

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 16

Lanchester, April 2015

For contact information, see page 2

EASTER IN LANCHESTER



The lovely cross adorned with daffodils at the EP School.



As part of the Parish Church's contribution to Churches Together in Lanchester, the ladies, their families, distant friends and relatives have knitted 420 daffodils. They were given out to spread the Easter message of New Life and New Hope.

See story page 5



Nursery children from the EP School on their way to an Easter Parade to show off their Easter Bonnets.



The annual Egg Bowling event took place as usual on Easter Monday. The winners of the Egg decorating competition were: Evie, Catherine, Alice and Matthew. See story page 6



The Easter service outside the Methodist Church. See page 4



Some of the village children who helped to spruce up the village at the annual Litterpick. See story page 7



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 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

After 40 years with the Newcastle Evening Chronicle and now the Sunday People, I have lived in my own little football world and have not had a clue or any interest in politics.

But after being seconded onto the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Lanchester I have been made very much aware of what an outstanding Member of Parliament we have in Pat Glass.

She has really pulled out the stops both in Parliament and Durham to stop these unwanted developers turn our lovely village into a town and I loved her email to the developers about their doctored photographs. She has also stood with us on several other issues including the flooding.

Not only this, but Pat has also been an excellent constituency MP, only too

ready to help her constituents sort out any domestic issues they may have.

Alan Oliver, a Lanchester resident for 46 years
See note above, Editor

Community Centre thanks

The Community Centre staff would like to thank County Durham Youth Offending Service for their help with painting the front porch in preparation for the new War Memorial Plaque. They did a great job. Thank you.

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for March was 112. The draw was made by S Bates.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

WORLD WAR I PLAQUE UNVEILED



The unveiling of the World War I Memorial plaque by Councillor Ossie Johnson and Arthur Maughan MBE, with Royal British Legion Standard Bearers, Simon Owen and Graham Meek.

Approximately 50 people attended the Community Centre on Saturday 11th April for the unveiling of the World War I Memorial Plaque. The event began with coffee/teas and cakes as people settled in. There

was a very good turnout of members from the Consett Branch of the Royal British Legion, including two Standard Bearers, Graham Meek and Simon Owen.

Proceedings began with a brief speech from Councillor Ossie Johnson, who felt that the plaque should be relocated from Park House, now sold, to the Community Centre where members of the community could readily view it. Arthur Maughan MBE, Chairman of the Centre, had welcomed this idea.

Ossie Johnson went on to thank the members of the Royal British Legion for attending and bringing their standards. He also thanked Aubrey O'Brien for undertaking the cleaning and restoration

of the plaque. Finally, he thanked Arthur Maughan and members of the Lanchester Community Association for agreeing to display the memorial plaque in the Community Centre.

Arthur Maughan made a succinct reply, mainly endorsing Ossie's comments saying that the Community Centre is the heart of the village, a well used place with many affiliated organisations using it as well as the general public. He was pleased to have been offered the opportunity to place the World War I Plaque in the Centre. The plaque was then unveiled with as many people as could be squeezed into the entrance area watching the ceremony.

99 YEARS YOUNG



Edith Pierce celebrated her 99th Birthday with family on Saturday 28th March and was presented with a beautiful bouquet by Rev Rupert Kalus on Palm Sunday morning.

How to contact the Village Voice

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FAMILY CELEBRATES 80th BIRTHDAY



The Redfearn family gathered from places as far apart as Somerset and New Zealand to help celebrate the 80th birthday of their father, Frank. The party took place at the Community Centre where relatives and friends enjoyed a meal and a lively ceilidh. The picture shows Frank with sons, daughters and grandchildren.

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN RETIRES



Lanchester businessman Paul Jackson, until recently owner of MIS Ltd in Leadgate, retired on 26th February. He was presented with a retirement gift by SGS UK Managing Director, Pauline Earl, which in true form he asked to be donated to Willow Burn Hospice. Paul spent 33 years with MIS which was bought by Swiss based SGS in August 2013.

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GOOD FRIDAY

Three wooden crosses were erected on the village green in the week leading up to Easter. On Friday of that week, Good Friday, at 9.30 am a group of approximately 50 Lanchester residents stood near those crosses for a short service of remembrance for Jesus Christ who was nailed onto a cross to die. This is a central truth of Christianity and so Christian people from each of our village churches had gathered to witness to the fact that they believe in Jesus Christ, the

Son of God and love Him, as He loves us.

It was a dull day, umbrellas were up and the hymn sheets soggy, but the dull, dark weather could not diminish the Light of Christ and the faith of Christians from all our village churches. The Reverend Rupert Kalus led the service of readings and several appropriate hymns before people dispersed to their own churches for further acts of worship on this special day in the Easter Festival.

Brenda Craddock

EASTER SATURDAY



Saturday 4th April, a short service on the Village Green.



Rev Stuart Earl carries the cross from the Village Green to the Methodist Church.

Churches Together is very much alive in Lanchester and the three Churches take every opportunity to work together to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Easter Festival is one of the main Christian Festivals and it is not surprising that 'Churches Together' took the opportunity to present the truths of this festival in our village. The format of it was the same as in previous years because it has worked so well. The activity of it and the outreach is centred at the Methodist church, where coffee is served

as it is every Saturday morning, but on this particular Saturday it is the members of the Churches Together Committee who serve the coffee. During this time a short service of praise and prayer is presented outside. The Reverend Rupert Kalus and Reverend Stuart Earl, his wife and members of each church, led the readings and prayers and some lovely hymns were sung, accompanied by Harry Carr's ensemble and members of Lanchester Brass Band. The service is interspersed with

three short breaks to restore cold hands, feet and lips of the instrumentalists, and during these breaks, delicious hot cross buns are distributed in the village to shopkeepers and shoppers. They are wrapped in a white serviette bearing the following meaningful question 'Why a cross on a Hot Cross Bun? The Bible also asks the question of all of us at Easter, with the vision of the cross. 'Is it nothing to you all you who pass by?' What would your answer be?

Brenda Craddock

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Margaret Gill offers free hot cross buns to people at the Bridal Shop.

EASTER 'YARN BOMB' SEES LANCHESTER WAKE UP TO A HOST OF KNITTED DAFFODILS

As the sun rose on Easter morning, residents in Lanchester woke up to a spectacular sight of hundreds of knitted daffodils covering the village. Volunteers from the three churches in the village have spent the last few weeks knitting over 1300 daffodils. Each daffodil had a tag on it saying, "Easter brings new life, new hope" and an encouragement to "take this daffodil home with you", along with a link to the facebook page daffodilsoflanchester.

