5) Durham County Council - Network News. Members received the information.

Area Action Partnership & Parish Councils Committee - Members received an update.

High Sheriffs Award 2013 - Members were informed that nominations are currently being sought. It was agreed to forward the information to the local schools.

National Tree Week Grant - Members were informed that the recent grant application for trees at Kitswell Park had been

successful and would be planted soon.

Tree Works - Village Green & Kitswell Park -

Members were informed of essential tree works in these two areas. The cost of the works was agreed.

Financial report - discussed and received.

Accounts for Payment - approved.

The Chair informed Members that two local Councillors had been involved in separate accidents. It was agreed to send cards of support.

Salary Review - Press and public were excluded from this item.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 8th January 2013 at 7.15 pm.

Alexander
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Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28th November 2012

Budget Position

The Lead Officer presented the finance information. Recommended - that the report be received.

Lanchester Miners' Banner Group

Members were informed of progress and considered the minutes and actions from the last meeting. Recommended - that the information be received.

Christmas Lights

Members discussed the recent Christmas Light Switch On and agreed that it had been successful. Members were informed that the new LED lights had been installed on the middle tree on the Village Green. It was agreed that they provided a good display and were an improvement on the existing provision which is dated.

Members were informed that the current provider of refreshments for the

event had informed the Council that they would be unable to provide the service in future. This generated a discussion on the event and possibilities for future years. Recommended - that the item is placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Kitswell Park Football Field

Progress is being made on seeking the soil samples to analyse the soil content. It was agreed to inspect the pitch in the New Year to ascertain whether the football teams can recommence playing.

Jubilee Oak

Arrangements are being made to plant the jubilee oak near to the path on the Village Green.

Members were informed that a recent application for a tree grant had been successful and that the project to plant a small number of trees at

Kitswell Park would be progressed.

Budgets 2012/13 and 2013/14

Recent correspondence received from the Government suggests that the tax base for local councils will not be protected. This means that the tax base is likely to be reduced.

In addition it is not known if the County Council will also still remove the double taxation grant which Lanchester currently receives of £1645 per annum.

It was agreed that a decision on precept could not be made until more information was made available.

Recommended that:

- the budget be agreed pending further discussion on the salaries;
- the decision on the precept be deferred to a future meeting.

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Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 28th November 2012

Members considered the following planning applications:

- (i) Listed building consent to replace five windows within the rear elevation at 7 Hollinside Terrace, Hollinside. No objection.
- (ii) Reduce and reshape two maple trees, felling of one horse chestnut tree at 4 Lee Hill Court, Lanchester. No objection but request that the felled tree is replaced with a suitable alternative.
- (iii) Pruning of two sycamore trees at 8 Lee Hill Court, Lanchester. No objection.
- (iv) Proposed alterations to front of property at 21a Front Street, Lanchester. Members raised the following objections to the application:
 - (a) the proposed columns and timber boarding both in style and materials are

out of keeping with the surroundings being in a conservation and article iv area.

(b) the proposed step could be a hazard and encroaches on the public highway.

(c) the additional lights above the sign would be unwelcome. In addition it appears that the lights have already been installed and are operating.

(v) Replacement of thirteen windows and one door at Lanchester Methodist Church, Front Street, Lanchester. No objection.

(vi) Erection of single storey rear extension at 11 Hurbuck Cottages. No objection.

(vii) Construction of bay window at front of site dwelling at 6 Humberhill Drive, Lanchester. Members expressed

concern that the proposals created a break in the current building line. In addition there was concern that this development may cause a privacy issue to neighbours.

Decisions of the Planning Authority

The following planning applications had been approved by Durham County Council:

- * Creation of access off Langley Lane into agricultural field (resubmission) on land to the South West of Fair View House, Fair View, Burnhope
- * Crown lifting of three Chestnut trees at

Alderdene House, Cadger Bank, Lanchester
 * Reduce height by 20% and pruning of one sycamore and one lime tree at Hinderwell, Durham Road, Lanchester

* Felling of three pine and one spruce tree, various removal of branches and deadwood and crowning of ten pine trees at 6 The Paddock, Lanchester

* Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions at 1 Watling Way, Lanchester

* Erection of agricultural storage building (retrospective) and erection of rain water storage at Colepike Home Farm, Lanchester

* Erection of a grain dryer cover and siting of a shipping container on land to the North East of Dunley Ford House, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester

* Removal of two lower branches and deadwood of one ash tree protected by a tree preservation order at 7 Front Street, Lanchester

* Increase roof height by 2 metres to incorporate new first floor. Installation of velux windows and demolition and rebuilding of garage at Tall Trees, Cadger Bank, Lanchester

POLICE REPORT

Reporting period: 21/10/2012 to 27/11/2012
 Number of calls for area: 60
 Alcohol seizures 0
 Dwelling burglaries 1 (Sunny Banks - utility room window jemmied whilst owners on holiday)
 Crime prevention advice: Now that darker nights are upon us, please remember to look at your own personal security and that of your dwelling, garage, shed etc. Keep a light on and curtains drawn when leaving your dwelling in the evening (and leave a radio on?); make sure all windows and doors are locked (and don't leave keys in lock on inside of door).
 Burglary (other) 0
 Bogus callers 0
 Anti-social behaviour and motorcycle incidents 8 (The Garths, Woodlands, reports of youths setting off fireworks, gone prior to

police arrival. Croft Court - Report of unknown youths ringing door bell several times. Lee Hill Court - Item thrown at resident's window. This area is a PACT priority; regular police patrols are made.)
 Criminal Damage 3 (Lee Hill Court - Resident's garden fence adjacent to alley way damaged. School, Durham Road - Window smashed by large stone. Durham Road - Bus shelter panels smashed. Enquiries continuing.)
 All thefts 1 (Charity box stolen from Takeaway, Front Street)
 Current PACT Priority is anti social behaviour in areas around Lanchester Village Centre in particular in Alley Way connecting Lee Hill Court with Percy Place and across Lanchester Valley Walk in the area of Station Cottages.

