

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 17

Lanchester, January 2016

For contact information, see page 2

2016 AND LANCHESTER FLOODS AGAIN



A view of Front Street, unfortunately under water.



Hardworking volunteer farmers clearing the drains.



View of Smallhope Burn from Lynwood House car park.



Laying sandbags at the Pharmacy.



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
Grateful thanks must go to the three farmers who pumped the water away from the flooded village on 5th January. Without them the shops etc would have definitely been under water. The village owes Peter Suddes, Ian Wilson and Paul Morgan a huge debt of gratitude and my apologies if I have missed anyone out. The Fire Brigade didn't clear the water, the farmers did. Well done.
Eric Hepplewhite

Dear Village Voice
Lost Drone
During the Christmas and New Year holiday a spectacular sight befell us. A UFO appeared flying in our garden. The thing landed on the lawn and we were quite joyous to see such an exciting object. We ran out of the house towards it shouting in the expectation that someone would hear and shout back, stating that they were the owners, but to no avail. Yes, the UFO was a drone, an obvious Christmas present and possibly on its maiden voyage. We left the drone on our front step in the hope the owner may see it or the signal would connect again, but as the night drew in we thought it better if it was taken indoors. We have put on a message on Facebook on Lanchester Past and Present as well as personal ones, in the hope of spreading the word. I would be really grateful to your readers if they too could assist in the hope that we can re-unite the

owner with their drone. If you are the owner of the drone or have any information about it, please telephone 07920875084.
Lorraine Botcherby

Dear Village Voice,
I should like to warn local residents of possible impending distress. We have been burgled, mid morning in snowy weather. The house is not usually empty but on this occasion it was - for 2 hours. The police and their ancillary services could not have been surpassed in their attention, kindness and thoroughness and this is ongoing. Sadly, their efforts may be in vain. The only objective of the robbers was gold, silver and gems. It seems they watch premises and take their opportunity, if the occupants are all out, to break in and steal valuable jewellery. This can be put into envelopes and posted to businesses advertising for old jewellery, gold and silver without any need to prove ownership of the items. Under present laws regarding selling of jewellery in this manner the task of the police in

tracing the items stolen in these crimes is almost impossible. There needs to be a radical change in the law to restrict this type of selling precious metals to prevent others from being victims of crime. Name and address withheld on request

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for December is 37. The draw was made by Mr L Brown of the Gym.

LANCHESTER COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Members of the community have been working on producing a Community Emergency Plan for some time. This work has been supported by the Civil Contingencies Unit and Durham County Council. Although the plan has not yet been finally adopted, it is near completion. The plan includes actions to inform key groups and organisations in the parish in the event of an emergency. Other actions may include the use of equipment from the emergency sheds and opening of a number of agreed safe rest centres. The flooding situation in the village on Tuesday 5th January saw parts of the plan put into action.

Key organisations in the village ie schools, churches, doctors etc were contacted and informed of the situation. The equipment shed behind the Methodist Church was opened and aqua sacs were distributed. Officers from the Civil Contingencies Unit attended the village to offer support. It is hoped that the plan will be completed and adopted in the near future following which an information/training session will be undertaken with all those involved. If you would like further information on the Community Emergency Plan please contact Sally Laverick on 01207 520146.

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise:

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Community Centre,
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Lanchester,
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SINGING IN THE RAIN CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Everyone enjoys singing carols on the Green on Christmas Eve, a tradition which has taken place for many years. There is always a good number of people there, ranging from babies in arms to 80 years of age. Everything is very well organised by the 'Churches Together Committee' and the Operatic Society are there to boost the singing while Lanchester Brass Band accompanies the carols. One thing of course which cannot be organised is the weather, and surprise, surprise, it was raining, so once again it was a case of singing in the

rain, just as it had been at the switching on of the lights ceremony, one month earlier. Stoically everyone carried on singing, David Hughes carried on conducting and presenting, the Operatic Society carried on singing, the band carried on playing,

conducted by James Draper BUT the rain carried on raining, until after about 25 minutes it really got too much and reluctantly the villagers, singers and members of the band had to admit defeat. Better luck next year we hope!!
Brenda Craddock



Lanchester Brass Band, at the beginning of their wonderful performance, before the torrential rain fell.



Left to right: Rev Stuart Earl, Rev Rupert Kalus, Canon Bob Spence and David Hughes stand together, soaked to the skin, as 'Carols on the Green' ended in torrential rain.



The children sing 'Away in a Manger' so well despite the conditions.



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2016

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting on 8th December 2015 - approved.

North East Combined Authority - Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, attended the meeting to present information on the North East Combined Authority. The County Council will shortly commence a consultation exercise following which the County Council will decide whether to be included in the North East Combined Authority. Mr Henig answered questions from Councillors and members of the public.

Neighbourhood Warden Report - November - discussed and received. Police - Confirmation has been received from PCSO Lisa Jackson that she will attend the Parish Council meetings when her shifts allow.

Correspondence

1. Letter - resident - seats in the bus shelter

Members considered a letter received from a resident requesting that seats be installed in the bus shelters. It was agreed that prices are sought for

installing a seat in each of the three bus shelters.

2. Letter - resident - footbridge near Brook View

Members considered a letter received from a resident regarding the lighting on the footbridge near Brook View. A member of the public spoke and agreed that the lighting was poor. It was agreed that a letter is sent to the County Council asking that they improve the lighting.

3. Buckingham Palace Garden Party - 24th May 2016

Agreed that Councillor Paul Jackson be included in the county draw.

4. Letter of thanks - Christmas Lights - Lanchester Partnership

letter received.

5. Letter of thanks - Royal British Legion

letter received.

6. North East Region Parish and Town Council Event

Members to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend.

7. Audit Procurement

Members considered the arrangements and options for external audit procurement and agreed

that the Parish Council opt in to the Sector Led Body arrangements for the five year period.

8. Letter - Durham County Council Archaeology Section

letter received.

Area Action Partnership and Parish Council's Committee

Minutes of the Parish Council Committee meeting were received.

Neighbourhood Plan

Mike Wardle provided Members with an update. The conservation area appraisal led by the County Council has progressed. The County Council are meeting with the working group on 27th January to present the draft document.

There will be a community consultation event for the draft document on 3rd February at Lynwood House. The North of England Civic Trust will support the working group to produce a Heritage Audit of the Parish. A community mapping event took place on 13th January and volunteer training sessions have been arranged for 28th January. The second topic based

questionnaire will be distributed at the beginning of February. An open day event has been arranged for Saturday 20th February between 10 am - 12 noon at the Methodist Church.

Parking in front of the War Memorial - a response has been received from the County Council stating that they are unable to offer a solution to the problem. Members were informed that the County Councillors are looking to progress this matter.

Lanchester Community Emergency Plan

Members considered the draft plan which has been produced by volunteers with support from Durham County Council and the Civil Contingencies Unit. There are concerns from the volunteers about potential insurance issues. Members discussed whether the Parish Council should take responsibility for the plan and its future. The Parish Council insurers have been asked if the volunteers would be covered under the Parish Council insurance in the event that the plan was

activated. It was agreed that the Parish Council take responsibility for the Community Emergency Plan subject to confirmation from our insurers.

Flooding - Following the severe flooding across parts of the country, members discussed whether the proposed flood alleviation plans for Lanchester are robust enough to cope with these levels of rainfall. It was agreed that a letter is sent to the County Council seeking this assurance. Members were reminded of the need to report blocked gullies to the County Council.

Maintenance Report

received.

Precept 2016/17 - It was agreed that the precept be set at £55,844.00 for 2016/17. This would result in an increase in band D council tax of £0.93 a year or 2.5%.

