

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 13

Lanchester, March 2012

For contact information, see page 2

WOW! WHAT A SUCCESS!

Lanchester Wildlife Audit Launch

The packed function room of the Social Club was the venue for the launch of this magnificent booklet on a suitably bright spring morning on Saturday, 17th March. Young and old enjoyed the many interesting information stands and activities provided by groups such as the Wildlife Trust, the EP School, the Locality Map and Durham Bats. There was face painting for the children who were also able to handle a grass snake and a gecko - I didn't! Parish Council Chairman Ossie Johnson opened the event, paying tribute to Sue Charlton and her team who had produced this superb work, which must have taken hours of patient research and waiting to



Sue Charlton enjoying the company of David Bellamy (OBE) and Ossie Johnson

take the stunning photographs. The work was carried out through grants from various b o d i e s , including the Parish Council. Cllr Johnson said it was fantastic to see such a wonderful turnout and then introduced Professor David Bellamy, who officially launched the booklet. Prof Bellamy, who has lived in the area for many years, said what a wonderful area it is for natural history and that this book, which he also described as 'fantastic' says everything. He believes that every Parish Council in Britain should produce one and that Lanchester is probably

continued on page 5



A brave young man with Rachel Jackson's bearded dragon



Elaine Williams organising some children's activities



Dear Village....

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

Dear Residents

I have been asked what you should do if you see a scrap metal vehicle near your house. If you believe it is acting suspiciously then please record the registration number, the location, and inform the police immediately on the new emergency number, 101. If you can also describe what the vehicle is carrying and describe the driver and any passengers that would be helpful.

Whilst many scrap metal vehicles operate lawfully there are those that do not, and the police will make the necessary enquiries.

Please do not leave valuable items anywhere outside which may be taken without consent,

particularly at the end of your drive or near the collection bins, as this may be misconstrued as a genuine reason for being taken by scrap metal men who continually tour the village.

There have been a spate of incidents recently where valuable items have been appropriated without consent, so please be vigilant.

PCSO Vanessa Gray

Dear Village Voice

I am interested in unusual incidents that have taken place in the North East, for instance, the 'Saltwell Park Flying Saucer', but particularly any unusual happenings in Lanchester and surrounding area because of its history. I now live in Durham but many years were spent living at Langley Park.

In the late 1960's/70's there was a poltergeist experience in Alderdene in a house inhabited by the Dent family at that time.

The vicar of Langley Park, Rev Lovell, performed an exorcism. Later the incident was broadcast on BBC TV Look North. I would like anyone who

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

THE MINERS' BANNER

Good news! The insurance necessary for the banner to be in Lanchester is now in place and arrangements are being made for it to be transported to Park House. Once there, it will be examined by Tracy Franklin, Broderer of Durham Cathedral and a freelance Embroiderer, and Chrissie Morgan, an artist who is a painter in Fowlers Yard.

Such good progress has been made thanks to Sally Laverick. This project has

the support of the Lanchester Partnership and the Parish Council. There is a signed agreement between Lanchester Parish Council and the Durham Miners Association stating that the banner could be relocated to Lanchester with the Parish Council as custodian.

Next month I hope I can tell you the cost of restoration. The Miners' Hall has offered to help with fund raising. I do hope my fellow residents

of Lanchester and area will also respond positively and support the Partnership and the Parish Council in their efforts. Any ideas? I will be very pleased to receive them!

The banner is a valuable part of our history and can have a brighter future. This would be a fitting way to mark a historical landmark: the Diamond Jubilee.

Jill Ramsay, 6 Percy Crescent, Lanchester, DH7 0EU.

WANTED

Photographs of Lanchester at the Big Meeting

To mark the return of the Fenhall Drift Banner, it is hoped to mount an exhibition in the library of photographs of people marching with the banner, enjoying themselves at the race course or listening to the speakers. If you can and would like to help, simply place the photographs, with your name on the back, in an envelope with your name

and address on it. On the back of the photographs or on a slip of paper could you also please write the date when they were taken and any other relevant information such as the names of the people in the photographs. Then bring the envelope to Jill Ramsay, 6 Percy Crescent, Lanchester (opposite Park House). Many thanks.

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.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for February 2012 is 19. The draw was made by Gail of the Richmond Fellowship.

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GOODBYE TO SUE CHARLTON



Sue Charlton waves goodbye in her 'conservation hat' on one of her last projects at Malton Nature Reserve

Sue has worked for the Parish Council for the past 18 months as Development Officer for Farming, Wildlife and Environment. Sadly funding for this wide ranging post has run out and Sue has been forced

to move on and leaves at the end of March.

During her time here Sue has been involved with pupils from both primary schools and became very attached to them having paid visits to farms and wildlife sites plus projects at school. She has been co-ordinator and a catalyst for the Durham Wildlife Trust and Durham County Rangers for joint conservation and wildlife projects in our locality, encouraging volunteers to respond and working closely with them creating a fun atmosphere.

A wonderful extensive brochure entitled 'Lanchester Wildlife' has been extremely well produced, with contributions from local

experts, all under her guidance. Heritage Walk leaflets are due out on her last day in office. Much of her time has been spent in farming. One hundred training days for young farm workers have been spent under her direction, which included sheep shearing, chain sawing, first aid and hedge laying. There seems no end to her talents!

Sue said "my time here has been amazing, I have thoroughly enjoyed myself in and around Lanchester and will miss everyone." Fortunately, Sue is not without employment. She is moving back to her former job as an Ecologist based at Greencroft, supporting rural communities countrywide.

HERITAGE WALKS

I was delighted when Sue Charlton, who has produced these walks, let me have advance copies of them. They are beautifully done and as well as providing a map and directions, give interesting facts about the area.

Last weekend I did two of the walks, the first being the North Ridge Walk. However, as I was meeting a friend who lives near Malton, I did the walk in the opposite direction. The mineral line is always a very pleasant walk and the A691 wasn't too busy on a Saturday afternoon. The stile into the field is slightly awkward for a stiffy like me, but we managed and the walk up the fields and through the wood is lovely - so quiet, but we did not see the three deer I have seen before in Black Wood. Crossing Peth Lane on the corner needs care, but this is

followed by an easy, flat stretch to Moor Leazes Farm, where we turned left to bring us to a very high, ladder-type stile, which is much easier from this direction. This is very difficult for dogs, though, as there is no gap at the side for them to squeeze through. Coming back down the hill there is a wonderful view of the village and the valley beyond. We always stop and just take it in before continuing over the stile to Pace Egg bank and back to the village. This thoroughly enjoyable walk took about two hours. The next day I set off to do the Greencroft Walk, again going in the opposite direction, turning in at the lodge at the bottom of Maiden Law Bank, so that we would come downhill from Moor Leazes again. Walking over the springy turf towards High Crow wood was beautiful in the

sunshine and we saw some primroses. The stiles were difficult for the dogs again, but the 'sound of silence' was worth it. When we got back to Maiden Law Bank we decided to cheat a little and go into Back Lane along the little footpath halfway down on the left, which brought us out opposite the stile into the field going towards Moor Leazes. However, there my friend met an old acquaintance whom she hasn't seen since school days and as we were running short of time, we all just came back through the fields to the village. We had been out two and a half hours. The maps are good, the instructions clear and the snippets of information fascinating. I am really looking forward to the official launch on 31st March (village green 10 am) with a guided walk to follow.