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LANCHESTER LIONS SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH



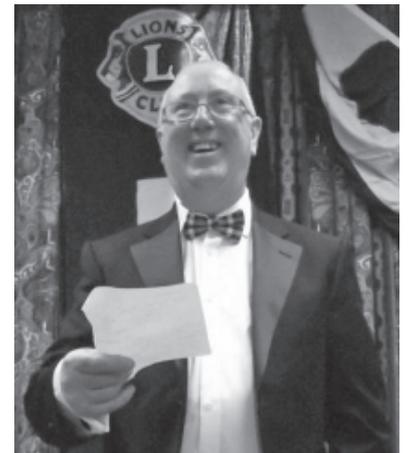
Senior Citizens assembled together for the Lions Christmas Lunch

For once the weather was reasonable and it was safe to go out, so the attendance was good with about 100 guests attending this annual event which is so popular among villagers, and has been for over 40 years. This year as members are few there were many volunteer helpers both in the kitchen and the eating area to assist the Lions'

Ladies. Several were grandchildren of Tony and Gloria Corry. The meal was excellent which began with a sherry followed by roast pork, vegetables and roast potatoes all supplied and prepared by H & J Brown of Tanfield Village who have carried out this service for the Lions club for over 40 years. The pudding was profiteroles

and chocolate mints. The atmosphere already festive was enhanced by the entertainment 'Young at Heart' (Noreen Breen and Friends), who gave a wonderful rendition of 1950's songs which took everyone down memory lane. They concluded their fine easy listening, well choreographed performance, with

seasonal songs and carols. The group was accompanied on the piano by the equally talented Joan Ellwood with the essential page turner, Genia Collins. All were warmly applauded at the finale of the concert.



Compère, Lion Ian Murray, who held the occasion together with consummate ease

Lion Ian Murray well all those who had helped make it such a wonderful occasion. At the beginning in his warm introduction he mentioned what a fabulous year it had been with the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic games. Later he introduced the entertainers and thanked those and all who contributed. Canon Bob Spence, a guest, also made a speech of thanks and praise to the Lions Club and entertainers, as

The beautiful table decorations, made by Andrea Stoddart, were raffled with free tickets and finally surprise, surprise, Santa Claus appeared to present everyone with a Christmas gift before they left for home. It was a wonderful event appreciated by all who attended.



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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

The cheerful notes of 'Jingle Bells', played by Lanchester Brass Band, accompanied the countdown to the wonderful moment when the button is pressed and the Christmas tree and other trees on the village are illuminated to give everyone a reminder that Christmas is near.

This year the central tree displayed new LED lights in warm white, blending in beautifully with the older lights, which the Parish Council hopes to replace when funds allow. The Band had entertained a good-sized crowd for some time before this year's special guest, Dennis Laycock, ably assisted by Alice Davis and Andrew Smith from the EP school and Lucia Castro-Atkinson and James Kimes from All Saints school and Parish Council Chairman Ossie Johnston, performed the all-important ceremony.

Dennis looked splendid in the white outfit he had worn when carrying the Olympic torch and the torch was there too.

As usual everyone then went for refreshments to the Chapter House, where the four children were presented with a selection box and Cllr Johnston spoke of the Parish's great pride that Dennis was chosen as an Olympic Torchbearer, congratulating Dennis and saying that it was very fitting to invite Dennis to switch on the lights as a representative of all the sporting organisations in the parish in a year when sport nationally and internationally had played such a huge role. Representatives of the Cricket, Football, Tennis, Badminton, Table Tennis and Bowling Clubs and of the Community Centre and Croft View Hall had also been invited.

Cllr Johnston emphasised how important a role the clubs play in the Parish and praised not only those who took part in the sports but also the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make them such a success. The clubs cater for young and old, beginners and accomplished, in clubs over a century old to new ones, and are a very important part of the community.

Cllr Johnson wished the sports clubs and activities best wishes for the future and thanked them for their tremendous work in providing opportunities and benefits for the Parish. Finally Cllr Johnston thanked the Parish Church for allowing the celebration to be held there and the ladies from the church, who are retiring after 25 years, for their superb food.



Lanchester Brass Band plays some lovely seasonal music at the village Christmas lights switch on, November 24th.



The All Saints Catering committee who are retiring after 25 years. This was their last event.

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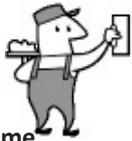
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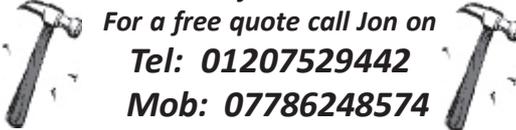


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VILLAGE VOICE AGM 2012

At the Village Voice AGM, Brian Oram, Chairman, presented the Annual Report which covered the main issues and activities over the last twelve months together with a forecast for the year ahead.

Personnel: Brian reported on the movement of personnel including the resignation of Mavis Datta as reporter on the Parish Council after 6 years of dedicated service. Sally Laverick, Lead Officer/Clerk of the Parish Council has agreed to provide this information for the Village Voice. Chris Boundey, Technician, agreed to provide information about events at St Bede's School.

Activities: During the year monthly issues of the paper had mainly been 20 or 24 pages and Brian thanked all the contributors which included members of the public and certain organisations who had been encouraged to send in their news. The

newspaper had been delivered to all households in Lanchester and some of the surrounding areas by approximately 40 volunteers. The organisation of the delivery system was completed by Mike Stoddart who received thanks for his hard and diligent work as were all of the volunteers who go out in all weathers to deliver their allocation of papers. One edition of the paper, the June Jubilee Edition, was 28 pages in length and was well received by the general public. Brian congratulated the Editorial Team/Compilers, Christine Monaghan and Ian Reece, for their achievement.

The newspaper is wholly funded by advertisement revenue from businesses in the local area and the Chairman thanked all advertisers for their continued support. The newspaper depends wholly on volunteer efforts from local people. Printing costs and other expenses are paid from the advertising revenue, but no one receives any remuneration for their time and effort. The Forecast for 2012/13 is anticipated continuance of the size of the paper at 20/24 pages, advertising of the 70 advertisers to continue to take about 20% of the space, and a print run of 2,700 copies per issue. John Hurran had secured the vast majority of regular long term advertisers for 2013 and was congratulated for his continued hard work. The Chairman reported a reasonably healthy bank balance and assets. He reported an improved efficiency of accounting by encouraging advertisers to bank electronically and by Paypal making a saving in costs. The Treasurer, Ken Todd, had been able to reduce bad debt to nil during the year and he was thanked for this fine achievement.



Chairman, Brian Oram, left, conducts the meeting with Company Secretary and compiler, Ian Reece, right.



The Village Voice team at the 2012 AGM: left to right, Anne McKenzie, Maisie Raine, John Hurran, Christine Monaghan, Brenda Craddock, Dorothy Maskery and standing, Ken Todd, Mike Stoddart and Brian Oram.

DUCK RACE



An excited little girl buys her duck for the race

An exciting, colourful Duck Race was held at the King's Head on the afternoon of Saturday 17th November. Inside, near the bar there was a tombola and a table where Ducks could be 'bought' for the race.

David Grogan, Assistant Manager, tipped what seemed to be hundreds of ducks over the bridge at the entrance to the car park and spectators then raced to the finish about 200 yards downstream where regular customers Pat

Thomson and Alan Moran gathered up the prize winning ducks. They spent a considerable time afterwards stumbling around gathering up all the others.