Financial report

discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment

approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.

POLICE REPORT

PC Iain Nelson and I would like to wish everyone all the best for 2016. We have already made some changes to the way that we police the village. As from January we are no longer holding PACT meetings on the first Tuesday of every month; instead we will be liaising with Lanchester Parish

Council and showing a presence at their meetings throughout the year. Dates of which meetings we will be attending will be published in our Village Voice article prior to the meeting. In the meantime if you would like to speak to Iain or me, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us either by

telephoning 101 or emailing us on lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk or iain.nelson@durham.pnn.police.uk. Changes to PACT have been brought about due to poor attendance from both residents at Lanchester and Burnhope. This therefore means our time can be used more

effectively such as tackling antisocial behaviour at key times. A good result was obtained towards the end of last year when Iain and I attended court in relation to a male from Durham who frequents our area on a regular basis and was stopped driving while intoxicated earlier in the

year on Newbiggen Lane. At court he pleaded guilty and received a three year driving disqualification ban. Looking forward to this year, Iain and I are very much dedicated to making Lanchester a safer place to live, therefore keep an eye out for events and other initiatives we will be holding to help everyone feel safer in their own homes.

Finally, can I thank everyone for all your help and support over 2015 and we both look forward to working with you all again this year.

PCSO Lisa Jackson



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NEW ROUTE FOR VILLAGE BUS

Starting on Monday February 1st the Village Bus will have a brand new route, covering nearly all of the village. It will run hourly, between 9.30am and 1.25pm on weekdays and the fare will be 80p but normal concessions apply. Leaflets showing the new route and timetable are available in the Library, the Community Centre, the Post Office, Hanley &

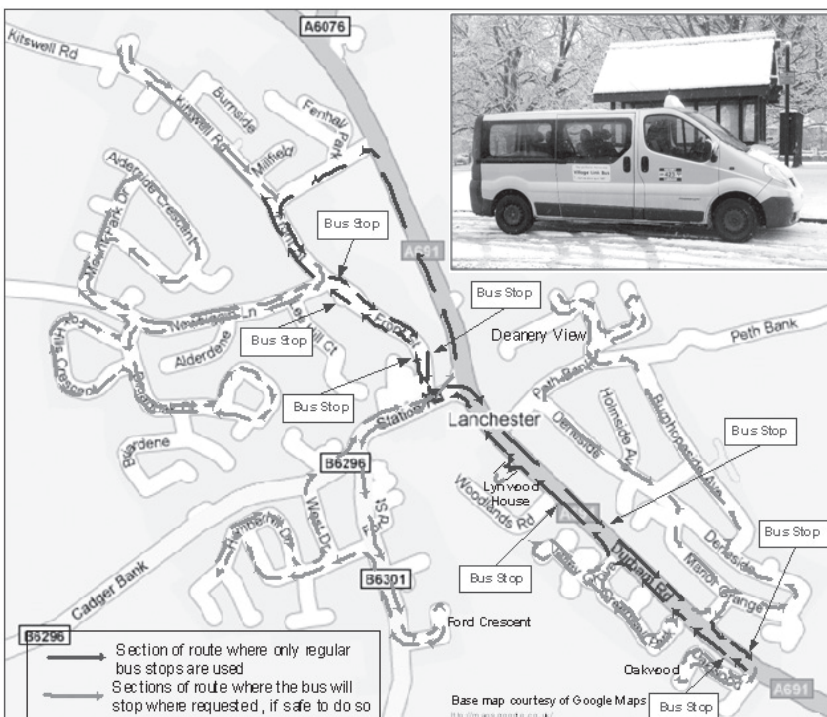
Wwinbanks and on the bus. Please use the Village Bus as often as you can. It helps people who are elderly or infirm to get into the village and back home, but it needs lots of other passengers as well. High passenger numbers will make it less difficult to obtain the funding needed to pay most of the cost of running it.

The Village Link bus service is funded by voluntary contributions, commissioned by the Lanchester Partnership and operated by Prophet Private Hire. The bus picks up and sets down passengers at any safe point along the route except on Lanchester Front Street and Durham Road, where it uses normal bus stops.

Timetable:

Mondays to Fridays (except Bank Holidays)

Kitswell Road Cemetery Depart	09.30		12.30
Newbiggen Lane (Library)	09.32		12.32
Brook View	09.35		12.35
Foxhills Crescent	09.37		12.37
Alderside Crescent	09.39		12.39
Front Street (Village Green) Arrive	09.43		12.43
Front Street (Village Green) Depart	09.45		12.45
Lynwood House	09.48	and	12.48
Ford Crescent	09.51	at	12.51
Colepike Road	09.53	the	12.53
Station Road	09.55	same	12.55
Fenhall Park	09.57	time	12.57
Front Street (Village Green) Arrive	09.59	in	12.59
Front Street (Village Green) Depart	10.01	each	01.01
Burnhopeside Avenue	10.04	hour	01.04
Deanery View	10.06	until	01.06
Deneside	10.08		01.08
Oakwood	10.12		01.12
Valley Grove	10.15		01.15
Lynwood House	10.18		01.18
Front Street (Village Green) Arrive	10.20		01.20
Front Street (Village Green) Depart	10.22		01.22
Kitswell Road Cemetery Arrive	10.25		01.25



A map showing the new bus route



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LANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

Well that is another year over in the history of the Community Centre and it certainly has not been uneventful. We had the unfortunate burglary but we have recovered from this, thanks to our insurance company resolving our claim so quickly and to the many residents who made donations and became 'Friends'. I find the response of our residents so rewarding and if you

want to help your community by giving a few hours a year of your time I would be pleased to hear from you. **PICK UP THE PHONE NOW AND RING THE COMMUNITY CENTRE (521275) AND I WILL GET BACK TO YOU.** We generally make a small profit each year and 2015 was no different. These profits are always put back into the business in the following year. We

spend about £60,000 each year on running the business which we raise from room rentals, the Gym and other fundraising activities. However, we also need to raise about £10,000 each year from donations and grants to maintain and improve the building, so **PLEASE KEEP THE DONATIONS COMING IN AND I ASSURE YOU THAT THEY WILL BE SPENT WELL.**

We have now replaced all the doors that were damaged in the burglary and a new security system has been installed. We have received donations from our Gym users of about £1,000 and this has been spent on a new Weights Stack and Weights Bench. We have been fortunate to receive a £5,000 grant to install LED lighting in the Community Centre and we hope to be able to raise the remaining

£1,000 needed in the next few months. This will allow us to transform the lighting in the building, do our bit for the environment and, hopefully, save £2,000 in electricity charges each year. We are very grateful to the County Durham Community Foundation for the grant that was financed from the Comic Relief 2015 Local Community Grants Fund. **Arthur Maughan, MBE, Chairman**

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Funding of up to £5000 is available from County Durham Community Foundation and funding sessions have been arranged to give those wanting to apply the opportunity to both find out what is available and get the information they need to apply.

For the first time ever the Foundation will open its doors to voluntary and community groups to give them a chance to come and speak with a member of staff on a one to one basis in their offices. The session will run from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm on Tuesday 2nd February at

County Durham Community Foundation, Victoria House, Whitfield Court, St John's Road, Meadowfield Industrial Estate, Durham, DH7 8XL. There will be two funding presentations throughout the day with the opportunity to ask questions after. However

please feel free to drop in at any point throughout the day and a member of staff will be available. If you are not able to make it to the Foundation on this day do not worry, a session has also been arranged on Wednesday 3rd February at Sedgefield Community

Association, Ceddesfield Hall between 10 am - 12 noon. To register your interest, please contact Sarah Cauwood on 0191 378 6353 or email Sarah@cddf.org.uk at County Durham Community Foundation, remembering to give the venue you have selected.



