

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 18

Lanchester, December 2017

For contact information, see page 2

Merry
Chrismas

TO ALL OUR
READERS

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON AT THE GREEN



The beautifully decorated Christmas tree takes pride of place on the Green.



Canon Bob Spence and Councillor Ossie Johnson are ably assisted by Jack Hall and Ava Bullerwell from Lanchester EP School and James Leighton and Molly Morgan from All Saints' RC Primary School when together they pressed the switch to light up the Village Green Christmas Lights.



In this view taken in front of the War Memorial, the Village Green looks spectacular with all the trees lit up for Christmas.
Thanks to Paul Winship for the photos.



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
My family and I would like to thank everyone who shared in our grief over the tragic death of Fred, a dear father and wonderful husband. The many cards, letters and prayers helped in our great sorrow. The village is like a family which showed its true colours when it was needed most. The North East Air Ambulance quickly flew Fred to hospital from the scene of the accident. Your very generous donations to this vital service have to date raised an amazing total of over £4000. Thank you so much. Pat Heppell and family

Dear Village Voice
At 2 pm on Wednesday 22nd November one of our local farmers confronted two teenage boys who were behaving strangely and trespassing with a lurcher hunting dog on his farmland in Satley.

This confrontation resulted in a larger group of youths in cars returning, between 4 and 8 pm, to take their revenge on this undefended farmstead. Fences were cut and dragged down and walls were dismantled and destroyed.

At around 8 pm a car with youths inside drove through the village honking its horn almost in defiance. It was then that villagers became aware of the smoke and the fire blazing in the heart of the village. The farmer's barn had been set alight. It took teams of brave fire crew working throughout the night to extinguish the inferno that threatened the homes of many shocked and frightened residents. The emergency

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

services were able to save adjacent homes but were unable to save the barn and its contents which were half of the farmer's required winter barley straw for his cattle. The fire also reduced his tractor to a lump of molten metal and obliterated an essential trailer together with a

fertiliser spreader. The building is totally destroyed and will need to be knocked down and rebuilt.

This vengeful attack within our midst has shaken our community to the core and left an innocent farmer with a loss of many thousands of pounds. If you have

any information that will help to bring these youths to justice, whoever they are, please contact the police.

On this occasion a spiteful 'vengeful prank' has not led to loss of life but it could so easily have been very different. Name withheld for fear of reprisals



Part of the damage at the farm in Satley.

How to contact the Village Voice

To advertise, email: voiceadverts@gmail.com or telephone Lynda on 07851 775297.

General and news enquiries, email: lancchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line).

By post:
The Village Voice,
c/o Lancashire Community Centre,
Newbiggen Lane,
Lancaster,
DH7 0PB.

Community Draw

The winning number in the Community Draw for November is 63. The draw was made by Frank Redfearn of Computers for All.

View the Village Voice online (including past issues) at www.lancaster-villagevoice.co.uk

Dear Village Voice
On behalf of Lancashire Parish Council I would like to pass on heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who helped out at the Christmas Light Switch-On event on Saturday

25th November. It is due to the commitment and hard work of the volunteers that the event ran smoothly and successfully. I would also like to thank members of Lancashire Brass Band

and Lancashire Choral and Operatic Society for performing on the night. Many thanks to all of you for supporting the event. Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lancashire Parish Council

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FRED HEPPELL

We are sad to report the death of Fred Heppell, one of our team of emergency Village Voice deliverers, tragically killed in a road accident on 10th November.

Fred had a great passion for cycling and was still cycling 10,000 miles a year at the age of 80. Over the years he undertook epic cycling trips with his wife Pat to places such

as Cuba, the USA, North Africa, South America, Spain and France plus three Land's End to John O' Groats rides.

Whenever he returned home from his many travels both he and Pat always volunteered to deliver the Voice for anybody who was on holiday, slotting into any round at a moment's notice

without a fuss, which certainly made my job a lot easier.

He will be a considerable miss to the Voice and many other people in the Village. We offer our sincere condolences to Pat and his family.

If you feel you could become an emergency deliverer for the Voice then please contact Mike Stoddart on 520291.



Fred Heppell

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

The Village Green was the venue, November 25th the date, for the ceremony which everyone enjoys, namely the switching on of the lights on the Village Green.

Canon Bob Spence, Councillor Ossie Johnson, together with 4 pupils chosen from the EP and Catholic Primary Schools, Jack Hall and Ava Bullerwell from the EP and James Leighton and Molly Morgan from All Saints' Primary, were the ones to press the switch.

Ossie thanked Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society who sang and

played an excellent selection of festive music. He also thanked the volunteers who served mulled wine, mince pies, juice and sweets. He was delighted that Canon Spence had agreed to switch on the lights.

Then it was time for the village green to be lit up, with white lights strewn through the trees and many coloured lights adorning the Christmas tree.

It was a magical moment and the fact that it was bitterly cold could not diminish that. Once again, in true Lanchester style, Christmas had begun. *Brenda Craddock*



Lanchester Choral and Operatic singing festive songs.



Despite the cold, Lanchester Brass Band kept up the spirits of the crowd.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 29th November 2017

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 10th October, Planning Meeting 10th October - approved.

Police Report

PCSO Lisa Cullen-Jackson attended the meeting and presented the Police Report. Issues included a neighbour dispute and a theft on Front Street. A Farmwatch operation is to take place at the end of November. The removal of logs from the railway line was reported.

Correspondence

1. Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd - Notification that Mazars LLP have been appointed as external auditors.

2. Clerk & Councils Direct-November issue, Campaign to Protect Rural England -

Autumn newsletter, War Memorials Trust Magazine, The Clerk Magazine - November issue - all received.

Area Action Partnership

The minutes of the September meeting of the Parish Council Committee were received.

Members considered the evaluation received from the Area Action Partnership on the children's summer activities. Members considered future financial support of the programme. It was agreed that this matter is placed on a future agenda for a full discussion.

A project to recruit a Dementia Friendly Communities Officer to work with communities was progressing. A workshop will take place on Friday 1st December to provide more information.

Neighbourhood Plan

Members were informed that a workshop to progress policy development had taken place on Thursday 23rd November. Groups are

continuing to draft policies. A further meeting is scheduled for 14th December to consider progress on policies.

Work is also progressing on drafting the whole Neighbourhood Plan document.

Code of Conduct

It was agreed that the revised Code of Conduct be adopted by Lanchester Parish Council.

General Data Protection Regulations Councillors attended the recent training session at County Hall. It is expected that more information and advice will be forthcoming from the National and County Associations to assist Parish Councils in complying with the regulations.

War Memorial Working Group

Consultation has taken place with the community and the Churches on a list of names for inclusion on the War Memorial. A visit has taken place to view examples of memorial work.