There were 25 prizes, including: a month's supply of ice cream from Lanchester Dairies; a mixed grill worth £20 from Porkies of Langley Park; and a fruit and vegetable hamper from H&J Brown, but most prizes were donated by The King's Head.

Duck number 132 won the race and a night's stay for two at the Kings, but the real winner was 'Children in Need' who benefited by £720.00. The King's Head would like to thank those mentioned who donated prizes and all other people, too many to name. It was certainly a fun worthwhile afternoon.



Ducks Away! David Grogan lets them go



The bright yellow coloured ducks make quite a spectacle as they travel downstream



Pat Thomson and Alan Moran have a precarious job collecting the ducks at the finish

ALLOTMENTS IMPROVED



A new fence and gate moved forward has recently been carried out at the perimeter of the allotments behind Durham Road. The work was undertaken by the appropriately named Simon Gardiner, left, and Robin Gates. On behalf of all the allotment holders they would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support so that improvements can be made.



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CHRISTMAS IN FULL BLING

Lanchester Flower Club held the second of their Open Demonstration Evenings in Lanchester Community Centre on Friday 23rd November.

The attendance was as in other years very good (80 to 90 people) and the club would like to say thank you for your support.

The Demonstrator was a very well known demonstrator Val Guest and her theme was "Berries Baubles and Bling". She is an area NAFAS Demonstrator. Val has worked as a florist for many years having her own shops and she has accrued a vast knowledge of all types of flowers, foliage and how best they can be used in floral arrangements.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful and most entertaining evening with some fabulous arrangements and great ideas. The arrangements were overflowing with beautiful flowers Carnations, Roses, Orchids and Amaryllis of all colours and shades.



Val Guest with her fabulous arrangements

The beautiful arrangements included formal and modern designs. The arrangements were raffled on the evening to the delight of the winners. The evening ended with tea and coffee and a light supper.

There was once again an exceptional home produce stall along with other handiwork items for sale. We would like to thank Gillian Harrison

and Jane Pegram for all their hard work prior to the evening and their time on the night. Thanks once again to all who supported and helped on the evening. The Club intends holding a 5 week flower arrangers class for beginners in Lanchester Community Centre in the Spring. If you are interested, could you please contact Helen Tomlinson on 01207

503667, Norma Jessen 01027 520574 or Lestrine Kelly 01027 521494. This will help us to ascertain whether this class is feasible. The cost would be approximately £20 for the 5 weeks course plus the cost of flowers needed each week. Naturally the more people who are interested the less the overall cost could be. Give us a call if you are interested.



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Gardening in January

There is always something to do in the garden. January is not the best month but some jobs are given below for some of the finer days.

In the Flower Borders
Prune wisteria cutting back the summer side buds to 2 or 3 buds and prune roses now that they are dormant. If you haven't already done so, cut down old stems of perennials like sedum, phlox, lupin, delphinium, etc taking care not to damage any

new growth. Remove any faded flowers from winter flowering pansies and violas to keep them flowering.

In the Vegetable Plot
Keep harvesting your parsnips and leeks and remove any yellowing leaves from brassicas. Start chitting early potatoes by standing them in old egg boxes on a light, frost free, window sill. If you want an early crop of, say, peas, place a cloche over an area prior to sowing in a few weeks time.

General
Do not walk on your lawn if it's covered by heavy frost or snow as this will damage the grass beneath and brush heavy snow off hedges and conifers to prevent the branches from snapping. Shred your Christmas tree and add to your compost or, alternately, keep the branches as they make excellent pea sticks. Check any bulbs and tubers in storage and remove any that are showing signs of rotting.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH WILLOW BURN

Willow Burn's Festive Fayre was held this year on November 24th, with early shoppers thronging into St Bede's hall, intent upon a successful Christmas shopping expedition. A wide variety of stalls offered solutions for everyone looking for that special present. Willow Burn's merchandise and range of toiletries make attractive gifts, and you can catch up with the selection by visiting their on line shop.

Willow Burn staff had also produced a delicious array of home made wines, jams and chutneys, all proving a great attraction for shoppers. Books were on sale, along with pies, cakes and festive wreaths. A popular attraction came from Greencroft Art Group, who held a raffle for a painting by Joe Hush. Joe is a fine local painter, who finds inspiration in the beautiful countryside of the North East, and

tutors the Greencroft artists. The ever popular Tombola enjoyed a great deal of support, hand made cards and gifts tempted many people, and refreshments were on hand for those who needed a welcome break from buying. An important visitor was Santa Claus, seated in his grotto and making sure children really had been good over the past year! Shoppers were entertained by a local



Three year old Anya Ward - a regular visitor to the hospice, with Santa



Great selection of Teddy Bears - much admired

'COME TO THE FAIR'

The Parish Church always holds its annual fair in November within sight of Christmas and as always there were many busy shoppers looking for bargains on November 24th. The vicar, Reverend Rupert Kalus, opened the Fair and such was his encouragement, that people did 'Spend, Spend, Spend'. The fantastic total of money raised was £2,729.68. All the work that such an event entails was absolutely worth the effort. Brenda Craddock



Ladies in charge of the superb raffle prizes



Now that's a nice gift for Christmas



Scrumptious cakes!

group 'State Express the 1960's and 70's. The Five', who added a lovely atmosphere to the event. The group is made up of friends coming from all over the area, and they specialise in music from

the 1960's and 70's. The band are available to play at weddings and various functions, and they can be contacted through Chris Morrison, 07759097051.

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TABLE TOP SALE FOR VILLAGE LINK BUS

The tea ladies stop for a minute or two, with Karen Bravington (organiser of the event) on the left of the picture.



Once again Karin Bravington organised a very successful event to raise money for this important amenity - the Village Link Bus - which enables residents to get in and out of the village to shop, attend to business and to socialise. Available to anyone, young or old, it is supported by the Lanchester Partnership and Karin does a lot to enable it to keep going. There were more than ten stalls, ranging from bric-a-brac to clothing, gifts, jewellery and very moving black and white prints of the work of coalminers. There were refreshments and a tombola and raffle. Everyone seemed to enjoy their morning

out and the grand total of £600.20 was raised. Karin would like to thank Lanchester Hardware, Crinnions, the Chemists, Deano's, Country Gifts, the Red Cross and Newsagents for superb raffle prizes. Also she would like to thank Marie, Geraldine, Norma and the two Sheilas for serving the refreshments, Mike and Mavis on tombola and raffle and Lynn for being a great help in general. Thanks, too, to the Social Club for the room once again and heartfelt thanks to the anonymous donor of £100. Most of all, however, Karin extends her thanks to all those who attended and made it such a good event.



