

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 11 Volume 13

Lanchester, November 2012

For contact information, see page 2

LIONS' FIREWORKS DISPLAY



The crowd enjoying the Lions Fireworks Display



Some of the spectacular fireworks

Story page 4

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Our youth organisations with Lanchester Brass Band, ready for the Remembrance service



Royal Marine, Sergeant Michael Gent, marches to the War Memorial to lay a wreath on behalf of his regiment.

'We Will Remember Them'

On a beautiful Autumn morning, November 11th, people gathered on our village green, to remember those who died in two World Wars, and Stuart Laing who died in the Falklands War. The ugliness and devastation

of war seemed completely incongruous against the beauty of our village green on such a beautiful morning. So many images were there for us to see. Autumn leaves fluttering

continued page 5



The group from the Anglican Church await the laying of the wreaths



Dear Village....

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

Dear Village Voice
I am researching the history of Langley Close in Maiden Law, in particular a brick building that is to the east of the main house. I have been informed that during the 1970's this was used as a residence for staff that worked at the equestrian centre. Do any readers have any information or photographs of Langley Close? If so, I would be extremely grateful if you could assist me in my little project. Please contact the Village Voice if you can help.
Yours sincerely
James Bullivant

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Lanchester Community
Centre, Newbiggen Lane,
Lanchester, DH7 0PB.

Dear Village Voice
The proposed 95 houses on Cadger Bank is probably a confidence trick. The "developer" wants 30 houses, but Lanchester doesn't want any, so an outrageous figure is proposed and the village is up in arms. The Council wins a "victory" by reducing the number of houses from 95 to 30 (which is what the developer wanted in the first place). This is a similar scam to a company that wants rid of 100 people, so they announce 300 to go. After a fight "only" 100 are out. Everyone claims a victory - except the 100 who have been dumped on. So-called "developers" do this for a commercial living, they are good at it, and they are much smarter than our elected officials. The best result is no houses at all.
Yours faithfully
Colin Tipping
West Drive
Lanchester

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

THANKS TO OLD AND NEW DELIVERERS

The Village Voice committee would like to extend gratitude to Jennifer Macdonald and Patricia and Ken Jose who retired from delivering the Voice after many years service. Many thanks for service in all sorts of

weather and I am sure the recipients on your round will join in with the appreciation for all you have done. New deliverers are Sue Hill who will take over on the Alderside Crescent round and Jim

Morgan who will deliver to shops and private houses in the village centre. It is due to volunteers that the Voice reaches all in the village so spare them a thought when it next drops through your door.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for October 2012 is 45. The draw was made by Kim Armstrong of the Gym.

APOLOGY

The Village Voice would like to retract the caption underneath the photograph of the huge hole in the road outside the Queen's Head in the October issue. The hole was nothing to do with British Gas and we are sorry we printed incorrect information. The hole belonged to Northern Gas Networks who are responsible for the pipes underneath roads. The Public Relations Department of the latter has now been informed.

TWINS



Beautiful babies Benjamin James and Olivia Rose

Jen and Ron Irwin of Croft View are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their twin grandchildren on Sunday 14th October. Born five weeks early, Benjamin James weighed 6lb 7oz and Olivia Rose 5lb 12oz. A

beautiful son and daughter for proud parents Caroline and Keith Stephen and welcome cousins for a very excited Catriona and Caitlyn. Mother and babies are progressing well. Many Congratulations!

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60 - NOT OUT!

Olga Walker has just celebrated her 60th birthday. She was born in Shincliffe and now lives in Sedgfield. She is well known as the Tower Captain in All Saints Parish Church. She and

her late husband, Alan, who was Nancy Walker's son, shared a love of ringing bells and when Alan died, Olga took over the position of Tower Captain from him. She travels from Sedgfield

every Sunday morning and evening to ring bells, and on a Friday evening for the weekly practice, as well as weddings whenever possible. She is dedicated to ringing the bells and is a popular

leader of the bell ringing team.

Olga's fellow bell ringers celebrated her special birthday with a surprise party in the Bell Tower at the Friday bell-ringing practice, when pizzas and coke were on the menu. The party carried on at the King's Head. A wonderful time was had by all. This was also true of the big party Olga had arranged for her family and numerous friends on October 20th in the Social Club. A delicious buffet had been prepared by the family and a disco completed a lovely evening.

Olga asked for donations to the Tower Fund instead of presents and raised £689 for the fund which

was set up in memory of the late Harry Thompson. Olga has recently taken over our work for Traidcraft at All Saints C of E Parish Church, and it is certain that she will do this with the same sense of dedication and enthusiasm that she gives to her role of Tower Captain.

Congratulations Olga and 'Many Happy Returns'.
Brenda Craddock



Olga Walker, cutting the birthday cake

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES A MEDAL?

Big-hearted people who have made a difference in their communities are being sought as nominations are made for the Chairman's Medal. It is presented to individuals and groups to recognise significant achievement and outstanding effort in all walks of life.

Durham County Council is looking for individuals or organisations that

have done something great for their community. It's the council's highest honour and Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) are looking for nominations from across the county in the run-up to a major presentation event next year.

There will be 14 winners this year, representing all AAP areas across the county. Anyone can nominate an organisation

or individual for a medal. The deadline for nominations is 4th January 2013. Completed forms should be sent to the Chairman's Office, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UF.

For more information log on to: www.durham.gov.uk/aap, email chairmansoffice@durham.gov.uk or call 0191 3725298.



Colin Burton, Lanchester Parish Councillor, receiving last year's Chairman's Medal

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LIONS' FIREWORKS DISPLAY



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A cold Saturday evening November 3rd with temperatures at about 3 degrees was perfect for the traditional Fireworks Display. This year for the first time it was organized by a professional locally based company, Reaction Fireworks. The setting of the field was completely different from the norm of the last 40 years or so and, of course, sadly, there was no bonfire because of health and safety reasons. The same amount of money was

spent on fireworks by the Lions Club as last year but the display, although spectacular, finished more quickly than in previous years. It is difficult to judge numbers, but the field was fairly crowded. However, because of the change of layout there probably seemed less people than usual. The Lions' Ladies and friends worked extremely hard on the hot dog stall but there were some stocks left at the end, which has not happened for a long time. This could

have been something to do with the different layout of the event or lower numbers attending or perhaps austerity. For the first time the Cricket Club had their own stall selling soup, coffee and snacks, adjacent to the display area. Although it was an excellent night some people did express disappointment at the lack of a bonfire which did take away some of the atmosphere and the physical warmth and glow which people have come to expect.

The Lions would like to thank: the Parish Council for the grant of £400; Lions' Ladies and friends; all those who attended and gave so generously; Annfield Plain Scouts who sent four members to help; four members of Derwentside Round Table who lent a hand, and the fourteen members of the Cricket Club who did most of the marshalling.

The final profit was £1100 which was about £1000 down on last year. However, there was plenty of competition with other displays in the area which probably affected the attendance to some degree.

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'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'

continued from page 1

and scuttling lightly along the grass; the outlines of the almost bare trees, with the sun streaming through their branches and beyond which the Parish church was just visible; the many young people proudly representing their organisations; the sincerity of the Lanchester people from all three denominations and other village people, as they listened intently to words spoken by our three clergyman and sang hymns to the accompaniment of

Lanchester Brass Band; the awesome silence, as various representatives from our village walked forward to lay wreaths on the war memorial. All of this etched a peaceful picture for us, so different from a war torn scene.

