

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1 Volume 18

Lanchester, January 2017

For contact information, see page 2

ANOTHER HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR LANCHESTER

A new year, but it seems that 2017 will see no easing of the relentless pressure from developers to acquire sites in the village. Newcastle based Bellway Homes held a 'Consultation Event' in the Community Centre on 12th January to exhibit their proposals for a residential development on land at Ford Road. The proposal is to construct 52 dwellings on a greenfield site at the eastern side of Ford Road between the Road and the Smallhope Burn and adjoining the existing settlement limit. The housing mix is to be based on 37 4-bedroom homes, the rest being 2 and 3-bed houses and

20% of the total will be affordable homes in line with planning requirements. The houses are of conventional brick built design. Access to the site will be a standard T-junction off Ford Road, which may require an extension to the 30 mph speed limit. The site slopes downhill to the Smallhope Burn and an area at the lower part of the site will be kept as a public open space. Surface water drainage flow will be restricted to the current greenfield run-off rate and a pond is planned in this area as part of the flow attenuation system, which is designed to



Plan showing layout of Bellway Homes proposed development on Ford Road.



Mr and Mrs C A Parker, left, with David and Beryl Bickle looking at the plans.

cope with up to a 1 in 100 year storm event. Outflow will be into the river at the south east site boundary.

The presentation included estimates of economic benefits from the development. Direct

financial contributions to village infrastructure were not listed, but were not ruled out as the application progresses.

Bellway are intending to submit a formal application to the County Council by the

end of February. The event was well attended, in spite of unpleasant weather, which again shows the high level of interest and involvement in the village future by Lanchester residents.

BOXING DAY HUNT



Huntsmen and hounds arriving at the King's Head meeting place. See story on page 3.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN



A nice mixed group of people, with a lovely background of lights. See article on page 3.



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
Edith Pierce would like to thank everyone who sent get well cards and messages following her fall in November. She's being well looked after and is making good progress.
Thank you
Helen Cannam
(daughter)

Dear Village Voice
As I was poorly on the day of the Christmas lunch for The Village Bus and couldn't be there, I would like to say a big thank you to all those kind helpers, who made the event another great success: to Marie,

Theresa and Phil, Margaret and Richard, Jill and Mike, Mavis, Pam, Maureen and Claire. (I hope I haven't forgotten anyone, if so, I apologise.) Also thank you to Emma from Lynwood House for letting us have the lovely room and for helping to set everything up on the morning and to the King's Head, Crinnions, Lanchester Gifts, The Chemist and Beryl's Hairdresser for their donations.
I am also very grateful to Luke, our new village bus driver, for transporting all the prepared goods (buffet, tombola, raffle, etc) to the venue. He also made sure that everybody got home safely and worked hard and longer than his normal hours. I think we have all taken this young man to our hearts by now and needn't have worried about Fred's successor. The sum raised on the morning was an amazing £450. Thank you!
Karin Bravington

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Village Voice
I just noticed on the lamppost that at my address, being in the Conservation area, I now need planning permission to even repaint my dwelling house.
I wonder how long it will take and cost to have permission granted to repaint my black gate black. Should I not bother and wait until the property is dropping to bits.
One wants to conserve one's home, the village would hardly have a pleasing aspect if all maintenance is delayed as long as it took to have my leaking roof repaired.
Resident, Percy Crescent, Lanchester

LOST

5th January 2017, Lady's Gold Wedding Ring. If found please telephone 01207 529104. Reward. Thank you.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for December is 33. The draw was made by M Swift.

THE VILLAGE VOICE



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This is a once in a schools, churches, lifetime opportunity to community centre and join Lanchester's answer other exotic places, so to the New York Times, apply now and see if you La Tribune or even are lucky - previous Reuters and become a experience not essential but a basic grasp of Village Voice with all the Geordie is considered prestige that brings, ie essential as the locals the chance to interview can be difficult at times such dignitaries as your plus the ability to spell local councillors or the such difficult words as President of the marmalade would work Lanchester Bowls Club in your favour.
for example - in fact the Contact The Village Voice if you dare.
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CAROLS ON THE GREEN



A good mixed age group of children singing 'Away in a Manger'.