The facebook page had over 1000 people view it within the first 12 hours. The idea sprang from the 'yarn bomb' of knitted angels in Tynemouth at Christmas. Organiser Sonia Filmer said, "We were looking for a way of expressing to the village the joy we feel on Easter morning. Daffodils are my favourite flowers as they bring their boldness and cheer year on year in spring, regardless of how bleak or harsh a winter we have experienced. By giving someone a hand-



Some of the many knitted daffodils laid in the village at Easter.

made daffodil, we hope it will provide some happiness, whatever situation they find themselves in. There is so much enthusiasm and

talent in the churches in our wonderful village that I knew people would support the yarn bomb idea. However, I have been astounded by the final number of daffodils we received. There are just over 2000 houses in the village, so that puts into perspective the amazing achievement of knitting over 1000 daffodils." Daffodils were also given to residents in eight residential homes, the local hospices and to housebound people in the village. Minister at Lanchester Methodist

Church, Rev Stuart Earl said, "For some knitters it takes less than an hour to produce a daffodil whilst others take much longer, but they all want to join in because it is a new way in which we can get a hopeful message across to those otherwise untouched by Easter." His colleague, Rev Rupert Kalus, from All Saints' Parish Church, Lanchester, said "At Easter Jesus won new life for all the world. This is a great way of sharing something of God's amazing love with our community."

EP SCHOOL EASTER SERVICE From Tragedy to Triumph

Every year this lovely service is held in the Parish Church just before the school Easter Holiday. The Easter Story is told in word, song and action, beginning with Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey (Palm Sunday) and followed by the events of the week (Holy Week) leading up to Easter. Central to the story is the large wooden cross on which Jesus died on Good Friday. This bare wooden cross is set up at the front of the church in what is known as the chancel. As the story of Easter is being told it is gradually

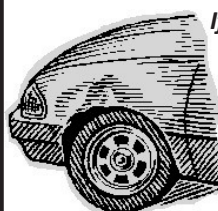
transformed from a symbol of tragedy to a glorious symbol of beauty and holiness, with the aid of beautiful daffodils. Every pupil comes forward to fix a daffodil on the cross and parents and friends who filled the church to capacity were also invited to do this. The now beautiful cross symbolises that Jesus is risen from the dead. He is ALIVE and lives in the hearts of all the people who believe and have faith in Him. The pupils who took part in the presentation of the service were years 5 and 2 and they spoke clearly and confidently but all the

pupils were present in the main body of the church and they sang a number of very tuneful Easter songs. Reverend Rupert Kalus always shows his delight in seeing so many children and adults in All Saints' Church. He visits the school regularly and has a great rapport with the pupils. He always has a special word for them. Thank you, Mrs Davis and every member of staff and every pupil for relating the Easter Story to us in such a wonderful way and enabling us to see the real meaning of this great Christian Festival. Brenda Craddock



EP students in front of the beautiful cross of daffodils.

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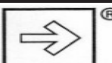


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EGG BOULING AT PASTE EGG BANK

It was the perfect morning with a temperature as high as 22 degrees for this traditional Easter event in the village. The sunny day drew in many families from the village and outside.

Burt Hunter was a little late due to boiler problems but was soon underway giving instructions how to find the appropriate ingredients to wrap the eggs for boiling, ie cow parsley, celandines, with other wild flowers to go with the onion leaves, peeled by volunteer Phil from the Margery Flatts Allotments.

Gathering of these items was soon finished and families sat on the floor in groups wrapping their eggs ready for boiling. While this was going on Ian Tute's Folk Group gave some great entertainment.

Then began the Egg Hunt up onto Paste Egg Bank where Elaine Williams had placed tickets around the

perimeter of the field. Children rushed off to find them, returning for their reward of a sweet/lolly from Elaine and friends in the centre.

Soon it was back to the Green School to listen to the Paste Egg Song, courtesy of Burt, Ian and his Folk Group members. Chaos always follows as the judging begins. Children eagerly crowded around Burt hoping their egg would be chosen. Eggsper, Burt, is the master! He cast his professional eye on the 42 eggs that were dyed, many with such lovely patterns, before picking the four best eggs. First was Catherine Bell's egg, 2nd Evie Kelly's, 3rd Alice Bell's and 4th Matthew Bell's egg. What a talented group from one family!

Judging done, another trek up Paste Egg for the bowling! Burt explained the rules but it didn't make much difference.

Children were wildly running up and down hurling their eggs randomly, most from well over the start line! After about half an hour time was up and Poppy Thompson from Coxhoe was judged to be the winner. It was a super morning. Thanks are due to Dr Brunt for use of the field and all the volunteers who put the event on.



One of the many families seen wrapping their eggs prior to boiling them.



Burt Hunter (left) and Ian Tute's Group performing the Paste Egg Song.



The lovely decoration on the winning egg.



The Egg Boulders line up ready to start.



Poppy Thompson who won the Egg Bowling competition.

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LANCHESTER ANNUAL LITTER PICK

A big thank you to the 80 plus people who turned out on the chilly Saturday morning of 21st March to help clean up the litter in and around Lanchester. At least 70 bags of rubbish were collected together with various oddments that had been abandoned in the undergrowth; a child's broken scooter, a packable deckchair, a metal gate and stacks of undelivered Advertisers! Quite a haul for a relatively small community. However each year the waste level on our streets is slowly declining, thanks to the County Council, Parish Council and a band of socially minded residents who not only turn up at the annual litter pick, arranged by the Partnership, but who also regularly remove litter as they walk through the village. So a big thank you



Emily, Grace and Aidan Thirlwell with Esta Logan, picking litter on the Village Green.

to one and all but a special mention to the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows with their leaders and some of their parents who did a sterling job on Saturday. One young lad assisting his grandparents was heard to say "This is fun, almost as good as CentreParcs!!" So parents if you want a cheap and educational way of

entertaining your children join us next year for the great Lanchester Tidy up! Two questions remain in my mind: Who are these people who dispose of their crisp packets, drink cans and bottles in our undergrowth? And how do we ensure that the road sides in our parish are kept clean and litter free? Sonny Shepherd



Holly Goldsmith, Phoebe Goldsmith and Phoebe Dewar happily picking litter in the car park near the park.



The 'Organisers', this year led by Sonny Shepherd, reluctantly line up for a photo at HQ Litter Pick, on the Village Green.

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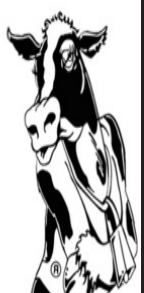
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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Because of the early deadline for this edition of the Village Voice, notes from the April Parish Council meeting will be published in the next issue.