'The Last Post' played superbly by Mr Mark Draper, followed by the two minutes silence gave us time to reflect on the futile nature of war and remember our armed forces today who are striving to bring peace to our troubled world especially those from this village and

others known to us personally. It also gave us time to thank God in our hearts for the people who gave their lives for us so unselfishly and also to thank Him for all the blessings which each of us has and for the peace to be found in our beautiful village.

A special touch to this service was the presence of Michael Gent, who is a Sergeant in the Royal Marines. He was in full uniform as he walked to the War Memorial with his wreath, and looked very smart and splendid. Brenda Craddock

SCOUTS PAY THEIR RESPECTS

Once again Scouts from the 2nd Annfield Plain Scout Group attended the Remembrance Service on the village green. The Scouts and Cub scouts were joined by Explorer Scouts from the District. The wreath was presented

by Abbie and James, a Cub Scout and Scout from Annfield Plain. The Last Post was sounded by a Scout Leader from the Group.

Scouts from Darlington, who took part in the Derwentside Scout

District Gang Show last week, were due to attend a rehearsal in Croft View Halls. As they could not attend a Remembrance Service in Darlington, they arrived early in Lanchester to join our Scouts for the service.



Scouts at the Remembrance service on the Green

WAR MEMORIAL SERVICE, BURNHOPE

For a change we had a dry day with sunshine, in place of wet, fog and wind.

A short service was held from 10.45 to 11.00 am at the memorial, after which most people came

to the church service, led by our Methodist Minister Rev G Hume. People have told me how much they enjoyed the time of remembrance. It was also nice to see a few new faces.

The offering for BBL was £54.95. The Roll of Honour was read by Mrs Doreen Park and Mr S Collins. Many thanks to all who made a job worth doing. Stan Collins (Burnhope Methodist)

Dave Donnelly

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Meeting held on 9th October 2012

Mike Allum and Michelle Robinson, Durham County Council Planning Officers gave a presentation on the County Plan and how this relates to the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Members raised the following comments:

* There is a need to consider the whole of the County Durham Plan and how it relates to Lanchester.

* Concerns of the current infrastructure and how it will cope with proposed developments.

* Particular concerns of the proposed housing site off Cadger Bank including; access, increased traffic on the roads and in the village, flood concerns, archaeological concerns of the site.

It was agreed that a formal response to the County Council on the County Durham Plan Preferred Options document would be agreed at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting was opened to the public for their comments.

The results of a 'Survey of Households in Lanchester' was presented to the County Council and the Parish Council regarding the proposals for a housing site off Cadger bank. This survey had been undertaken by 22 volunteers with 1186 houses visited. Of those households who expressed an opinion (673), 96% were against the proposal and 4% in favour. Many members of the public spoke and raised the following issues:

* Have the recent planning applications of Maiden Law and Lynwood been taken into account in proposed housing allocations?

* The Cadger Bank site needs to be thoroughly assessed.

* The two schools in the village are at capacity already.

* Parking is a problem, what will it be like with additional housing development?

* Flooding issues.

* If new houses are built what will be the affect on existing housing in the event of flooding?

* The Cadger Bank site is not an infill site and will extend the village right up the hillside.

* The Cadger Bank site has a history of mining and is an unsettled site.

* The Parish Plan and Village Design Statement with its development limit should be taken into account.

* The proposed housing at Cadger Bank would be unsuitable for older

people due to its location on a steep hill.

* The draft plan has moved the Cadger Bank site from long term to short term timescale for development.

* Concern that the site is being put forward because a developer is keen to develop.

* A similar development on the Cadger Bank site was refused in 1988 and the planning report at the time identified problems with roads, access, archaeological concerns, affect on countryside.

The Chair thanked Mike Allum and Michelle Robinson from Durham County Council along with the members of the community for attending the meeting.

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Special Meeting held on 29th October 2012

This Special Meeting was called to decide the Parish Council's response to the County Council's Preferred Option Plan for the future development of the County and in particular the proposal by the County Council to build 95 houses at the top of Cadger Bank; the response had to be lodged before 2nd November. The Meeting was attended by about a dozen residents.

A letter from Derwentside District Council dated 1988 was read, refusing access to this site for certain reasons, in particular the access and the nearby archaeological site. Other concerns were mentioned, namely the sodden ground at the site and risk of flooding, the village schools already overcrowded and various problems due to increased traffic. It was pointed out that if all these problems could be overcome, then building would be possible,

but there was doubt that the infrastructure of the area would be suitably improved. It was agreed, however, that the County has to expand economically and that development may have to take place in the village. Residents then had their say, comments including the need for affordable housing in the village (promised by the County Council on this site), the number of houses for sale in the village, the question of sustainability of this particular site and the fact that there is already planning permission for approximately 100 houses in the village, ie the King's Head, the Lanchester Arms, Lynwood House and executive houses on Maiden Law bank. A proposal for non-approval was made and accepted and it was agreed that the County Council be asked to remove this proposed housing site from the County Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan was then discussed. The need for an improved infrastructure was reiterated, particularly with regard to relief roads round Durham. It was pointed out that if more housing is built in Consett and Leadgate and more manufacturing takes place in that area, then the amount of traffic through Lanchester would vastly increase. Housing around Sniperley and Pity Me will increase congestion. The provision of superfast Broadband is considered vital to help the economy of the County to improve, hopefully producing inward migration. Members agreed that the Lead Officer should write to the County Council saying that the Parish Council appreciates the scope and vision of the Plan but also has many concerns including highways, drainage, sewage, education, health, parking, etc.

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th November 2012

Police Report - received (see separate article). Members discussed the high levels of anti-social behaviour incidents in the last month and agreed to ask the police to make this a PACT priority.

Correspondence

(1) Durham County Council - National Tree Week Grant 2012. Members agreed to apply for a grant to provide additional trees at Kitswell Park.

(2) Durham County Council - Warm Homes Campaign. Members received the information and asked that it be displayed in the Parish Council notice board.

(3) Durham County Council - Council Tax Support Scheme - consultation. Members agreed the response sent to the County Council.

(4) Durham County Council - Winter Salting Routes - information received.

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

Hollinside Play Area - Members agreed to request permission from the owner of the land to install a bench in this area.

Grassed Area - Lanchester Valley Railway Path - between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane. The County Council have stopped cutting the grass in this area which they own and have asked the Parish Council if they would take over this responsibility. Members discussed a range of issues and concerns about the culvert, stream and costs of grass cutting. A number of residents attended the meeting and also raised a number of concerns. Members agreed that they needed further

information from the County Council before a decision could be made. It was agreed that a letter is sent to Durham County Council seeking clarification on maintenance responsibilities, ownership issues and legal costs. Members discussed the recent work undertaken by the Countryside Rangers and a group of volunteers and agreed that a letter of thanks is sent to the volunteers.

Christmas Tree Lights - Village Green. Members were informed that the maintenance work to snag and test the existing lights on the Village Green would take place as soon as the ground conditions allowed. In addition the new LED lights to replace the lights on the centre tree had arrived and again the County Council were waiting for suitable ground conditions to

undertake the work. Members were informed that arrangements for the Christmas Lights switch on event were progressing.

Financial report - discussed and received.

Accounts for Payment - approved. The Chair informed Members that Mavis Datta would not be

attending future Council meetings in the capacity as the Village Voice reporter. The Chair formally thanked Mavis for all her hard work over the years.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 11th December 2012 at 7.15pm.