A meeting of the working group is to be arranged to which a representative from the memorial company will attend to progress the design of the War Memorial.

WW1 Beacons of Lights - 11th November 2018

A meeting took place in October with representatives from Burnhope Parish Council to progress a joint WW1 Beacons of Light event on 11th November 2018 to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1.

A site visit has since taken place in November which included representatives from Lanchester and Burnhope Parish Councils as well as attendance by the Police. The proposed site is near to the picnic area on the border of Burnhope and Lanchester Parishes.

Northumbria Water Ltd Members considered a letter received from Northumbrian Water Ltd in response to a letter sent from the Parish Council outlining concerns of the capacity in the existing piping and sewage system on Ford Road, particularly in light of recent planning applications.

Northumbrian Water Ltd state that they are satisfied that the existing system is able to accommodate proposed developments. It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to report any incidents of flooding to ensure that Northumbrian Water Ltd maintains up to date records. It was agreed that as the Parish Council had continuing concerns that a further letter is sent to Northumbrian Water Ltd.

Back Lane - Ornsby Hill

Members considered the response received from Durham County Council following the request from the Parish Council for clarification on the status/designation of Back Lane. It is intended to arrange a meeting in the New Year to progress this matter.

Budgets 2017/18 and 2018/19

The proposed budget for 2018/19 was agreed. **Financial report** - discussed and approved. **Accounts for Payment** - approved.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 12th December 2017 at Lynwood House at 7.15 pm.

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PLANNING APPLICATION DEFEATED

Land South of and Behind Ford Crescent

Bellway Homes applied for planning permission to build 52 houses on the field between Smallhope Burn and Ford Road. Many residents - particularly those living near to the site - opposed the application, and over 20 wrote in to the County Council to say so.

On 30th November the County Council North Planning Committee met to consider the application.

At the meeting the Senior Planning Officer, Steve France, recommended refusal of the application and David Friesner (for the Parish Council) and Mike Gladstone (for the Lanchester Partnership and the Campaign to Protect Rural Lanchester) spoke against it.

They said that the main objection was that the

existing footpath on Ford Road, south of Smallhope Drive, is dangerously narrow. In addition:

- the proposed housing estate would be an undesirable intrusion into the countryside;
- most residents want their village to stay at about the size that it now is;
- the existing sewerage system is already unreliable, without a lot more sewage being pumped into it;
- to build houses on the edge of the Smallhope Burn flood plain would not be prudent; and
- the proposed development would adversely affect protected species of flora and fauna.

The representatives of Bellway Homes said that

Lanchester needed more housing, and they were putting forward a well thought-out scheme with plenty of open space, attractive landscaping and a good mix of house sizes, including 20% affordable houses. The additional residents would cause the capacity of the village junior schools to be exceeded, but they would pay for a new classroom.

After some discussion the committee voted unanimously to refuse planning permission because of "The harm to the countryside considered a valued landscape and the safety and sustainability implications of the reduced footpath width connecting the site to the village centre".

Mike Gladstone

POLICE REPORT

This month our priority is door step sellers. Lanchester is frequently targeted by individuals carrying out door to door selling usually using the story of gaining customers' service/sales experience in conjunction with Middlesbrough Probation Service. Due to the festive period quickly being upon us we are actively monitoring our residential areas to identify any persons engaged in this type of activity as no Probation Service runs such a

scheme and it is believed that these individuals are opportunists looking for vulnerable victims. If you have anyone visiting your address using this story then please telephone Police via 101 with a description of the individual and their direction of travel.

With the dark nights upon us, can I remind everyone to remain vigilant, keep all your doors and windows locked, utilise light timers to illuminate your home when unoccupied, use dusk till dawn lights

and ensure all tools and/or valuables are under lock and key to prevent you from being a victim of theft or burglary.

On Saturday 23rd December between 10-11 am PCSO 6780 Lisa Cullen-Jackson will be holding a Street PACT event on Front Street, Lanchester. If you have any problems or concerns please come along or telephone us on 101 or email lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk

Thank you.
PCSO 6780 Lisa Cullen-Jackson

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CROFT COURT LIGHTS SWITCHED ON

North West Durham MP Laura Pidcock met her new neighbours when she switched on the Christmas lights at Croft Court, Lanchester.

Laura moved into the village after she was elected MP in May this year, and she kindly agreed to switch on the lights in the forecourt at the Anchor Housing

complex in the village. Croft Court resident Jean Dougherty, who installed the lights which were paid for out of collections at the monthly coffee mornings, contacted the MP's office after fellow resident Joan McKay suggested inviting her to perform the honours. And Laura was delighted

to oblige, explaining: "It is so nice to meet my new neighbours at last. It was very kind of them to invite me to switch the lights on. They are certainly impressive!"

Now the lights are shining brightly to add some festive cheer to residents and visitors alike.

Neil McKay



MP Laura Pidcock (centre) with some of the residents at Croft Court.

ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP CEILIDH

The ceilidh in aid of Lanchester Partnership proved to be a huge success. In fact organisers said it was one of the best yet. Dancers reeled, waltzed and jived to the sound of Windy Gyle. The ceilidh was held at Lanchester Social Club on Saturday, November 18th. Mike and Jill Gladstone, along with members of the committee, made sure the evening was enjoyed by all. There was also a raffle,

bar, tombola and faith supper. And the Partnership benefited to the tune of £511, which was doubled thanks to matchfunding from Barclays Bank. The money will as usual be wisely invested by the Partnership. Funds will help with the community orchard, the village bus, and other projects. Anybody interested in joining the Lanchester Project can ring Mike on

528114 or Maureen Loyon 529780.

Meanwhile the Partnership has vowed to oppose plans to build houses on a field below Ford Road. Together with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Lanchester and many residents they have already successfully opposed a proposal to build a housing estate off Cadger Bank.

Neil McKay



A large group of dancers enjoying the ceilidh.

ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH AUTUMN FAIR

This year, All Saints' Parish Church made the decision to hold their Annual Autumn Fair in their church, and refreshments were available in the Chapter House.

Tables and boards to put across the pews were brought in and the stall holders worked hard to make their stalls look very attractive, and indeed they did. There were many stalls, some familiar and several new. The Mothers' Union cake stall was laden with tempting cakes and savouries, and the Bottle Tombola Stall did splendid business as it always does.

Hazel Gaskill's homemade ginger wine was very soon sold out. Every year the demand increases and this year Hazel has made 240 bottles, which have been widely distributed to the delight of her many friends.