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LANCHESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - HAVE YOUR SAY

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- Transport and Travel
- Community Assets

The Neighbourhood Plan is a new kind of planning document being prepared by the Parish Council on behalf of the community. Once completed, it will have legal status and be used in making decisions on planning applications within the Parish.

The preparation of the Plan provides the opportunity for the local community to decide how our area should grow and develop in the future.

The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Group are keen to seek your views to help us move forward with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Throughout February we

will be conducting a survey to seek the views of the community.

We have developed a draft vision and objectives under 7 key topic areas to help form the building blocks of the Neighbourhood Plan. We think these capture the key messages from previous consultations, but we'd like to hear what you think before moving forward. Together with the draft vision and objectives, we are also asking a few more focussed questions under each topic. Your responses will help make sure we have all the information and support we need to develop the detailed subject matter of the Neighbourhood Plan. The questionnaire will be delivered to households in the village at the beginning of February and posted out to rural properties. Responses are sought from as many individuals as possible by the closing date of 29th

February 2016. Additional copies of the questionnaire can be picked up at the Post Office, Library and Community Centre.

The questionnaire can be completed online at www.lanchesterparish.info/neighbourhood-plan/ Completed paper questionnaires can be returned by using the drop-in boxes at the Post Office, Library or the Community Centre or by post to the Parish Council, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester, DH7 0LS.

If you have further questions, we are having an Open Day event on Saturday 20th February between 10am - 12noon at the Methodist Church. Further details about this and the Neighbourhood Plan process generally are available on the Parish Council's website at www.lanchesterparish.info We look forward to receiving your completed questionnaires.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

Happy New Year for 2016! I returned to Parliament on 5th January to a new job. I have been re-shuffled again, moving from No 4 in the Shadow Education Team to No 2 in the Shadow Foreign and Commonwealth team. This is not just a huge promotion but places me right in the spotlight as the Shadow Europe Minister just as we are going into a referendum on Britain's place in the EU. There has been a lot of media interest in me and about the job itself and how I came to be appointed. "What happens? Who rings you and makes the offer and when?" are common questions. So for those who like to know these things I can tell you that I took a phone call from Jeremy

Corbyn's office at about 10.30 pm on Tuesday evening asking if I could have a conversation with Jeremy Corbyn "in about an hour". I had no idea whether I was going to be sacked, promoted or moved sideways so naturally I assumed the worst and tried to work out what I had done wrong! Jeremy and I eventually got to speak just after midnight and I was offered the job of Shadow Europe Minister. I was very pleased to accept it. My new role has me working closely with the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Hilary Benn, someone who I like and admire. The scope of the role consists of Europe (including the referendum); the Balkans,

Ukraine and Moldova, Russia and the South Caucasus, UK Trade and Investment including TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), business relations with the European Parliament and the Council of Europe and Gibraltar. I do not underestimate the size of the role in front of me and the timing of my appointment in terms of the EU referendum. It will be hard work. I believe my constituents benefit from Labour remaining in a reformed European Union. This exciting role gives me the opportunity to play an active part in this vital debate and protect the interests of everyone in North West Durham and I look forward to the challenges ahead." Pat Glass MP

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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Just a few of the many beautifully decorated Christmas trees

December was a very special time for Lanchester Parish Church because for the very first time a Christmas Tree Festival was held there. Many people entered our lovely, very old Parish Church to see 27 beautifully dressed trees. They were all truly a sight to see and the church looked extremely beautiful. Every tree had lights provided, and so if the main lights were put out, the church

became a winter wonderland, magical in fact. Each tree had been dressed by different organisations in our village, making it a very real community event. So much thought, time and effort had been put into the dressing of each tree and each one without exception was creative and beautiful. It was Keats the famous poet who said, 'A thing of beauty is a joy for ever' and these words epitomised our Tree

Festival. In addition to the trees, on each evening, there was something to entertain the viewers. Our EP School gave a concert on the first evening; Craig Davies, our organist and Janet Jackson leader of our Music Group, organised a concert for the second evening to raise money for Christian Aid and Willow Burn Hospice (see article below); Lanchester Brass Band played carols and

Christmas music on the third evening. Refreshments were available throughout the weekend in the Chapter House, organised by Mother's Union Leader, Mrs Margaret Brown and her members.

The festival was not a money making occasion for the church, but a charity fund raising event. Entry was free but donations were asked for and the money raised was £1,650 which

was to be divided equally between Christian Aid and Willow Burn Hospice. The final total was effectively £2,475 because the government had promised to double the amount raised for the Christian Aid half of the donations. Isn't that a splendid total?

Everyone was sad when the trees were taken down on January 4th but glad that so many people had enjoyed the Tree Festival. Thank you Rupert for this very successful initiative. Brenda Craddock

CONCERT FOR CHARITIES



Lovely singing by children from the East Stanley school choir



Janet Jackson and Craig Davies, after the concert

Mr Craig Davies and Mrs Janet Jackson organised the splendid concert which was held in All Saints' Parish Church on December 18th. The Church Music Group and East Stanley Primary School were the participants and they all performed extremely well. There was a lovely

selection of Christmas songs and carols and all were beautifully sung. There were many proud parents in the audience and the Music Group was well supported by members of the church congregation. It was extra special this year because the church had a tree festival which meant

there were beautifully decorated trees as a background to the singing, which made the whole occasion especially 'Christmassy'. Two of the primary school pupils gave a short explanation of the two chosen charities, Willow Burn Hospice and Christian Aid, encouraging people

to give generously. This was borne out in the splendid amount of money raised which was over £600. Reverend Rupert Kalus thanked the children and the Music Group for their hard work in producing such a lovely concert and he went on to thank especially Craig Davies

and Janet Jackson for all the time and effort they had given to the organisation of such an enjoyable evening. Everyone in the full church will be booking a seat for a third concert next year. It has become a firm favourite in the church calendar. Brenda Craddock

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS



The combined choirs in good voice

Every seat was filled in the Methodist Church on Monday, December 21st where Lanchester Male Voice Choir and Lanchester and District Choral and Operatic Society presented what is now an Annual Concert entitled 'A Celebration of Christmas'. It was a superb concert. The singing was wonderful and the choice of Christmas music and carols was excellent. The audience were invited to sing several well known and loved carols at intervals throughout the programme and thoroughly enjoyed doing so. Our four brilliant musicians were in charge of proceedings and once

again must be congratulated for their talent and expertise. I am of course talking about our two directors of music, Mr Harry Carr and Mr David Hughes, conductors of respectively the Male Voice Choir and the Choral Society, and Mrs Noreen Bridgewater and Mr Bill Gray, the pianists who accompanied the choirs. The two choirs sang together and separately and the quality of the singing was first class. Our three clergymen Reverend Stuart Earl, Reverend Rupert Kalus, and Canon Bob Spence were present and each of them, in turn, read the biblical text of the

Christmas story from St Luke's and St Matthew's Gospels. The Reverend Stuart Earl, after thanking everyone for such a memorable evening gave the blessing. Finally the audience, choirs and their conductors then joined together to sing 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. This lovely evening led everyone forward to the joy and gladness of Christmas. A retiring collection raised the sum of £443.17 which was donated to Christian Aid and will be doubled by the UK Government. Thank you, everyone. Brenda Craddock