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POLICE REPORT

Reporting period: 26/09/2012 to 20/10/2012
Number of calls for area: 52
Alcohol seizures 0
Burglaries 0
Bogus callers 0
Anti-social behaviour 11
(Youths congregating in Lee Hill Court alleyway, grassed areas near Lanchester Valley Walk, Percy Place/Crescent,

Woodlands. No offences disclosed.)
Criminal damage 3 (Library window smashed on 2 occasions, vehicle doors scratched in Deneside.)
Thefts 2 (Centre caps removed from wheels of unattended vehicle in Manor Grange; Harris Hawk stolen from secluded cage in Durham Road.)

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

The results for the Durham Constabulary are below:

Candidate	Party	First Preference	%
Ron Hogg	Labour	36,171	51.6
Kingsley Smith	Independent	18,813	26.8
Mike Costello	UKIP	8,257	11.8
Nick Varley	Conservative	6,900	9.8

The turnout was 14.4%.

Please see page 11 for details of a public consultation event to be hosted by Ron Hogg.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

This month I have spent much more time than I would like or can spare sitting on the Small Charitable Donations Bill Committee. MPs are generally reluctant to sit on Bill Committees because they take up so much time - two full days a week for up to 8 weeks. However, the work of Bill Committees is invaluable in line by line scrutiny of new legislation prior to it becoming law. This gives MPs a degree of expertise in very detailed legislation that they can use later in the House and to support their constituents. The Small Charitable Donations Bill is generally a good bill based on good intentions. Its purpose is to provide tax relief on

small donations collected by charities in cash. For example, bucket collections or church plate collections. What is not so good is that civil servants have taken the intention and wrapped it in complex legal language, meaning that the resulting bill makes it difficult and unnecessarily bureaucratic for small community based charities to benefit from it. Nevertheless this is an opportunity for charities to recover up to £1250 per year on small cash donations. Given my newly acquired expertise in this area, I intend to hold a workshop in the constituency for charities to help raise awareness of gift aid in general and other schemes which may help

charities and churches in North West Durham to maximise what help is available to them. If you are involved in a charity or church, PTA, scout or guide group, youth group or luncheon club and you think you may benefit from this scheme please get in touch with my office to make sure you are on the list for the workshop and updates. I am always keen to hear from constituents so if you would like to contact me or need my help with any issue of concern, please write to me at Pat Glass MP, Gledstone House, 26 Newmarket Street, Consett, Co Durham DH8 5LQ, email me at p.a.t.g.l.a.s.s.m.p@parliament.uk, or phone my office on 01207 501 782.

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FRAUD AWARENESS - SPOT IT STOP IT CAMPAIGN

Durham Rural Community Council who are based in Park House, Lanchester, are working on a new campaign with Action Fraud, known as the Spot it Stop it campaign. It's aimed at trying to raise awareness of fraud in the local area, helping to better identify what to look out for and what to do if you suspect it. The project is targeted at women aged over 55 years; these have been identified as being particularly vulnerable and more likely to be a victim of fraud.

Key facts:
* 62% of women aged over 55 have experienced fraud once or more.
* 31% of people in Durham are aged over 55 years and these could

be particularly at risk and perceived as an easier target for fraudsters. Fraudsters are clever and manipulative, often using the approaches that sound official and legitimate. Help prevent yourself or others becoming a victim by getting to know the warning signs and knowing when to say no. Staff from DRCC are giving informal talks to raise awareness of fraud, either to a group of people or individually. If you would like a member of staff to come along and have a 'chat' with you or your group, please contact Barbara or Lauren on 01207 529621. Please note that the service is only available until December 16th.

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CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING



People enjoying coffee and a chat at the Christian Aid fundraising function

A Coffee Morning was held at the Methodist Church for Christian Aid on Saturday, 27th October.

There were a few fundraising tables which included cakes and bric a brac. It was a convivial time with

people from all churches attending. The total raised for this worthy cause was £178.53.

METHODIST TABLE TOP SALE

A Table Top Sale was held at the Methodist Church on Saturday 17th November. There were about half a dozen tables with clothes, cards, bric a brac, toys and items for Christmas etc. The sale

was well attended as are most functions on a Saturday coffee mornings at the Methodist Church. Money was raised for various charities including Children in Need.



A large gathering of people and children near the Bric a Brac Table including some familiar faces



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KING'S HEAD HALLOWEEN



Leeanne and Beth will show you to your table

On 25th October, the 'King's Head' Hotel welcomed folk to their Halloween celebrations. Local poet Christopher Short composed an essay in rhyme which cleverly described the origins of Halloween, and listed ideas associated with the night.

Spooky cobweb garlands, ghostly hands

and pumpkins decorated the restaurant, and staff dressed as scary characters. A special Horrid Menu was available, with Witch Soup and other devilish delicacies to tempt diners.

Another 'Theme Night' is being planned - details can be obtained from the 'Haunted Hotel'.

HALLOWEEN VISITORS



Catherine bares her teeth to frighten us, Alice has a good laugh, Matthew is now bored with all this Halloween nonsense and hits the bottle!

PARTNERSHIP OLYMPICS QUIZ

Quiz winners at the Lions' Carnival were:

Adults: Jill Ramsey and Gavin Mankin; **Young People:** Chloe, Felicity and Olivia. Well Done!

LANCHESTER LIBRARY NEW OPENING HOURS

From Thursday 3rd January 2013, the new hours for Lanchester Library are as follows:

Monday	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Tuesday	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.00 am - 7.00 pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	9.30 am - 12.30 pm

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING AND CLOSING TIMES

The Library will close at 1.00 pm on Saturday 22nd December 2012 and reopen at 9.00 am on Thursday 3rd January 2013.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2013.
Monica



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HALLOWEEN PARTY



One of the mums, dressed 'to kill'?

Kids Club volunteers, Margaret and Alison organised the Halloween Party at the Community Centre this year as Vicky Brown was unavailable. However, Vicky lent

her support by supplying various items and also secured Margaret Cooper, once again free of charge, to run the disco which the children loved.

It was a wild afternoon with the 70 or so children enjoying dancing and games wearing some fabulous Halloween costumes. Lots of adults joined in the dressing up as well. The

food organised by Margaret and Alison from the Community Centre with volunteers went down really well. Both ladies would like to thank everyone who made it such an

enjoyable party. The money raised from the event was £216.00 split evenly between the Kelly Casher fund, nominated by Vicky Brown, and the Community Centre.

POLICE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Ron Hogg, Durham's new Police and Crime Commissioner, is hosting a public consultation day on Thursday 13th December at the Dolphin Centre, Darlington (morning) and at Durham Town Hall (afternoon). He will be consulting the public about his Police and Crime Plan and the police budget. The event is free and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend, please visit www.durham-pcc.gov.uk and provide your details. Alternatively telephone 0191 383 5511, email: enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk or write to Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL.

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Nobby Dimon with Simon Kirk on 'Shivering Sands'

'The Lighthouse on Shivering Sands' was loosely based on a short story by 'Yorkshire's Most Prolific Writer', J S Fletcher, a writer who is now out of print and would probably have been forgotten but for second hand bookshops and internet downloads. Nobby used this vehicle to explore in his usual humorous way 'truth, lies and the unreliable narrator'.

The best part of the play for me was the remarkable scene where Mark Cronfield playing Mordechai Chiddock and Simon Kirk playing Jezreel Cornish seamlessly swap good guy/bad guy roles. They re-enact the same story giving a different slant to show themselves in a good light and the opposite character as the epitome of evil.