2015 GENERAL ELECTION

Don't forget to vote

The candidates for the North West Durham constituency at the General Election on May 7th are:

Pat Glass	Labour Party
Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Conservative Party
Bruce Reid	UK Independence Party
Mark Shilcock	Green Party
Owen Temple	Liberal Democrats

POLICE REPORT

On Tuesday 4th April we held our monthly PACT meeting at Burnhope Primary School, where the community were informed that on 16th March the residents of Hollinside were victims of five burglaries, whereby persons had forced entry to a number of sheds before leaving the area with a quantity of items. A male from Delves Lane was arrested and a large quantity of stolen property was recovered. Consett CID are still investigating these burglaries and many more within the Derwentside area which will result in the male being charged. Alongside this officers from Consett Neighbourhood Policing

Team and Safer Neighbourhoods Team held a focus group meeting with all the residents at Hollinside and offered crime prevention advice and set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. This month the main trend for Lanchester has been antisocial behaviour. Persons are congregating under the bridge on the Lanchester Valley Walk which is accessed via the King's Head Car Park and within the Deanery View estate. Evidence of drug use has been found in both locations and cleaned away. Local officers are now conducting daily patrols in these areas and anyone believed to be involved in

drug activity has and will be searched. Anyone with information please contact PCSO Lisa Jackson on 101.

Over the coming weeks we are holding some free bicycle marking events within the village. If you would like to get your bicycle or scooter security marked please come along to either:

Saturday 2nd May - Hollinside Terrace between 3-4 pm
Saturday 16th May - Lanchester Community Centre between 1-4 pm
Our next PACT meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 5th May between 6.30-7.30 pm at Burnhope Primary School; everyone is welcome!



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WATERWORKS

On March 25th the pupils in the EP School had a great afternoon when 'Fame Factory Spotlight' presented a play called 'Little Green Riding Hood' written by Scott Clarkson. This was a play with a difference as its purpose was not only to entertain but to impart valuable information. You could say that it was an ecological play, as it was sponsored by Northumbria Water. The vocabulary of the play reflected this and from the beginning the children were involved in it. They were asked questions about how they used water and how careful they were in their use of it, eg, Did

they make sure taps were always fully turned off? Did they use too much water cleaning their teeth? Did they use too much water in the shower and perhaps leave it dripping a little? The pupils quickly got the idea that it is important to be economical with water and always to be aware that water should not be wasted. We are fortunate that in our country we will never be short of water unlike some parts of the world where people do not have enough and often have to drink contaminated water. There were three performers, Steven Fawcett, George Gough

and Shannon Jenkins, all dressed for the characters they were playing. There was plenty of humour, magic tricks, comic antics and audience participation, and the pupils loved it. They listened intently and did not hesitate to answer the thought provoking questions and join in with any requests from the cast, such as singing or helping with a magic trick. There was no doubt that the children would think much more seriously about their use of water and the conservation of it. No more leaving taps on! Brenda Craddock



EP students engrossed in 'Little Green Riding Hood'

EASTER ACTIVITIES AT THE EP

End of term Friday was a lovely day for the children, rather busy for the staff! The day included an Easter Egg Hunt in the grounds of the school followed by decorating all the eggs that had been

brought to school by the children for the annual competition. These wonderfully decorated eggs by children, staff and parents were set out in the afternoon as families

arrived for their coffee/ teas and look around the hall at everything that was displayed. It really was a fine way to end the busy term with an upbeat occasion, so much enjoyed by everyone.



Evan Conway and George Stephenson with a super display of decorated Easter Eggs

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THURSDAY CLUB 35th BIRTHDAY

On March 19th the Thursday Club celebrated 35 years of fun and friendship in a most enjoyable manner. While eating nibbles and drinking elderflower pressé, we went enthusiastically on a table top Treasure Hunt around County Durham, which had been assembled for

us by Carolyn Blenkinsop and we would like to thank her very much indeed. The pace was fast and furious and eventually won by Kate, Leslie and Carole along with two new members, Pam and Sylvia. They eventually found their way to Diggerland and located the little yellow tractor. Their

efforts were rewarded with chocolate Easter Bunnies. The evening ended with coffee and Birthday Cake, orange drizzle, coffee and walnut, chocolate or cheesecake baked by Jean, Christine, Eileen and Olive. We all enjoyed a really good night and look forward to the next 35 years!



Thursday Club members studying the clues for the Treasure Hunt

EASTER PARTY AT SOCIAL CLUB



Some of the children with organisers, Danielle and Christina, at the Easter Party in the Social Club.

Christina Hall and Danielle Gibbons from the Social Club decided to put on an Easter Party for children on Saturday 4th April. There was plenty to do for the 60 or so children who attended. A very loud disco made it impossible to talk, but the children enjoyed dancing enthusiastically

to every number. In addition there was an Easter Egg and Easter Bonnet competition, also lots of games. The buffet looked appealing, so it turned out to be a great afternoon for all those who were there. Any money raised will go to their next event.

WI CELEBRATIONS

Lanchester WI members are proud and pleased to celebrate two important events this year. We mark the centenary of our national organisation and also the 90th birthday of Lanchester Village WI. On Friday 27th March, we held a celebratory Open Evening in Croft View Hall. We were joined by many friends, including members from other local WI branches and we were entertained by Julia Soares McCormick and her husband, 'King Henry VIII'. Julia is a keen historian as well as a skilled dress designer and she became interested in the Tudor period when she was a child. They told us some fascinating facts about Tudor fashions and customs and about the life and death of several prominent people. After a lovely supper of sandwiches, cake and biscuits, we sat back and listened to Windy Gyle Folk Band. Their mix of lovely laments, familiar traditional songs and amusing anecdotes greatly pleased their audience. We went home happily, after enjoying a really memorable evening.



Vice President Ann Carr gives the vote of thanks to our 'Royal' guests



Windy Gyle played some of their traditional toe tapping tunes.

THANKS TO JILL

A small party was held on 27th March in Lynwood House to say goodbye and good luck to Jill Davison who was leaving the Red Cross shop after volunteering for 20 years.

Jill was a valued member of the volunteering team who will be much missed especially during Red Cross week when she loved to help with the street collection.



Jill (4th from left) with her Red Cross colleagues

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A 'VIBRANT' AFTERNOON

The March meeting of Lanchester Flower Club, held in Lanchester Community Centre on 25th March, was opened by our Chair Lady Helen Tomlinson.

The attendance was good and everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon. The Demonstrator was Rebecca Hough and her theme was 'Vibrant Life'. Rebecca produced some beautiful arrangements for us and these were then raffled to the delight of the winners. We all then enjoyed tea, coffee and biscuits.