There is something rather magical about Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve, with the lights shining through the trees and the Christmas tree lit up with lovely coloured lights. They make a superb backdrop for what is always a happy occasion and one which has been a

village tradition for many, many years. There is a wonderful feeling of camaraderie amongst villagers and there were a large number present, as well as lots of visitors and of course a feeling of excitement and anticipation among the children as they await the arrival of Christmas morning. As in other years the Choral Society and Brass Band were present and the proceedings were opened by David Hughes, who led the singing of well loved and well known carols, accompanied by the Brass Band with James Draper conducting. Canon Spence read the familiar story from the Bible of the shepherds 'keeping watch over their flocks by night' and the youngest children sang 'Away in a Manger' which was just lovely. David had some appropriate words to say between the carols drawing attention to the fact that Christmas is a Christian Festival of Celebration and all too soon the last carol was sung. The Reverend Rupert Kalus closed the occasion with a blessing for everyone and certainly the occasion must have enriched the celebration of Christmas for them. Brenda Craddock

BOXING DAY HUNT

Boxing Day morning once again saw the Braes of Derwent Hunt take over the village. It was a cold wintry morning with high winds, but glorious sunshine, which greeted members of the Hunt as they arrived at The King's Head, prior to assembling outside Crinnions.

The atmosphere at the King's car park was extremely convivial as patrons and visitors enjoyed drinks outside as members of the Hunt were arriving. The latter socialised quite a bit as well whilst on horseback, with several sharing bottles of 'liquid' which were being passed around.

A short time after the scheduled 11.00 am start, Master Huntsman, John Brannen, with Kennel Huntsman Ben Higgins both in charge of the hounds, raced out of the King's Head car park and set off towards Crinnions. It was a fine exciting spectacle for the crowd which had assembled to watch near the Village Green.

At Crinnions, turkey sandwiches, mulled wine and spirits, were passed around to the riders before Hunt Master, Bill Gascoigne, made his traditional pre-hunt speech. He thanked the Lanchester public for their support,

Crinnions for their hospitality and the two huntsmen for their work. He then proceeded to condemn the Hunting Act passed some 12 years ago, as useless, no significant benefit to the countryside, a police waste of time, with an opportunity for protesters to cause harassment. There were no protestors on this occasion.

After the Master's speech the signal was given for the 'off'. Horses and hounds sped up Front Street towards Kitswell Road and on into the surrounding countryside where trails had already been laid.



A trio of riders obviously interested in something going on. The little rider on the right must be the youngest at the event.

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PROJECT POPPIES

A workshop took place at Croft View Halls on Saturday afternoon 14th January. Eric Hepplewhite opened the proceedings with some excellent news. Local County Councillors Richard Young and Ossie Johnson have donated £500 each from their Community Funds. A further £400 has been donated by the Area Action Partnership. A clay manufacturer has given 240 kilos of clay which is worth £800 and will produce 1200 poppies. Other grants will be received hopefully, from the National Lottery and other sources. Poppies with a personalised dog tag will be made available at a cost of £10 for those who wish to remember someone special. Those poppies will be part of the display and handed back to the owners at the end of November 2018.

Around 30 people had assembled at the various tables set out to make the

poppies. The atmosphere was extremely convivial. Everyone was in good spirits and obviously enjoying themselves. Those rolling out the clay and cutting to the templates were in the downstairs hall whilst those who chose to paint the finished poppies worked happily in the upper hall. Teas, coffees and biscuits were available, and Eric stopped at various tables to help and give some tuition where needed.

It was a fun filled productive afternoon; 135 poppies were made and 75 poppies were painted. There is an open invitation for anyone who wishes to help this enormous worthwhile project to meet at the same venue on Saturday March 11th at 2 pm. For further information please contact Eric Hepplewhite on 07969808958 or 01207 521323 or erichepplewhite@btinternet.com



Eric gives a hand to Alison Boyd with Sally Laverick, concentrating and working hard, with two children helping as well.



Martin and Rhoda Joyce with Mary Slane, all having fun as they paint poppies.

PROJECT POPPIES IN FRANCE



Melody Delbarre with poppies she made for Lanchester Project Poppies at Thiepval on the Somme.

For many years we have visited our French friends who live in the small village of Camon on the outskirts of Amiens in northern France. You will know this is the heart of the Somme region, a name synonymous with British military history in World War I.