Remarkable acting and a masterpiece of scripting. I like the way Nobby and the cast break down the barriers between actors and the audience by their pre-show banter. Only Vivienne Garnett who played the selkie (a mythical seal-woman) was kept in the wings. It was interesting that in Nobby's pre-play chat he remarked that the further north they play the more people had heard of a selkie. He was also quite open about his use of Victorian melodrama. "You are allowed to laugh", he instructed the audience (and they did). Last year the company faced a crisis as their Arts Council grant was removed. Fortunately hundreds of 'Angels' have come to the rescue so we can look forward to more visits in future from this excellent company.

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STUART TOWNEND CONCERT

What an incredible occasion this was! Less of a concert and much more of an experience on so many levels! Stuart shared so much more than his music. We have been singing his worship songs and hymns for many years now and they are such a Blessing, however the insights he shared with us in relation to his music were inspirational. We were able to participate in many of his songs and he introduced us to his more recent creations. The way in which we were enabled to worship with him and feel the very presence of God was an incredible experience. He gave tribute to the old hymn writers and shared how so many of them had provided him with so many thoughts and ideas. One example of this is one of his more recent songs

'It is well with my soul'. He also explained how he used the bible material to 'tell the story' of the nature of Jesus, for example 'The man who calmed the sea'. The theme which we are so used to exploring through his music is, of course, the nature of the sacrifice of Jesus and the price he paid to give us the opportunity of a life free from sin. This led us into the familiar Easter ones which we also sang, "O to

see the dawn' and 'In Christ alone'. If you want to hear some of these songs, come to the Churches Together Easter Witness in the village, which is now an annual event.

He is a truly a man of God and, in humility and obedience, has used his amazing talent to make it his life's work to communicate to us God's grace and love. Thank you Stuart for an evening we will never forget!



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LANCHESTER ART EXHIBITION

The Art Exhibition is always an event which is something to look forward to towards the end of October when autumn often begins to seem like winter. This year, however it was a lovely sunny weekend, not quite an Indian summer, but the attendance was excellent. It is incredible to learn that the Art Group which originally met at the Green School started in 1982! Those thirty years have flown and the membership which began with seven aspiring artists now has a membership of

40 accomplished artists, 36 of whom exhibited at the current event. A new exhibitor this year was Mary Patterson, from Consett, who has only been a member for a very short time and produced some wonderful watercolours of wildlife. The waiting list of five has now been closed. The busy halls made for a great atmosphere as viewers walked around the exhibits chatting to friends about the fine works on display. People came from all over the region to visit the

exhibition, such has its reputation grown over those thirty years. Superlatives to describe some of the paintings have now been used so many times - how does it keep on improving? Suffice to say that it certainly does. The talent from people in and around this village is enormous and much appreciated. Many people help on the weekend and the refreshments and atmosphere in the small hall enhanced the visit. Long may this fine exhibition continue!



Pat and John Wills (foreground) looking intensely interested in the works of Margaret Walters, alongside Kathleen Bilclough from Winlaton and Sylvia McPhail from Rowlands Gill.

LANCHESTER HISTORY SOCIETY

The November meeting of the History Society took place on the eve of the village fireworks and, appropriately, the talk given by Arthur Dodds was on the Gunpowder Plot.

The basic details of the 17th century terrorist plan are fairly well known but

the members were told of the lesser-known events leading up to the arrest of Guido Fawkes, a man of York. The full story was one of intrigue, betrayal, arrest, torture and brutal execution. The audience heard how the nationwide schism in religious beliefs had its origins in

Germany, Paris, York, and Durham, and how members of the well-known northern families of Neville, Lumley and Percy suffered martyrdom for their beliefs during the religious persecution in Tudor times.

The next meeting will be on 1st February 2013.

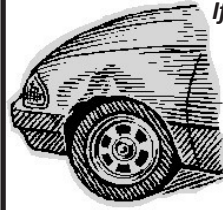
KICKBOXING SUCCESS

Zachary Glendinning, a teenage kickboxer, has won his first belt. 13 year-old Zach from Lanchester defeated the Scottish champion, Harry Carlin, in his home town of Motherwell. The St Bede's pupil is now the holder of the Bantam weight Commonwealth golden belt. Zach trains under Wes Fagan with the North-East Kickboxing Academy at Burnopfield Community Centre.



Zach celebrates after winning his first belt

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ALEXANDER SALES & LETTINGS OPENS

Paul Morgan was proud to open his new business surrounded by a large number of family and friends on Saturday 20th October. Paul who originates from Consett has lived in the village for some 23 years. He has spent 20 years working as Regional Director for a large Estate Agency in County Durham so he certainly has the experience to accomplish his aims and give an excellent service to his customers. The opening ceremony and function was great



The opening of Alexander Sales & Lettings. Sam cuts the ribbon surrounded by many relatives and friends. Paul is at the back (centre).

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fun with a wonderful warm atmosphere and lots of laughter. There was plenty of wine and some nibbles which greatly enhanced the occasion. Paul's daughter, Sam, did the honours by cutting the ribbon and after adjourning inside,

Paul's Dad made a moving, emotional, tribute to Paul who had obviously experienced a couple of difficult years. Paul is keen to use other businesses in the village to help them through difficult times, and hopes that this will

be reciprocated by those and the general public in Lanchester. He invites anyone who needs advice re sales, letting, or buying property to call in for a friendly chat. Alternatively please phone 01207 529900 or visit www.alexander-lettings.co.uk.

IN HARMONY HOLISTICS

I became interested in holistic therapies when my daughter tried ear candles for her sinus problems. It made such a

difference that I decided that I would learn how to do it. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to learn more therapies. Having worked in the Construction/Facilities Services for almost 30 years I decided that I needed a complete change. I've been practising on friends and family for over 18 months and I've finally taken the plunge and opened my own holistic therapy room in Westlands Dental Studio in Lanchester. Holistic therapy aims to work on a physical, emotional and spiritual level and helps the body

to heal itself. All my therapies are deeply relaxing and can alleviate stress, aches and pains and improve general health and well being. Therapies include: Hot Stone Massage; Swedish Massage; Indian Head Massage; Crystal Tranquility Massage; Holistic Facial; Natural Lift Facial Massage, Ear Candles and Ayurvedic Foot Ritual (Kansa Vataki). With a 25% discount in December (applies to Gift Vouchers too) it's a great time to give holistic therapy a try. Janet Middleton



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Maria, a colleague at Westlands, prepares for her holistic treatment by Janet

ALAN MADRELL RETIRES

Alan and Dorothy of Alan Madrell Coaches have announced that they are retiring at the end of the year, though Alan is hoping to do some work within the tourism industry. Alan Madrell Coaches have been providing coach holidays and day trips for 12 years and picking up in local villages

including Lanchester. Many people have enjoyed the trips and tours over the years and Alan and Dorothy have enjoyed meeting the passengers and providing interesting places to visit. It started with Sunday afternoon mystery trips and day trips and progressed to tours going

to places from Scotland to the Isle of Wight. A lot of fun and many new friendships have been enjoyed by so many people.

They would like to thank everyone who has supported them over the years and wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Dorothy and Alan with one of their coaches

FIRST AID AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Eight people assembled at the Community Centre on Monday 12th November for a two hour training course in First Aid. It is essential that staff at the centre keep up to date with this to make sure someone is on hand in case of emergency. It is even

more important now that there is a thriving, busy gym where accidents could possibly happen, though not many have occurred so far.