METHODIST CHOIR CONCERT

On Wednesday 16th December, Lanchester Methodist Church was completely filled with people eager to hear and to take part in a Christmas Celebration led by the North West Durham Methodist Circuit Choir conducted by Harry Carr. Harry explained that, this year, the Choir had suggested taking favourite songs and readings from their past performances, to tell afresh the Christmas Story. It made for an evening that was full of variety. The thirty seven singers of the Circuit Choir, two narrators and a small band of very

accomplished musicians not only entertained us but also challenged us to look deeper at the message of Christmas, reminding us that today, as it was then, people long for Justice, Peace and Hope. Most pieces were taken from John W Peterson's Cantata; 'Night of Miracles' as well as Graham Kendrick's 'Rumours of Angels' and 'Make Way for Christmas' with additional congregational songs such as 'The Servant King' and 'O Holy Night'. There were some wonderful solo performances and

interspersed with the music, were some very poignant readings. We heard of how the honour of being the first to see the Son of God was given to simple Shepherds considered, at the time, to be on the fringe of society. Other readings gave the story from the point of view of the Wise Men, Pagans, who were also 'outsiders'. Peterson's words were inspired by the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and they provided the story of a 'Love that knows no bounds'. Thank you Harry and Choir for a truly memorable evening!

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CHRISTMAS AT ST BEDE'S SIXTH FORM

St Bede's Sixth Form and Year 7 students were out in force again this year on the last Tuesday of term delivering Christmas hampers to members of our local community. Such was their generosity of spirit, we were able to send additional hampers to Lynwood House and Willow Burn Hospice. Students also put together two luxury hampers to raffle to raise additional funds for Willow Burn and generous donations were also delivered to local food banks. As always, our students were a real credit to St

Bede's and we thank everyone involved for their generosity of spirit to support people in our local community. Wednesday saw 360 students and members of staff join with parishioners at All Saints' Church to celebrate their Christmas Mass, a time honoured tradition generously supported by Canon Spence. Thursday was indeed colourful, with sixth form students joining main school in their Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for the various different charities that St Bede's support.



Students from St Bede's Sixth Form with the hampers ready to be delivered.

ROTAKIDS PRESENTATION



Salvation Army personnel: Joe Toner left; centre, Major Ian Fawcett; right, Marian Jewett; together with the Rotakids, displaying toys for the Salvation Army Toy Appeal.

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Rotakids was formed at Lanchester EP School in November, by Derwentside Rotary Club. At present there are nine children involved with representatives being elected from year 2 - 6. They meet once a fortnight with a member of staff from school and two representatives from Derwentside Rotary - Jackie and Brenda.

At the recent Christmas Fair these 'junior Rotarians' organised a 'Pick a Gift' stall which

raised a massive £150. As a group, the pupils decided to buy toys to give to the Salvation Army Toy Appeal. At assembly on 16th December, Joe Toner, Major Ian Fawcett and Marian Jewett came to the school to give a talk about the Toy Appeal and to receive the toys purchased by the Rotakids for distribution at Christmas. Over three hundred children in Derwentside receive gifts from the Salvation Army

at Christmas, via Santa Claus.

Most of the toys donated by Rotakids were large and quite expensive as it was thought they would be more appreciated by the recipients, as they were less likely to receive gifts of this nature from other sources. The toys were purchased from Argos via the internet. Rotakids are very enthusiastic and have made an excellent start at the school with this really worthwhile project.

LANCHESTER SINGS

Christmas 2014 was the first time a concert entitled 'Lanchester Sings' was held in the Methodist Church, in aid of 'The Red Cross'. It was very successful and it was decided that another 'Lanchester Sings' should be held this year on Friday 11th December. Mrs Tracey Dobson, who manages the Red Cross shop in our village, organised the concert with the help of some of her staff and it was very successful. Kirsty Robeson, who is the President of the Durham and Teesside Red Cross, introduced and compèred the event.

Taking part were the choir of the EP School, who sang a medley of lovely Christmas songs, accompanied by Mrs Jane Davis on the piano. There were three young girls, all with beautiful singing voices, who are pupils of Mrs Marie



The choir of the EP School singing a medley of Christmas songs

Harrison. They were sisters, Olivia and Mia Walker-Toward, and Anya Warner, who all sang solo, as well as a song the sisters sang together. Mrs Kate Lawrie read a passage from 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. The extract was called

'Cratchet's Christmas Dinner' and was read very eloquently and engagingly. Lanchester Brass Band accompanied the carols which the audience were invited to sing and also played a number of Christmas pieces which were all in the mood of

the joyous Christmas season. Refreshments were served by the Red Cross ladies at the interval and they included mince pies. It was a very happy occasion and lovely to have so many children and young people taking part and giving

everyone so much pleasure. Thank you to all of them. The total amount raised for the Red Cross was £500. Look out for this event next Christmas and try to come along. You won't be disappointed! Brenda Craddock

LANCHESTER CHURCHES TOGETHER Update on Prayer Cards

Delivery of prayer cards to the village began in April last year, starting with Durham Road. Since then, with the help of volunteers from the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist Churches, most of the village has been covered. Last month, deliveries were made to Maiden Law Bank and Kitswell Road. This month we will visit Croft View, Croft Court, Fenhall Park and Victoria Terrace, and this will complete our coverage of the village. But it doesn't end here. The Parish covers Burnhope and smaller settlements such as Malton, Hurbuck, and Hollinside. This means

that we will not be finishing our first deliveries until the end of June this year. So, volunteers to help with these more outlying areas will be gratefully received - any offers could be communicated by putting a note in the Prayer Card box, located on the Post Office counter in Lanchester Front Street, or by using the following email address - prayer@lanchestermethodistchurch.org.uk We are also hoping to place an additional box in Burnhope - more details to follow.

In the meantime, thanks to all those who have helped with deliveries and to those who have

responded so far. Please be reassured that the churches will continue to support you through prayer.

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AMAZING ANIMALS AT NATIVITY

1st Lanchester Guiding organised their own version of a Nativity on Thursday evening, 17th December, at 5.30 pm on the lawn outside the Methodist Church. There were no Angels, Mary, Joseph, or Wise Men. Baby Jesus was laid in the manger, at an appropriate time, next to an animal pen. There must have been well over 100 children and adults there to see and

enjoy this wonderful play. A pen containing: goats; a sheep called Lamb; ducks; guinea pigs; rabbits and chickens had been erected on the grassed area. The animals were all tame and provided by 'Animals about Town'. Rev Stuart Earl welcomed everyone and narrated the story involving all the children by giving them instructions to join in

whenever he mentioned the various people and animals in the nativity story. This ploy certainly kept their attention and the children enjoyed cheering for Mary and Joseph, boos for Herod, baas for Shepherds and so on. It was somewhat reminiscent of pantomime! Rev Stuart wandered around telling the story very light heartedly, with enormous

enthusiasm. As the story ended, Anthony Johnson played 'Away in a Manger' on his guitar with some lovely singing which resounded along Front Street. This was followed with 'Silent Night'. With the nativity and carols concluded, children from various groups associated with the church went inside for a well deserved tea.

The Guiders would like to thank the Methodist Church Family, in particular Stuart, the story teller; Crinnions and Barbara, who supplied and prepared the food; Animals about Town who supplied some of the actors; Mr Johnson, Music Director - and a big thank you to all the parent volunteers who make their endeavours possible.



Animals queueing up to be fed by the children



A good variety of animals at the outdoor Nativity



This goat looks very keen to be fed



This young man was very excited about feeding a goat.

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CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR VILLAGE BUS

Another happy and successful event was held in early December for the Village Bus.