I have been taking part in 'Project Poppies' begun by Eric Hepplewhite and when our friends invited us to stay in France for Christmas, I took some materials with me to make clay poppies. Our friends have a young daughter called Melody Delbarre and I wondered whether she would like to help by making some poppies. Not only did she make the poppies but she took me, along with her parents, to some of the military

cemeteries and monuments, of which there are many, located near to where they live. She explained to me that she had already visited some of these locations on school trips. Melody, who is 9 years old, is able to read the English inscriptions on the gravestones and also understands why many names which are inscribed on the monuments don't have their own headstone. She made us feel very humble. We took the clay poppies she made to Thiepval, a

monument on the Somme by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The sixteen pillars are engraved with the names of 73,367 British and Commonwealth soldiers that fell during the Battle of the Somme between July and November 1916 and who have no known grave.

Wendy Phillips



Melody and Wendy Phillips making poppies in France.

VILLAGE GREEN WAR MEMORIAL

Have you ever wondered why the names of those who lost their lives during World War One, World War Two and later conflicts are not recorded on the Village Green War Memorial?

When the War Memorial was erected in 1951 the names of those lost were already listed on memorial plaques/book of remembrance in the Parish Church, on the RC War Memorial and in the old Memorial Hall. (This plaque is now displayed in the entrance hall of the Community Centre). In 2018 it will be 100 years since the end of WWI and the Parish Council is leading a project to have all the names added to the Village Green War Memorial.

At present 99 names are read out at the annual Remembrance Day Service on the Village Green. We want to ensure that the list is as complete as possible before we commission the new plaques. So we would like your help. The list of 99 names is shown below and can be viewed on the Parish Council notice board on the Village Green. If you think that you have a relative or know of someone from Lanchester Parish who

died in WWI, WWII or later conflicts and they are not on the present list of names or you think there is a spelling mistake of a name, please contact the Clerk on 01207 520146.

World War I

George Anderson, John R. Bateman, Margaret A. Barrow, Francis E. Bell, Walter Bell, James Brankston, Henderson Brankston, Alexander Brankston, Thomas R. Buckham, William Britton, Albert Bulleyment, Thomas Cheston, John H. Clough, Alexander Coates, Michael Collin, Sidney Duke, Ernest Fallon, Thomas Farrey, Robert B. Farbridge, Marmaduke Featherstonhaugh, William Featherstonhaugh, Lancelot Ferguson, Joseph M. Fletcher, Alfred E. Gibson, Harry Hampton, Bertie Hampton, William Harrison, Duke Harrison, James Harwood, Frederick Hattams, James Hodgson, Eric Heatherington, William Hunter, Thomas Jackson, William Jarvis, Stephen Kelly, Vivian Lathan, George Kirtley, Lisle Lathan, George McDonald, Joseph McElhatton, John H. Myers, Thomas W. Nicholson, William O'Brien, John Pinkerton,

William Pratt, Stephen Ramsay, James Richardson, William Ross, Alfred Rowe, Gerald Sadler, Arthur Sargeant, John Sargeant, Joseph Norman Scott, Luke Smith, T. Henry Smith, John H. Spence, William Spence, Harry Spence, Newton Storey, Tom Storey, J. Herbert Swain, George Tapp, Joseph H. Teasdale, P. Henry Thompson, William Thompson, Luke Thornton, Thomas Henry Turnbull, Walter Veitch, Robert Wainwright, George Wardle, Thomas Wardle, John B. Walker, Thomas Whittaker, John Wilson.

World War 2

William Blackett, Thomas Cheston, Edward Cowan, James Dobson, John Martin Finch, John Gamlin, George Green, William Charles Hill, George William Laykin, Michael Luxmoore, Anthony McGeary, Donald MacMillan, Vera Mace, Michael O'Brien, Robert Reay, John Wardle Scott, Percy Stoker, Robert Bell Smith, William Keith Thompson, Alan Tomlinson, John Tomlinson, Nathaniel Thornton, Robert William Tonks.

Falklands Campaign
Stewart Ian Laing.



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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th December 2016

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 8th November, Planning Meeting 8th November, Finance Meeting 30th November, Planning Meeting 30th November - approved.

Police Report - Rural crime has been the biggest problem including poaching and theft. A Farmwatch Operation was held in November. There are issues of parking on Station Road along with two incidents of theft in the village.

Correspondence

1. The Pensions Regulator - information received.
2. Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2017 - information received.
3. County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership - agreed that the Clerk attends the 'Election' training.
4. Local Government Pension Scheme - Employer Contributions Rates - Members were informed that the

employer pension contribution rates would increase from 18.7% to 19.1% with effect from 1st April 2017 for a three year period.