Mavis Datta

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ALYSON McDONALD RETIRES



Alyson McDonald hard at work in the busy school office

Alyson joined the EP school as secretary in 1988 some 24 years ago. Now in her 60th year she has decided to retire, joining her husband Peter who finished work at Christmas. She served under four head teachers during that time who will be known to many people who have lived in the village: Miss Ridley; Mrs Oughterbridge; Mr Webb and currently Mrs Davis. Alyson has thoroughly enjoyed her time at the

school but is now looking to the future and the birth of her first grandchild in May. Her daughter lives in Northampton so, undoubtedly, there will be many trips down the M1 during the next few years. Once the new extension on the house is finished holidays are on the agenda with, hopefully, some long haul places to visit but definitely not in school holiday periods! It will be great to have that flexibility that retirement brings.

Staff accompanied Alyson for a meal at the King's Head on Thursday 8th March. She said her final goodbyes the following day to staff and children with a special celebration assembly followed by lovely buffet.

Alyson was obviously a popular figure at school and everyone would like to thank her for the long service which she gave, and wish her a long, happy, healthy retirement.

Gardening in April

I'm not saying that the cold weather is over, but last month we enjoyed some very sunny, warm days and the season seems to be moving in the right direction.

April is the month when you can almost hear things grow. However, unless you have a greenhouse or somewhere warm, do not be tempted to snap up the plethora of plants, containers and other sundries that are so readily available in our local garden centres. When money is tight there are things that you can do to ensure that you still have a lovely garden. You can make a list before visiting the garden centre and stick to it; you can sow annual seeds rather than buying plants; if you are buying shrubs, buy

smaller plants which will be cheaper; and look out for the bargains and discounts parts of the centres for plants that have finished flowering but will be fine for next season.

Borders

April is the start of the dead heading of blooms. Dead head daffodils, but let the leaves die back naturally to conserve their energy in the bulbs for next year and do not be tempted to cut off or tie up the leaves. Continue to prune roses and shrubs and plant biennials such as pansies, violas, sweet peas and sweet williams. Now is the time to stake tall plants such as phlox and crocosmia to prevent wind damage and tie in new shoots of climbers. Treat lawns for moss and

give regular feeds of fertilizer. It is a good time to plant acid loving plants like rhododendron and azaleas as well as brooms and spireas. Divide perennials that have just started growth such as phlox, Michaelmas daisy and delphiniums.

Vegetables

April is the month to start picking rhubarb and spring onions. Sow aubergines, sweet peppers and tomatoes under glass if you have not already done so. Towards the end of the month sow other tender vegetables such as French and runner beans, celery, cucumbers, marrows and sweet corn under glass. It is still not too late to sow leeks, Brussels sprouts, summer cabbages and sprouting broccoli.

Lanchester Wildlife Audit Launch

continued from page 1
the first to do so. He added his thanks to the Parish Council and said that his one word to describe the audit was one big, loud 'WOW! much to everyone's delight.

Our local MP Pat Glass also added her appreciation of the Parish Council and the record it provides of the flora and fauna in the Parish. She paid tribute to the volunteers and the way the village had come together; she, too, was pleased to see so many present. After presentations were made to Prof Bellamy and Mrs Glass everyone then enjoyed delicious refreshments and more time at the stands.



Concentration, concentration, concentration!



Snakes alive - it's real!



David Bellamy signing the Lanchester Wildlife publication for enthusiasts

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13th March 2012

Correspondence

Letter from Durham County Council regarding land on Lanchester Valley Walk, adjacent to Station House. As the Countryside Service has decided to stop cutting the grass in this area, it was agreed that the Wildlife and Countryside group should be asked for suggestions as to how this land should be managed in the future.

Letter from Durham County Council regarding the wet area in the cemetery. A site visit is to be made, a drain put in the middle and the existing drain cleared.

Chairman Cllr Johnson said that he had received a letter from Mark Ord, who runs Consett Tigers Junior Football Term,

stating that the playing surface is no longer fit for purpose. Cllr Johnson has spoken to the contractor who does other work for the Council and he has provided an estimate for remedial work. It was agreed by Members that the work must be carried out as the Council is committed to young people and the matter would be dealt with by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and other estimates obtained.

Area Action Partnership and Parish Councils Committee

Cllr Burton reported that the report on the Gateway scheme is continuing.

Flood Warden Scheme
Members were given a Briefing note compiled by Karen Gibson, Community Flood Engagement Officer, Durham County Council, which gives details of work being done in the area, leaflet drops and meetings in the area. There is to be a Drop-in Information Event on Tuesday, 3rd April, between 2 pm and 7 pm in the Library. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to create a communications network. Cllr Harrison suggested that a map be made of blocked drains.

Schools - Distribution of Newsletters

It was agreed that £75 should be given to each of the two Primary Schools.

Grants/Donations

Members gave careful thought and a great deal of discussion to the applications for grants and donations. The budget allows for £1,000 to be given, out of which £400 had already been given to Lanchester Lions for Bonfire Night, £30 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and £50 to Willow Burn Hospice, as well as the £150 to the schools (see above). It was finally decided to donate another £50 to Willow Burn, £120 for the Lanchester Parochial Church Council Maintenance of the Tower Clock, £100 to Churches Together in Lanchester and Burnhope for a sound system for the village green and £100 to Lanchester Play Group and Tiny Tots.

Phase 2 of the village green project will be launched at 1.30 on Friday, 27th April, when Northern Gas will hand over the cheque. Planning permission for the wood sculptures is due soon. Bulbs and trees will be planted. Cllr Glass remarked on how many people are admiring the work at present being done and Cllr Wardle pointed out that twice-yearly maintenance would be necessary.

Chairperson's Announcements

Cllr Johnson said that he had recently attended the presentation of Durham County Council Chairman's Medal to Cllr Colin Burton and how immensely proud he was of Colin. Only three medals are presented but

14 people had been nominated. It was due to Cllr Burton's many years of hard work and commitment in many fields that he had been chosen. Members were able to see the beautiful medal which was inlaid in a framed certificate.

Questions from Members

Cllr Myers asked what could be done about horse riding in Dora's Wood and Malton Picnic Area. It was agreed that the Lead Officer should write to all the riding stables in the area, the neighbourhood warden, the PCSOs and the Woodland Trust. Larger, higher signs which can be read from horseback were suggested for these areas as well as on the village green.

Date of Next Meeting
Tuesday, 10th April, at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester. The Ordinary Meeting will take place after the Annual Village Conference.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING

28th February 2012

Lesley Millgate and Carl Marshall from Durham Rural Community Council attended the meeting and gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning and the Localism Act. Mike Gladstone and Michael Horsley from Lanchester Partnership attended.

The presentation gave Members information on the Localism Act and the factors involved in developing a neighbourhood plan. Thanks were given to Lesley and Carl for the

informative session. Members discussed the presentation and agreed that another planning meeting should be scheduled in April following the training event on 28th March at Bowburn. The meeting would discuss Neighbourhood Planning and Lanchester Partnership would be invited to attend.

Planning Applications

Members considered the following planning applications.

i. Erection of first floor extension above existing garage/utility room at side of dwelling including conversion of garage to habitable room at 10 Foxhills Crescent, Lanchester. RESOLVED. No objection.

ii. Felling of one ash tree and one Scots pine tree and crown lift by first 4 limbs of one Scots pine located within rear garden area protected by a tree preservation order at Ford House, Ford Road, Lanchester. RESOLVED. No objection but request that the felled trees be replaced with suitable alternatives.

iii. Application to vary condition 2 of application relating to erection of agricultural storage shed (change to roof and wall cladding materials) on land to the north east of Dunley Ford House, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester. RESOLVED. No objection. The following planning applications have been approved by Durham County Council.

* Pruning by approximately 20% of one silver birch tree in rear garden area protected by a conservation area at 12 Woodlands, Lanchester.
* Replacement slimline double glazing in softwood timber, replacement front and rear doors and minor

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PLANNING MEETING

continued from page 6

repairs to roof at the Deanery, Lanchester.