The Christmas Lunch, inspired as so often before by Karin Bravington, was held in All Saints' RC Church Hall.

The guests were feted to a good buffet spread followed by the festive mince tarts. Karin thanks everyone for their enthusiastic party spirit, Canon Spence for the use of the beautiful hall, the wonderful company of guests and the many dedicated helpers on tombola, raffle and of course the kitchen. These all contributed to a happy and profitable morning.

We in turn thank Karin for her tireless efforts. The total result raised was £324 for a very good and necessary cause.

Sincerely, Marie Harrison

HOT CHOCOLATE AND CAROLS AT THE EP

It was a joyous occasion at Lanchester EP school on the afternoon of 'Carols and Hot Chocolate'. There were so many adults and children there that before the singing began, the words pandemonium and bedlam came to mind - such was the noise! The queue for the hot chocolate was enormous! Once the singing began, things settled down with Head Teacher Mrs Davis on piano and Mr Johnson playing his guitar. Eventually the children were summoned to the front. A good mix of carols and lively well known Christmas songs displayed on a large screen encouraged everyone to join in - even the staff sang enthusiastically. It was a great Christmas atmosphere, which enabled pupils, parents, relatives and school staff to mix and have a good time together as this busy term wound down.



The informal children's choir who sang vociferously.



The very busy 'Hot chocolate ladies'

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Well known characters are the order of the day on Christmas Eve at New Image.



The Jeni and the Misses Claus dress up for Christmas at Talking Heads.

PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Playgroup held their Christmas celebration on Friday 18th December, at the Community Centre. Lots of parents, grandparents, child minders turned up for this wild celebration. The children played for quite some time, then tucked into their party food, had some games and were able to see Santa Claus for that magical moment!



Children enjoying their tea



Dad's corner



A very busy dining scene at the Playgroup Party, enjoyed by all.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY EP SCHOOL

The EPSchool, Years 3,4,5 & 6 always have their Nativity and Christingle Service in All Saints' Parish Church. This year it was held on Friday December 18th. Foundation, Reception and Years 1 and 2 were also present and the church was very full of children, family members and friends. The Reverend Rupert Kalus gave a very warm welcome to everyone. It was the turn of Year 6 to perform the Nativity and they were absolutely excellent. Every word could be heard and every member of the cast performed their part admirably. It was obvious that they were enjoying their presentation and everyone in the church certainly enjoyed every part of it. There was singing too and of course

the children sang beautifully as they always do. Mrs Davis accompanied the singing. Reverend Rupert Kalus gave a short address, to which everyone could relate and he spoke for everyone when he thanked the children and teachers for all the work they had done to produce such an excellent performance.

Then there was a short break to prepare for the Christingle part of the service. The Christingle Oranges had been prepared beforehand and a small number of pupils from Year Three had been chosen to carry one of the Christingle Oranges. A short explanation of the symbolism behind the 'Christingle Orange' was given. In effect the round orange is the world and the four cocktail sticks



Some of the cast of the Year 6 Nativity

which have fruits and nuts on them before being stuck into the sides of the orange, represent the four seasons of the year. Finally a large candle is inserted into the middle of the orange and is lit for a service. It is symbolic of the Light of Christ

shining throughout the world to bring peace, justice, joy and forgiveness. The children who had been given the responsibility of carrying a Christingle round the church did so with great reverence. Indeed their faces were aglow from the

light of the candles and, in the silence and semi darkness of the church, the whole scene was very poignant and special. Well done to all those who took part in this lovely Nativity and Christingle Service.

Brenda Craddock

FOUNDATION STAGE NATIVITY

These very young children aged between 3 and 5 gave a very good performance in their Nativity presentation. The packed hall of parents, childminders, grandparents, uncles and aunts and friends

watched with pride as their own children sang or read using the microphone. The children, though so young, showed such confidence and were very enthusiastic. Each of them could be seen

searching for familiar faces so that they could wave and welcome them to their performance. It is always lovely to see the love that is shared between child and parent or family member. Their presence is so important

to that small person. After that important wave and smile the play was ready to begin. All the children looked delightful, dressed in the appropriate costume for the part they were playing and very proud they were

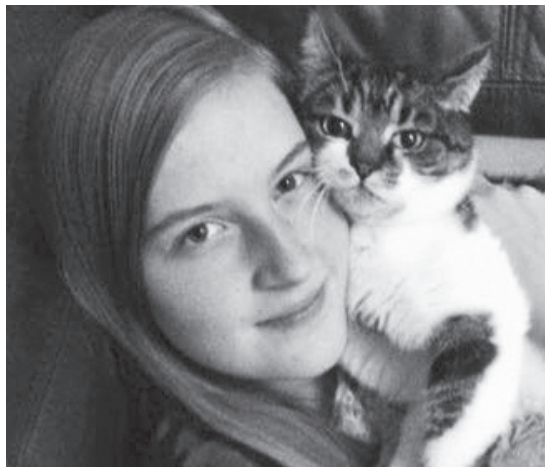
of the character they played, whether angel, Mary, Joseph, shepherd, wise man, a towns person or even an animal in the manger scene. Their teachers had obviously made sure that the children knew the story of the first Christmas and that they were aware of its significance and this somehow made their performance extra special. There was some very nice, tuneful singing included in the play and these very young children knew all the words. Mrs Davis praised the children and their teachers for their hard work. Together they had once again given so much pleasure to their audience and some very proud parents, family and friends left the school hall that afternoon. Christmas was well and truly launched. Brenda Craddock



A Host of Angels???

MISSING MIMZY FOUND

During a trip to Ashfield Vets in Lanchester my daughter's 8 year old pet cat Matilda (Mimzy) escaped her pet carrier and ran off into Deneside Estate. Despite extensive searches of the area and advertising including, leaflets, posters and social media, Mimzy remained lost, until 8 days later she was recovered by a Lanchester resident and returned to a worried young lady, now very relieved and grateful, who would like to thank



Naimh and Mimzy cuddled up together

many people in the search. Sonia Lanchester who helped McGough, Stanley.

A NEW HOMELAND FOR PEG



Evie and Megan Kelly with Peg in her new home

Some Village Voice readers may remember the story printed in the October issue 2006. A Springer Spaniel called Floss travelled from Lanchester to join her owners in Perth Western Australia. Floss settled in Australia and enjoyed many years in her new environment. It is approaching ten years since Paul and Wendy moved down under and now they have decided to return to Blighty. The story continues: on 9th December a Chocolate Labrador called Peg travelled

with her owners Paul and Wendy from Perth Western Australia to Manchester Airport, finally reaching her new homeland Lanchester. All friends and family have welcomed all three with open arms. Peg has received an extra special welcome from the couple's nieces Evie and Megan Kelly who live in Lanchester. It is definitely a great deal chillier for Peg but she seems to be settling and loving her new environment. She even enjoyed the snowy weekend we encountered the weekend of her arrival. It was her first experience of snow.

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SATLEY WI UPDATE

The last meeting of 2015 took place on 14th December with our new President, Lynda Horn, welcoming members and guests.

After the business discussions, Lynda introduced our speaker, Lesley Jerred. She kindly brought our County Chairman, Lyn Swift, to accompany her for the journey on such a foggy night. Our evening took the form of a workshop. We made rag wreaths and Christmas tree ornaments from cloth materials. We enjoyed lovely 'hands on' time working and chatting around the table with Christmas excitement!

This was followed by a generous Faith supper with appetising choice. The competition was a small Christmas arrangement which was won by Pat Gibson. Avril Carpenter came 2nd and Lynda Horn 3rd. The raffle was won by Carolyn Marston.