5. Durham County Council - Winter Maintenance Service - received.

6. War Memorial Trust - newsletter received.

7. The Clerk Magazine - newsletter received.

Neighbourhood Plan

Work continues on developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Small groups are working to produce topic papers and policies for each topic area. The Heritage Audit has been completed and an event to launch the document will take place early in 2017. The County Plan Preferred Options Paper has been delayed until the Government white paper on housing is published in January.

Flooding - Lanchester

Members discussed the recent flooding event in November. Despite the recent work on the drains,

the flood waters had breached some of the shops. The fallen leaves washed down onto Front Street had compounded the problem. Members of the community had worked together to address the problem. The Community Emergency Plan had been activated and sand bags and aqua sacs had been distributed to vulnerable areas.

It was noted that since the flood event the County Council has been undertaking work on the drains and gullies on Newbiggen Lane. It was agreed that the County Council is asked to clear all the gullies in Lanchester. Members expressed concern of the effectiveness of recent drainage works on Front Street. It was agreed that officers from the County Council are asked to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the recent works and plans for wider flood alleviation works.

Mid Durham Summer Environment and Physical Activity Play Schemes

Members received information on the children's summer activities which delivered a sports session and environment session each week for five weeks of the summer holidays. A total of 182 attendances were recorded in Lanchester.

Poppy Project

Members were informed of the large community project to make and display 2515 clay poppies to commemorate the end of World War I. The poppies will be painted and displayed on the roof and grounds of the Methodist Church in the centre of the village between October - November 2018. It is hoped that members of the community will make the poppies and St Bede's School will also be involved in the project. This will be a major project which will include events and

activities in the Churches. The Parish Council expressed their support for the project.

Parking Scheme - St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Members were informed of the outcome of a recent meeting involving County Council Planning Officers, representatives from St Bede's School and Parish Councillors to discuss the parking and traffic congestion at the school at the start and end of the school day.

It was agreed that a meeting is arranged involving County Council Planning Officers, County Council Highways Officers, representatives from St Bede's School, the Police and Parish Councillors.

Financial report

- discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment - approved. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.

Notes from the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th January 2017

Minutes

Ordinary Meeting 14th December, Planning Meeting 14th December - approved.

Police Report - The priority over the last month has been rural crime. In addition antisocial behaviour in the village has increased slightly over the festive season.

Correspondence

1. Letter of thanks - Lanchester Brass Band - received.
2. Shared Access - Funding opportunity - Members considered information received from Shared Access regarding installation of a mast at Kitswell Park. Members were informed that the lease at Kitswell Park does not allow the Parish

Council to erect masts. It was agreed that the company is informed.

3. WWI Beacons of Light - November 2018 - Members considered involvement in the commemorative event. It was agreed that this information is passed to Eric Hepplewhite who is co-ordinating the poppy event in the community.

Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December - approved.

The Heritage Audit has been completed and printed. It was agreed that prices are sought for further printing and a launch event for the Heritage Audit is progressed. The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for mid-February.

War Memorial Working Group

The minutes of the first meeting held on 5th December were approved.

Work was being undertaken to confirm a complete list of names for inclusion on the war memorial. This list will be published in the Village Voice, Parish Council newsletter and Parish Council notice board. Prices for various designs and schemes were being sought.

Maintenance Progress Report

- received.

Precept 2017/18

Members considered the report of the Lead Officer.

It was agreed that the precept be set at £58,078.02 for 2017/18.

This would result in an increase in band D council tax of £1.40 a year or 3.67%.

Financial report

- discussed and approved.

Accounts for Payment

- approved. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th February 2017 at 7.15 pm at Lynwood House.



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POLICE REPORT

Our priority over the last month has been rural crime. This is as a result of increased problems within the Lanchester ward regarding poaching. Over the festive period, rural crime escalated to a hotspot problem for Consett which enabled officers to be allocated within our rural areas during peak times to identify any persons and/or vehicles acting suspiciously. As a result of these additional patrols the volume of poaching has decreased. This month however we have received some reports of unknown persons on farms during the hours of darkness, a dwelling burglary at a farm on the A68 and quad/motorbike thefts from a farm on Eliza Lane. Investigations continue in relation to these crimes and local officers continue to provide a presence in our rural communities.