Our May meeting will be on 27th May in Lanchester Community Centre at 2 pm. Our Speaker will be Megan Watson from Thorntons, one of our



Demonstrator Rebecca Hough

favourite chocolate enjoy a relaxing friendly
 makers. Everyone is afternoon, come along
 welcome so if you would and join us.

LMVC PATRONS' EVENING



Choir Chairman John Wills addresses the Patrons

The Patrons' evening of the Lanchester Male Voice Choir is always a popular event and the Community Centre hall was filled to capacity. Harry Carr always arranges an interesting programme with excellent choral singing and individual performances. One of these was a piano solo by Mrs Noreen Bridgewater, who always accompanies the choir. She is a very talented pianist and her Chopin solo was absolutely beautiful.

Mr Gordon Knighton portrays characters from various musicals extremely well and we were not disappointed as he sang, in full regalia, 'The Road to Mandalay'. Mr Ian Tute played his ukulele with excellence, Mr Jim Russell presented two humorous poems and Mr Ken Dixon gave a superb rendition of 'The Sunshine of Your Smile'. The programme was followed by a delicious buffet supper prepared by

Crinnions. The choice of food was tremendous. After the supper a quiz was given out. It was all about numbers and codes but was not too difficult and it led to lots of fun and conversation. The evening concluded with a raffle and there were very good prizes to win. Altogether it was a very enjoyable evening thanks to Harry and his super choir and of course excellent food. We will be back for more next year!

Brenda Craddock

LANCHESTER BEER FESTIVAL LAUNCHED

Lanchester Cricket Club are delighted to announce that the charity of the year for the 2015 beer festival will be the Bubble Foundation UK.

The Bubble Foundation UK raises funds for the Children's Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the Great North Children's Hospital. Here they care for children born without an immune system who would otherwise die before their first birthday if left untreated. They provide medical equipment, toys and educational aids, welfare of the babies, children and their families, and most importantly fund research required at this cutting edge of paediatric practice.

The Cricket Club has had a long association with the Bubble Foundation beginning in 1993 when nursing staff from the unit

played against Durham Police squad with the nurses winning! Since then there have been all kinds of fundraising events including pushing a bed through the streets of Lanchester!

At this year's beer festival there will be a number of fundraising events taking place over the weekend.

The festival takes place from Friday 22nd May - Sunday 24th May 2015, with tickets available for daily and weekend rates. Day tickets £7 (£9 on the day) U18's Free - when accompanied by an adult. Included in ticket:

Entry to event,
Free commemorative glass,
Free programme,
2 free beer tokens.
Weekend tickets £12 (covering Saturday and Sunday).



The launch of the Beer Festival by: Denise Robertson, Broadcaster, Novelist and Agony Aunt, Patron of the Bubble Foundation and 46 other charities; Neil Graham, Chairman Lanchester Cricket Club; Gary Martin and Jim Potts, Cricket Club; Gill Johnston, Fund Manager, Bubble Foundation.

There are great bands providing the entertainment, with Sate Express 5 on the Friday sponsors-only night, Smokin Spitfires on the Saturday and last but not

least The Pretty Weeds close on the Sunday. For more information visit www.lanchesterbeerfestival.co.uk and www.bubblefoundation.org.uk

Late update: The required number of sponsors has almost been reached, with only an odd beer needing one. If you are interested then get in touch through the beer festival website.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PLANS AHEAD

The March meeting was a great success and as usual was held in the Black Bull. A number of new items were agreed for inclusion in the show: We will be running a demonstration ring where local groups and societies can demonstrate their area of expertise such as karate, dog agility, police, Hunt Hounds and we are currently canvassing local opinion for what people would like to see. We are also excited to receive a donation of support from the local parish council of £300 to go towards the running of our new industrial children's tent so this feature will definitely be going ahead with classes in baking, art, photography and crafts as well as a few adult

classes too. Schedules will be available in the local schools and shops in May.

We are also starting to receive support from a number of local businesses sponsoring some of our equine classes and would like to say thank you to Bescot Motors of Consett who will be sponsoring one of our key showjumping classes, as well as sponsorship from Holmeside Hall Equestrian and Castle House Saddlery.

If you would like to make any suggestions for other activities we should have at the show this year then please message helenfletcher10@googlemail.com The next meeting is at the Black Bull on 27th April.



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Keith and Pauline Gill

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business in June 2014 and since then have not only achieved a Gold 4 Star AA grading but have now added the 'Taste Durham' award for food, achieving the top level of 'Higher Quality Assured and Local Produce Champion'.

There are only 2 B&B's in this category, the other being in Wolsingham. Having been recognised for very high standards Keith and Pauline are determined to maintain the standards of delivering a great guest experience in the future.

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Well we did it. We managed to get through our most difficult year since we took over responsibility for the Community Centre from Durham County Council in 1992. We did not recover all of the expected loss in room rental income but we did secure some new business and this allowed us to return a profit of £3,000 on our Revenue Account, even after repaying our outstanding loan of £25,500. A pretty good effort by staff and volunteers but we could not have achieved this without the £5,000 of donations we received from our residents and a generous gift of £12,750 from our anonymous donor. We have spent £10,500 from our Capital Account on improving the building and purchasing new equipment for which we were fortunate to receive £7,500 in grants.

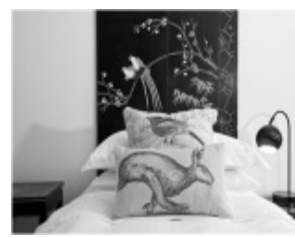
We have obtained a £2,000 grant from the County Durham Community Foundation and this was financed by contributions from the EDF Energy High Hedley

Hope 11 and the EDF Energy Langley Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds. This has been used to replace the cabinets in the Small Hall Coffee Bar and to refurbish the upstairs room. We were also fortunate to receive a £400 grant from the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership and this has been used to install Light Emitting Diodes (LED) in the two upstairs rooms. We have also received a grant of £500 from The Civic Pride Neighbourhood Fund to improve our gardens and surrounding areas. The Community Centre is in pretty good shape. The finances are sound and the building is looking good but we still need to raise between £10,000 and £20,000 in grants and donations each year to make major repairs and improvements to the building so, please, keep the donations coming in and we will ensure that you will have one of the best Community Centres in the country.

Arthur Maughan, MBE, Chairman

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DERWENTSIDE EXPLORERS FUNDRAISER



Dominic Biasi and Jude Shilcock who later this year will be off to Japan for the World Jamboree.



Some lovely smiling faces on this busy stall displaying cards etc.