Plenty going on at the Breatheasy table

SHOPPING TRIP TO YORK

There are some very keen shoppers in Lanchester and for over 20 years there has been a November Christmas Shopping trip to York. There is always a full bus made even fuller on the return journey by many commercial plastic bags of all shapes and sizes packed with goodies, not all of which

are for Christmas! Look out for smart outfits on Front Street when you are shopping this week! Proceeds from the trip go to the Croft View Fund. There is such good fellowship on the bus and we all have a tale to tell of our lovely shopping day. Some of us shop 'til we drop! Everyone completes the

day with a meal before leaving York, choosing their own venues, and we are back in the village for 9.00 pm. If you would like to come next year let Rosemary Naylor know. It is always in November, and she is the one who organises it and she will be pleased to hear from you. All are welcome. Brenda Craddock



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Happy Shoppers: Anne Scott, Hazel Gaskill, and Joan Massey

ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Wall to wall people was excited, eager young the only way to describe customers. In the same the early stages of little room where these this highly popular were held was a Christmas Fair held at a fabulous mouth All Saints' Primary watering cake stall School on Friday adjacent to the kitchen afternoon, 30th where hot dogs were November. The school on sale. It was a great hall was crammed so full atmosphere with it must have been everyone happy to difficult to sell and serve spend their hard so many people with all earned money for the the delightful gifts and school. A massive tombolas and grand total of £3139.64, raffle available. Two including matched things a little different funding from Barclays were the braiding stall Bank, was raised at the for girls and the nail event. See the back page for painting table. Both another picture. had long queues of



A smiling group of young girls eagerly awaiting their turn to have their nails painted by Monica Verlet, which was one of the 'new' stalls at this year's Fair.



Things were very busy, as might well be expected in such circumstances, on the sweets tombola.

RED CROSS THANKS

The November Coffee Morning was the last one for this year; we will not be holding one in December. Our thanks go to everyone who has given such tremendous support throughout the year. From next year we will be holding three or four coffee mornings throughout the year, for example at Easter, March 21st. Further dates will be advertised later. Unfortunately we have

been asked by the Red Cross management only to use the Red Cross bags for purchases; this will begin in January with the bags costing 10p each. If you do not wish to purchase a bag please bring a bag with you when you use the shop. Everyone from the shop would like to thank you for your support throughout the year and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks, Tracey

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CHILDREN IN NEED



Foundation children at the EP School enjoy dressing up as Pudsey Bear and having their faces painted for Children in Need. A coffee afternoon was held for parents later in the day. The total raised by the school for Children in Need was an excellent £406.62. Nursery staff and pupils join together for the photo.

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EP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

All the ingredients were there to make this the usual excellent event that it always is. It was difficult to squeeze more people in, the atmosphere was certainly seasonal and

there was a good variety of tables and refreshments.

There were several good money making tombolas, always popular, but it was good to see how many stalls had goods which were made in school by the children eg, pom poms, cup cakes, wind chimes, and cakes on sticks which were somewhat different. Children made and organised various games and raffles as well. A good popular addition was the tattoo area, and three face painters nearby worked nonstop.

The grotto was extremely busy as was the craft area and refreshment room, where long queues waiting for hot dogs, teas, coffees and cakes were well worth waiting for. The ladies serving these were proud of their new health and safety apparel with latex gloves, pinnies and hair tied back. They worked very hard without time for a break.

Friday 7th December was a bad day in the village with iced up roads and pavements but a good day for the school as a massive £1337.30 was raised for their funds.

See also page 24.

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A busy games stall where the children made and organised various games.

A SPOTTY DAY FOR ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY



The secret of baking is in the preparation. Year 6 children preparing their spotty (as a tribute to Pudsey Bear) buns, covered in Smarties, and these would be sold in aid of the Children in Need appeal charity.

On 16th November, the students of All Saints' Primary School were covered in spots ... but this was no mysterious epidemic, just their response to the annual Children in Need appeal! Various activities were planned for the event - it was a non uniform day, with all proceeds going towards the appeal, and the pupils were very aware of the importance of helping needy children everywhere. Students had come to school that day in clothes featuring colourful dots, as a tribute to Pudsey Bear, the mascot of the campaign. Year 6 children

baked spotty buns, covered in Smarties, and these would be sold in aid of the charity. The whole school was involved in the events of the day, with Year 2 youngsters proudly displaying their tee shirts, all of which had, of course been decorated in ... colourful spots! The total sum raised for the charity was £340, a magnificent effort by the whole school. Well done everyone!

EARLY CRACKER JOKES

Why did the boy throw his toast out of the window?

He wanted to see the butterfly.

What sentence would you get if you broke the law of gravity?

A suspended one.

What do you get if you cross a sheep with a grasshopper?

A woolly jumper.

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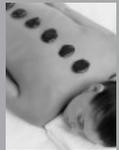
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CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CHILDREN

A very special Christmas Party for children was held the Social Club on Sunday 2nd December. It was organized by Stephanie Watson to raise money for the University of Durham Chemotherapy Unit where her sister, the late Kelly Casher, had received such good care and treatment. Kelly, a young mother of three

children, passed away during March this year after a very courageous battle with cancer. The hall was packed, the atmosphere was electric; with a loud disco and plenty of dancing. There were lots of games with everyone joining in and a great buffet. What more could children want at this time of the year except a visit from

Santa - and that happened too. The amount raised was just over £200. Stephanie would like to thank all those who supported the event in different ways and helped to achieve such a magnificent total as well as all of the assistance that she had with the organisation of the event.



The children gathered together who enjoyed the Christmas party so much.

THURSDAY CLUB OUTING

Nestled into a corner of the city walls of Newcastle 300 years ago was a Dominican Friary which tended to integrate into and help the local community. Today it has been transformed into an absolute gem of a restaurant complete with its own shop and banqueting hall. Our day started off with a very wet bus journey into Newcastle and fortunately for us our driver got us almost to the door. Once inside we started our day off in the delightful atmospheric baronial hall where we were greeted with a glass of prosecco, wine or orange. The hall with its under floor heating which keeps everyone warm and cosy looks very mediaeval with antler candle lighting, heraldic banners, beautiful oak wooden

tables, old stone walls and flickery candles in huge glass hurricane lamps. Our host for the day, the charming co-owner of Blackfriars, Andy Hook gave an introductory talk about the lovely old venue itself, which would in its day have hosted royalty in the very room in which we, the Thursday Club, were now sitting. We then had a most interesting and informative talk on matching food with wine (plus a little to drink) - we shall all be such experts next time we're out! Then it was on to the restaurant where they aim to use locally sourced food and wine in an effort to support the local economy. We had a choice from a set menu (so nice to actually choose on the day). Starters were Jerusalem

artichoke and potato soup or North Sea fishcake + homemade tartare sauce. Mains were roast butternut squash and sage risotto with fresh Parmesan, Scottish salmon, wilted spinach with dill and mustard sauce or homemade pork sausage, mashed potato and onion gravy. Puds were spiced Bramley apple crumble with cinnamon ice cream or sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream and salted caramel. This was accompanied by a glass of wine and rounded off with tea or coffee. We then had time to visit the shop and finally a pleasant journey home, as one of our members so succinctly put it - interesting talk, good food, good wine, in all FANDABIDOZI - what more can you say?