Antisocial Behaviour has seen a slight increase over the festive period with unknown local youths gaining access to the derelict chip shop on

Deneside. The owners have secured the premises and patrols are being carried out with no further access gained. Information has also been received that local youths are congregating near the garage units between Durham Road and Deneside to smoke cannabis. Local officers are also monitoring this location, however as yet no youths have been stopped in this area. We have recently also been made aware that local youths have been accessing the grounds of Lanchester EP School during the evening. Police now have keys to allow access during the hours of darkness to enable patrols to be carried out. As yet the youths have not been identified. If you have any information into the identity of these youths please contact PCSO Lisa Jackson.

If you have any issues or concerns regarding Lanchester please do not hesitate to get in touch with either PCSO Lisa Jackson or PC Iain Nelson by either telephoning 101 or emailing lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk. On Tuesday 14th February PCSO Lisa Jackson will be attending the Lanchester Parish Council Meeting, so if you would like to speak to your local officer, please come along.

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(Kevin)

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LANCHESTER COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

The Lanchester Community Emergency Plan was adopted in February 2016. Community volunteers worked with the Parish Council supported by the Civil Contingencies Unit and Durham County Council to develop the plan.

The purpose of the plan is to respond in the event of an emergency and promote resilience in the community. Emergencies could include: flooding, serious fire or accident etc. 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 Plan has four volunteer co-ordinators who can be contacted if a community emergency arises.

Mike Gladstone
01207 528114
07971 972683
Eric Hepplewhite
01207 521323
07969 808958

Brian Naylor
01207 520087
07896 897680
Sally Laverick
01207 529415
01207 520146

We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the event of an emergency.

Actions may include distributing aqua sacs to reduce flooding of premises or checking on vulnerable areas or people in the village.

If you would like to become involved please contact Sally at the Parish Council on 01207 520146.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year for 2017. My New Year started off with some good news and some not so good news. The only in-patient ward remaining at Shotley Bridge Hospital that closed before Christmas is to reopen. Thanks to everyone who was involved in the campaign as I am certain it would not have happened without the pressure we all brought to bear. I also want to thank Durham County Council for bringing all the parties together as it brought clarity to the proceedings and made clear to the NHS authorities the strength of local feeling. I am not always complimentary

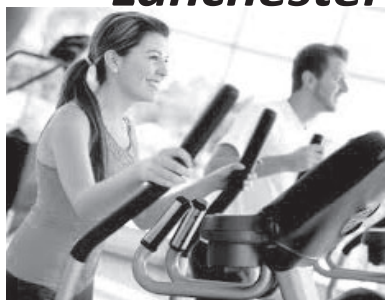
about the County Council but on this occasion it demonstrated real community leadership. My task now is to make sure that the re-opening actually happens and soon.

The not so good news is that there are four separate planning applications that have been submitted or are in the process of being submitted to build additional housing in and around the village and that the ones recently refused, even by public inquiry, have not gone away. I understand that a Government White Paper is to be published soon in which the total number of new homes needed remains the same but the number needed in the

North is expected to decrease significantly, replaced by a significantly higher number in the South. That is likely to mean that County Durham has already identified sufficient housing sites for the next five years, and therefore none of these additional sites are needed. However until the new guidance is published and the County Plan is approved the current situation remains. If you are concerned about a planning application or resubmission of a previous planning application, you need to object individually and in writing to the County Council.

Pat Glass MP

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MASSIVE LOTTERY BOOST FOR BURNHOPE

Plans to develop a much needed community centre in Burnhope received a massive boost when the Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme offered a grant of £529,000 to the community centre management committee. The committee, who have been working with residents for the past 5 years to look at rebuilding a community hub for the village were 'over the moon' when they received the offer letter and immediately replied to the Big Lottery with a great big 'YES!'.

The overall cost of developing a new community centre is about £720,000 and with the support of several other funders including the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership and its associated County Councillors, as well as several Trusts including Garfield

Weston, Bernard Sunley, Sir James Knott and the County Durham Community Foundation they are fast approaching their target budget.

Kenny Barron, Chairman of the Burnhope Community Centre Committee stated; "This is fantastic news. We have been working hard for several years on something that the whole village has been telling us is much needed and we are now within touching distance".

The village and indeed the Parish of Burnhope has very limited community facilities and the development of a new centre will have the backing of several local service partners who are keen to come in and utilise the facilities including the police, health service, Age UK County Durham, Leisureworks and Durham County Council's outreach employability team.