* Listed building consent replacement of front door and three arched windows at 18 Hollinside Terrace, Lanchester.

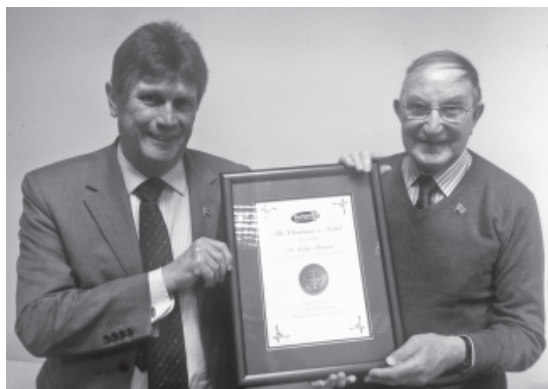
* Erection of farm workers dwelling (resubmission) at Greenwell Farm, Lanchester.

* Erection of extension to indoor equestrian arena at Low Meadows Farm, Lanchester.

* Erection of detached stone built garage incorporating ground source heat pump plant at Woodlea, Lanchester.

* Non-material amendment of application to allow the change in position of the velux windows from the south to the north elevation at Woodlands Hall, Knitsley.

CHAIRMAN'S MEDAL



Colin Burton showing his medal, together with Ossie Johnson who nominated him for the award

Parish Councillor Colin Burton has been given the honour as one of only three people in County Durham this year, to be awarded the County Council Chairman's Medal.

Colin was sponsored by Councillor Ossie Johnson and Councillor Joe Armstrong, through the Mid Durham AAP, during a county wide nomination process.

The award was for Colin's exceptional service to the

community throughout his professional career as a policeman, then as a social worker and also through his work as a councillor and his extensive voluntary work.

Congratulations and well done Colin.

POLICE REPORT

Reporting period 25/01/12 to 22/02/12
Number of calls for area: 55

Alcohol seizures 0, Dwelling burglaries 1 (dwelling broken into overnight; vehicle keys taken from inside and occupant's vehicle stolen from rear), Other burglaries 1 (shed broken into overnight), Bogus callers 0, Anti-social behaviour/nuisance 0, Criminal damage/thefts 1 (2 garden chairs stolen, one recovered).

Update re current PACT priority - former 6th form college:

Police and security patrols have been

regular at different times of the day and night. There has been no further evidence of off road vehicle activity, criminal damage or drug use. The rear gate is now locked stopping vehicle access. Durham Constabulary dog section are using the premises for police dog training.

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TWO POSSIBLE LARGE PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

It appears that planning applications are being prepared for two large schemes, although at the time of going to press there is nothing about them on the County Council website.

Maiden Law Hospital Planning Consultants acting for the Homes and Communities Association have submitted an outline planning application for 47 residential dwellings on that part of the Maiden Law Hospital site that is not occupied by Willow Burn Hospice.

Apparently some aspects of the scheme have been 'developed' since the public consultation last December but the main characteristics have not

changed. This is a big site so the 47 dwellings are likely to be large.

Ornsby Hill

In the field east of Ornsby Hill workers have been backfilling the pitfall above the drift entrance and regrading the land - apparently on behalf of Holmside Developments. One of the men has said that the intention is to build a caravan park. You may remember that there was a proposal for a caravan park in the same field some years ago.

The Lanchester Partnership is following both schemes. If you would like more up-to-date information please ring John Suckling on 520 703.

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NEW HEDGE ON BYPASS



Burt Hunter hard at work laying the hedge

Renowned Hedge Layer, Burt Hunter, who has spent a lifetime developing his craft, has been recruited by the Parish Council to lay a hedge just around the corner from the Village Green at the start of the new path along the river bank. It really is a fabulous hedge and well worth a visit.

NEW EATERY

Yet another new restaurant will be opening in the village soon. 'Ekoj Cuisine' is expected to open in the centre of Lanchester. A local businessman who wishes to remain anonymous at this stage has said, "this will be a stellar restaurant - the services of top rated renowned Middle Eastern Chef, Mustapha Kouque, have been secured at some considerable cost. He holds two Michelin Stars and specialises in flambé dishes such as spiced goat sweetbreads". To encourage customers, and create a true middle eastern ambiance, belly dancers will cavort between tables at the weekend opening times, but only during the evening. With the number of eateries in the village, Lanchester has been referred to by one excited villager as 'the gastronomic capital of the region'. The conversation went further with a reference to Hay on Wye which is nationally known for the number of bookshops there. Will Lanchester ever be known (not officially of course) as Lanchester on Browney?

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ALL SAINTS' VISIT THE DLI MUSEUM



Year 5 pupils dressed as evacuees

GEO JOURNEYS AT ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL

This year All Saints School is taking part in a Climate Change Lead Schools project which includes looking at flooding, its causes, its effects and how it can be prevented. As part of this work, all of the children took part in a Shoc-Flood Week which included Geo Journeys working with the children in Class Six on Friday 24th February. Keiron and Carl (from Geo Journeys) took the children from Years 5 and 6 out around the village to warn them about flooding. They went to the burns in Lanchester and they took them to see the vital places that could flood, which included making a field sketch of a point which could easily flood - Dora's Wood.

When they were back in school, the children learnt about map reading and discussed how flooding can affect people. They thought about the things people would need and they identified the most

important things. They all knew that a mobile phone is the most important thing to have in a flood and that a computer is the least important! The children also found out about how to use a GPS that connects to a satellite and they used it to navigate around Lanchester.

By the end of the week the children had put together a video to give advice to everyone and children in other classes had made posters and leaflets to give even more advice. Over the coming weeks, the children will be handing out their advice leaflets in the village with the help of people from the Environment Agency and they will be launching their video at the upcoming parents' evenings. (They will also be available on the school website - www.lanchester.durham.sch.uk.)

Kieran Bell, James Kime, Nathan Martin and Tom Symonds (Year 5)

On the 14th March Class 5 from All Saints' Primary School went to the DLI Museum in Durham. We went to learn more about our topic on WWII and we went dressed as evacuees! At the museum we met

a man called Glen who was our guide for the morning. First we went to a big room with tables covered in cloths, under each cloth we found lots of different artefacts all from WWII. One table was about rationing where there's a small amount of certain foods. We also looked at gas masks, women's uniforms, things belonging to a soldier and some air raid items. My favourite table was the one with the rifle which we got to hold and have our photos taken with. After that we looked at the medal room and all got to have a go sitting in a tank and a jeep. Everyone thought it was a fun day and we all really enjoyed it.

By Lucy Joyce (Class 5)

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LANCHESTER TEENAGER RAISES £3,000 FOR CHUF CHARITY

Ellie Allport, aged 15, has raised over £3,000 for CHUF (Children's Heart Unit Fund at the Freeman Hospital) through a Charity Ball she organised herself. She arranged the event as a thank you for her treatment, as she underwent open heart surgery last year, from which she's made an amazing recovery. The amount raised for

CHUF has been maximised thanks to the generosity of the venue who staged the event - The Anchor Inn at Whittonstall in Northumberland - and the sponsorship of the food on the evening by Co Durham-based McVickers Solar Electric. In addition, various shops and businesses in Lanchester and the

surrounding area were generous with either raffle prizes or cash donations. Prior to the event, Ellie and her friends held a cake sale at school, while a non-uniform day is planned for the near future, which will add to the final total. Ellie's original plan was to raise £1,000, so she is absolutely CHUF-fed to more than treble that!