ALL SAINTS' SHOPPING NIGHT

On Friday 19th October shoppers were greeted with a glass of sparkling wine as they arrived at the Friends of All Saints Primary School's first shopping night. It afforded shoppers the opportunity of browsing in a friendly atmosphere and making the odd purchase ahead of Christmas. Enticed into the hall by the perfume of the lotions and potions of Temple Spa and Imago Beauty Salon they discovered a diverse range of stalls with items on offer

from as little as 35p to the top of the range items in Jamie Oliver's 'Jamie at Home' collection. Nobody left empty handed as there were items to suit all tastes. 'Sweet Sally Cinnamon', a local supplier of baking kits and home wares, proved exceptionally popular tempting customers with samples of homemade cinder toffee. Craft stalls from 'Giant Button' and 'Gingernuts' lent an air of whimsy with some very cute characters up for sale. Beautiful children's stories

and craft ideas allowed us to stock up on Christmas gifts for the little ones courtesy of 'Usborne Books' with cards and wrapping paper available from 'Phoenix Cards'. Paul Ougton's art stall aroused much interest, as did a selection of jewellery and 'Lucky Ladybirds' cute little glass creatures were irresistible. Lanchester Garden Centre's stall was packed with goodies from the gift shop and they were particularly generous; donating 10% of their

takings to the Friends at the end of the night.

The Friends would like to extend their thanks to all of the stall holders for their hard work and also to all those who supported us and made this event such a resounding success. An incredible £650 was raised from ticket sales, a raffle and the donations from stallholders. This will go towards equipment and activities to enhance the children's experience at school.

Previous purchases by the Friends of All Saints include the outdoor play equipment at the school, new goal posts on the school field, reward activities for year 6 students and much more. The Friends of All Saints is a Parent Teacher

Association style of organisation but the membership is open to any interested party ie grandparents, parents of a former student, parishioners etc. We meet to organise a range of fundraising and social events throughout the year, so if you would like to get involved, you can contact us via the school on 01207 520435 or email lanchesterallsaints@durhamlearning.net.



Shoppers enjoying the sparkling wine whilst looking for Christmas presents

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The 'Open House Christmas Special', in the Chapter House of the Parish Church, took place on Thursday, December 6th. The room was filled with our regulars and other friends who all enjoyed being waited upon by five handsome waiters, one of whom was our vicar, and who were all dressed for the occasion in bow ties and Santa hats. Everyone

was greeted with a glass of ginger wine, made by our own Hazel Gaskill, and then made their way to a table where there were further goodies for them, in the form of a Christmas Card, a large cracker, and a small chocolate Santa. There followed a feast of delicious seasonal sandwiches prepared by Maureen Barker, well known for her culinary

skills, and her team of two, Phyllis Reed and Barbara Sproat. Everyone had a carol sheet and carols were sung to the accompaniment of a baritone, brass instrument, played by Brenda. A very happy atmosphere prevailed and after wishing one another Merry Christmas it was time for home, though for a number of us the morning ended with a time of prayer in church led by one of our lay readers, Mrs Ann Sinclair accompanied by Mrs Lorna Berry. Brenda Craddock



Musician and Open House organiser Brenda Craddock with, left to right: Church Wardens, Dennis Geer, Peter Smith and Verger/Crucifer Eric Gaskill.

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FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY



Nothing like a lively dance for some of the youngsters

Sunday afternoon 9th December at the Social Club was hectic. It was certainly a family party as Granddads, Grandmas, parents and children turned out to support Canon Bob Spence in his Jubilee Year.

There was plenty to do. Tripping over the children to Dan Graham's brilliant disco was the first thing on the agenda. Afterwards it was raffles, Bingo and a Christmas Quiz for children of all ages. A thoroughly good time

was had by all and kindness and support from so many people of all ages. The total for this day to give his vote of event was £244 which was a fine achievement.



A lovely family group ready for action

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Our favourite restaurant of the moment is Finbarr's and that's where we went for our Christmas lunch outing. When we got there it was to find the restaurant all decked out in delightfully understated decorations, which just captured the festive spirit. It was really busy with a good few large Christmas parties in, and other people from Lanchester besides ourselves. Even so we were welcomed into the warm festive interior and quickly served with a selection of bread and olives to nibble on while we perused the menu.

In addition to their à la carte, Finbarr's have a set lunch time menu which is exceptional value. For Christmas the 2 course is £18.50 and 3 course £21 + a 10% service charge. It took a while to decide but eventually we chose for starters pork and pistachio terrine with homemade plum chutney, and home-smoked salmon and crayfish salad with marinated beetroot and horseradish cream. For main course we sampled traditional turkey with chipolatas, sage and onion stuffing, cranberries and bread sauce, roast pheasant

with smoky bacon cabbage, hazelnut butter and cider sauce, rare breed pork cooked two ways with Stornaway black pudding, crisp crackling and apple sauce. For puds it was brown sugar parfait with roasted pear, and chocolate meringue with brandied cherries, vanilla and chestnut cream. As the picturesque puds appeared it was 'oooh - oh and look at that', they look too good to eat - but of course we did. As one we all raved over the meal, we so enjoyed it. Finbarrs - somewhere special!