A Craft Fair was held at the Community Centre on Saturday morning, 21st March, for the two Derwentside Explorer Scouts, Dominic Biasi and Jude Shilcock, who will be

setting off for the World Jamboree sometime in July this year. They will be in Japan for three weeks and whilst there, as well as camping, they will spend about three days

with a family and visit Tokyo.

At the fair they ran their own tombola. There were teas/coffee and over a dozen tables selling top quality crafts of many varieties. There

were some familiar faces running the stalls from past Craft Fairs at the Community Centre. Business seemed to be quite brisk during mid morning, despite many people litter picking for the annual spring clean up in the village and competition at St Bede's School from Willow Burn Hospice Spring Fair.

The total raised on the day was £300 which was excellent, particularly in the circumstances.

HAVING A BALL FOR HENRY!

Henry Dancer Days' Fourth Charity Ball took place on Saturday 11th April at Beamish Hall Hotel Wintergardens, raising an amazing £2,500. 140 people attended and dined, then danced the night away to Shakedown, the fabulous wedding band. A special appearance was made by Shelley O'Brien, who is

the storyteller working in the RVI with children undergoing treatment on behalf of Henry Dancer Days. She entertained Ball-goers with two traditional tales. Jane, Henry's Mum would like to thank everyone involved with the event.

REMINDER:

25th April, 12-4 pm. The

Louisa Centre, Stanley - Stanley Storm Charity Netball Tournament 25th April, 7 for 7.30 pm. Lanchester Community Centre - 2nd Big Folk and Country Concert 23rd May, 12 noon. Longhirst Hall Golf Club - Charity Golf Day Please contact Jane at henrydancerdays@aol.com or on 07947 668993.

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SPRING DANCE FESTIVAL AT ST BEDE'S SCHOOL



Pupils from All Saints' Primary school and St Patrick's school strut their stuff

In March, St Bede's School invited their feeder primary schools to join together in a Festival of Dance. The Festival is part of the extensive Induction Programme in which youngsters are invited into the Secondary school and become familiar with its staff, subjects and ethos. The pupils learned a dance and then presented it to the other schools, with Year 10 and 11 PE students taking on the responsibility of coaching the performers. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone; the primary pupils learned a lot about dance and movement, team work and performing to an audience, while the senior students showed patience and flair in their role as dance teachers!

EASTER CRAFTS



'Friends of the All Saints' Primary' organised Saturday afternoon 28th March to help children make Easter crafts. Here we show some of those children involved and having a great time.

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TIME FOR EASTER EGGS AND RABBITS!



Look at our eggs!

Pupils from All Saints' Catholic Primary School and their parents rolled up their sleeves and enjoyed an Easter Crafts session. Parent Support Adviser Ruth Foreman demonstrated to youngsters and their parents how various fabrics could be used to make colourful eggs and how envelopes could easily be made into decorative Easter rabbits.

WILLOW BURN FAIR



Jack enjoying the moment with face painter and friends.

Despite the short notice for this fair, supporters of their favourite cause still turned up in large numbers. There was competition too in the village with the annual Litterpick going on and another fair for the Explorer Scouts in the Community Centre. As usual Terry Lewins was lively on the sound system with his humour and advice as to what was going on. Most stalls were fairly busy by mid morning. There were raffles, tombolas, all good money makers, plus cakes and a good variety of craft type stalls. The profit was an excellent £2495 and if matched funding is provided it will be substantially more.



Kay McKinnell (second left) who had her head shaved for Willow Burn, working on the Easter Egg Tombola.





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RESCUE PONY

Continued from back page
She was rescued by the Felledge Animal and Equine Centre, whose dedicated and patient team of vets and equine specialists started Cassie's long road to recovery. Following operations, medication and gentle handling, Cassie gradually became the characterful and cheeky pony she is today. Cassie is loving life at Colepike Mill, where she is a valuable teaching pony to the many pupils who enjoy riding lessons at the farm. She is so happy to have a loving family and other horses and ponies around her. The RSPCA commented "Cassie's a beauty and it's a fantastic photo ... it's a pleasure to feature her". The photo, which was captured by Barbara's son Scott, received thousands of 'likes' on the RSPCA's Facebook page.

KILLHOPE RELIABILITY TRIAL 100km

Continued from back page
the high winds prevalent on the day. At the Allenheads Control there is a café and Nenthead a pub for those wishing rest, food and drink. There is also a bike shop adjacent to the Nenthead Control which carries bike food, spares and repairs can be carried out.

It was a great day out for cycling enthusiasts, most of whom do not seem to worry about the inclement conditions. It is not a race but this particular event appeared to be a great challenge for many for the 60 riders. There was a prize draw for a £25 M&S voucher for those who completed their Control Card at the finish.

PARTRIDGE CLOSE ACADEMY

In 1935, my great-grandparents, Joe and Sarah Jane Dent, bought Partridge Close Farm on the outskirts of Lanchester. It was their custom to refer to the farm's outbuildings in grandiose academic terms - the byre being 'the academy' and the stables 'the museum' etc. Where this custom originated, and whether it preceded the Dents' arrival at Partridge is not known, but what is certain is that Partridge Close did once operate as a school. In the early 1800s, Partridge Close Farm was the residence of the Reverend Edward Marshall. Aged 25, he was nominated curate of Satley by Rev Joseph Walker, Perpetual Curate of Lanchester and was licensed on 17th April 1805. In order to supplement his income, Rev Marshall ran a private school at Partridge Close

(then called Patrick's Close), where children of the local well-to-do could acquire a classical education in preparation for University and entry to the professions. One pupil was Mr David Comyn Balleny of Greencroft Hall, born in 1805, the son of Dr William Balleny, a surgeon in the Royal Navy. Mr Balleny trained as a solicitor before going to sea. He ultimately came back to Greencroft, living out his days as a gentleman farmer. Little is known about the academy at Partridge Close. It is unlikely to have run longer than 15 years since Reverend Marshall died suddenly on 21st April 1820, aged only 40. Mr JW Fawcett, historian of Satley, records that he is

buried at Satley, on the south side of the Church, in a 'nameless grave'. Reverend Marshall left a wife, Ann (nee Wardell), and four small children - Mary (born 1813), James (1815), George (1817) and Sarah Jane (1819). His will left the property to his father in law, George Wardell Esq of Edmondsley, with instruction that it should be sold to settle debts. It seems that Mrs Marshall returned, with her children, to her parents' home and indeed the 1841 Census shows her living at Witton Gilbert. She died in 1863. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any knowledge of Partridge Close at this time, and particularly of Rev Marshall's Academy. Heather Thompson