Ellie Allport (3rd from right) with her schoolfriends from St Bede's School at the charity fundraising ball



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Ellie Allport with her parents (Julia and Bob Allport) at the charity fundraising ball



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SIXTIES SWING AGAIN



Lanchester Male Voice Choir presenting their music of the Sixties

Charity begins at home and no charity is nearer home to the Male Voice Choir than little Bethany Haynes. She is the severely disabled granddaughter of choir member Brian Haynes who will need special care and equipment to support her throughout her life. It fell on choir conductor Harry Carr to come up with an idea that would provide an enjoyable evening and would have

the crowds flocking to support this good cause. He did admirably with an evening of sixties hits so big you could not stack them on a Dansette. To get an authentic sound Harry asked Ian Murray (drums) and Ray Hill (base guitar) to support the choir's superb pianist Noreen Bridgewater. What a sound it made with a male voice choir backed by a solid yet sympathetic backing



Soloist, Jane Westwater

combo. Top that off with the lovely voice of Jane Westwater and you had a great night in every sense.

The hits were too numerous to mention but naturally both the choir and Jane had to include some Beatles songs. Matt Monro also featured strongly with the choir including three songs made famous by him. Jane sang a lovely version of the Mama Cass Elliot hit "Dream A Little Dream Of Me" and

two show songs of the times. Her sweet rendering of Carole King's "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" was matched perfectly by a gentle accompaniment from Noreen. The night finished with a rousing "Back to the Sixties" medley. No less than seven songs rolled

into one starting with the Georgie favourite "House of the Rising Sun" and finishing with Harry dancing rather than conducting "Da Do Ron Ron" (worth the price of admission alone). The total amount raised by the concert was an excellent £862.50.



Bethany and her brother in the new wheelchair accessible vehicle, affectionately known as 'Bethany's Bus'. Bethany's parents, Nick and Julia, and grandparents, Brian and Linda, would like to offer their sincere thanks to all those in Lanchester who have made donations and given assistance to help secure and convert the vehicle for Bethany's use.



Ray Hill (bass guitar), Noreen Bridgewater (piano) and Ian Murray (drums), the backing combo for the choir



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LANCHESTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

On Wednesday 21st March, Lanchester Community Association held its 44th Annual General Meeting. Mr Arthur Maughan, the Association's Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming those present and thanked them for their contribution throughout the year. He gave particular thanks to all the staff for once again doing a wonderful job. 2011 showed a revenue profit of £5700 of which £3000 was allocated to the building fund and £2000 to the equipment fund. John Wilson, Community Centre Manager, reported

that last year was characterised by the fall out from the recession, but unlike other centres that are part-funded by Durham County Council, the Community Association was virtually unaffected. Increased bookings have been received and more young

people were using the facilities of the centre. During the year replacement windows were installed in the "House" part of the centre which significantly improved the appearance and reduced the heat loss in the rooms affected. The replacement windows were only possible due to grants received from Durham County Foundation, Sherburn House and £2000 from funds raised in the community.

The various sections reported on their progress. Scottish Dance Group reported they had a successful year and continue to meet weekly and as always are looking for new members. The Male Voice Choir is going from strength to strength and held various charity concerts throughout the year. Lanchester Play group reported a disappointing year financially with income and numbers decreasing.

They have recently formed a new committee and with financial help from various donations they feel they have turned the corner and look forward to a successful 2012. The Amigos reported an excellent year and were able to donate £500 to the Community Association. The Table Tennis Club, in a written report, confirmed they are no longer a section of the Community Association but are a stand alone club using the facilities of the Community Centre. This is seen as a great success and they were complimented on their progress. The Treasurer gave a detailed report; copies are available from the Community Centre Manager. The meeting was closed by the Chairman who thanked Bill Waite, who is retiring as Treasurer, for all his good work over the past 5 years and welcomed the new Treasurer, Mrs Jacquie Turnbull.



Arthur Maughan, Community Centre Chairman (right), making a presentation to Bill Waite in recognition of his 5 years' service as Treasurer of the Association. On the left is new Treasurer, Jacquie Turnbull.



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I am sure you will all join us in wishing her the very best of luck in the future. Thank you Wendy!

**Deep, Akash, Maria, Sharon,
Gemma and Lyndsey.**

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President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members and visitors before reading a newspaper article about a WI opening in a women's prison. Shirley Mair did a reading before Jennifer gave out transport arrangements for the Brancepeth plant sale, South Farm Cornsay, 42nd Street and the Radio Newcastle visits. Lucy and Sara were thanked for making the poster for the AGM competition.

Ann Arnell won the raffle and competition winners were Pat Cotrell and Rhoda Joyce.

Our speaker for this evening was Joanne Wylde from 'Wylde About Bears', supported by her Mum who taught her how to make them. This was a very interesting and fun talk on how to make collectable bears which are not child safe because of how the eyes are attached. Both Joanne and her Mum taught some of the prisoners in Durham jail



Lucy Forbes and Sara Parker-Fuller with daughter Ziggy (our youngest ever visitor) choosing a bear with the help of Joanne.

how to make bears as well as other crafts, then 3 years ago Joanne started to sell her bears along with everything you need to make them. We were amazed at the wealth of different materials that go into collectable bears, from

the patterns to the fillings to the coats. New methods and materials are coming along all the time. The different techniques used to give each teddy its own individual expression using pins to mark the nose and pearl cotton to

sew them and marking at where the eyes go before attaching them with bonded thread were fascinating as was seeing the skills used to make bears.

There is something special about Teddy Bears and if you would like more information Joanne can be contacted

at www.wyldeaboutbears.co.uk.

Heather Muir gave the vote of thanks before refreshments.

A big thank you to everyone who helped in anyway to make our coffee morning a successful and fun event.

CRUFTS 2012

I never expect Freya to win at Championship Shows, but I always hope! She has had a good year, winning two more Reserve Challenge Certificates, but the top award of Challenge Certificate still eludes her. She has beaten all other regular opponents, being 3rd to Norwegian and French bitches before Christmas, so I was slightly optimistic, having been told that the judge liked the 'old-fashioned type' as he had been in Elkhounds for many years.

As usual we left the house at 1.30 am to be picked up at Bowburn Services just after 2 am, arriving at 6.40 am. After giving Freya her breakfast,

chatting to friends and having a coffee, I went for a look round the stalls. There are about 200 in each of the five halls, selling everything from dog clothing, food and pharmaceuticals to fashion wear, country clothing, jewellery and very expensive refreshments. I really wanted to see the Elkhound stand in Discover Dogs, where all the breeds give information about their dogs, usually having two present, so that the public can get advice. The Elkhound stand won first prize in the Hound Group and a large photograph of Freya with her Gold Obedience Award was part of the décor. But I

started talking to a very interesting American lady who owns an Elkhound and who very much admired Freya; she said I ought to show her on the Continent! Greyhounds were on first and Freya was in the last two Elkhound classes; we did not go into the ring until 3.40 pm! She always shows beautifully at Crufts and in the Open 'top' class she was 2nd, beaten by this year's champion of champion bitch but above the Norwegian and French ones. For the third year running she won the class for bitches with an Obedience award as there is never much opposition! So we came home quite happy, but worn out! Mavis Datta

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EP SCHOOL CREATIVITY WEEK

Creativity week contained a variety of educational activities away from the normal curriculum. Reading was one of the principal ones which coincided with World Book Day. A visiting literary specialist discussed Roald Dahl books, BFG and Mathilda, and a Theatre Group presented Oscar Wilde's 'Selfish Giant' which was enjoyed by everyone. Barnabas Day included discussions about what is important about the bible during an assembly, which was followed with activities throughout the school.