Nicky Willis from The Red Cross gave an excellent lecture with frequent intermittent times for questions and answers,

all of which was not only interesting, but very valuable in terms of life skills which could save lives.

Those who attend the centre for whatever reason will no doubt be pleased that their safety is of prime importance to the management.



Arthur Maughan, Chairman of the Centre, demonstrates CPR to other participants on the First Aid Course

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WI NEWS

Vice president Ann Carr welcomed members to our 87th birthday meal which this year was held at Yannis. Before our meal was served Ann gave out entry forms for a free to enter poetry contest to find the best local poem about Lanchester (these will also be available at the December meeting). June has booking forms for the County holiday at Lille for those who are interested.

We then sat down to enjoy our Greek evening, a lovely social time with very good food and company. We

would like to thank the staff at Yannis for making our 87th birthday night so special.

We had a very busy month in October with members joining Satley WI for their birthday night, going to Bishop Auckland for the Autumn Council Meeting and attending the Derwent Jubilee Group meeting hosted by Edmundbyers. There we not only enjoyed a delicious supper and two very good speakers but Maureen Clarkson won the cup for her flower arrangement.

Members also supported a concert given by Annfield Plain WI concert party for Help the Heroes which was excellent. We all joined in singing war time songs before enjoying another delicious supper.

Members had donated accessories for our stall at the group fair in Spennymoor town hall. Ann, Heather and Jean left at 8.30 to set up and they were joined by ladies from Consett and Ebchester WI's. Over £160 was raised for county funds just on our stall. Thank you

to everyone who contributed items. Ann and June laid the poppy wreath on behalf of Lanchester WI.

If what we do interests you, why not come next year as a visitor - you will be made very welcome.



Maureen Clarkson who won the Derwent Jubilee Group Meeting Cup with her beautiful flower arrangement.



Christmas has arrived at The Glass & Art Gallery Medomsley Road, Consett

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BIG SKILLS SHARE LAUNCH AT BEAMISH MUSEUM

The Big Skills Share is part of the UK Older People's Day celebrated on 1st October to coincide with the UN International Day of Older Persons. The main aim for the UK Older People's Day is to be a national celebration of the achievements and contributions that older people make to our society and to the economy.

At the beginning of the month, six of St Bede's Year 12 Health and Social Care students took part in Age UK

County Durham's Big Skills Share Day at Beamish Museum. They worked alongside a group of older people from Chester-le-Street to try a range of traditional activities, including making wooden model engines, baking scones in the pit cottages and exploring behind the scenes and in the stores of Beamish. It was a wonderful day, not least because the students and older people worked together so well.



The six students of Year 12 at Beamish

BRINGING BOOKS ALIVE

November saw St. Bede's School celebrate their second annual Literary Festival, with a full and varied programme of events to inform and excite their students. Within a week packed with good things, one of the highlights came when many of the students and staff dressed as characters from literature. Little Red Riding Hood chatted with St Trinian schoolgirls, while Oliver

Twist and Dorothy searched for the Yellow Brick Road, helped by smurfs and Peter Pan. A dashing James Bond was there, along with Tigger and some Oompa Loompas, and Harry Potter listened to Professor Albus Dumbledore.

A group of students had written to Daniel Blythe, inviting him to attend the Festival and they were delighted when the

acclaimed author of three of the official "Dr Who" novels agreed to spend a whole day talking to students, conducting writing workshops and signing books. He presented an interesting informative session on the history of "Dr Who", from its genesis in the 1960's, when William Hartnell played the Doctor, through the character's various regenerations, until the series in the present day.

His audience were fascinated with the journey back to the time of black and white TV, when special effects had yet to be enhanced by computers.

Former student Andy Lee offered students information and help with aspects of journalism and song writing. Andy served as Chief Reporter for the Northern Echo and



Harry Potter meets Oliver Twist!

ST BEDE'S WORLD CHALLENGE

This was a four week charitable expedition to Botswana and Namibia. There was a team of ten students, two teachers and an expedition teacher that went. Each student had to raise £4000 to go over a period of 18 months. This fundraising was part of the challenge and there were various events that took place such as bag packing, St Bede's Strictly Come Dancing and a Race Night.

The 4 weeks themselves were incredible. The students were in charge of the trip. They chose the itinerary and the project. The main focus of the expedition was the

project in Hippo Primary school in Namibia. Our students spent their time painting the students' dormitories which were just bare brick. They also helped the students with their school work and language skills, even delivering some lessons. We taught them about the English culture and acted out Bible stories and sang songs in the evenings. I can safely say that we were all very different people when we returned. We have had our eyes opened to the poverty and suffering in the world, but also the happiness that having little can bring.



Some of the students together with their local 'hosts' from the Primary School

the Advertiser Series in Tyne and Wear and is also an accomplished songwriter. Professor Simon James, Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature presented thought provoking seminars to students, and Sheree Mack, Writer in Residence at the prestigious Literary and Philosophical Society in Newcastle conducted

exciting writing workshops, and students are eager to work with her again. Sue Spence, a volunteer at Willow Burn Hospice demonstrated the beauty and power of poetry, used as complementary therapy to great effect. A really exciting and informative week for the students of St Bede's School!



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GOLDEN JUBILEE RACE NIGHT

The odds were on for a great meet at the All Saints Catholic Parish Race Night, on 15th November in Lanchester Club.

An excited group of punters of all ages studied the form, fancied a flutter and placed their £1 bets! Under starter's orders, they were off, accompanied by exuberant cheers from the good humoured winners and losers. Throughout there was a wonderful friendly atmosphere, a bit like playing a giant board game, encouraged by the dry witticisms of the

commentator. It was all just a bit of good, clean fun. A fitting climax was the bidding for ownership in the last race; with an interesting combination of competitive tension, banter and generosity.

Thanks to Tricia and Richard for the concert room, Hilary of Barclays Bank who ensured fair play, all the sponsors of races and horses, and all who bought tickets.

All profits will go towards the Golden Jubilee Fund of Canon Spence's priestly ordination to be celebrated in 2013.



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After the Halloween Party on Sunday 28th, Kids Club continued their activities on the Monday with a Film Show featuring Wallace and Gromit, 'The Curse of the Were Rabbit'. The thirty or so children who turned up for this thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On the Wednesday, Halloween day, about

twenty to thirty adults with their children met at the Community Centre for a 'Crafternoon'. Jacqueline Turnbull, Treasurer of the Community Centre, guided them in making various crafts with a Halloween theme.

This was followed on the Friday with an equally successful afternoon

making crafts with an Autumnal theme, which included owl bags and leaf masks. This session was also led by Jacqueline. It was a lovely week at half term for some of the younger children in the village which kept them occupied in an enjoyable way and also gave their parents a pleasant social occasion.



Jacqueline, children and parents making leaf masks and owl bags for the Autumnal theme

JUBILEE CURRY BANQUET

Saturday 26th October was an historic day in the life of All Saints' Parish Centre. For the lucky ticket holders, the Parish Centre was transformed into a very upmarket Thai restaurant. Chef Geoffrey Redfearn, well known in the parish and village, arrived on the first train out of King's Cross to prepare a three course meal for 56. Quite a challenge for any master chef. In London Chef Geoff works at the 'Angela Malik School of Asian Cookery' where

he specialises in Thai cuisine.