For more details on this development contact Andy Coulthard (Acting Secretary on andy.coulthard@durham.gov.uk) or Janet Box (Treasurer on janb1831@gmail.com).

LUNCHING FOR THE BUS

The buffet lunch held in Lynwood House on 6th December, in aid of the Lanchester Partnership VillageLink Bus, was very well attended. It had been arranged by Karin Bravington, who had put a great deal of hard work into the occasion, preparing food and organising the raffle and tombola, but unfortunately Karin was unable to attend due to ill health. However, Luke, driver of the Village Bus, did a great job, delivering everything from Karin's house to the hall as well as picking up passengers. There was a festive atmosphere at the lunch, with a brightly-decorated

Christmas tree and many of Karin's smiling, willing helpers, who served the tea and coffee or helped with the raffle and tombola, had added a tinsel touch to their hair. The food was delicious and the prizes excellent; the lucky winner of the huge hamper prepared by Karin was won by John Lowes. Everyone chatted and enjoyed the meal, which was a good start to the festive season. Well over £400 was raised for the Village Link Bus which is such a benefit to the village and can be used by anyone. Many thanks to Karin and helpers.



John Lowes, lucky winner of this large hamper prepared by Karin Bravington.

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A Responsible Authority or Other Party under the Licensing Act 2003 can make representations/objections to this application. Representations must be made in writing to:

Durham County Council, PO Box 617, Durham. DH1 9HZ by 10th February 2017 or e-mail to licensing@durham.gov.uk

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VANDALISM AT MALTON BEAUTY SPOT



An act of vandalism destroyed a seat at Waters Meet at Malton sometime during the holiday period. The seat was burnt to the ground (shown in the foreground) with only ashes and the seat bolts in evidence.

GALES IN LANCHESTER




During the early morning of Wednesday 11th January, gale force winds felled trees on the bypass and at Malton. There were also power cuts in areas of Lanchester. Overhead cables also needed repair on the road to Malton Colliery Cottages.

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CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

The Annual Concert of the Male Voice Choir and the Choral Society is always a feast of Christmas music and this year was no exception. Leading the concert were Lanchester's 'Greats', namely David Hughes and Harry Carr as the musical directors, and Bill Gray and Noreen Bridgewater as accompanists. The concert could not fail to please. It took place in Lanchester All Saints' Parish Church on Monday December 19th and the popularity of this annual event was shown by the number of people who attended. The church was very full. Each choir sang alternately and there was some beautiful choral singing. This was particularly true when both choirs sang together. The audience were invited to sing well known carols at intervals throughout the programme, and audience participation is always good. It was a very successful occasion once again and the appreciation of the audience was obvious in the long, enthusiastic applause at the end of the evening. There was a retiring collection for Macmillan Cancer which raised £591 which was very pleasing.

Brenda Craddock



A section of the two choirs who were both in good form during this most enjoyable concert.

CONCERT FOR CHRISTIAN AID AND MACMILLAN

This is the third concert the All Saints' Music Group have held at Christmas in the Parish Church with Mr Craig Davies as the Musical Director. The Music Group were in very good voice with a very varied programme of music. The songs reflected the season and included songs by Graham Kendrick and Stuart Townend. 'Christ in My Waking' by Stuart Townend and Simon Brading was sung to an arrangement by Craig himself making it very individual. The choir were obviously enjoying their singing which was infectious, so that when the audience were invited to join in with certain carols they sang them with enthusiasm. The carols were accompanied

by Craig on the organ or piano and Paul Stannard and Rob Matthews on guitars.

Mrs Sandy Jackson gave short descriptions of the two charities which would benefit from the concert and certainly a generous amount of money was given in donations. The final total raised was just over £450. This money will be divided between Christian Aid and Macmillan Cancer, in memory of Charlotte Easton, who died earlier in the year at the age of 36 and who attended All Saints' Parish Church before moving to teach in London. Very well done Craig and Music Group. Long may your work give such pleasure.

Brenda Craddock
See picture on back page.