The week concluded with all the children watching films of subjects studied during the week whilst both staff and children dressed in pyjamas for the day, with a full hall for coffee with parents. Funds are currently being raised for a synthetic play space, which will be available for community use. Jane Davis would like information from anyone who has contacts for raising money for this type of project. Please contact her on 01207 520436 if you have any information.



Brave reception children and Mrs Westall removed coats whilst in the playground on a cool morning, to show off their pyjamas

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VISITORS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

In March, All Saints' Primary School and St Bede's School hosted Vanessa Gudino and Lisette Brazon, teachers from Venezuela. The visit was part of the British Council's Project 'Connecting Classrooms' in which local pupils exchanged emails and photographs with 6th grade students in Caracas. Lanchester children also researched life in Venezuela, and earlier in the month, teachers from England had travelled to South America. This return visit was intended to further develop the exchange for the schools involved and to get to

know people behind the names!

In Caracas, Vanessa is an English teacher and school co-ordinator of English, while Lisette is an educational psychologist, as well as being a classroom teacher. They experienced daily life in six local schools, and had been especially impressed with the schools in Lanchester. Although the systems in both countries differ, essentially, their aims are the same, the education and care of young people. The teachers spoke warmly of the children they had worked with, and the

genuine welcome they had received from local people. Although they found Lanchester smaller and quieter than their home in Caracas, they agreed that this was a very beautiful part of the North East.

The teachers stayed in Durham, they had time for sightseeing and they had loved the city. They had also visited the Metro Centre and were looking forward to some 'retail therapy' in the shops in Newcastle before the long journey home. Both say they take wonderful memories with them, and would love to return one day.



'Getting to know you' - Vanessa Gudino and Lisette Brazon with pupils of All Saints' School

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REUNION - CLASS OF 1982



Stuart Hovvels, Director, Cirrus Environmental Solutions Ltd, presents a cheque for £500 to Jane Davis, Head Teacher, Lanchester EP School, to go towards the fund for the proposed synthetic play space.

Lanchester EP Primary School recently hosted a reunion of ex-pupils, many of whom hadn't graced its grounds for 30 years. Stuart Hovvels, who attended the school between 1976 and 1982, said 'A reunion had been a personal goal of mine even though I'd lost track with most of my classmates, and I knew it wouldn't be easy to organise, but after searching for about 3 months I had 20 confirmed attendees.' Jane Davis, Head Teacher of the school, kindly agreed to open the doors on a Saturday afternoon and took the time to give a guided tour. Stuart added, 'This was a great success, and clearly an emotional time for many of us - we were all in agreement that our time at this school was amongst the happiest of our lives. After 30 years there had been many changes, but there would always seem to be an area that we remembered as if it was yesterday, and the memories came flooding back. I think Jane was surprised at the effect it

had on us. It was a great place to start our young lives.' The Black Bull was the next objective for the classmates to relax with a few drinks and reminisce about times gone by. Stuart said 'It all went really well, everyone had a great time, they were all genuinely pleased to see each other. The Black Bull provided a fantastic buffet, which was very well received.' As a gesture of thanks to Jane Davis, Stuart, who runs Cirrus Environmental Solutions Ltd, an environmental and health and safety consultancy, made a donation of £500 towards the school's appeal for a synthetic play space. In a subsequent interview with The Village Voice, Head Teacher, Jane Davis said 'It was a pleasure showing everyone round during the afternoon and quite fascinating for me listening to them all reminisce about their teachers, the classrooms, slide and climbing frame whilst also laughing warmly about some of the disagreements and

incidents that had occurred during their time together at the EP! I am also exceptionally grateful to Stuart for his very generous donation to the school which will go towards the money being raised to fund a synthetic play space on the school field".

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Happy birthday to you, still rolling along! I From the first notes
the Lanchester and loved the way you played by Lilian to the
District Choral and decided to celebrate - the wonderful finale we
Amateur Operatic Messiah - a little long, were spellbound, swept
Society - 40 years and but very good indeed. up in the fantastic music

and wishing it would go on for a long time more. Every item was superb, the choir in excellent voice, the soloists (Elizabeth Woods, Kathleen Ireland, Patrick Mundy and Jim C

Morgan) could not be faulted. They were absolutely great - no further comment needed. Thank you to all who contributed to a memorable birthday "do". We have to thank Paul on the Powerpoint for the pictures displayed, Ian for the trumpet solo and David for the conducting, but the biggest thank you must go to Lilian who played for every item without a rest and without putting a finger wrong - in other words, she was her usual brilliant self.

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

On our last jaunt out to one of the many culinary delights of our region we were recommended to try a local hostelry just up the road, 'The Punch Bowl' at Satley. The staff were most welcoming and attentive helping with the management of the wheelchair which one of our members now uses. There was a lovely warm fire, unfortunately it was lit at the opposite end of the long room from where everyone was dining (the fire at that end was out) and it was a little chilly!

They just have the bar menu and we sampled lasagne, scampi, and steak and ale pie which were all very good - the braised steak and herby dumplings which two of us had was not enjoyed so much. For puds we sampled luxury mixed ice cream, syrup sponge and custard, sticky toffee pud with custard and ice cream sorbet - pronounced 'puds to die for'.

All in all, an experience which you may wish to try for yourselves.

The Gourmet Girls

UMANANA - ST BEDE'S MUSICAL

UMANANA - THE TALE OF TWO TRIBES OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Service) encourages learning outside the classroom, and sustainability education in schools throughout the North East. Their 'Acting Up for the Earth Project' challenged local schools to devise and deliver a performance aimed at helping primary pupils to make sustainable choices. St Bede's rose to the challenge, producing their work before an audience of their feeder schools on February 23rd. Shotton Hall Academy and Bishop Barrington are the other contending schools, and the winner will be announced on March 30th.

'Umanana' is a musical play, amusing to watch, but having a very serious message. The Ugtribe are thoughtlessly destroying their jungle environment, until Jean, a young female member of the tribe protests and begins to question the tribe's way of life. She seeks help from the Mini tribe, a more enlightened group of people, who really care for their habitat. The music ranges from hauntingly beautiful melodies to foot tapping, catchy tunes, with very clever lyrics. Miss June Ramsey, who heads the school Drama Group, praises the great team effort of the cast and crew consisting of students from Years 7-13.

Miss Ramsey pays special credit to sixth form student Philip Richardson, supported by his 'left hand man' Iain Keenan. These pupils were at the very



'Umanana' - 'Acting Up for the Earth' (above) and

Philip Richardson, pictured on the right, a 6th form student of St Bede's who was at the heart of the production

heart of the venture, Philip wrote the script, composed all the musical numbers, co-directed the production, and played in the group accompanying the singers. Philip hopes to become a teacher, and he will surely be inspiring and motivating drama students of the future.

The whole cast were so enthusiastic and talented, with all the individuals working in a closely knit team. The entire production deserves the highest praise, and we all wait eagerly for the results of the OASES challenge at the end of March.

A brilliant production, St Bede's!



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Local resident, Michael Holgate is raising funds for CAFOD, which works with local partners and communities in 40 countries across the world - responding to emergencies, promoting long-term development and raising public awareness of the causes of poverty.

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Michael has pledged to raise funds to dig wells, build schools, provide medical support and to empower local people and he hopes to do this by:

- * Running the Edinburgh marathon in May
- * Climbing a 6200 metre Himalayan Peak (Stok Khangri) in August
- * Running the Great North Run in September
- * Doing a 50 mile non stop walk in November.

If you would like to help him to help others, please donate at www.justgiving.com/michael-holgate1. Every penny raised will go to support the above work.

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THURSDAY CLUB 32nd BIRTHDAY PARTY



The delightful singing minstrel entertaining the members of the Thursday Club

The Thursday Club decided to celebrate their 32nd birthday with a low-key faith supper held in the Small Hall of the Community Centre.