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CRICKET NEWS

The big news as the season starts is that the clubhouse and the changing rooms have been refurbished. Dave Black did all the work for the changing rooms at the start of the year and it is great to have some decent facilities. He also replaced all of the windows at the club when the clubhouse was done. Dan Ruddick and his crew have done a fantastic job, as the clubhouse has been transformed with new bar, flooring, ceiling, carpets, lighting and the toilets have been fully replaced. Some of the furniture has been replaced too. This has all been possible thanks to some grants that the club successfully obtained and it has been fantastic to get more or less everything done at the same time. Additionally Steve and

Ann McPhail and George Wilkinson have put some shifts in, tidying the place up and doing some of the external decorating to get everything ship shape for the playing season. Of course no one does more work than John Bell as he looks to get the field in as good a shape as possible. We just need the players to get their collective fingers out and make it all worthwhile. The first team are home first as they entertain Ashington with the seconds reversing the fixture. The thirds will start at home to Lintz the following weekend. The under 11s and 13s start with home games against Leadgate, with the 15s home v Ryton and the 18s playing a new big bash at Leadgate against the hosts and Greenside.

BOWLING CLUB IS OPEN

By the time you read this Lanchester bowling green will be open for practice. Matches will start in the first week of May. You can find out about the club and read the fixture list on our website - bowlingclub.wix.com/lanchester.

Get together sessions for beginners and improvers are held on Thursday afternoons, 1.45 for a 2 pm start (weather permitting). New members are always welcome to come and try the game - you just need flat shoes.

Those interested in the club's history may like to watch this video from about 28 years ago, <http://leadgatevillage.com/leadgate-bowling-club/> which includes a veterans match between Leadgate and Lanchester played on our green.

TENNIS: SUMMER SEASON BEGINS

From the first weekend in May, the 2015 tennis summer season will start at the grass courts on Ford Road, Lanchester.

Following a busy winter indoors and on the Green School courts, members are looking forward to some good summer tennis.

With several junior teams and a ladies veteran team entered into the district leagues, including the triumphant winter league under 8 winners, the club hopes to be competitive at all levels.

Forthcoming events include not only the annual Strawberry Tea and Barbeque, but also the Great British Tennis Weekend (GBTW). This event in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) will provide anyone with the opportunity to play tennis for free.

The afternoon will include sessions on cardio tennis, target practice general tennis and, for the little ones, mini tennis and use of the tennis factory. The date for this event is

Sunday 17th May from 1-4 pm. Booking is online at the GBTW website, linked to Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club.

Coaching sessions will begin at the grass courts on Monday 11th May. Times as follows:

5 to 8 years 4.30 - 5.30 pm,
9 to 12 years 5.30 - 6.30 pm
13 years to adult 6.30 - 7.30 pm.

Cost is £3 for members and £5 for non-members. For full details on the tennis club, please contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278.



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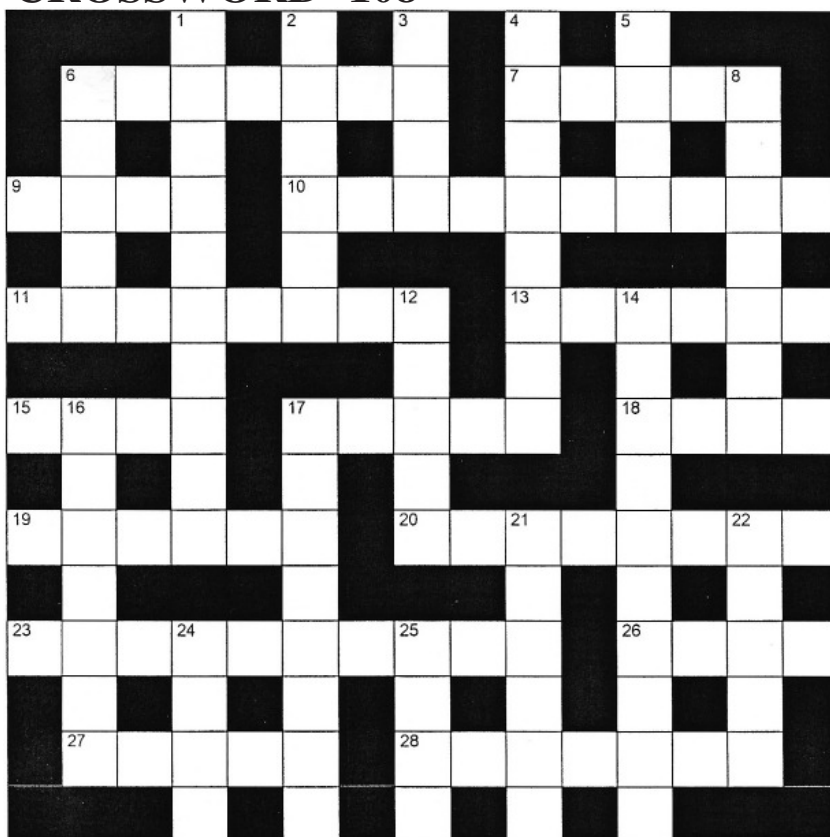
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CROSSWORD 108



ACROSS

6. Tailless feline (4,3)
7. Mature (5)
9. Substandard (4)
10. Honourable fellow (7-3)
11. Refuse (8)
13. Pot stand (6)
15. Unwise (4)
17. Constellation (5)
18. Fibre used in sacks (4)
19. Sheepdog (6)
20. Bleeding Heart found in gardens (8)
23. Malnourishment (10)
26. Positive check mark (4)
27. Hidden and silent (5)
28. Card game (7)

DOWN

1. Now hardly a pop artist (4,6)
2. Real (6)
3. Goes with dog, film, chamber and light (4)
4. Scare (8)
5. Tiff (4)
6. Civilian dress (5)
8. Closest (7)
12. Strange (5)
14. Court order (10)
16. Selected (7)
17. Wheeler-dealer (8)
21. Type of tooth (6)
22. Toxin found in former ICI nerve centre (5)
24. Fury (4)
25. Children's game (1-3)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 107

ACROSS

5. somnambulator
8. break ranks
9. chip
10. once
11. suzerainty
12. counterfeiter
15. airbrushed
17. stop
18. akin
19. intestinal
20. not on your life

DOWN

1. impale
2. bar reset
3. closer
4. stockist
5. spring chicken
6. Benazir Bhutto
7. reinterrogate
13. urbanity
14. end users
16. unions
17. spirit

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 0HY.

LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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

CROSSWORD 107

There were only 9 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to Jim Rafferty of Greenwell Park who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

SUDOKU

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

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

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Spicy Mulligatawny Soup

A very simple curried beef soup. If you've tried it from a can, this one is so much nicer! Serves 4.
1 red onion, peeled and roughly chopped
1 carrot, peeled and roughly chopped
1 red pepper, chopped
6 cloves of garlic, peeled
A thumb-sized piece of fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
Half fresh red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
Sprigs of coriander stalks finely chopped, leaves kept separate
2 tbsp curry powder
1 tbsp tomato purée
200 g stewing beef
2 cans plum tomatoes
1 litre beef or chicken stock

Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
A small tub of natural yoghurt
METHOD

1. Get a saucepan big enough to hold all the ingredients and heat until it's medium hot.
2. Add a splash of cooking oil and the onion, carrot, pepper, garlic, ginger, chilli and coriander stalks. Cook gently until soft. Add the curry powder, tomato purée and stir well before adding the beef, tomatoes, stock and a level teaspoon of salt and some freshly ground black pepper.
3. Bring to the boil and simmer very gently for 2 hours, until the beef is very soft. Keep an eye on

the liquid, topping it up with a splash of water when it starts to go down. Take off the heat and whizz the soup with a hand blender until smooth, or use a food processor to do this. OR - just break up the lumps with a wooden spoon, which is what I always do, as this gives you a chunky finish.
4) Taste and add seasonings to taste and boiling water to thin the soup if you need to. Serve with a blob of yoghurt and scatter some chopped coriander leaves on top.
Serve with crusty bread, jacket potatoes or your accompaniment of choice.

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

We've been to the Ramside Hotel before but never to the Rib Room, as we had always felt that the main course portions would be rather large, so the last time we were out we decided to lunch in the Rib Room on starters + puds and it worked really well. It's a highly decorated venue with definite background music. Our table was all ready for us and although the service was very relaxed it was attentive when needed. It is an expensive menu, but you have to have a treat now and then. We sampled Sticky Durham Belly Ribs in a barbecue glaze, Pressed Confit Belly Pork served with Black Pudding and a baby Toffee Apple, Dressed Hartlepool Crab served

with Guinness Bread and Pan fried Chicken Livers with Puy Lentils, Mini Parsnip Fondant and Balsamic jus. To all these we added side orders of either sweet potato fries or red cabbage or spinach. Puds were Spiced apple crumble cheesecake, Spiced poached pears in a winter fruit soup, Traditional Eve's pudding with custard, Orange and Cointreau Crème Brûlée with white chocolate shortbread and Chocolate and Baileys truffle. All the food was very good and we had a most enjoyable lunch. Now - where can we go next time to try something different?

The Gourmet Girls



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WHAT'S ON?

Vintage Tractor Club

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th May at 7.30 pm in Crinnions.

Thursday Club

There will be no meeting of the Thursday Club in the Community Centre. Instead we will be off to Leyburn and a visit to Tennants on May 14th. The bus will leave Lanchester at 8.30am from opposite Cooplands.

Community Centre Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 14th May from 9.30 - 11 am.

Paradiso Club

The next Social is on May 10th at 7.00 pm and, after refreshments, will screen the film 'Philomena' starring Judy Dench.

Flower Club

Our May meeting on Wednesday 27th at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre. Our speaker will be Megan Watson from Thorntons, one of our favourite chocolate makers. If you would enjoy a relaxing friendly afternoon come along and join us,

PACT meeting

The next PACT meeting will be on Tuesday 5th May at 6.30 pm at Burnhope Primary School. All welcome.

Open House

Join us in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 7th May 11.30 am to 1.00 pm for a light lunch.

Country Market

The next market will take place on Saturday 2nd May from 10 am to 12 noon in the Methodist Church.

Concert for Marie Curie Cancer Care

Derwentside Singers are planning a performance in May at Christ Church, Consett, in aid of the Consett and Stanley Fundraising Group of Marie Curie Cancer Care. The singers will offer a wide range of music including solos, songs from well-known musicals and classical pieces. A raffle and light refreshments will be available in the church hall during the interval. All money raised will go to Marie Curie to help the organisation in its work caring for those with cancer and other long-term illnesses. The concert is on Thursday May 21st at 7.00 pm, in Christ Church. Admission is £5.00, payable at the door or by ticket reservations on 01207 591194. Concert details 01207 591194.

Short Circuit Walks

Venue: Angel of the North
Date: May 9th
OSRef: NZ264578
DH34JG
Miles: 5
Leader: Peter Andrews
Phone: 01914161677
The search for the elusive bluebells goes on. We shall explore the tracks and waggons that weave wonderful patterns across this landscape before entering sunny glades with their own magic.
CP on northbound lane of A167 from Eighton Roundabout.

Venue: Craster and Dunstanburgh
Date: May 23rd
OSRef: NU258199
NE663TP
Miles: 5.5
Leader: Pauline Sewell
Phone: 01914207604
Ruined castles, secluded harbours and tiny fishing communities are all part of our rich heritage and you can take some kippers home for your tea. Mostly level walking but a lot of sand.
CP on approach road to Craster, pay at meter.

Lanchester Social Club

Saturday 2nd May Jonny Black, Fabulous Vocalist
Sunday 3rd May Sunday Night Buskers
Saturday 9th May Michael Carr, Young Vocalist
Sunday 10th May Sunday Night Buskers
Saturday 16th May Dru Gerard, Young Singer
Sunday 17th May Sunday Night Buskers
Saturday 23rd May Ashleigh, Top Female Singer
Sunday 24th May Sunday Night Buskers
Saturday 30th May Kristen Knight, Great Young Singer
Sunday 31st May Sunday Night Buskers.

Ushaw, Open for all

I recently discovered a programme of concerts and events at Ushaw College from a leaflet picked up from a local tourist information point. The events are held in the stunning St Cuthbert's Chapel or Exhibition Hall and Theatre. The new May to July programme includes organ recitals and musical events including the Ushaw String Quartet. More information can be found on www.ushaw.org.

I have attended previous concerts, the quartet played their second concert on April 4th playing Haydn's Seven last Words in the Chapel. The acoustics were stunning. Having not heard the piece before I was in for a treat; each instrument sang out in the chapel clearly, individually and together. The piece ended in the 'Earthquake' sonata. The concerts are approximately one hour long.

The Chapel, Café and Gift shop are open for refreshments every Saturday from 12.00 to 5pm where you can also access the gardens, and until May 2nd the Westminster vestment used at the funeral of Richard III is on display. The next organ recital is on May 16th at 2.30 pm (retiring collection), and the Ushaw String Quartet concert is on May 30th at 3pm (£6). Enjoy. Jane Friesner.

Local History Society

The next meeting of the Society will be on Friday 1st May at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre. The speaker will be Tony Smith who will talk about Hardwick Park. Visitors are most welcome.