The Christmas stall was well stocked and full of bargains, and a second Tombola stall was enjoyed as much as ever. The Church Wives Group tried something different from their 'Everything a pound' stall. It was called 'Hook a Bag' for the price of £2. Each Christmassy bag was filled with items which

we hoped would please and everyone had to 'toe the line' (no cheating) before they could use the long stick with a hook at the end of it. As a group we aim to please and I think we did, as we raised a considerable amount of money, best ever.

Another very colourful and unique stall was manned by Maureen Barker, who with her great knitting talents had knitted beautiful Christmas Tree decorations and Christmas stockings. She had even made stockings in football club colours which were very popular. The stall was a sell out. Maureen only asked for donations but contributed a considerable sum of money to the total amount of money raised which was just over £2125.91.

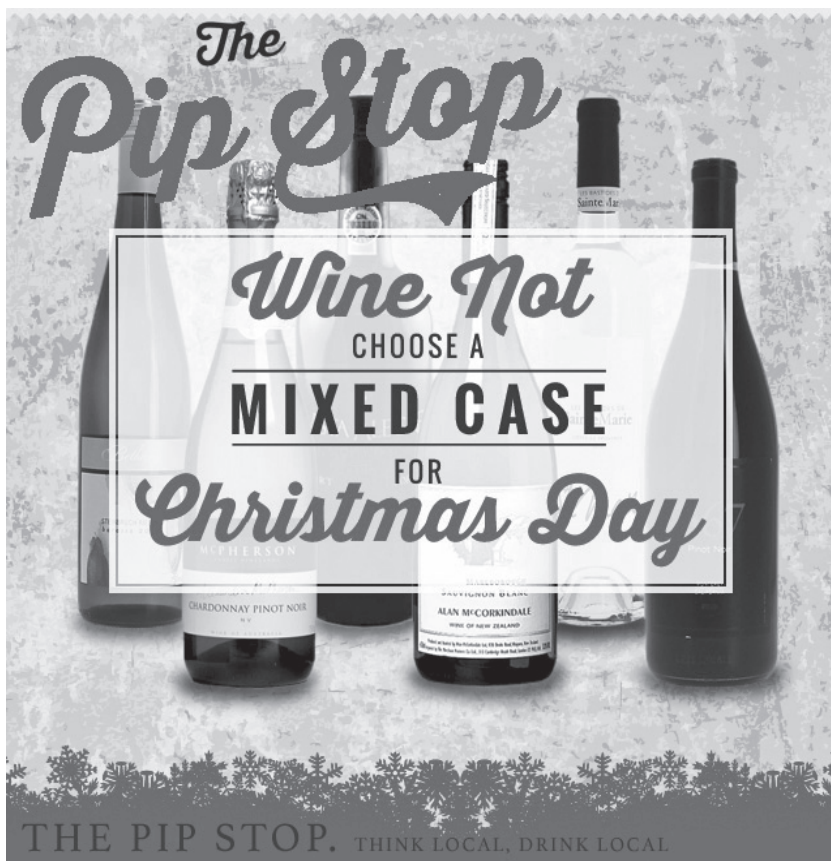
This was a splendid total and it was certainly a most enjoyable morning, as well as being a profitable one. There was a great sense of fellowship and working together, from which everyone benefited.

Look out for next year, because the church is where we most probably will be.

Brenda Craddock



*Hazel Gaskill with her famous Ginger Wine.
See back page for more pictures.*



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LIGHT UP A LIFE 2017



Lanchester Brass Band at the Light up a Life service.



The Mums in Durham Choir.

This is an annual service which is held at St Bede's School on the first Sunday in December.

It is a very special service and is organised by the staff of Willow Burn Hospice.

Everyone who has lost a loved one during the previous year is invited to attend, though everyone whatever their need is welcome to join this special service.

On entry to the large hall of St Bede's, everyone is given a battery operated candle, significant because it symbolises the title given to this service. Every life is unique and means so much to the people who love them and the service gives the opportunity for loved ones to reflect on the lives that have been lost but which will live on in their memories for ever. Needless to say the service is very poignant, but not too sad because it is a celebration of the

lives which have been loved and love is the main emphasis of the whole service.

The service opened with a welcome by Emma Storey, Income Generation Manager, for Willow Burn Hospice and she thanked everyone who had donated towards 'Willow Burn Hospice Light up a Life' appeal. The welcome was further endorsed by Vicki Dale, Chief Executive. Carols were sung, accompanied by Lanchester Brass Band and there were Bible Readings, read by Reverend Rupert Kalus and Father O'Conner, the new priest of the Catholic Church in Lanchester. In addition

appropriate poems and prose were read and 'The Mums in Durham Choir' sang some beautiful Christmas songs. At one point in the service the lights were dimmed and the congregation were asked to light their candles, and hold a moment of prayerful silence. The choir then sang 'Silent Night' and in the dimmed lighting, the sense of reverence which prevailed throughout the service, seemed further heightened.

Once again a beautiful service had been held, and the high regard with which it is held had been maintained. Thanks be to God!

Brenda Craddock

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HARROGATE KNIT AND STITCH



This outing from the village takes place every year in November and a large number of enthusiastic Knitters and Stitchers boarded a bus at 8 o'clock on November 23rd to go to Harrogate.

AGE PROVES TO BE NO BARRIER IN LANCHESTER

Karbon Homes' popular Ageless Project, which brings together residents of all ages, has been successfully completed in Lanchester.

The 10-week project, which is funded by MGM Ltd and delivered by CONTINUUM CIC, brought young and older people together to discuss a wide range of topics with the aim of increasing the understanding between the generations.

Students from St Bede's School visited Lynwood House and discussed topics such as money, jobs, housing, relationships, food and IT with residents there. Lynwood House

residents, John and Carolyn Cook have really enjoyed being involved. John said: "A lot of the residents were a bit dubious at first but we have all thoroughly enjoyed it. It has been very worthwhile and everyone was looking forward to Monday afternoons. The children who came to visit us were excellent. There is a preconception that teenagers are trouble but the pupils who came to visit us were hard working, polite and very interested in what we had to tell them. They learn about our history in books but it's not real until they talk to people who have experienced living in the

war. When we told them we had no central heating and only had outside toilets, it really brought it home to them."

Sixth-form pupil, Beth Gibbon, 16, from Stanley said: "This project has given me a real insight into how life was when they were my age. It has been an experience to understand how they got over some of their barriers. Our childhoods are similar and while we stress about exams, they were stressing about getting a job. I formed a really close bond with the residents at Lynwood House and in particular, Mr and Mrs Cook who told me they have been married for 47 years. That

is just unheard of these days. They kindly showed us around the building and in particular the IT suite which is really impressive. Their perception of the internet was bad and only associated with what they hear in the news about cyber bullying, but once we explained the benefits and how it is used for areas such as science, discoveries and new technology, they

really embraced it." A final celebration event was held at Lynwood House where the students and residents were presented with certificates and reflected on what they had learned.