However, the entertainment was, in the event, anything but low-key. We had invited along the Durham Shakespeare Group to give us a medley of sketches, all to do with Shakespeare,

if only loosely, combined with some recitations which were both amusing and classic plus a singing minstrel who was highly entertaining and who very nearly stole the whole show.

The faith supper, the entertainment and the company were all extremely good and we all thoroughly enjoyed an excellent night together.

Next month we shall be hearing all about 'Family life in 17th century Durham' - a talk to be given by Dr Dorothy Hamilton and do remember any of your unwanted items for the charity table.

In May we're off to Harlow Carr in Harrogate for a day out - lovely gardens, a craft fair and a 'Bettys' tearoom on site - what more could we want!

GRAFTING AT THE COMMUNITY ORCHARD



Elaine Russell potting and watering, while husband Bob is seen here doing some grafting. (See other picture and story on page 24)

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

The life of an MP is varied to say the least. Whilst I enjoy my time in Parliament I much prefer my work and life in the constituency, holding regular surgeries and trying to help people with any problems they may be having. Whilst I cannot solve everything, I can usually speak directly to someone who can help and I will always try my best. I also visit local businesses, schools, community groups and other organisations and do whatever I can to positively promote local business, the constituency and the region.

I find that in the constituency I can always rely on local people to keep me right. I try whenever I can to have a coffee in the village on a Saturday morning or a drink in Lanchester club on a Friday night, in

comfortable surroundings with people I know and who are only too happy to give me their views on politics, the state of the economy and the world in general. Perhaps one of the best parts of being an MP is the opportunities it gives me to support local events, such as the recent launch of the Parish Council wildlife audit, and to raise awareness of local people or organisations doing special things for others. I have two such cases to highlight this month.

Martin Matthews and friends are walking 180 miles of the ancient pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain this month to raise money for two very good causes, CAFOD and MacMillan. Martin is a well known figure in the village both behind the counter at Matthews Newsagents and as the

'All Ireland banjo champion', local songwriter and musician of note. If you wish to donate to either of these very worthy causes and support Martin in this long and difficult walk you can donate at either: Cafod www.justgiving.com/Martin-Matthews1 or MacMillan www.justgiving.com/Martin-Matthews0

I also want to raise the issue of Lanchester Toddler Group that provides for babies and 2-3 year olds five mornings a week in Lanchester Community Centre. The Toddler Group has been going for 50 years but now finds itself under threat because of lack of numbers and consequent lack of funding. If you would like to support the group by taking along your own children or grandchildren, financially

or in any other way, drop into the community centre any weekday morning and talk to Sarah Hill.

I find that working with and being able to help people locally can very often bring immediate results and rewards. So if there is something that you have been dealing with for some time on your own but are getting

nowhere and you think I may be of assistance please get in touch and I will do what I can.

You can contact me in writing at Pat Glass MP, 1 Gledstone House, 26 Newmarket Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 5LQ, email me at pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk, or phone my office on 01207 501 782.

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YOUR LIBRARY - USE IT OR LOSE IT

The Durham County Council 'Strategy for Change in County Durham Libraries' sets out a vision for proposed changes in the library service. There are 39 libraries situated in town centres and local communities. Opening hours range from 21 hours per week to 55 hours. There are also 5 mobile libraries which stop at 380 locations across County Durham. The Council is looking to secure a service that can be delivered within the budget available, while continuing to meet the needs of all library users. While our own local village library appears to have a safe future, losing only one hour of opening time, a close look at the

proposals raise some matters of concern. Proposals are:

- * To keep open all library buildings, but reduce opening hours funded by the Council.
- * To revise the criteria for communities served by mobile libraries.
- * To co-locate libraries wherever possible with other services, and to improve their appearance and facilities.
- * To drive down the Council's support and management costs.
- * To move library services into a not-for-profit Trust.

We feel proud of our library, and value all the facilities it provides - a flourishing reading group, public access to computers, help with homework and a wide range of activities during school holidays. These are just a few examples of the benefits of a library which is at the heart of the village.

The public are invited to give a response to the proposals by May 4th. The Consultation Questionnaire is available from the library, or online at: www.durham.gov.uk/libraryconsultation. More details of the proposals can also be viewed online. In the words of the old saying, 'Use it or Lose it' and support your library and its facilities!

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DAY TRIPS

Wed 18th April Bury Market £13.50

Sun 29th April Holy Island &

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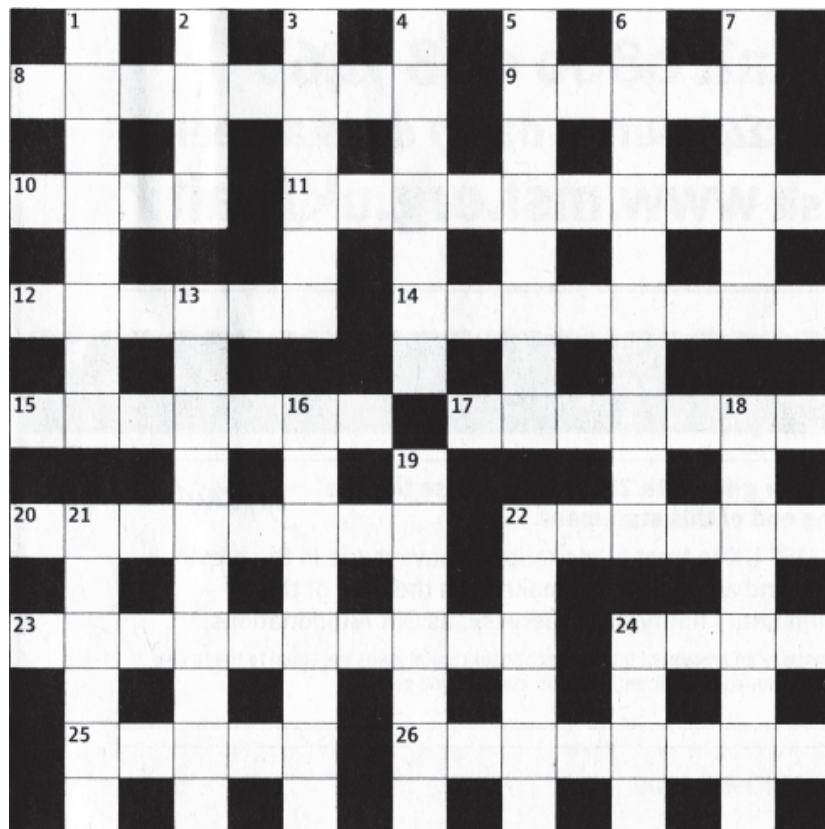
Mon 7th May Skipton Market &

Waterways Festival £12

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CROSSWORD 71



ACROSS

8. Only half commit to simple bellyache (8)
9. Go round (5)
10. Nuisance (4)
11. Shown up (3,2,5)
12. Block (4,2)
14. Ahab's bête noire (4,4)
15. A notice for poison (7)
17. Lively musical movement (7)
20. Art connoisseur (8)
22. Habit (6)
23. Italian artist (10)
24. See 5 down
25. Ointment (5)
26. Accept praise (4,1,3)

DOWN

1. Servant (8)
2. Tiff (4)
3. Sheep and dog increase activity (4,2)
4. Reformed Monty calls in AA for examination (7)
- 5,24 Vitamin found in citrus fruit juice (8,4)
6. Alternative to pyjamas maybe (10)
- 7,22 Very accurate timepieces ----- (6,6)
13. ----- to the second (10)
16. Youth (8)
18. Take a closer look (4,2,2)
19. Dickensian prison (7)
21. Please pass (6)
22. See 7 down
24. Distant (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 70

ACROSS

1. misfit
4. syllabi
9. trapezium
10. teals
11. steal
12. Aunt Sally
13. England
15. recant
17. wake up
19. drawers
22. overthrow
24. tales
26. leats
27. brain-wave
28. red-tape
29. edited

DOWN

1. Matisse
2. slate
3. ideal mate
4. seminar
5. let as
6. at a glance
7. see 19 down
8. ribald
14. graveyard
16. chastened
18. parable
- 19,7. do what it says
20. suspend
21. yodler
23. tesla
25. least

Name _____

Address _____

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

CROSSWORD 70

Apologies for the mistyped homophone (8 down) and also to those who struggled with 17 across - John has obviously spent too long in Ireland!