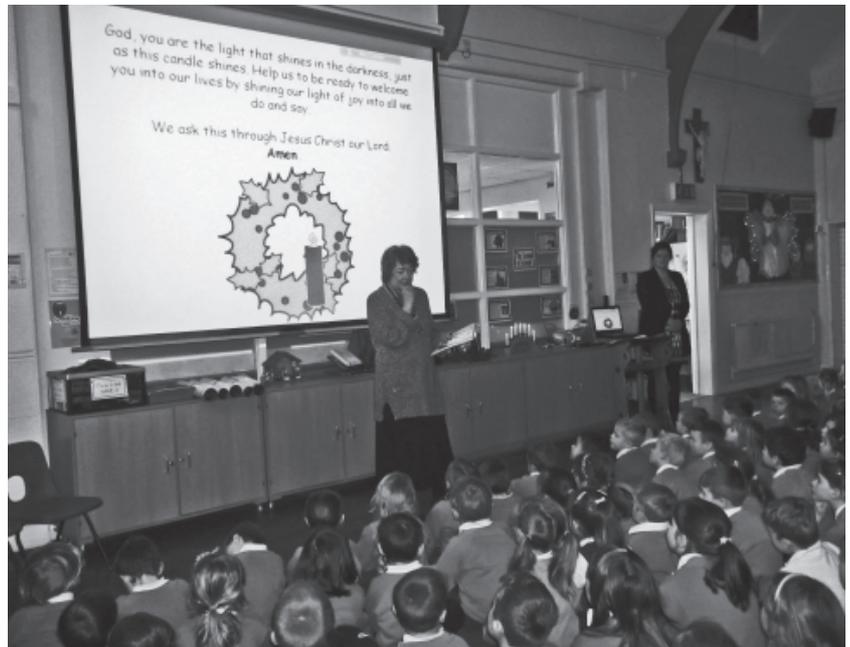
The Gourmet Girls

LANCHESTER YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SERVING OTHERS

The first assembly of December was very important for Year 4, 5 and 6 students at All Saints' Primary School. The first candle was lit on the Advent wreath, and the Deputy Headteacher Mrs Alison Conlin reminded the children that this was the time of waiting and preparation before Christmas. It was a special period, when we should make ourselves ready for the birth of Jesus, and when we should think of other people. This theme of service to others was continued in the words of Fiona Ward and Ian Forster, representatives of the Rotary Club of Consett.

The pupils heard that the Rotary Club was a world-wide, multi faith organisation, whose members were always ready to assist across the world whenever their support was needed. Recognition was also given to service within the community, and schools were invited to nominate individual students who had shown themselves ready to help other people. In this case, a group of young people were recognised as carrying out tasks to help and support their local church of All Saints.

The pupils presented with awards were: Lucy Turner and Olivia Tones from Year 4; Year



Fiona Ward from the Rotary Club of Consett, tells students about the organisation's world wide service.

5 pupils were Danny Peters, Jonathan Bunting, Jasmine Williams, Eva Cadem-Lambert, Rebecca Tiplady and Josephine Liddle; Jack Lamb and Louis Lyonette are their commitment. The young people attend church every morning, helping to serve mass, even during school holidays, and they can all feel very proud of their commitment. They received special Rotary Club certificates, and the school received a trophy and a banner, both of which will be proudly displayed.

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

The school hall at the EP school on November 27th resounded with much laughter and merriment, as the whole school were gathered there to watch and participate in a pantomime, namely 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'. This seemed an unusual choice for a pantomime, as it deals with a serious issue but the performance and skill of the actors made it very acceptable for a young audience. The M and M Company have brought pantomime to our two primary schools for a number of years and they are excellent. There are only 4 actors who take all the parts and this is managed to perfection. Their audience is drawn into the performance immediately, so good is their rapport with the

children. The songs they use are those which are in the charts and therefore well known ensuring that the children will join in and thus get really involved in the action. The part of the hunchback was very sensitively portrayed and performed so that his outward appearance mattered little against his kindness and generosity of spirit. The baddy was his good looking elder brother but it was the disabled brother whom the audience took to their heart. Once again, as in all good pantomimes, good triumphed over evil. The pupils were so attentive and receptive of this pantomime and gave it tumultuous applause. The M and M company will certainly be welcomed back next year!

Brenda Craddock



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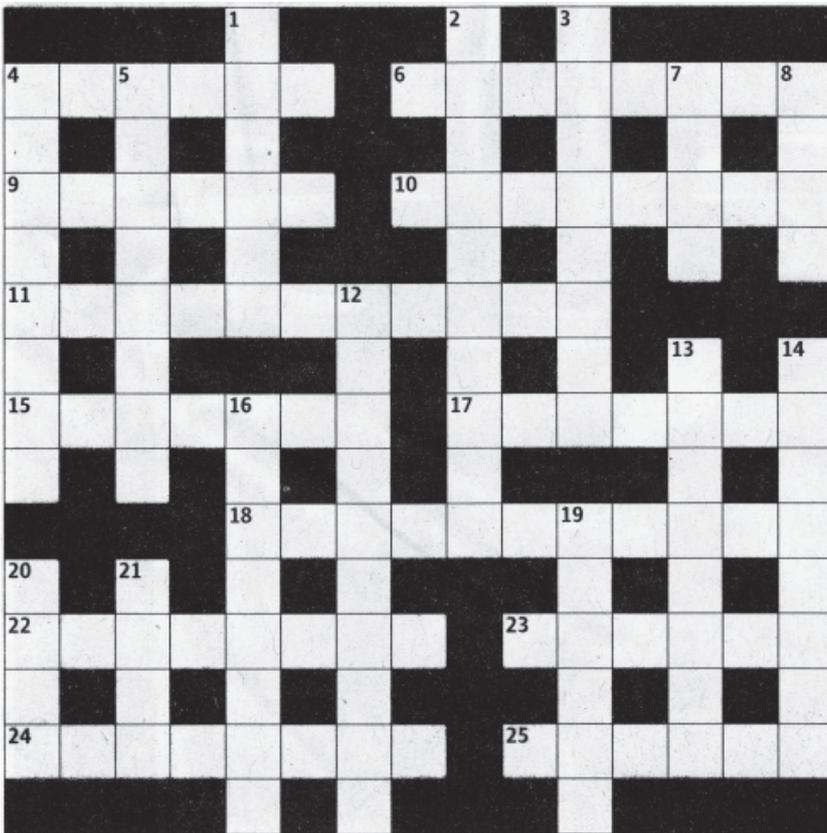
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CROSSWORD 80



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CROSSWORD 79

There were just 10 entries in last month's crossword competition. We are sorry that the sigma symbol (3. down) did not print correctly. Congratulations to Fred Heppell of Lee Hill Court who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ACROSS

4. Petty details (6)
6. Careless (8)
9. Fairly good (3,3)
10. Reportedly (2,2,4)
11. Acceleration (4,2,5)
15. Citizen of Kigali? (7)
17. Brief (7)
18. A great colic is unambiguous (11)
22. Light rays (8)
23. Point to fish for breath of fresh air (6)
24. Passions rise from soot mine (8)
25. Unorthodoxy (6)

DOWN

1. Japanese emperor (6)
2. Demonstrate your nationalism (3,3,4)
3. Disco pie is irregular (8)
4. Modify cutter in alcoholic solution (8)
5. Break (8)
7. Goes with band, strong and wind (4)
8. Failures (4)
12. Smugness (10)
13. Date once for yarn (8)
14. Drink on a stick (3,5)
16. Run-down (8)
19. Bounder (6)
20. Small island (6)
21. Open

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 79

ACROSS

- 1,5. grist to the mill
5. see 1
10. smug
- 11,16,18,27. faint heart never won fair lady
12. sleaze
13. coalesce
14. programme
16. see 11
17. tweak
19. seductive
23. inhalant
24. strive
26. baking soda
27. see 11
28. Cranmer
29. storeys

DOWN

2. rambler
3. sigma
4. taffeta
6. hitman
7. Mt. Everest
8. Lord Coe
9. circumvention
15. gradation
18. see 11
20. upstart
21. vividly
22. mangle
25. ruler

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.