For more information about The Ageless Project, please contact Jeanette Harold on 07872 058 175 or email jeanette.harold@continuumcic.co.uk.



From left to right: Carolyn Cook, Michelle Graham and Kirsty Armstrong of Karbon Homes and sixth form student, Beth Gibbon.



Lynwood residents, Mrs Hall and Mrs James, learn about smart phones from two of the students.

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LONELINESS IN LANCHESTER

A successful 'Loneliness in Lanchester' event was held recently at Lynwood House. Thanks to everyone who attended. The project was initiated by Lanchester Medical Centre Patient Participation Group (PPG) and aims to:

- increase awareness and understanding about loneliness within our community
- identify and engage more effectively with those who might be feeling lonely

- inform and involve the community in developing appropriate support for those affected
- improve levels of information and communication in a more coordinated approach to 'Loneliness in our Community'.

The project is supported by the Parish Council, Lanchester Partnership and Churches Together, as well as the Medical Centre. It is hoped that agencies such as Age UK, CAMHS (NHS Child and

Adolescent Mental Health Services) and others will continue to be on board with us, together with our Mid Durham AAP.

Group exercises at the event looked at issues of loneliness, what we currently do about it, and what more we can do, as a community. Several issues were highlighted including current health, opportunities to engage socially, and changes in personal and family circumstances. Activities

included social events and group activities held throughout the year. Information and communication were considered very important as were transport, health and social care and the use of technology.

Amongst the first things to be considered are a Lanchester Welcome Pack, arranging the update of our 'Directory of Information about Lanchester' and regular articles for Village Voice.

Other ideas include developing Group Welcome Experiences and appointing Neighbourhood Angels or Village Makers.

Loneliness can affect all of us at some stage during our lives, and making more time for others has the potential to make the biggest impact and a significant difference to those experiencing loneliness. Watch out for further 'Loneliness in Lanchester' updates in future Village Voice issues.

DEMENTIA

"By 2021, one million people in the UK will be living with the condition. But dementia won't win." Representatives of Lanchester Parish Council, Lanchester Partnership and the Medical Centre Patient Group attended Mid Durham's AAP Forum Event this month at Hamsteels Community Centre, Esh Winning to look at 'Dementia - what it is and how we can support residents and families who are affected'.

Staff from the Alzheimer's Society introduced the subject with some facts and figures before outlining the work of their Dementia Advisors and

local dementia support services. In addition, they introduced their Dementia Friends, Champions and Friendly Communities schemes.

We then explored, in workshops, how to keep people with dementia at the heart of what we do, stigma and barriers (with one workshop even using giant Jenga to get the message across about how to go about tackling it! - see picture).

It was an excellent fast paced, fact filled and focused event managed by Andy and his AAP team and supported by several dedicated local team members of the

Alzheimer's Society. We hope we will be able to progress local Dementia support services for our local community further in the months to come, working together with Mid Durham AAP and the Alzheimer's Society, including considering becoming a Dementia Friendly Community.

Find out more at alzheimers.org.uk And some things you might consider now ...

Arrange to carry your 'Blue Card'

Contact Dementia support services 0191 3890400

Email durhamandchester@alzheimers.org.uk



The giant Jenga used in the workshop to learn how to tackle dementia.



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SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

You might be aware of Lanchester Community Association's (LCA) approaching 50th Anniversary and the events planned for Saturday 17th March 2018. On that day of celebration, under LCA organisation, individuals and groups will engage in an array of initiatives and activities to mark this milestone in the life of the village.

It is also an appropriate time, perhaps, to reflect upon how our Community Association functions on our behalf and how we can help it to do so.

Support to LCA can be given in many ways and can take many forms, the most obvious being the raising or donation of funds. It is a little known

fact that LCA is a self-funded charity and is not financed through any form of council or government means. It may apply for funds or grants to appropriate bodies, governmental or otherwise, such as lottery funding though the application procedures and justification for such grants are 'testing' in the extreme.

Fund raising is an ongoing LCA Committee task and your support is ardently sought. One clear way in which you can help is through involvement with LCA's many clubs, groups and facilities all of which are well advertised.

Another obvious method of support is by making a financial donation to

LCA; any amount will be greatly appreciated.

As an ultimate gesture, you might consider a 'Legacy' ... yes ... a legacy which means you would leave a sum of money to LCA as a parting gift in, for example, your will (though legacies are not exclusive to wills alone). Recently, the Bob Foster Legacy donated £10,000 to the Association, a sum most graciously donated and most gratefully received. Such a considerate act of generosity helps LCA, in no small measure, to fulfil its obligations to the village by promoting a variety of community activities and ventures of the highest standard.

A legacy. Think about it!

THE DEVIL WENT TO CRESSWELL

This is the season for tales of magic and mystery and here's a legend about the time when...the devil came to Cresswell.

Cresswell is a small Northumberland village on the North Sea, and many tales of sorcery linger around the area, not surprising when we remember that more than 20 witches were executed there.

A local legend tells how in 1752, a tailor boasted that his work was the finest in all England. His claims reached even into Hell, where the devil decided to make a bargain with the man. Late one night, as the tailor stumbled out of the tavern, he was confronted by a stranger dressed in a long hooded cloak. From the depths of the hood, eyes glowed like coals and the tailor felt a deep terror. In a harsh voice, the devil made his challenge. The tailor must make him a coat, so perfect that not one fault could be found and the garment must be

completed in one week. If a fault was found, the price would be his immortal soul. The tailor rashly agreed, and measured his customer with the tape he always kept with him, before staggering home. Next morning, in the cold light of day, the tailor realised what he had done. He worried for hours, then decided to consult his priest. The holy man thought hard then spoke at length to the tailor, who went quietly home and began the coat.

A week later, he returned to the dark lane and the devil jumped out of the earth. "Have you finished the coat?" he demanded. The tailor handed him the garment and helped the devil into it. The devil held up the left sleeve and hissed "Look at this sleeve - it is much too short!" "Yes, I thought it would be, so I made the other a little longer" the man said calmly. The devil saw this was right, so he couldn't grumble but looked for

other faults. "What sort of pocket have you made? I can't get my hand into it!" The tailor remained composed. "Never mind" he replied. "See, I've made the other one wide and deep to make up for it." The arguments continued. For everything the devil found wrong, the tailor showed him something right. At last, the devil saw he had been outwitted, flung down a handful of coins and disappeared. The tailor never again allowed himself to boast.