Congratulations to R Christon of Woodham Court who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

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SUDOKU

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

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

LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

With only weeks to go until the start of the season it's all hands to the pumps in getting everything ready. Players and members will be getting things shipshape on the 14th April, tidying up round the ground and refreshing the sightscreens, before the season gets underway on the 21st April. It's going to be a tough start with an exciting clash with neighbouring Annfield Plain. Durham County player Luke Blackaby is expected to lead the way supported by Graham Brinton and led by Stu McPhail.

Steve Murray will again lead the seconds, where he will be hoping to see teenagers Greg Patterson and his son Lee make some scores that may push them into contention with the first team despite their tender years. The thirds start the

following weekend when they entertain Shotley Bridge and will be led by Andy McConnell. It will be a tall order to improve on last season's record of runners up in league and cup but they will give it a go.

The Under 13s start their fixtures on 22nd April at home to Consett and the other age groups follow over the following two nights. Indoor nets have been well attended on Saturday mornings, running until the season starts. New players are still welcome.

Groundsman John Bell is starting his work in preparing the square for the season to come and will be looking forward to getting in as many hours as possible to get the surface looking as good as he can. One polite reminder to dog walkers though, please

pick up after your dog, it isn't nice having to clean a field to make it safe for people to play on it.

Off the field, the second quiz night had a good turn out and Bob Cooper made it a challenging night for all with the winning team triumphing by a solitary point. The next social event is an evening of entertainment from local songstress, Holly Bates, on Saturday 14th April. Tickets are £4 and include a buffet.

The Evening Chronicle have given the junior section £173 for their make a wish collection, the money being used to purchase cricket balls for the season. Thank you to all those who saved and donated. So here's hoping for a warm sunny end to April so the season can begin.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Rhubarb and Orange Meringue

Try this recipe with freshly grown rhubarb which is young and at its best straight from the garden at this time of the year.

Ingredients

- 1 lb early rhubarb
- 1 orange
- 2 ozs granulated sugar
- 1½ ozs cornflour
- 2 eggs
- 3 ozs castor sugar

Method

1. Set oven 325/150 C. Wash and cut rhubarb into short lengths. Place in a 2pt ovenproof dish.
2. Grate the rind and squeeze the

juice from the orange. Place into a measuring jug and make to 3/4pt with water.

3. Place granulated sugar and cornflour in a saucepan and gradually blend in the liquid. Bring to the boil stirring for 3 mins.

4. Separate eggs. Stir the yolks into the orange sauce, pour over the rhubarb and cook

in centre of oven for 20 mins. Turn oven down to 300/140 C.

5. Whisk egg whites until stiff, whisk in half the castor sugar. Fold in the remainder gently. Spread over the rhubarb mixture in dish and return to oven to cook for a further 20 to 25mins, until the meringue is golden brown and rhubarb tender.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Sunday Bridge

Come along to the small hall of the Community Centre on Sunday 1st April to play Bridge with a friendly group of people and at the same time help to raise funds for the Community Centre. £3 including refreshments.

Paradiso Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday April 1st in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 7pm - 9.15pm.

Membership of the Club is £5. Entry to each Social is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for occasional visitors.

The film to be shown that evening is 'MIDNIGHT IN PARIS' directed by Woody Allen. The all star cast includes: Kathy Bates, Adrien Brody, Carla Bruni, Marion Cotillard.

'A successful Hollywood screen writer is struggling with his first novel whilst on holiday in Paris with his fiancée. As he falls in love with the city he also finds that after midnight Paris is magical, and that it could be the ultimate source of inspiration for his writing.'

All are welcome.

WI

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd April in the small hall of the Community Centre starting at 7 pm. There is a change to the programme and we have a replacement speaker Claire Megginson from Sweet Sally Cinnamon who produces a bespoke range of sweets and baking mix recipe jars. Easter jars will be available to buy and the competition is now a cookie recipe (would members please put their name on entries).

Our Summer outing to Paxton House is booked for 11th July and deposits of £5 or the full £16.50 are now being collected.

A members only 'Royal Jubilee' garden party will take place at June's on 13th June; more details later.

Country Market

On Saturday 7th April, from 10 am until 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.

Flooding/ Emergencies

You are invited to a Drop in Session at Lanchester Library on Tuesday 3rd April between 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm. You will be able to discuss how to prepare for flooding or other emergencies that may happen within the community. You will learn about and discuss the free Flood Warnings Direct service that the Environment Agency provides; and if appropriate sign up online, or by phone; learn more about preparing an emergency tool kit and about possible flood defence products.

There will also be more information about meetings to be held on 25th April 6.30 - 8.30pm and 9th May 6.30 - 8.30pm at Lanchester Community Centre; here you will have the opportunity to find out more about Community Flood Plans and Community Emergency Response Plans, and to make a contribution to your Community's plan. Karen Gibson, Community Flood Engagement Officer Tel: 01388 824021, Email: karen.gibson@durham.darlingtonccu.gov.uk

Art Exhibition and Sale of Paintings

On Easter Sunday and Monday, over 200 original paintings by local artists will be on display in Castleside Village Hall.

The exhibition by members of Castleside Art Club will be open each day between 10 am and 5 pm. Admission is 20 pence and a wide range of hot and cold home made refreshments will always be available.

WHAT'S ON?

Lanchester Social Club

Saturday 7th April, CHRISSY, Excellent Female Entertainer

Saturday 14th April, CONNOR, Knockout Male Vocal

Saturday 21st April, FAYLEY, Super Multi Award Winning Female Vocalist

Saturday 28th April, GEORGIO, Superb Cabaret Pop Entertainer

Family Wildlife

On Easter Monday, 9th April, there will be the usual Paste Egg Event. Meet behind the Green school at 10 am and bring a raw egg to dye in the traditional way.

Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 10th April at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre, Michael Rogers will give a talk on Streams and Waterways, especially in the Lanchester Valley.

Mothers' Union

The April meeting is on Wednesday 11th, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House the speaker will be David English, Proctor/Gamble.

Short Walks

April 14th, Blanchland, 5 miles. Meet in the public carpark, NY964505.

April 28th, Warkworth-Amble circular, 5 miles. Meet at Stanners car park to the west of the town, south of the river, NU247062.

Walks start at 10.30 am.

Knitted Bible

Exhibition starting in Lanchester Methodist Church at 10 am on April 17th for 5 days. Admission is free. See posters around the village for details. We look forward to welcoming you to share with us in this unique event.

Tai Chi Classes

Tai Chi classes are held on Mondays 12.15 am - 1.15 pm in the Small Hall at Lanchester Community Centre.

Tai Chi is suitable for all ages and physical abilities. This class provides instruction on the Hand Form which involves a series of slow controlled movements as well as the Qigong breathing exercises, helping to promote the smooth flow of energy through the body.