Two new members came to our January meeting and were made very welcome. The new programmes were distributed, promising a very interesting year ahead with varied activities and outings planned. We are looking forward to lunch at

'Chapters' Restaurant on 27th January. On 4th March, some members are visiting the Archives at County Hall, Durham, which should prove interesting.

After the business was discussed we proceeded with darts and a quiz competition for our social part of the evening which was enjoyed by all.

The competition was 3 categories of Christmas cards. 'Pretty' card was won by Jean Portwood, 2nd came Pat Gibson and 3rd Kathleen Snowdon. 'Religious' card was won by Joan Smith, 2nd Christine Wilson and 3rd Pat Gibson. Finally, 'Handmade' card was won by Linda Butterfield, 2nd Joan Smith and 3rd Christine Wilson. The raffle was won by Grace Hall.

All visitors and new members are always welcome. Our meetings are held every second Monday of the month.

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BOXING DAY HUNT

As someone recently wrote in The Village Voice, non news stories can still be good news, and in this case, certainly worthy of fine pictures (see back page). The Hunt was not a hunt!

Due to the very poor wet conditions about 35 mounts assembled at the King's Head, later than usual, then re-assembled at Crinnions for the traditional ham sandwich and mulled wine, before setting off via Kitswell Road for a short ride to Low Meadows, then off home. No post hunt meal had been arranged.

Bill Gascoigne, Master of the Hunt, still made the traditional speech in the middle of the village, before the off. Similarly to last year, he thanked the people of Lanchester for turning out and Crinnions for their hospitality.

He explained that it was too dangerous for the Hunt to take place. Livestock, horses and riders could be seriously affected. Local farmers, who had always supported The Braes of Derwent Hunt, could find their land ruined by extremely wet conditions.

Mr Gascoigne carried on

with a modified version of his thoughts about a repeal of the 2004 Hunting Act. He opined that Hunts all over the UK would like to get back to hunting properly to reduce the fox population in a humane way. He seemed confident that the 2004 Hunting Act will be abolished in its present form in the fullness of time, but it appears that the main obstacle to this happening, certainly in the short term, is Nicola Sturgeon.

There were no obvious protestors in the crowd.

PANTOMIME STARS

Congratulations to the girls from Lanchester All Saints' RC and Lanchester EP School (Grace Rose Massey-Allen, Alice Bell, Millie Slane, Rachel Temple, Kate McGovern, Chloe McGovern and Mae

Deaville) who were chosen to dance at this year's Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime in Consett representing the Pauline Cook School of Dance. All girls were so professional and they should be very

proud of themselves as this is a massive achievement! They have worked so hard in rehearsal and once the curtain opened, it was a joy to watch them! Our superstars, well done everyone! (See back page)

THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

Our last meeting of 2015, just before Christmas was most enjoyable.

We were royally entertained by 'Fools Gold', who are a very talented duo. They can

sing, play a variety of instruments and keep the laughter flowing all afternoon. On top of all that, we had an accompanying slide show to emphasise all

the action. The meeting closed with nibbles and wine to get us in the festive spirit, a lovely way to end what has been a good 35th year for the Thursday Club.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

We decided to start off the New Year at the Pavilion at Iveston and what a good choice that was. It's always such a pleasure to be there - the setting, the welcoming staff who make sure every detail of your visit and your meal is perfect. The reception area is roomy and comfortable, making it enjoyable to sit and choose from their extensive menu while nibbling on delicious prawn crackers.

We chose to dine from their set lunch time menu which costs £14.95 per person and includes

choice of soup, chicken + sweet corn/Peking hot + sour; a mixture of super appetisers - salt + pepper chicken wings, salt + pepper spare ribs, Peking spare ribs, crispy wontons + curry triangles. Then a selection of their fabulous main dishes. As there were 7 of us there we had 7 different dishes to share - sizzling, sweet + sour, Malaysian, oyster and lemon sauces, all to add to some lovely egg fried rice and more scrumptious prawn crackers. Once inside the Pavilion you have to give up all ideas of sticking to

the New Year diet. The meal is rounded off with lovely cups of China (what else?) tea/coffee. Puds are on offer but it would take a big appetite to find room for them.

For a special occasion they have some amazing Chinese banquets on offer. The restaurant itself is decorated with 3D Chinese murals, lovely etched pictures on glass screens and fresh flowers.

All in all, it makes for a delightful lunch time experience, one you'll want to repeat - often!

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EDITH PIERCE HONoured

Lanchester Wildlife Group honoured Edith who has been a member since the start of the group 32 years ago. It was time to celebrate her contribution with the gesture of an Honorary Membership and Burt Hunter presented Edith with her Certificate.

The prospect of Penguins persuaded Edith to venture out on a chilly January evening. Not a

species regularly observed by Lancastrians, however Noel Jackson's talk on Falkland Island wildlife on Tuesday 12th January changed that. The Falklands are home to five species of Penguin including the King Penguin.

The remainder of the 'wildlife' year focuses closer to home, with talks ranging from Mammals,

through Hay Meadows of the Pennines to Lichens. Three field trips are planned for June-August meetings. Indoor meetings take place on second Tuesday of each month in the dining room of the Community Centre, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Please contact Elaine 01207 520063 or email Anne akellys.mail@gmail.com for more information.



Edith Pierce with her certificate, presented by Burt Hunter

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Pollo Alla Cacciatora Hunter's Chicken Stew

Many people will be familiar with this dish, as it's found in most Italian food ranges in supermarkets. It's always worth making the effort to source things for yourself, as the food tastes so much nicer when made from scratch, with care and love. Cacciatora means 'hunter' so this is a typical Italian stew cooked ready for the return of the men from a hunting expedition on a cold winter day.

4½ lb chicken pieces
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
8 bay leaves
2 sprigs fresh rosemary
3 cloves of garlic, peeled - 1 crushed, 2 sliced
Half a bottle of Chianti
Flour for dusting

Extra virgin olive oil
6 anchovy fillets
A handful of olives, green or black, stoned
2x400g tins plum tomatoes
Serves 4

1) Season the chicken pieces with salt and freshly ground black pepper and put them into a bowl. Add the bay leaves and rosemary sprigs and the crushed clove of garlic and cover with the wine. Leave to marinate for at least an hour, but preferably overnight in the fridge.

2) Preheat the oven to 180 degrees C, 350 degrees F. gas 4. Drain the chicken, reserving the marinade and pat dry with kitchen towels. Dust the chicken pieces with flour and shake off the excess. Heat an

ovenproof pan, add a splash of olive oil, fry the chicken pieces until lightly browned and put to one side.

3) Place the pan back on the heat and add the sliced garlic. Fry gently until golden brown, then add the anchovies, olives, tomatoes (broken up with a wooden spoon) and the chicken pieces with the reserved marinade. Bring to the boil, cover with a lid and bake in the oven for 1½ hours.

4) Skim off any oil that's collected on the top of the sauce, then stir, taste and add a little salt and pepper if needed. Remove the bay leaves and rosemary sprigs, serve with jacket potatoes or a salad.

LANCHESTER WI WELCOMES 2016

Our new President Marie Murphy welcomed members to a very busy first meeting of the year. Reminders were given regarding subscriptions and about the various clubs and future plans for cinema and theatre visits. Members were invited to act as hostess for future meetings, as well as to offer readings etc, and also to sign up for April's visit to the Antique Centre in Leyburn. Ann Carr showed an embroidered cloth dating from the time of our first President, Mrs Sadler, who held office from 1925 until 1953. The names of all Presidents since and many committee members are also illustrated - this was a wonderful link with the past! WI Resolutions were outlined and members urged to think carefully before their vote. Our competition winners were Ann Carr and Angela Velleman and the raffle winners were Jessie Goodall and Christine Gibson.