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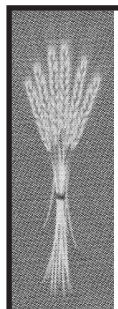
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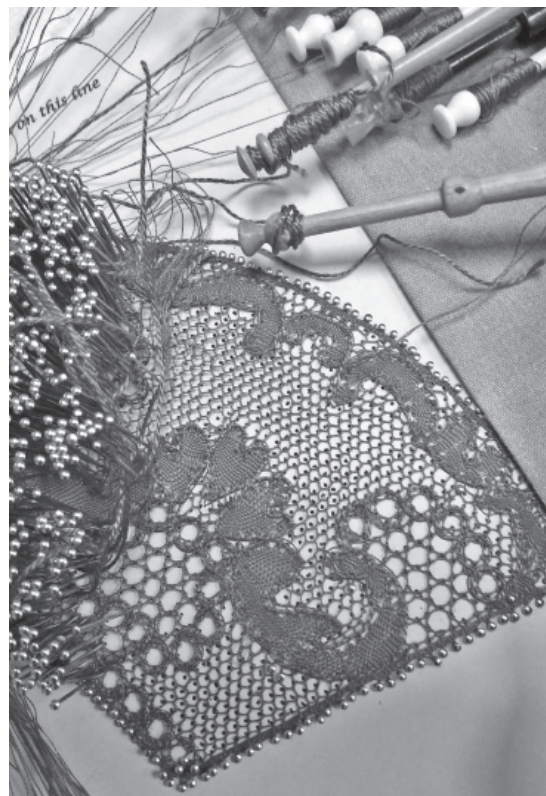
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LACEMAKING IN LANCHESTER

Bobbin lacemaking classes started in Lanchester Community Centre 35 years ago in 1982, and continue today. Although it is not a North Eastern tradition like quilting, there are many classes and groups in this region, together with the Northumbria Lacemakers (www.northumbrialace.org.uk). We make lace using wooden or bone bobbins, which are made out of different types of wood, turned, painted and decorated. Most English bobbins have 'spangles' which are beads on a wire at the bottom of the bobbin which supports the tension of the lace being made, and keeps the bobbins in place on the pillow.



Some beautiful examples of Bobbin lacemaking produced at Lanchester Community Centre.

In England, there are different types of laces from Buckinghamshire - Bucks Point, Bedfordshire lace and

Honiton from Devon. Torchon lace is also made.

Lace is made using linen, cotton or silk thread in a

variety of colours, or white, cream or ecru. A variety of patterns on card are picked out, which we follow as a

pattern. Different items which are made include: tablecloth edgings, handkerchief edgings, wedding garters, fans, pictures, scarves and Christmas decorations. It can be a slow process, but there are laces that can be made up quickly and experienced lace makers produce heirloom pieces.

If you are interested in joining us, classes are held at present on a Monday morning, and in the spring a Friday night group meets. It is a friendly social group and we chat and share ideas over refreshments.

All enquiries, contact Elaine Williams or leave a message at the Community Centre, 01207 521275.

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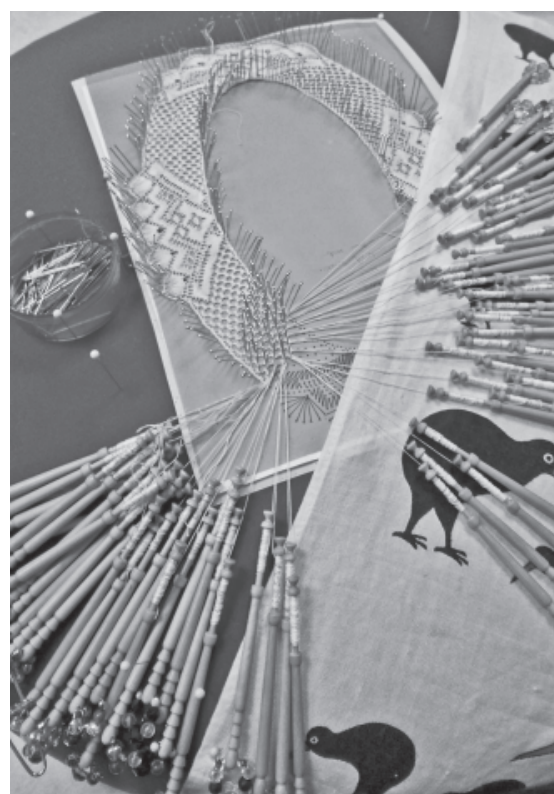
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RED CROSS FESTIVE TEA PARTY

Afternoon Tea with our local Red Cross team is always such a pleasant event, with delicious home made sandwiches and cakes and the chance to meet up with friends, in a lovely friendly

atmosphere. The festive event held at Lynwood House on December 5th also featured raffles and a closed auction, as well as a skilful entertainer who showed off his clever magic tricks.

The afternoon contributed £479 to the organisation, and the Red Cross ladies must be commended for all their commitment to working for charity, while always maintaining their smiles and good humour.



The Red Cross crew take a well earned break after their festive event.

LONG SERVICE AWARD FOR RED CROSS VOLUNTEER



Marjorie Gray receiving her 20 year long-service award for volunteering for the Red Cross from Joanne Thurman, Regional Manager (far right) and Tracey Dobson, Shop Manager. Marjorie was presented with the award at a surprise party to celebrate her 90th birthday.



Marjorie with other Red Cross volunteers at her birthday party.

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BURNS AND WHISKY NIGHT

Whilst we can't say for certain at this point, we hope to have a Burns Night celebration on Friday 26th January at the cricket club (yes we know it's a day out). Based around the interest in the gin festivals, it was a thought that we could do something different. We hope to have traditional Burns Night food, with a traditional piper and an accompanying selection of whiskies from around the world. Unfortunately, we are still working on the details so it is fast and loose at this stage. Additionally, with the deadlines for the Village Voice and distribution dates, we can't get information through. This means that we would ask you to check out our beer festival website. If the event goes ahead, there will be a page for it which will be added in the New Year and tickets can be purchased through the site. So please check out the website lanchesterbeerfestival.in January if you are interested. If you came to the Gin Festival, then we hope you had a great time and we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

LANCHESTER CALENDAR 2018




Two enterprising salesmen selling the Lanchester Calendar on a busy Saturday morning in the village are Paul Jackson (left) and Tim Taylor.


Following the launch of the Lanchester Calendar 2018 by members of the All Saints' RC Church in our September issue, it is worth reminding villagers that although sales are going well, there is still time to buy one before Christmas from our churches, Lanchester Newsagents and various events held in the village. On all pages

there are some lovely commissioned works by local artists. Five pounds is a very reasonable price and the calendar would be ideal for a Christmas


present. All profits will be split between Willow Burn Hospice and Save the Children. It is hoped to give both a substantial amount of money.