Not to outdo our very own Gourmet Girls, who are so often out and about as the 'Ladies who Lunch', let me just hint at the truly wonderful meal: marinated steak salad, chicken, beef and vegetarian curries prepared with the wonderful unique blend of spices, herbs and ingredients such as aubergines, sweet potatoes, red chillies, green beans, peas and peanuts, then finally

topped off with mango and lime meringue with fresh pineapple.

But of equal enjoyment to this feast, was the convivial company and exotic ambience, created by Mary's art club and Avril's attractive and attentive front of house team.

All profits go towards the Golden Jubilee Fund of Canon Spence's priestly ordination which will be celebrated in July 2013. Watch out for details to be publicised next year.

As a postscript, Geoff had been interviewed by Michel Roux the previous week and on the Tuesday after the 'Curry Banquet', he received the great news that he had landed the prestigious job as Chef Director of 'Cactus Kitchens' soon to be opened above the Cactus TV studio which produces BBC's Saturday Morning Kitchen. Geoff will be pivotal in organising

opportunities for the paying general public to "cook with the nation's favourite TV chefs" in a variety of unique "star-studded cooking experiences".

So as he rubs shoulders with the Master Chefs, may we offer our congratulations and thanks to Geoff, our very own celebrity chef, from your many friends up north.



Left to right: Canon Spence, Michael and Avril Quigley and Chef Geoff Redfearn

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Last time out we paid a return visit to the 'Black Horse' at Beamish. Not too far from Lanchester it is set in lovely countryside and the place itself is most welcoming and accommodating, especially for a large party who hadn't booked. We were especially pleased with our table, a lovely oval shape which is our favourite allowing everybody to easily join in with the conversation. They have a special set menu at £11.95 for a 2 course meal and £14.95 for a 3 course, alongside an extensive a la carte - plenty of choice for everyone.

We sampled for starters smoked trout en crouete with dill and caper vinaigrette, chicken liver parfait with red onion marmalade and melba toast. Main courses were roast loin of pork and black pudding mash with cider sauce and green beans, baked haddock steak on a pear and parsnip puree with new potatoes, and Black Horse Beamish beef and Bombardier ale pie with creamy mash and seasonal veg. Puds were sticky toffee pudding with butterscotch sauce and cream, pear and almond tart with crème

anglaise and rhubarb brûlée with petticoat tail shortbread. The puds were deemed to be very rich (so not for the fainted hearted watching the cholesterol count) but also lovely and light. Also one of our number opted for a 'light bite' (making sure there was room for the decadent desserts obviously) the smoked bacon, brie and rich tomato chutney sandwich served with fries was evidently 'quite delicious'. Indeed we found all our meals to be most enjoyable.

We love the Black Horse!

The Gourmet Girls

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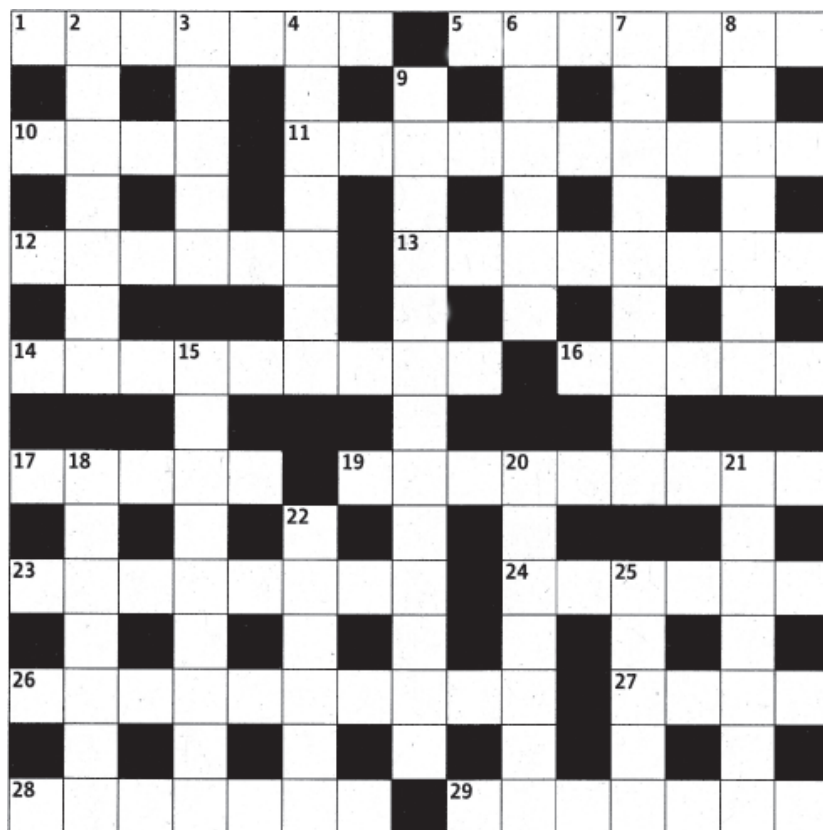
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CROSSWORD 79



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CROSSWORD 78

There were 16 entries in last month's crossword competition, though several had errors.

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

ACROSS

- 1,5. Tome still right for source of profit (5,2,3,4)
5. see 1
10. Self-satisfied (4)
- 11,16,18,27. Go for it (5,5,5,3,4,4)
12. Corruption (6)
13. Blend (8)
14. Goes with computer, radio and TV (9)
16. See 11
17. Alter slightly (5)
19. Cute dives are tempting (9)
23. Medical preparation for asthmatics ? (8)
24. Go for it (6)
26. NaHCO₃ (6,4)
27. See 11
28. Author of The Common Book of Prayer (7)
29. Levels (7)

DOWN

2. Stroller (7)
3. Ó (5)
4. Lustrous fabric (7)
6. Assassin (6)
7. Top spot for climbers? (2,7)
8. Olympic winner (4,3)
9. Pointless comic venture in evasion (13)
15. Drag it on a stage (9)
18. See 11
20. Parvenu (7)
21. Clearly (7)
22. Mutilate (6)
25. Measuring device (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 78

ACROSS

- 7,9. knuckle down
8. traduce
9. see 7
10. accoutred
12. verve
13. ophidian
- 15,20. down. anno Domini
16. bloom
17. crop
18. umbrella
20. draft
21. short-term
22. Tutu
24. condole
25. uncanny

DOWN

1. undo
2. scenario
3. please
4. brougham
5. adored
6. scud
11. chocolate
12. venom
14. about
16. belittle
17. claptrap
19. Rhonda
20. see 15
21. stow
23. tang

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.

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

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A CRUCIVERBALIST IN LONDON

What was I doing in London? I was a contestant in the Times National Crossword Championship.

How did I get there? By submitting one of the fifty fastest times taken to complete correctly a crossword set earlier in the year specifically for those wanting to qualify for the championship. Three are set at monthly intervals.

What happens on the day? Two groups of contestants are given

three puzzles to solve in one hour and the twelve fastest in each group to do so correctly qualify for the Grand Final which takes place in the afternoon. No dictionaries or reference books are allowed, the large room is set out like an examination hall and if your mobile phone rings, you are disqualified. It is mental torture!

This is a newer format and takes place on only one date in London. When I first took part, there were

regional rounds all over the country. You were allowed thirty minutes for the first puzzle, then thirty for the second and then thirty for the third. If you finished before the end of the session, the number of unused minutes was added to the number of clues you had solved correctly. After the third puzzle there was a tea break during which a provisional order of merit was worked out before crossword number four. This was so much harder that I believe its purpose was to separate those at the top of the list. The winners of the regional rounds then competed in the final in London.