Our speaker was Peter Stemmer, Darlington Town Crier. He gave a fascinating account of the history of the post and described some of his duties and a few of the incidents he'd experienced. In the distant past, when communication between settlements was difficult and most people were illiterate, local and national news was spread over the country by official Criers. They informed the population about new laws, about possible invasions and they were responsible for doling out punishments and organising executions. In times of great upheaval, such as plague, Town Criers spread news about how the isolation and disposal of victims should take place and after the Great Fire of London, the Crier was responsible for announcing plans for rebuilding the city. Indeed, Criers held royal protection and it was treason to harm them or to interfere with their duties. Today, the post is largely

ceremonial and Peter Stemmer described how he regarded himself as representing his town to the world. It was a really informative and amusing presentation and Marie thanked our guest for such an interesting account. Our meeting ended with warming soup made by Janis and Maisie before we braved a rain-lashed Lanchester and home.



Angela Velleman and Town Crier Peter Stemmer.



Presidents Past and Present: Marie Murphy, Jessie Goodall, Jennifer Macdonald, Ann Carr and Eileen Curnow with the cloth linking us to our first President in 1925.

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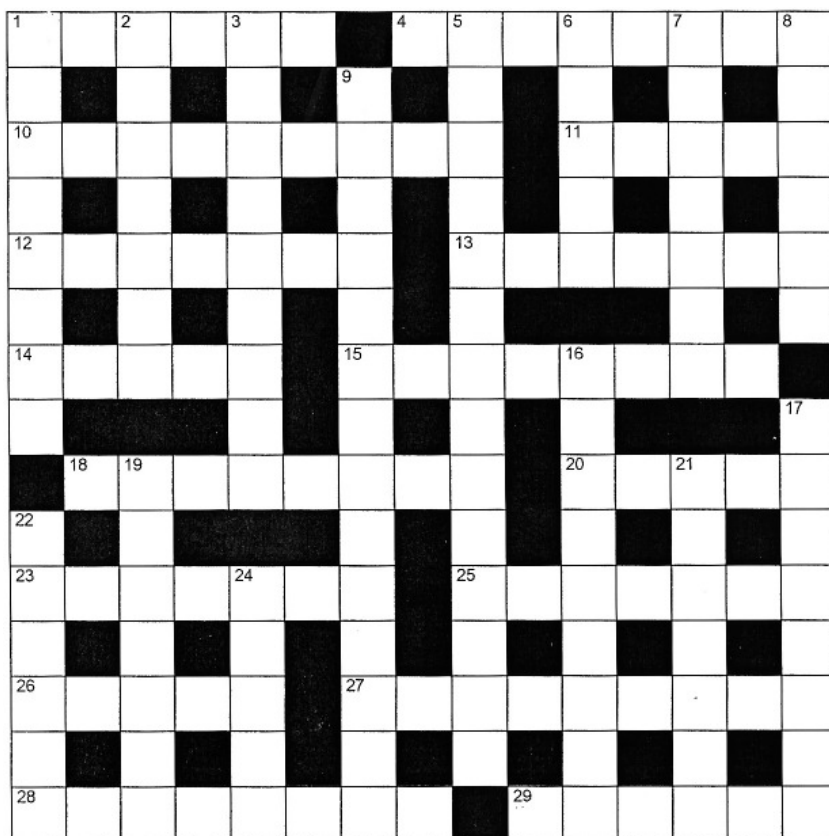
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CROSSWORD 117



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

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

ACROSS

1. Rogue (6)
4. Rogue (8)
10. Rogue (9)
11. Very good person (5)
12. Unskilled but reformed slaters (7)
13. Sign (7)
14. Royal dog (5)
15. Hypocritical (3-5)
18. Allegri's most famous composition (8)
20. Savage tuber (5)
23. Entourage (7)
25. Fiery person (7)
26. Dynamic person or big pussycat (5)
27. Will (9)
28. Riders (8)
29. Japanese lady 'companion' (6)

DOWN

1. Look into (8)
2. Pig's foot (7)
3. Half of famous double act is weenier (5,4)
5. A b s u r d enterprise (4-5, 5)
6. Hooters (5)
7. Recreation (7)
8. Betrayed (6)
9. Take decisive action (5,3,6)
16. Sit in judgement (9)
17. Feud (8)
19. Whole number (7)
21. Ineffective (7)
22. Rogue (6)
24. Cheek (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 116

ACROSS

7. See 1
8. faker
10. magician
11. Kodiak
- 12,13. semidetached
13. See 12
15. perfidy
17. henpeck
20. overcast
22. edgy
25. El Nino
26. detainee
27. straw
28. conundrum

DOWN

- 1,7. total confusion
2. office
3. ossified
4. tornado
5. handicap
6. decadence
9. skit
14. servility
16. farcical
18. eventful
19. studios
21. atom
23. grinds
24. revue

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.

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

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LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A packed room buzzing with memories, treasures, questions and amazement was enjoyed by members and visitors at the new January meeting of the History Society on January 8th. Members and visitors were asked to bring finds, memories and special items for a 'Show and Tell'. A huge variety of objects came out of bags, baskets and containers from finds from Lanchester gardens

including a metal top of a water pump, a photograph of a local scene with children playing by the river at Allensford, a wonderful collection of WWI embroidered postcards and a lot of other items, some local and others telling a tale of previous times.

The oldest item was a Neolithic flint, local maps of the Fenhall Drift mine showed dated sections of excavations were scrutinised and a land

map of Margery Flatts too. A 19th century bronze Skirt Lifter, Dress holder that had been patented was identified. Items showed the wonderful skills, crafts and ingenuity of previous generations. Examples included a beautiful iron skillet with heart cut outs showing the love of metal workers whilst engraved antique mother of pearl Chinese Gaming counters were admired.

More recent items included a member's butter and sugar dish with integral tongs which reminded many in the room of their fascination of items like these which they remembered as children. Some items intrigued the group namely a silver gadget possibly for holding a cigarette so the owner no longer needed to hold the cigarette while dancing or having a conversation! Or is it?

Other memories that were shared included some of the history of a house on Front Street, how it was built and developed, and the treasures it contained.

All in all a great night and one the Society will programme again in the future. A big thank you to all members and visitors who brought their treasures and memories along on a cold January night. See you all again on February 5th.



Member sharing her memories and collection



John Gall discussing garden finds

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WHAT'S ON?

Open House

Join us in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 4th February, 11.30 am to 1.00 pm for a light lunch.

Vintage Tractor Club

Meet on Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Country Market

The next market will take place on Saturday 6th February from 10 am until 12 noon in the Methodist Church.

Community Centre

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

Sunday Bridge

Are you a Bridge player? If so, why not come along to the Community Centre on Sunday 31st January and 28th February at 2.00 pm for an enjoyable afternoon of Bridge. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits go to the Community Centre.

Lanchester Library

The library offers Songs and Stories on Thursday afternoons from 2-3 pm. All children under 5 years are welcome.

Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th February at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre Dining Room. The subject will be 'A personal View of Surveys and Recordings' with John Strowger.

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be on February 18th at 1.30 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre when Judith Lund will be giving a talk on 'The Falklands'.

The Village Voice Page 22

Short Circuit Walks

Venue: **Moors and Mansions**

Date: February 6th

OS Ref: NZ251667

NE23HJ

Miles: 5

Leader: Helen Turnbull

Phone: 01914696661

Start at West Jesmond Metro, finish at Jesmond Metro. Car parking limited, recommend Park and Ride.