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LADIES WHO LUNCH

Our last outing was to the Miners Arms at Medomsley - not too far to go and it had been recommended so we decided to give it a go. It is a typical village pub but the staff are most welcoming and we were soon settled on a table for 8 after a bit of furniture rearranging. As well as their main menu they have lunchtime specials with main courses at £6.50, 2 courses for £9.50 and 3 for £12.50 and a specials board. Food is cooked to order and we did have quite a wait for our meal. But, the food was of

excellent quality, well cooked and nicely served. We sampled for starters a Classic prawn platter. Mains were Wholetail scampi and chips, Mince and dumplings and Medallions of pork fillet with roasted butternut squash in a creamy Gorgonzola sauce. Puds were Raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake with cream, Ice cream and Salted caramel pecan tart with cream. A very enjoyable lunch time out and another venue to add to our arsenal.

The Gourmet Girls

THURSDAY CLUB UPDATE

During November we have been out and about. First of all, some of our members were down at the War Memorial on November 12th for the Remembrance service as Eileen laid a wreath for the Thursday Club.

On the 16th more of us were off to the Duke of Wellington in Durham for a meal before moving on to Durham High School where the Dunelm Flower Club were holding their Christmas flower demonstration. James Burnside, National demonstrator from

Ireland was giving the presentation entitled 'Inspired by Christmas'. It was an absolute joy to behold as each new arrangement was brought to life by a most gifted flower arranger who also managed to keep everyone entertained with a very Irish delivery - he'd most definitely 'kissed the Blarney Stone'. Then as the raffle unfolded, one of our members had won one of the arrangements - so we were all well pleased with the evening.

The next outing for some more members was into



National demonstrator, James Burnside, entertains a large audience.

Newcastle to see 'Paint your Wagon' at the Tyne Theatre on November 20th. They went with the Red Cross group and had a thoroughly good night. Excellent entertainment and first class travel. All in all a varied and most enjoyable November for everyone.

LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB Christmas Crackers and a Feast of Festive Elegance

The meeting on 24th November, held in Lanchester Community Centre, was the second of our Open Evening Meetings. The event was very well attended. Our demonstrator was Val Guest, a most gifted flower arranger who has visited us on many occasions and who is extremely appreciated, well-liked by so many of our club members, as one of the elite, local flower arrangers.

As always her performance was excellent with an array of beautiful arrangements with some inspirational ideas. Everyone enjoyed a most entertaining, interesting and enjoyable evening.

All the arrangements, ten in total, were raffled to the delight of all the winners. We then enjoyed chatter and light refreshments. Our next meeting will be on 25th January 2018; we are having our late Christmas meal at Chapters Restaurant at Derwentside College. The final numbers have been taken, so I am sure we will all enjoy a lovely afternoon, with a lovely meal.

The February meeting will be in the Community Centre as normal on Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 2 pm, everyone welcome.

We wish all our members and Village Voice readers a Happy and Peaceful New Year.



*Val Guest with her beautiful, festive arrangements.
See also photo on back page.*

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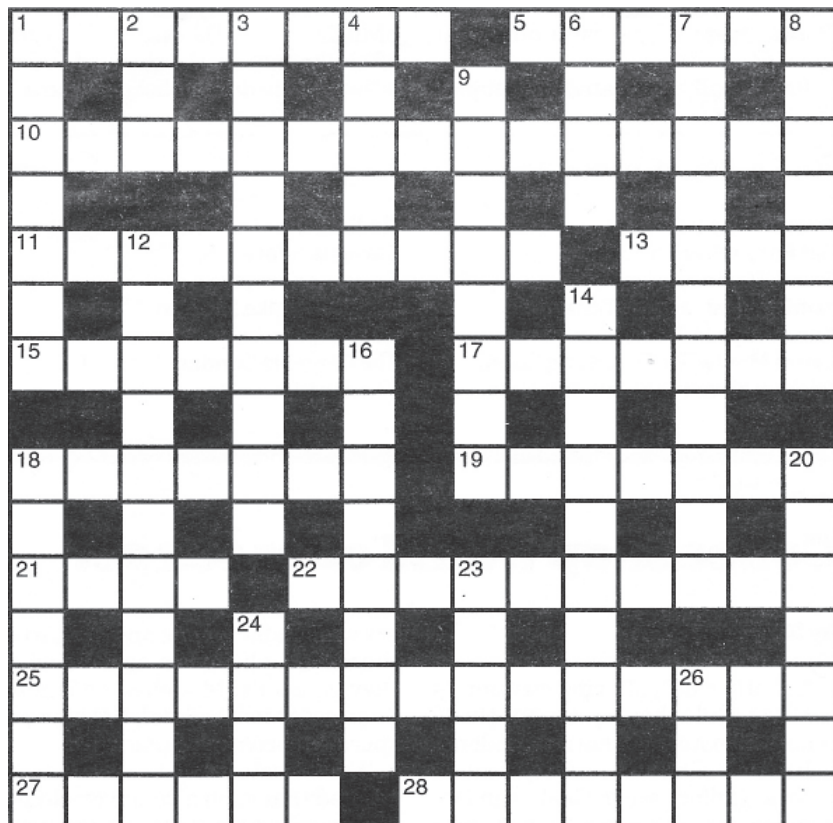
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CROSSWORD 140



ACROSS

1. Agreed with (8)
5. Point to coach for race (6)
10. Do something that is irrevocable (fig.) (5,3,7)
11. Get approval (fig.) (4,6)
13. Israeli state airline (2,2)
15. Sign (7)
17. Jaundice, curse it (7)
18. Military unit (7)
19. Relating to one's hereditary make-up (7)
21. Capital of Qatar (4)
22. Cease (fig.) (4,2,1,3)
25. Very disappointed (fig.) (2,4,2,1,6)
27. Outburst (6)
28. William — the first Dr Who (8)

DOWN

1. Takes off (7)
2. Pair (3)
3. Continuation (10)
4. Attitude (5)
6. Euphonium (4)
7. Snowballed (11)
8. Confound (7)
9. Line of descent (8)
12. Well wisher (11)
14. Declined brown bread! (3,2,5)
16. Psychotic (8)
18. Multimedia file for downloading (7)
20. Solid with a regular shape (7)
23. Capital of Tibet (5)
24. Failed to hit a tennis serve (4)
26. Regret (3)

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

CROSSWORD 139

There were 15 entries in last month's crossword competition.

Congratulations to Kate Lawrie of Sunnybanks who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 139

ACROSS

1. sops
3. Tashkent
10. last but not least
11. Notre Dame
12. user
13. execute
15. shield
17. afloat
19. scourer
20. Amos
21. authentic
24. collector's items
25. treasure
26. skis

DOWN

1. splinter
2. posit
4. atoners
5. hallucinogenic
6. enameller
7. tots
8. obsequiousness
9. at ease
14. en famille
16. crocuses
18. traitor
19. satire
22. tweak
23. scat

SUDOKU

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

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

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!