A wide general knowledge is necessary as well as the ability to recognise quickly an anagram or a hidden word. Gone are the quotations from Shakespeare. Nowadays familiarity with computing is required: for example, the first syllable of an answer this year was "app".

I didn't come last. Not quite!

Jill Ramsey



Jill Ramsey with a Crossword Puzzle

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Rigatoni Sausage Bake

250g/8ozs good quality pork sausages
1 tbs olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 large carrot, grated
150ml/1/4 pint red wine
150ml/1/4 pint vegetable stock
2 tbs tomato purée

For the sauce

25g/1oz butter
25g/1oz plain flour
1/2 pint milk
freshly grated nutmeg
250g/8oz rigatoni or penne
100g/4oz fresh spinach
70g/3ozs mature cheddar cheese, grated

1. Slit the sausages and remove them from the their skins, then chop them into small pieces.

Heat the oil in a pan, add the onion and fry for 5 minutes, until softened and lightly browned. Stir in the sausages and fry until lightly coloured. Add the carrot, then stir in the wine, stock, tomato purée, and season.

2. Bring to the boil, then simmer uncovered for about 15 minutes until thickened. Taste and season. Set aside.

3. Put the butter, flour and milk in a pan. Gently heat, whisking, until thickened and smooth. Add a sprinkle of freshly grated nutmeg, season, then simmer for 2 minutes.

4. Preheat the oven to 190c/gas 5/fan 170c. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Add the pasta, stir well, then cook, uncovered, for 10-12 minutes, until tender. Remove from the heat, stir in the spinach and when just wilted, drain well.

5. Tip half the pasta into a shallow ovenproof dish and level. Spoon over the sausage sauce, then cover with the remaining pasta. Pour the white sauce evenly over the top and sprinkle with the cheddar. 6. Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden brown. Leave for 5 minutes before serving.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Country Market

On Saturday 1st December, 10 am - 12 noon, come along to the Country Market in the Community Centre for your fresh produce, cakes, pies, jams, chutneys, eggs, plants, etc, maybe some Christmas presents too.

Family Fundraiser

Come along to Lanchester Methodist Church on Saturday 1st December at 6.15 pm till 9 pm (approx). KoGs are holding a FAMILY FUNDRAISING event for Help For Heroes and KoGs. The evening will include: Broth Supper (included in ticket price), Mulled Wine/Hot Chocolate, Gingerbread men and Mince Pies. Live band playing Christmas songs, Guest singers, Sketches, Christmas trivia quiz (prizes to be won), Santa Drive (prizes to be won), KoGs craft stall, Meet & greet Santa and also TOP SECRET, SPECIAL GUESTS ... NOT TO BE MISSED!

Money raised will be donated to Help For Heroes and KoGs. Tickets are priced at £3 per person or £10 family of four ticket. For tickets or more information contact Laura Cole - 07411721529, Mervyn Burdon - 01207 237161, or email: Kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk

Wildlife Group

The December meeting, on Tuesday 11th at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre will be the AGM and social.

Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 1st December, EDDY, Fabulous Vocalist
Sunday 8th December, JACEY TAYLOR, Ex Extraordinary Ladies
Saturday 15th December, GAYNOR MARIE, Superb Vocalist
Saturday 22nd December, KAREN KENNEDY, Clubland's Leading Female Singer
Saturday 29th December, CHRISSEY, Excellent Female Entertainer

Canon Spence - Forthcoming Jubilee Events

Sunday 2nd December, Jubilee Coffee after Mass (Organisers - SVP Group)
Sunday 9th December, Family Christmas Party (Organiser - Joanne Graham)
Sunday 23rd December, Jubilee Coffee and Carols (Organisers - Choir)

Sunday Bridge

Come and enjoy a relaxed afternoon playing Bridge in the Community Centre on December 2nd from 2.00 pm. Only £3. Everyone welcome.

Paradiso Club

The next Social will be on Sunday December 2nd, 7 pm - 9.15 pm, in the Community Centre. As well as the usual Raffle, Refreshments and film there will be an opportunity to buy DVDs that we have shown over the last season. The Big Screen film being shown this time is THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL. This film boasts an acclaimed cast including

Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, Tom Wilkinson and Celia Imrie who light up this romantic comedy from the Director of 'Shakespeare in Love'. Seven cash-strapped Brits journey to a retirement resort in India. Friendship and romance blossom as they touch each other's hearts in unexpected ways. In the end, they will all discover that life and love can begin again when you embrace today and let go of the past.

All are welcome. Annual membership of the club is £5 pa (worth it if you expect to come regularly!) as members then pay £2.50 per entry. Occasional visitors are welcome and would pay £3.50 for the Social which includes the raffle, refreshments and film.

WI

Our next meeting is our Christmas party which will be held in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 3rd December starting at 7.00 pm.

This is always a night full of fun and laughter and after we enjoy a delicious faith supper provided by the members. The Lanchester Male Voice Choir will entertain us and there will be a Chinese raffle.

This is always a lovely start to Christmas and to those members who cannot join us we send Christmas greetings and look forward to seeing you next year. We also wish a Merry Christmas to everyone who has helped and supported us throughout the year.

Will members please bring items for the faith supper and a prize for the Chinese raffle if possible. Thank you.

WHAT'S ON?

Open House

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

Short Circuit Walks

December 8th, at 10.30 am, Shiremoor Metro to Percy Main, 4.5 miles, including a railway museum. Meet at Shiremoor Metro, NZ318715.

December 29th, at 10.30 am, Newcastle Quayside to Newburn, 6 miles. Meet under the Tyne Bridge, NZ252638.

Santa's Post Box

Santa's Post Box will be situated outside the Red Cross Shop from 12th December until 22nd inclusive. This is courtesy of Lanchester Lions Club who have this very special arrangement with Santa Claus.

Mothers' Union

The meeting on Wednesday 12th December, 7.30 pm in church (meet in Chapter House first) is the Advent Evening - hymns, readings and prayers for Advent, followed by refreshments.

Playgroup Coffee Morning

Lanchester Playgroup will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 15th December from 10 am until noon. We will be selling cakes, crafts and toys and there will be face painting for the children. Please come and join us.

Lilydale Pet Supplies

Please visit the Lanchester store on Saturday 15th December and bring your children with you if possible for a most enjoyable experience. Whilst there you will be able to see the search and rescue dogs from the Weardale Search and Rescue Team for which funds are being raised at the shop. The dogs will be on duty between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Lanchester Miners' Banner Group

The next meeting of the Group will take place on Wednesday the 19th December at 4.30 pm at Park House, Lanchester.

The group has been established to co-ordinate the works and raise funds to undertake the necessary restoration and conservation work on the Fenhall Drift Banner.

If any members of the community are interested in becoming part of the working group please contact Sally on 01207 521957 or simply come along to the next meeting.

Lanchester Partnership

All members and non-members are invited to come to the Community Centre Dining Room on Thursday December 20th at 7.30 pm for wine, nibbles and a chat about what we are doing, what you think we should be doing, the test score, whatever.

Please come. (It's free!)

"LADIES" Come Dancing

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WHAT'S ON

Thursday Club

December 20th will be a meeting for members to get together before Christmas, to sing carols with Pam Bygate and reminisce on 'What Christmas means to me' at 1.30pm in the Community Centre. £5 deposit+menu choice for our New Year Party at Deanos on January 17th 2013 need to be in to Eileen or Liz by the end of November.