Venue: **Watergate Park**

Date: February 20th

OS Ref: NZ228607

NE119PT

Miles: 4.5

Leader: David Armstrong

Phone: 01914604994

Leave A1(M) for Whickham and head west on the Whickham Highway to car park.

Lanchester Social Club

Saturday 6th February

NICOLABROWN,

Delightful Young Singer

Sunday 7th February

Sunday Night Buskers

Saturday 13th February

DAVID McKENNA,

Popular Vocalist

Sunday 14th February

Sunday Night Buskers

Saturday 20th February

PHOENIX CLARKE,

Top Class Vocalist

Sunday 21st February

Sunday Night Buskers

Saturday 27th February

DIXON J SCOTT,

Great Guitar Vocalist

Sunday 28th February

Sunday Night Buskers

'Sacred Contrasts'

Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society will present their Spring concert Sacred Contrasts on Friday 11th March in All Saints Catholic Church, Kitswell Road, at 7.15 pm. Tickets £8.00 including refreshments, from Lynn 01207 521458 or Maureen 520172.

Lanchester WI

February's meeting will be held on Monday, February 1st at its usual time, 7.15 pm. Our trial period of meeting in the large hall of the Community Centre will continue and our Guest Speaker is Gary Bankhead of the Durham Wear Assemblage. There will be our monthly raffle and our competition is for A 'Found' Treasure which allows the imagination full rein! Please remember to check up on all the information posted so that you keep up to date about events, news from the clubs and WI activities.

Computers 4 All

Need advice with operating your PC or Laptop? Have you recently acquired a Tablet and could use some help with it? Why not take advantage of your Village drop-in facility. Open between 9.30 and 11.30 am on Mondays and Thursdays in the Community Centre, our small friendly service is here to help, entirely free of charge.

Durham Cathedral

A lecture, 'New Light on the Rites of Durham', by Margaret Harvey and Linda Rollason, will take place at 6.30 pm on Monday 29th February in Prior's Hall, next to the cathedral. Friends of Durham Cathedral will be admitted free, non-members will be charged £5. There is no need to book in advance.

Lanchester Flower Club

The next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday February 24th at 2 pm in Lanchester Community Centre in the main hall. There will also be a demonstration by Helen Hewitson, The Body Shop Home Consultant.

Third Big Folk Night

For Folk Aficionados!

Please note for your diaries, I know, long way off and all that, but time waits for no man (or woman).

The Third Big Folk Night will be on Saturday 24th September again to benefit Henry Dancer Days and the Lanchester Community Centre. Don't miss it!

(Info Ian Tute 529286)

Library Book Club

Our next meetings are on the following Mondays, February 29th, March 21st, and April 25th. We meet in the library 2.30-3.30 pm. If you would like to join this small group, pop into the library for the current read. We look forward to seeing you.

Local History Society

Subject: Cholera in

Durham

Speaker: David Butler

Date: 5th February

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre.

David Butler is an archivist and local historian. This talk looks at the events of 1849/1850 and how Durham coped with the disease. Visitors are always very welcome.

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 28th February when we will meet in Malton car park at 10.00 am.

Mothers' Union

The meeting this month, 10th February is on Ash Wednesday. Members are to attend the service in church starting at 7.00 pm. This will be followed by a short meeting in the Chapter House.

Willow Burn Coming Events

GREAT NORTH RUN
11th September 2016

We have been very fortunate this year to have secured 70 places for our supporters.

This is great news and they are filling up so if you would like to be part of the Willow Burn Team and take part in this fantastic event get in touch and book your place now!

Everyone says they have an amazing experience taking part - take a look at some of our previous runners!

Don't miss out!

SOGGY BOTTOM BOYS AT DELVES LANE CLUB, CONSETT

Come along for a great night of music at Delves Lane Club, Consett on Saturday 13th

February. The evening starts at 7.00 pm and tickets only cost £5 each.

TRAFFORD CENTRE SHOPPING TRIP

23rd April 2016

Following the enormous success of our shopping trip to York, and by popular demand we have now organised an extra trip to the shops in 2016.

Tickets are going fast so don't miss out - get in touch now. Let the shopping begin!

4 COURSE GOURMET BANQUET at the Pavilion Restaurant, Iveston on 1st February 2016

This joint fundraising event between Willow Burn Hospice and Sir Bobby Robson Foundation promises to be a fantastic night.

The night will start at 6.30 pm and cost of tickets includes a 4 course Gourmet Banquet, raffle and auction. Tickets are limited and with not much time left please get in touch soon so you don't miss out.

Satley WI

The next meeting will be on 8th February in the Village Hall, Satley, commencing 7.15 pm. We will welcome Dr Alan Pearson who, with the aid of PowerPoint, will talk about 'the delights of the mountains of Northern Spain'. We have enjoyed his company previously and an informative talk is guaranteed. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Social will be held on Sunday February 14th at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a film.

The film we will be showing is 'THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING', the biopic based on the life story of the renowned scientist Stephen Hawking. Once a healthy young man Hawking receives an earth-shattering diagnosis at 21 years of age just as he meets and falls in love with fellow Cambridge student Jane Wilde. The film stars Eddie Redmayne (who won an Oscar for this performance) as Hawking, and Felicity Jones as Jane. All are welcome.

Entry:

£2.50 members

£3.50 occasional visitors

£2 young persons.

Ticket entry covers raffle, refreshments and the film.

SNOWY LANCHESTER



Lanchester Valley Walk during the first fall of snow this winter



Lanchester Bowling Green under snow

CRICKET CLUB NEWS

Sunday 29th November was the AGM of the club and it was good to welcome Michelle Scott into the role of secretary. Most other role holders remained in post for another year, as Chairman Neil Graham reflected on a very good year off the field. The changing rooms and the club itself have been transformed bringing lots of positive comments from visiting teams. This was achieved

by a combination of vital grants and the money raised by the beer festival. There is still work to do in the kitchen but certainly the club has moved forward. On the field, the first team had a good season finishing fifth and it was good to see how disappointed the players were in that achievement. The club managed to maintain three senior and five junior sides and will hope for some new faces

to freshen things up in 2016. In December the club held its Christmas Feast with a home cooked four course meal, a top raffle and some great entertainment. Jeff Wingfield provided the starter and soup, Hanley and Swinbank supplied the Turkey, Pork and Beef with Jeff cooking the huge range of veg. Finally, Jacqui McConnell came up with a selection of fabulous

desserts for those who could manage them. All the raffle prizes were donated so the club raised over £600 by the sale of tickets.

By the time you read this, the planning for the third beer festival will have started as well as looking to finalise the cricketing line up for the new season. Hope you all had a great Christmas and have a successful new year.



Advertising in the Village Voice

Advertising your business in the Village Voice could not be easier, just give us a ring and we will do the rest. We offer a free design service to prepare a unique advert promoting your business in 2700 homes in and around Lanchester. The cost starts at £15 per month for a credit card size advert.

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BOXING DAY MEET



The Hunt sets off from the King's Head to re-assemble outside Crinnions.



Bill Gascoigne, Master of the Braes of Derwent Hunt, delivers his passionate speech to the onlookers.



*Groups socialising in the King's Head car park.
(See story on page 17)*

PANTOMIME STARS



*ABOVE - Rachel Temple
CENTRE - Alice Bell,
Grace Rose Massey-Allen
and Millie Slane
LEFT - Mae Deaville
(See article on page 17)*

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 16th February. The deadline for **adverts** is 14th February.

The Village Voice Page 24

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