This photo was taken on Thursday, 30th November when scaffolders moved in and began to take down the scaffolding which had been erected in February 2016, almost two years ago!



At last, the scaffolding was finally removed on Friday, December 1st. This makes it a Happy Christmas for all those who deplored the sight of it around such a lovely building, for so long. It will now be safe again to negotiate the path outside especially during winter.

PAM'S PARTY



Pam thanking everyone for their kind gift.



Partygoers enjoying trying to answer the quiz questions.

Once a month Pam Bygate arranges for a number of Lanchester people to attend a performance at the Little Theatre in Gateshead. All those who attend thoroughly enjoy the evening. The bus and theatre ticket costs the individual no more than £10, and the performances are very good indeed. In addition Pam always organises a party once a year, and this was on November 20th in the Community Centre. It is a good time to show how

much the theatre goers appreciate what Pam does for them and so once again Pam was the recipient of our appreciation in the form of a cheque to which all her theatre goers contributed. As well as a super buffet meal by Crinnions, Pam had questions and quizzes for the tables, which were great fun to do and everyone went home with a lovely present. Thank you Pam for all your kindness.

Brenda Craddock



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WHAT'S ON?

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 21st January. Meet in Malton car park at 10.00am.

Sunday Bridge

Come along to the Community Centre on 7th January at 2.00 pm. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits to the Community Centre.

Local History Society

After the great successes of our Show and Tell evenings, please bring along interesting items to discuss, from your collections, finds, old postcards and unusual objects.

Date: Friday January 5th
Time: 7 pm

Venue: Lanchester Community Centre.

Refreshments will be served. Visitors are always welcome. Happy New Year.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 9th January, the subject will be 'The Wildlife of the Americas' with Noel Jackson. Meet at 7.30 pm in the dining room at Lanchester Community Centre.

Circuit Choir

North West Durham Circuit Choir presents 'Born A King', a Christmas Cantata by John Peterson at Lanchester Methodist Church on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30 pm.

Patients' Group Meeting

Lanchester Medical Centre's Patient Participation Group wishes to give notice that it will be reviewing its constitution on Wednesday 7th February in the Medical Centre at 6.00 pm. Anyone who is a patient and wishes to attend will be most welcome.

The Village Voice Page 18

Community Centre

Coffee Morning

The monthly coffee morning will be on Thursday 11th January.

Lacemaking

In the upstairs room of the Community Centre, on Mondays from 10.00am - 12.00 noon and Fridays 7.00 - 9.00 pm.

Needlecraft

On Wednesdays 1.00-3.00 pm

Baby Group

Meet Wednesdays and Fridays in the Dining Room between 9.15 and 11.00 am.

Birth to 2 years, £1.80

Cuppa, Lunch and Company

There will be no lunch in January. Our next meeting is on Tuesday February 13th, 12 noon to 2 pm in Lynwood House.

Churches Together

Churches Together will hold a service for Christian Unity entitled 'That all may be free' at the Methodist Church on Sunday, 21st January, at 6.00 pm. Everyone welcome.

Mothers' Union

The meeting on Wednesday 10th January, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House is the Wave of Prayer service, which had to be postponed in November, along with an enrolment.

Charity Ball

A charity ball supporting the Charlie Bear and Bobby Robson Cancer appeals is being held at Beamish Hall on February 10th, 6.30 pm till midnight. £40 (£5 automatically going to each of the charities). Contact 521 149 for more information or to book places.

Lanchester Social Club

Opening Times over Christmas and New Year period:

Christmas Eve 11am - 12am
Christmas Day 12-2pm
Boxing Day 12pm - 12am
New Year's Eve 11am - 1am
New Year's Day 12pm - 12am

Last orders 30 minutes before closing time.

Entertainment

New Year's Day - Starting at 1pm. Tickets on Sale now with Nicola Brown and Just Like Jodie in the Concert Room.

5pm - Karaoke & Disco in the Bar

Unmissable entertainment every Saturday night starting at 9 pm:

Saturday 6th January -

John Mac - Great Vocalist

Saturday 13th January -

Cassandra - Great Young Singer

Saturday 20th January -

Chris James - Great Performer

Saturday 27th January -

Abby Faye - Great Vocalist.

All Staff and Committee Members would like to thank all club members for their continuing support throughout 2017.

Wishing you all "A Merry Christmas and A Happy 2018".

Thursday Club

The Thursday Club will begin 2018 in style - we will celebrate the New Year with a Burns Night themed lunch at Chapters restaurant on 18th January at 12 noon. Fees for the coming year remain, once again, at £12.

We look forward to a new year of friendship and fun and wish everyone in Lanchester a 'Happy New Year'.

Knit and Natter

Come and join us at Lanchester Library on the first Thursday of every month between 10.00 am and 11.30 am, we would be delighted to see you.

A Celebration of Christmas

You are invited to attend the Lanchester Male Voice Choir's annual 'Celebration of Christmas' in All Saints' Roman Catholic Church (Lanchester) on Monday 18th December commencing at 7.15 pm. The Choir, together with the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society, will present a wide variety of carols within the backdrop of a traditional Christmas service. The congregation will be invited to join the singing in several of the carols with a view to, hopefully, 'raising the roof'.

This is a popular village service and seating is, obviously, limited so early arrival is advised. A collection will be taken in aid of local charities.

Chatterbooks

January 8th from 3.45-4.30 pm Are you 8 to 11 years old? Come along to the library to read and take part in activities relating to popular children's books. We have covered Where's Wally, Horrid Henry, Dirty Bertie, so what is the next book?

This is a national scheme for children who love reading and those who need help to get involved in the joy of reading; it will also introduce new authors.

Other dates: please note amendments are February 19th, March 12th, and April 16th. Places are limited so please contact Zena or the other Librarians or telephone 03000 269514.

Lanchester WI

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Monday January 8th, when our speaker will be Jane Davis, Head Teacher of the village EP school. Members are kindly reminded that subscriptions for 2018 will also be due at the meeting.

Library Book Club

On Monday 29th January at 2.30 to 3.30 the group will be discussing The Christmas Party by Carole Matthews. It was a Sunday Times best seller. Jenny Colgan reviewed this piece of Christmas fiction as 'So warm, so festive'. Will we all enjoy it? If you have read this book why don't you come along or pick up your copy of the novel from the library. We look forward to seeing you then.

Thursday Book Club

At the Thursday Book Club on 18th January from 5.30 to 6.30, the group will discuss A Christmas Feast by Katie Fforde, which is a Sunday Times best seller, 'a delicious feast of Christmas'. If you would like to join this group, pop into the library and pick up the book and join the discussion.