New Year's Eve Ceilidh

This popular event will be held again in Lanchester Community Centre on Monday 31st December with the Angels of the North ceilidh band. Tickets £7.50 or £6.50 for under 16s. Contact Elaine Williamson 01207 520063 to reserve a place.

Willow Burn Events

The Tree of Remembrance will once again be located in the foyer of Matalan, Consett every day from 10am-7pm (Sundays 10am-4pm) from Saturday 1st to Monday 24th December. For a small donation, baubles bearing your own personal message in memory of a loved one, can be hung on the 10 - 12ft tree, which is being donated by Lanchester Nurseries again. There will be another tree located in the hospice lounge and at the Charity Shop in Stanley. Many, many thanks to Matalan for affording the hospice the opportunity again. The 2011 Tree of Remembrance raised over £3,000 for the hospice.

The Shotley Bridge Victorian Extravaganza is again fundraising for Willow Burn in 2012. The event, primarily to profile shops and services, community organisations

and village amenities, is organised by Shotley Bridge Village Trust and local businesses. This will be the fourth year that Willow Burn has been chosen as the named charity which receives all proceeds from the weekend of festive activity. Apart from the all-day goings on, on the Saturday including coach rides around the village, the Friday night is particularly enjoyable for all the family, with church bells, lighting of the tree, carols and late night opening of many shops and businesses to pick up that special Christmas gift.

Willow Burn's LUAL (Light Up A Life) service will be held at 3pm on Sunday 9th December at St Bede's School, Lanchester, representing a time to be comforted and to share hope with others. Messages can be dedicated in memory of a loved one, candles are lit, and names of those special to family and friends are recorded in a book of remembrance. The service is open to everyone. For further information contact Clare Chillingworth on (01207) 529224 (cchillingworth@willowburnhospice.org.uk)

Santa's Little Helpers' Run is a fun way for local schools to get involved in a fundraising activity for Willow Burn during December. Schools designate a suggested indoor or outdoor course of an appropriate distance and ask that children obtain sponsorship for running one or a number of laps. When the hospice receives the funds, a certificate is sent out to schools and each and every child receives a sticky 'Santa's Little Helpers' Run' badge. For more information contact Claire Ross on (01207) 523296.

LATEST FROM THE CRICKET CLUB

The senior presentation night was held on 20th October and the following players picked up awards: **First team** Batting Graham Brinton; Bowling Kieron Taylor; Catches Lee Murray. Player of the Year Kieron Taylor.

Second Team Batting, Paul Burn. Bowling, Andy Allen. Catches, Stephen

Murray. Player of Year, Tony Dumighan.

Third Team Batting Neil Graham. Bowling Stuart Beaumont. Catches Tim Kennington/Craig Smith. Player of the Year Nathan Somersall.

The second team were the only trophy winners taking the Division B title remaining unbeaten

throughout the season. Captain Steve Murray retired after completing this impressive feat.

We have a quiz night on Thursday 29th November and the Feast is set for 22nd December. A handful of tickets are still available at £18 which includes a three course meal and some great entertainment.

AFGHAN MEMORIAL RUN

This was an endurance event to mark the 11 years since the start of the Afghanistan campaign. Sergeant Sonia Clamp and Iran a mile for every British Service person that has been killed during the conflict to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund, the Soldiers' Charity. We each ran 434 miles.

The Soldiers' Charity gives a lifetime of support to soldiers, former soldiers and their families in times of need. Over the past two years there has been a 30% rise in people seeking help and this is expected to increase with the continuing operations in Afghanistan.

I would like to personally

pass on our thanks for your assistance with raising money for this amazing charity which is extremely close to our hearts. The donations are still coming in but we know we have reached our target of £11,000 and this is mainly down to the kindness of people like you.

Nicky Jefferson (Captain)

FOOTBALL UPDATE

continued from page 24 host to Tantomie Commercial running out 4-0 winners with a hat-trick from Stu McPhail. The next week Lanchester Lads were away to promotion favourites the Scotch Arms. Lanchester played their best of the season to record a 4-1

victory, goals coming from Paul Atkinson, Peter Edgell, and two more from McPhail. Lanchester then played Blackhill and despite coming from a goal behind to leading 2-1 at half time Lanchester went on to lose the game 5-2. The team have recently signed Daniel

Punton from Beamish and have signed Lanchester lad Kieron Day. The Lads are often down at the Cricket Club after games and are usually there when the premier league games are on. Anybody wishing to get involved or come along will be most welcome.

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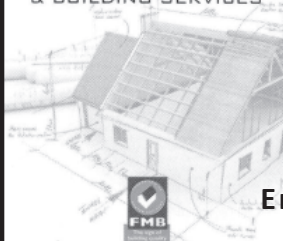


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BOWLS PRESENTATION EVENING



Members of Lanchester Bowling Club who received trophies in 2012, presented at the annual dinner held in the King's Head. Left to right: Paul Monaghan, Alan Wharton, Liz Smith, Foster Johnson (Secretary of Bowls Durham and County Representative for Bowls England who presented the trophies), Mike Stoddart, Anne Hurran, Joe Newton, Malcolm Rose and Derek Graham.

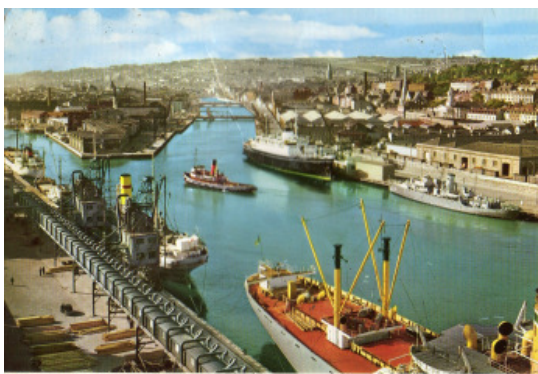
KIELDER MARATHON SUCCESS

The Allen brothers would like to thank everybody who sponsored them for the Kielder Marathon on October 7th. We have raised approximately £1200 which will be going to the Stroke Association. Kevin was the first one finished in 4 hrs 32 mins, followed by Tony in 4 hrs 51 mins. Andy finished in 5 hrs 2 mins. We were all delighted to complete the marathon and there are no plans to run a marathon ever again.



The three brothers after the end of the Marathon - but with no plans for a repeat!

POSTCARD FOUND



This is a postcard found on Durham Road in a protective cover. The card is dated 1964 and is a picture of Cork Harbour featuring the ship M V Inisfallen.

The card is addressed to Ian Tattersfield, Dewsbury, and signed by Christopher. It looks like a collector's item. Ring 01207 520559 if it is yours.

The Village Voice Page 24

FOOTBALL UPDATE

It has been a mixed bag of results since the last football article, with the new look Lanchester CCFC team sitting 5th in the 2nd Division. The team has currently played 7, won 4 and lost 3. They have found themselves

picking up the points against teams at the top of the division and dropping points against teams from lower down the league. They are still currently playing at Oakies Fields at Stanley with the re-development

of the football field still on-going. Lanchester have played away to Leadgate Coach and lost narrowly 4-3 with 2 goals from Stephan Smithson and 1 from Richard Pearce. The Lads then played

continued on page 23

EARLY DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next Village Voice by Tuesday 11th December. The deadline for adverts is 9th December.

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