Tai Chi can help increase flexibility, suppleness and exercise the muscles. The smooth gentle movements aid relaxation and help keep the mind calm and focused.

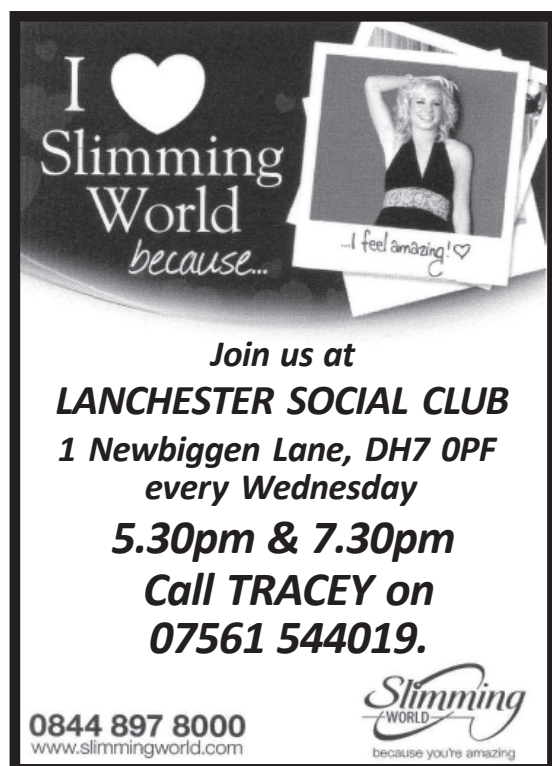
Class teacher Harry Douglas (tel. 0191 4106458) can provide more information or come and try out a class.

Bowls Spring Meeting

Lanchester Bowling Club will hold its Spring Meeting on Thursday 19th April at 7 pm in the Pavilion. All members and prospective new members will be welcome.

Amigos

We have space in Amigos for some new members - members who must be over 80 and live in Lanchester. We meet on Friday mornings in the Dining Room of the Community Centre. There are 4 teams of helpers. We are a social group where you can meet new people, make new friends and enjoy a good chat. At the end of each session we enjoy a good lunch together. If you think you may be interested in joining us, or maybe you'd like to come along and look us over, give us a ring on either 520229 or 521682.



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Slimming World Sponsored Walk

On Sunday 22nd April, the members of the Lanchester Slimming World group are taking part in a sponsored walk to raise funds for the local charity 'Henry Dancer Days'. The small charity aims to assist in relieving hardships for families who include young people with the illness osteocarcinoma, which sadly claimed Henry's short life in 2010. The group will be leaving from Hownsgill viaduct at approx 1.30 pm and making their way along the 'Valley Walk' to Lanchester. For details and sponsor forms contact Tracey Little on 07561 544019.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 25th April at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre, Christine Ogle will give a demonstration 'Today I went shopping'.

The Aspern Papers

Durham Dramatic Society's next production is The Aspern Papers, adapted by Michael Redgrave from a short story by Henry James. The play describes how Henry Jarvis attempts to procure the papers of a famous, but now dead, American poet. He is thwarted by the poet's former lover, her niece and his own mistakes. The play runs from 22nd April to 28th April. Performances begin at 2.30 pm on Sunday, 22nd April, and at 7.30 pm on Monday, 23rd April to Saturday, 28th April. Tickets cost £6.50; concessions on Sunday and Monday, cost £5.00. Tickets are available, from 2nd April, from the Gala Theatre, Millennium Square, Durham. Tel.: 0191 3324041.

The Aspern Papers had its first performance, starring Michael Redgrave, at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, on 27th July 1959.

Willow Burn Events

A Treasure Hunt in the Grounds of Beamish Hall, 11 am-1 pm, Sunday **1st April**, £10 per family team. Enjoy this family experience solving clues that brings your team an Easter egg and some eggstra special goodies! The hospice is launching its own range of branded gifts on **18th April** and is looking to recruit a number of 'Treasured Volunteers' who will undergo training to manage hosted parties. For more information contact 07702 846683 or emailsjones@willowburnhospice.org.uk Restaurant Night at Three Horse Shoes, Maiden Law, Monday **30th April**, service from 7 pm - 9 pm. Sample this fantastic menu by booking on (01207) 520900 or call and buy a 'Willow Burn Burger' off the menu - £2 of which will be donated to the hospice. Book now for Saturday 12th May, for Leeds shopping trip 8.30 am - 5.30 pm, tickets £15 from the hospice on 01207 523295.

A Gilbert and Sullivan Feast!

As part of their Fortieth Anniversary celebrations the Choral and Operatic Society's summer show will be **BRIDEGROOM and BRIDE**. This is a musical put together by the society itself which brings together lots of the popular Gilbert and Sullivan tunes. It was first produced some 15 years ago and it was felt that as Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas have been a mainstay of the society over the past 40 years, it would be good to revive it in this special year of celebration. Play dates for the show will be 19th and 20th July in the Methodist Church. The society would welcome anyone who would like to join them for what promises to be a hugely enjoyable evening. Rehearsals are Fridays, 7.15 pm in the RC Primary School or contact 01207 520427.

Consett and District U3A

Consett and District has a new University of the Third Age (U3A) with meetings held on the third Friday of each month in Consett Methodist Church Hall. We offer a wide range of activities which can widen your knowledge, experiences and skills as well as joining in activities and making new friendships. Each month there is a speaker on various subjects like 'My Home is South Africa', 'Bronte Family', 'Fire and Ice Expeditions', and 'Kenya Lolly Pop School'. Life certainly need not be dull for Third Agers so do come along and join us. For more information contact the Membership Secretary on 01207 290452.

PACT meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th April at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. All welcome.

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 1st March the children at All Saints Primary School took part in a host of exciting events to celebrate World Book Day. Most of the children dressed up as well known book characters, even the teachers took part, dressing up as their favourite characters. The school was full of Harry Potters, Dumbledores, Little Red Riding Hoods, Hermione Grangers, evacuees and many, many more colourful book characters. The day started with a fantastic character parade in the school hall, with everyone guessing who everyone was - the

children had so much fun. They then listened to various authors talk about their books and stories through a live feed from the World Book Day website. The children also took time to write and draw about their favourite characters and books for a display in Lanchester Library. The day ended with the children sharing and reading their favourite books to other children in the school, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The sharing did not end there however. The children also donated old books for a Book Sale, with the £100 raised being

donated to Book Aid. Book Aid is a charity which pays for books for adults and children in Africa. They reach 2.5 million people every year, with the hope that by learning to read, they will be able to get a job! Everyone at All Saints School had a memorable day and enjoyed dressing up and celebrating World Book Day. The Book Sale however reminded everyone how lucky they are to be able to read and have such lovely books all around them, in their homes, their school and the village library! Lily Purdom and Shannon Ross (Year 5)



Some of the children and their teachers who dressed up as well known book characters

ALL SAINTS CELEBRATES WORLD BOOK DAY



Children and staff dress up as book characters to celebrate World Book Day

<<< Story on Page 23

LANCHESTER COMMUNITY ORCHARD



Kate Wicks, with the rest of the group in the background, plants the first tree in the Community Orchard. (See also page 18)

Mid March, being the ideal time for grafting, Lanchester Orchard Group began this task on Sunday 18th March, which followed the planting of the first tree (plum) the previous Saturday. The land there really looks as if it is being developed now with several people currently working on the allotments and orchard.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 17th April. The deadline for **adverts** is 15th April.

Published by Lanchester Publications Ltd, 49 Lintzford Road, Rowlands Gill, NE39 1HG and printed by Durham County Council, Design and Print, Comeleon House, Tanfield Lea Industrial Estate North, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 9NX. Tel: 01207 217167.

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