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Opening Day

Saturday 25th April

10am - 8pm





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Lanchester WI

We meet again on Monday May 11th, the second Monday of the month, as May Day occurs the previous week. Our venue is the small hall of the Community Centre and the meeting starts at 7.15 pm. Our speaker will be Owain Harris and he will be describing the work of Northumbria Blood Bikes, as they carry out emergency transportation of medical supplies.

The competition this month will be 'A Medical Tip' and we look forward to seeing some useful hints.

There are still seats available for our summer outing in July, so please enquire about this and make sure you keep up to date with details of future events.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our recent Open Evening. It was a great success and thanks for all the messages wishing us well in our 90th year!

Adult Wildlife Group

The meeting on 12th May at 7.30 pm is in the Community Centre and is on Limestone landscapes with Anne Kelly.

Red Cross May Events

TomarkRedCross Week, 3rd to 9th May, we are holding several events throughout the month. Red Cross week is held each year to commemorate the founder Henry Dunant. Please call into the shop for further details. We do look forward to meeting you at the events and your continued support. Events that we have organised during this time are listed below:

Fashion Open Evening on Wednesday 6th May, 5-7 pm, Lanchester Red Cross shop. Brand name clothing, accessories and jewellery, Raffle and Refreshments.

Children's Event & Street Collection Saturday 9th May, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm, Lanchester Red Cross Shop. Half price on children's clothes. Offers on Toys and Books, Lucky Dip and Face Painting 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Ladies Lunch Thursday 14th May, at Finbarr's Durham. Guest speaker Pat Glass MP. Cost: £22.50.

Coffee Morning Thursday 28th May, 9.30 - 11.45 am, Lanchester Methodist Church.

Computers 4 All

The Computers 4 All team at the Community Centre invite anyone interested in how to use computers to the sessions on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am until 11.30 am. Our team will either help you get started or improve the skills you have.

Basic training can be given on Windows XP, Windows 7 and 8.

You can use our PC's and laptops, or bring your own laptop and help with tablets is also offered.

Help is available for Web search, emails, photo editing and word processing.

From May and each subsequent month we concentrate on one subject per month. We will start the May sessions on 'Web Search' which will include different search engines and help with changing engines, saving or removing favourites and tips to help you understand them. Every month the topic for the following month will appear in the 'What's On' section of the Village Voice.

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Meet on Sunday 10th May at Malton Car Park.

HEALTHY HORIZONS

Healthy Horizons, a project aiming to get older people active has programmed several new sessions in Lanchester. Funded by Mid Durham AAP and Durham County Council Culture & Sport and Public Health, the scheme provides structured physical activity sessions for both men and women in their local community.

Sessions in Lanchester are provided by Leisureworks and include Pilates at Lynwood House every Monday and Thursday between 1.00 and 2.00 pm, Fitsteps at St Bede's Comprehensive School every Monday between 6.00 and 7.00 pm, Seated Aerobics at Croft View Hall every Tuesday between 1.00 and 2.00 pm and Metafit at Lynwood House every Thursday between 5.00 and 5.30 pm. Admission to Pilates, Fitsteps and Seated Aerobics is £2.50, Metafit is £3.00.

Pilates at Lynwood House has proved particularly popular. The venue is ideal for the type of activity and it was one of the factors that initially attracted Jenny, a participant, "The space we work in adds something to the class, it is light and airy, it does something to the

energy". Jenny comes along to both sessions because, "It's a lovely friendly group and it's so lovely to work with a peer group as in the past I have gone to more energetic sessions with much younger people and injuries have happened." She doesn't worry about injuries because: "David the instructor is great, he does things with a light touch, but challenges without pressurising. The session improves fitness and flexibility in a safe environment."

Mid Durham AAP Co-ordinator, Andy Coulthard commented, "Healthy Horizons is a fantastic programme for non-sporty or inactive older people to get into exercise. The sessions we have supported in Lanchester are suitable for all abilities. Men and women are welcome to attend. The instructors are really friendly and make sure all users are given a warm welcome. Come along and give it a go - your first session is FREE!" Healthy Horizons also delivers sessions in neighbouring Langley Park, Sacriston and Stanley. For further information please contact Laura Hood at Leisureworks on 01207 218874.



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LOCAL RESCUE PONY BECOMES FACEBOOK FAMOUS

“Felledge Cassie”, a pony who was adopted by Colepike Mill Riding School, Lanchester, has created a stir on the popular social networking site after winning a photo competition organised by the RSPCA. The competition asked for photos of rescue horses and ponies in their new homes, as part of an initiative by the RSPCA to promote ‘Homes for Horses’. There were over 200 entries and Cassie was chosen as the winner, being showcased on the official Facebook page of the RSPCA, which is followed by over half a million people.

Cassie, who was given her much-needed forever home by Barbara Inglis-Kidger and family of Colepike Mill in 2010, had an unfortunate and sad start to her life, being cruelly neglected and starved by her owners.



Continued on page 18

Cassie the rescued pony looking content in her new surroundings. Photo, Scott Inglis-Kidger 2015

KILLHOPE RELIABILITY TRIAL 100km



Two riders on the very last yards of the 100km ride, Mark Kidger NE31 Triathlon Club (left) and Paul Brown of the newly established South Shields Velo Cycling Club.

Of the 72 entrants in this now established cycling event organised by Houghton Cycling Club, there were 60 starters. Sunday 29th March was not the best day for cycling, with riders experiencing a high headwind and rain as they set off towards Stanhope and Edmundbyers. Start time was anywhere between 8.30 and 9.00 am with most riders returning to the Community Centre for snacks and drinks between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. One rider fell at a cattle grid but there

were no serious injuries. One or two got slightly lost and covered slightly more kilometres than expected but accepted the situation lightheartedly. The route was well mapped out with warnings of dangerous corners and steep hills. There were four Control Points. Steep descents were indicated on the route map at Muggleswick 11km (plus hairpin bend), Rookhope 33km, Killhope Cross 55km and Rowley 90km, where extra care needed to be taken especially in

Continued on page 18

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 19th May. The deadline for **adverts** is 17th May.

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Published by Lanchester Publications Ltd, 2 Fenhall Park, Lanchester, DH7 0JT and printed by Durham County Council, Design and Print, Comeleon House, Tanfield Lea Industrial Estate North, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 9NX. Tel: 03000 261414. The views expressed in this periodical are not necessarily those of the publishers. Whilst all efforts are made to check the authenticity and accuracy of all articles submitted for publication, occasionally something is bound to be printed incorrectly. Please let us know and we will endeavour to correct the mistake.