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

MONDAY CLUB CELEBRATION



The audience enjoyed the melodious tones of All Saints Choir who gave a superb rendition of seasonal music and carols.

What a splendid evening! Those who attended from the club and helpers had a wonderful start by enjoying the melodious tones of All Saints Choir who gave a superb rendition of seasonal music and carols, finishing with the lively 'Wish you a Merry Christmas'. They performed similarly at Willow Burn Hospice on the previous Friday, where once again patients and staff were enthralled. Their teacher, Miss Egglestone should be congratulated on her efforts with the pupils. Members then tucked into a marvelous buffet with so much variety, consumed with a glass of ginger wine. Canon Bob Spence joined them at the central table with about

15 or so members of all ages. Following this was another concert, this time by 'Young at Heart', who began with show music leading into 50's/40's style, in two sessions. These well known songs were greatly appreciated and to some, brought back fond memories. Their costumes, movement, and vivacity when they sang were a delight to watch. The evening at this time of the year would not have been complete without a visit from Santa Claus who duly appeared on schedule to the delight of everyone in the room. The free raffle was an added bonus as well. Henry Edwards, Treasurer, made a lovely speech of thanks and reminded

members of their next Christmas treat which is a visit to Sunderland Empire to see Peter Pan. Fifteen members and 10 helpers are going. The Area Action Partnership provided funding for this lovely, different night out. Although the Monday Club is a Catholic initiative, held at the Parish Centre most Mondays, everyone in the community is welcome. Transport is provided for those who find it difficult to get about. Usually games and bingo are played and it's a great social occasion for those who are unable to meet, for whatever reason, with people of similar interests or needs. For more information call please Gloria Corry on 01207 520783.



A very agreeable buffet enjoyed by all. The enjoyment was assisted by a glass of ginger wine.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Leek and Potato Soup

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 200 g potatoes
- 200 g leeks
- 1 onion
- Shake of black pepper
- 300 ml water + chicken stock cube
- 200 ml milk
- 2 - 3 sprigs of parsley

Method

- 1 Wash and peel potatoes. Cut into small pieces. Wash and slice the leeks.
- 2 Peel and slice the onion.
- 3 Put the onion, leeks, potatoes in a saucepan with the water and stock cube. Simmer for 30 minutes or until the vegetables are tender.

- 4 Wash, dry and chop the parsley finely.
- 5 Place the soup in a liquidiser and liquidise for 1 minute or press through a sieve with a wooden spoon.
- 6 Return the soup to the pan. Add milk and pepper. Reheat, but do not boil. Serve in soup bowls, sprinkle with parsley and serve with slices of toast.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

WHAT'S ON?

New Year's Eve Ceilidh

Dance your way into the New Year at the Community Centre with the Angels of the North ceilidh band. Tickets £7.50 or £6.50 for under 16s. Contact Elaine Williams on 01207 520063 for tickets.

Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on January 6th from 2.00 pm. Only £3. Everyone welcome.

Paradiso Social (Film Club)

The next Social will be held on Sunday January 6th 7 pm - 9.15 pm in the main hall of the Community Centre. There will be a Raffle, Refreshments and the chance to see a film on the Big Screen. The film we are going to show is 'The Last of the Blonde Bombshells'. This features an all star cast including the final performance of the late Joan Simms. The 'Last of the Blonde Bombshells' follows recently widowed Elizabeth (Judi Dench) as she attempts to revisit her musical past. After running into the ex-drummer of her swing band (Ian Holm), Elizabeth sets out to reunite the members of the group and through her journey the music of her past comes to life! All are welcome. Annual membership is £5 pa (worth it if you expect to come regularly) as members pay £2.50 entry. Other visitors pay £3.50 for the Social which includes the raffle, refreshments and film.

PACT Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd January at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

WI

Our next meeting will be held in the Small Hall on Monday 7th January starting at 7.00 pm. The speaker will be Ray Topping from the Derwentside Carers Centre. The competition is a hat made from paper and 6 pins to be worn on the night. The evening will finish with June's soup. Subscriptions of £33 are due at this meeting and you could pay by cheque. We wish everyone a very happy new year and if you would like to come as a visitor you will be sure of a very warm welcome.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 8th January at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Noel Jackson will give a talk entitled 'Both sides of the Andes'.

Junior/Family Wildlife

On 13th January, there will be a visit to Seaton Carew. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30 am. We intend to leave for home at 12 noon.

Exercise class change of venue

From 8th January, the over 50s exercise class that was held in the library will be moving to Croft View Hall. It will still take place on Tuesdays at 1 pm, £1.50 per session. Hope to see everyone there. Monica

Mothers' Union

The January meeting on Wednesday 9th is the Wave of Prayer service and an enrolment. We will meet in the Chapter House and go into church for 7.30 pm.

Short Circuit Walks

January 12th, 10.30 am, Newcastle Quayside to South Gosforth, 5.5 miles. Meet at the Millennium Bridge, NZ257641.

January 26th, 10.30 am, Newburn and Wylam, 5 miles. Meet in the car part north of The Keelman, NZ61657.

Flower Club

Wednesday 23rd January a Slide Show and Talk 'World Show Highlights' by Jean Gibbon. Come and join us. We are in the Main Hall of Lanchester Community Centre and we commence at 2 pm.

WILLOW BURN UPDATE

"Probably the best we've organised yet", was the comment CEO at Willow Burn, Helen Mills, conveyed to her events team after the hospice's Christmas Fair. Despite having other Christmas events in the village to compete with on the same date, Willow Burn managed to make nearly £4,800. Many thanks to everyone who came along and dug deep into their pockets for the hospice. **Runners Come Up Trumps**

Willow Burn is seeing its best year yet for **Great North Run** participation. With monies still coming into the hospice coffers, to date the income through sponsorship for the event has brought in over £15,000.