Paradiso Social Club

The first social of 2018 will be held on Sunday January 14th at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and a film. The film that we will be screening is 'THE OLIVETREE'.

'The tale of a Spanish family who set about finding their 2,000 year old olive tree which the family uprooted and sold 12 years ago against their grandfather's will. His granddaughter Alma is deeply attached to her grandfather and fearful of losing him. He stopped talking after the tree was lost and has now begun to refuse to eat. Her love and concern for him precipitates this search.' All are welcome.

£2.50 members

£3.50 occasional visitors

£2 young persons.

Ticket entry covers the raffle, refreshments and film show.

GERMAN SUCCESS FOR LOCAL DESIGNER

A fashion designer from Lanchester recently returned from exhibiting her wares at a show in Berlin.

Sally Smallwood, who works from her studio in Greencroft, joined designers from Australia, China and Russia at the Fashion Re Evolution festival held in the unusual surroundings of an old tramcar depot in the German capital.

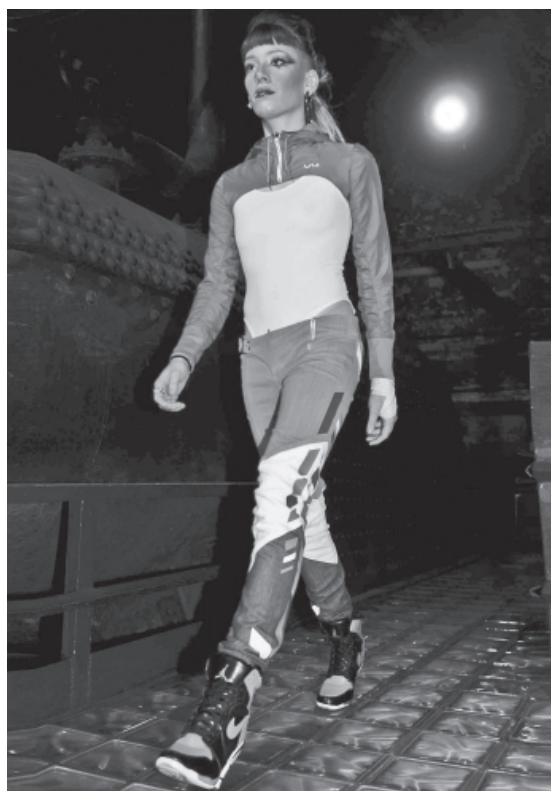
To accentuate the international flavour of the event, models at the show were from countries as diverse as Sweden, Italy and Palestine. And Sally's brightly coloured clothes will now be showcased worldwide. Sally, 33, who has just completed her third collection under her own

label Wreckreation, said she was surprised by the fashion tastes of many Germans. "They seem to wear a lot of black from head to toe and the show took place in dark surroundings."

"My designs tend to be brightly coloured, but at least the darkness brought out the best of my creations. It was an interesting experience. Meeting designers from countries like China and Russia was a bit of an eye-opener!"

Some of Sally's creations have now featured in German magazines while potential customers from several countries have been in contact with her.

Neil McKay



One of Sally's designs at the Berlin fashion show (a shame it's not in colour).

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BREATHE EASY BIG BREAKFAST



Members enjoying the Buffet together with quizzes and a raffle at the Breathe Easy Big Breakfast.

15th November was World COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Day so local 'Breathe Easy' groups were encouraged to put on a 'Big Breakfast' in November to raise their profile and fundraise.

The North Durham branch did so on Thursday 9th in Lanchester Community Centre - at 2 o'clock in the afternoon! We were delighted to welcome members, friends, guests and 2 respiratory nurses to join us in sausages, sausage rolls, croissants,

crumpets and cakes, but no porridge. There were quizzes, a raffle and lots of laughter, and altogether the event raised over £75.

'Breathe Easy' is a voluntary group, run under the auspices of the British Lung Foundation. This is a poorly funded charity and yet it is the only one that supports all of those who have any of the 38 lung diseases. It fights for clean air. Pollution Kills and our lungs are vital.

Our group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each

month (not August or December) in the Lanchester Community Centre at 2.00 pm. We offer friendship, support, information and interesting talks. We also go out for a pub lunch on the last Monday of each month. Respiratory Disease (breathing difficulties) is often overlooked so if you have concerns and are looking for others who understand, do give us a try. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, ring Jill on 01207 528 114.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Green Chilli Beef

Bitterly cold winter weather needs a good spicy chilli. This is versatile, it can be eaten on its own or served with a jacket potato. It's easy to prepare, full of flavours ... and it's healthy!!

Preparation time 30 minutes. Cooking time about 50 minutes. Serves 4.

You need...

Low calorie cooking spray
1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped
500 g extra lean minced beef
2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
2 green chillies, deseeded and chopped
2 tsp ground cumin

1 tsp ground coriander
1 tsp paprika
A pinch of cayenne pepper
1 green pepper, deseeded and finely chopped
4 ripe plum tomatoes, chopped
300 ml beef stock
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
400 g can red kidney beans in chilli sauce
Fat free natural fromage frais, to garnish
A large handful each of freshly chopped mint and coriander to garnish
A pinch of grated paprika, to garnish

METHOD

1) Spray a large saucepan with low calorie cooking spray and stir fry the

onion and beef gently over a medium-low heat for 6-8 minutes.

2) Add the garlic, chillies and all the spices and continue frying, stirring occasionally for 2-3 minutes.

3) Add the green pepper, tomatoes and stock. Stir well, bring to boil. Reduce the heat and simmer gently for 15 minutes, until the liquid is reduced.

4) Season to taste and add the red kidney beans. Heat through gently for about 5 minutes.

5) Serve topped with a swirl of fromage frais and sprinkle with the chopped herbs and paprika.

ENJOY!

FLOWER CLUB CHRISTMAS CRACKER



A beautiful flower arrangement created at the Open Meeting. See article on page 15.

SANTA PAYS A VISIT



On the first Saturday of December, the King's Head hotel hosted a very special visitor, warmly greeted by a host of children with their parents. Each child was asked the age-old question "Have you been good?" and received a present. Santa was assisted by the Christmas Green Elf, David.

CHILDREN IN NEED



Keep on dancing! The whole of All Saints' Catholic School took to the floor for this year's 'Children in Need' event. All the children joined in the fun, taking part in a huge 'Dance-a-Thon' then relaxing with cakes made by Year 6 students.

PARISH CHURCH AUTUMN FAIR

See story, page 7.



Maureen Barker with her super knitted Christmas tree decorations and Christmas stockings.



Wives Group 'Hook a Bag'.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 16th January.

The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 12th January.

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