Nova has recently allocated Willow Burn 35 places for the 2013 Great North Run but the charity has applied for an additional 20. Places are £49 each this year, with the fundraising target staying at £250. Anyone wanting a place, or who may already have a place and want to

raise sponsorship monies for Willow Burn, you should contact Sue on (01207) 523295 or sfox@willowburnhospice.org.uk

Willow Burn's **Tree of Remembrance** got off to a great start on 1st December. The hospice received over £1000 in donations in the first seven days, as individuals and families called in to Matalan's foyer, where the 12 foot tree stands waiting to be festooned with card baubles bearing messages of love and remembrance for deceased relatives and friends.

Willow Burn Wood

Land gifted to Willow Burn by the late Sir Tom Cowie is to be the site of a new woodland that will be created to celebrate and commemorate life, as well as provide much needed funds to build the new Willow Burn Hospice.

The land, currently a bare field site, located in the Derwent Valley, at Allensford, will soon be planted with whips. These have been grown by Butterwick Trees and are predominately of English Oak that will live for 450 years. A smaller quantity of other species, cherry, rowan and crab apple will be planted alongside to provide variety in colour, texture and perfume.

To find out how you can remember a loved one, commemorate a special occasion, or just help reduce our carbon footprint, all whilst helping fund a new hospice for Derwentside, go to www.willowburnwood.co.uk. or speak to Danielle on (01207) 529224. Sponsoring a tree costs £50.

WI NEWS

Vice president Ann Carr welcomed members to our Christmas party, informed members about entry forms for a free to enter poetry contest and that voting slips need to be sent to WI house by 20th January. Member Sara Parker-Fuller has started a charity for the homeless called Hats for the Homeless, more details at the January meeting. Maureen Clarkson was 21 again and we all sang happy birthday. A teddy had been donated, this was auctioned before we enjoyed our supper. The committee had arrived early to set everything up ready for

the members and as usual the food brought was bountiful, delicious and enjoyed by all. After we had finished eating Rhoda and Heather entertained us with a sketch based on a radio show which we all joined in, it was very funny and great fun. Chairs were set out for the Chinese raffle with 22 lucky winners before we entered the main hall to be entertained by Lanchester Male Voice Choir who as always sang beautifully accompanied by Noreen. They then joined us for their supper before our party ended. This was a lovely evening, a big

thank you and Season's Greetings to everyone. On the first frosty morning of winter 5 WI members (including Heather who wrote this report) and friends set out on the County WI trip to Chatsworth House staying at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel overnight where the staff treated them like VIPs. After a delicious breakfast it was off to Chatsworth where they had a fabulous lunch and the fantastic Christmas decorations were themed to pantomimes. The day went too quickly but what a well organised county WI trip it was.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF GOLF FOR MARK RIDLEY

Local professional golfer Mark Ridley ended a great year of golf on a high by winning NE/NW Professional Golfers Association Player of the Year. A presentation took place on Friday 30th November and those who attended included golfers from all over the north. Mark plays on the NE/NW PGA circuit and this year he has rarely finished outside the top ten. His wins have included the O'Reilly Cumbrian Masters, Whickham & Barnard Castle Pro-ams and the North East Audi Pro Am Tournament. Mark's final competition of the year was in Portugal, 14 shots off the lead after the second round he shot an impressive 13 underpar for the last two rounds to move up the leader board and finish in 3rd place.



Mark receives his award

GAME, SET AND MATCH AT THE NET

continued from page 24 Steven White for their assistance. The final session had a Christmas theme with games and treats, and, as can be seen from the photograph, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The club would like to thank all coaches and volunteers for their hard work throughout the season. Although the club teams have not fared so well in their respective leagues this year, all matches were competitive and close. Both the ladies and mixed teams had been promoted, but the higher leagues proved difficult to crack. Back in more familiar territory next year! With the exception of one social function

being postponed, all other events were well supported. The acquisition of new maintenance equipment should enable the courts to be further improved in 2013 and provide a good playing surface for next season. Tennis, of course, does not stop in the winter. Members play most Sunday mornings at the Green School courts and there is a thriving 'Touch Tennis' club at St Bede's on a Tuesday night. So lots to look forward to in 2013, and if anyone requires any information about the club, please don't hesitate to contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and friends.

'PEERS IN SCHOOLS' VISIT FROM BARONESS ARMSTRONG

To celebrate the second annual Parliament Week and to encourage students to engage more with the political and parliamentary process, St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords on Friday 16th November. Baroness Armstrong met with Sixth Form

students who are studying Politics and History. At the meeting she talked about the work and role of the House of Lords and her involvement in it. This was followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary processes and life at Westminster generally.

Maria Matthews, Headteacher said: "This was really a fantastic opportunity for our students to interact with someone who knows the parliamentary system inside out, as it can sometimes seem so far removed from their daily lives. Baroness Armstrong was the ideal person to speak to the students as she has

experience of both the House of Commons and House of Lords." The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's 'Peers

in Schools' programme, which has been running since 2007 and has so far involved around 50,000 young people.



Baroness Hilary Armstrong with 6th form students and staff at St Bede's

PAM'S PARTY

This lovely party has become an annual event when theatre goers are given the opportunity to thank Pam Bygate for all the work she does for the theatre group. The latter are so glad that Pam has recovered so well from her recent hip replacement operation. On receiving her gift from us Pam commented that she did not need thanks because she enjoyed doing it and has made many friends along the way. One of those friends was Mrs Sarah Bradley who was part of the

group but who died very recently and will be remembered by everyone with much affection. Once again there was a lovely supper, a quiz and several games and as the Male Voice Choir were practising in the small hall, Pam invited them to sing for us and share in the supper. They sang three songs with their usual aplomb and good humour; Harry always gets the best out of his choir. It was a lovely evening for a lovely lady. Thank you Pam, you are the best. Brenda Craddock

GAME, SET AND MATCH AT THE NET!

Following the very successful centenary year at the tennis club in 2011, the club was able to continue its appeal to young and old, with

increased attendances at coaching and new senior members joining in 2012. The weather has not been kind this year but, with the exception of a couple

of nights, coaching went ahead at the grass courts as planned on Monday evenings with over 30 youngsters regularly training and, with light

refreshments available, the parents were able to enjoy the club's hospitality! Winter coaching for the under 8's group continued in the

Community Centre in October and November and all the sessions were fully subscribed. Thanks to Grant Ridley and
continued on page 23



Children enjoying their Christmas coaching session in the Community Centre

ALL SAINTS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR



Amelia Newstead age 6 (left) and sister Isobele age 7, having a happy time with Santa. See story and more pictures on page 13.

EP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR



The craft room was well filled and proved to be a popular activity for many. See story and more pictures on page 14.



NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 15th January
The deadline for **adverts** is 13th January.

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