INNOVATIONS

A wonderful Christmas Variety Concert presented by people with learning difficulties from Innovations (Lanchester), was held at the Community Centre on Wednesday, December 7th. There was a full to capacity audience made up of people from other branches of Innovations in the region, families and friends. The atmosphere was warm and enthusiastic. There were approximately a dozen participants on the stage for the full concert, who provided some excellent singing and dancing to a variety of Christmas and other songs. They were clearly enjoying the occasion and proud to be performing before an

audience. The backing music was perfect for them as they rendered lively songs like Rock Around the Christmas Tree and Dancing Queen, by Abba. There were several duets as well with no shyness on the microphone, while the rest of the group became backing singers.

The concert was very well organised and the staff at Innovations certainly do a fine job. The performers were obviously delighted to be in the limelight. They were enthusiastic, sang very well and seemed extremely happy. They all deserve a very happy Christmas and should be proud of their first Christmas Concert in Lanchester. See photo on back page.

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'RUMOURS OF ANGELS

On Thursday 15th December there was a performance of Graham Kendrick's musical work 'Rumours of Angels' in the Methodist Church. It was sung by the Methodist Circuit Choir and there were many new faces in the choir (very nice ones, I hasten to add). One face we know very well was conducting the choir, Harry Carr. The accompanist on the piano was Mrs Mavis Coulson and there was a

small orchestra made up of guitars, brass and a flute played as always with perfection, by Wendy Hughes.

It was obvious that a lot of hard work had been put into this concert as it is not an easy work but of course it was managed beautifully under the baton of Harry Carr. The words of the angels in the Gospel of St Luke echoed in our hearts 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth'. How we

yearn for peace in our troubled world. We each have a part to play to bring it about and the words of Graham Kendrick, sung so sincerely by the choir, resonated in our hearts, as we left the church at the end of the performance 'And we will sing Your song, follow You forever. We will be Your hands, reaching out again'. Happy New Year, everyone.

Brenda Craddock



The Methodist Circuit Choir led by Conductor Harry Carr perform 'Rumours of Angels', a musical work by Graham Kendrick.

CHRISTMAS AT LYWOOD



Members of the All Saints' Parish Church choir lead the carol singing at Lynwood House.

The festive season commenced at Lynwood House in late November with a buffet and musical entertainment from Terry and Ray. This duo hit all the right notes with a mixture of pop, folk and country songs for all to enjoy. On 4th December a visit by schoolchildren to sing carols unfortunately had to be cancelled due to

industrial action by teaching assistants. The Christmas Lunch for residents and invited guests which was held on December 14th was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was provided by Kim Derwentside Homes who was assisted by two support officers, Emma, Christine and our cleaner Anne. The final Christmas event was the carol concert

with music and singing from the choir of All Saints' Parish Church with the audience joining in with all the carols. A splendid buffet and drinks were provided by our own Linda Bell who incidentally organised all the Christmas functions including the lunch and who deserves tremendous thanks from all at Lynwood House for her hard work.

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CRUNCH TIME FOR FUTURE OF LANCHESTER PLAYGROUP

The future of Lanchester Playgroup looks uncertain due to increasing essential running costs, meaning that there is a real possibility that this established and valuable community facility could face closure before Easter 2017.

The decision was taken by the Staff and Committee to stop running Playgroup on Thursdays as attendance on this day was consistently lower than

on other days. This has however only reduced the average loss per session from £20 to £16.50 which is clearly unsustainable without increasing attendance numbers or other sources of income. As part of a drive to try to remain open, the session fees will be increasing slightly from 1st February 2017 and the age from which children can attend will reduce from 18 months to 12 months.

It is estimated that there is a need to subsidise the

session income by over £2000 per year through fundraising events, any grant income which may be available or sponsorship. If anyone is able to suggest possible funding sources, please contact a member of staff at Playgroup.

The Staff and Committee would like to say a big thank you to those who attend and support Playgroup regularly and would urge others to come along and give it a try (first session free upon registration). It would be such a shame if, in as vibrant a village as

Lanchester is, we cannot sustain an established community facility like Playgroup.

Lanchester Playgroup's AGM will take place at 8 pm on Thursday 9th February in the first floor meeting room at Lanchester Community Centre. There is a desperate need for new committee members. The role of Secretary is currently vacant but we would also welcome anyone who could focus on social media, fundraising, marketing, planning sessions or preparing craft resources. If you can help, please contact a member of

Playgroup Staff before the AGM.

Lanchester Playgroup is open from 9.20 until 11.15 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during term time in the Small Hall in the Community Centre. Pre-school children aged 12 months and over are welcome. Parents of children over 2 years old may accompany their children or leave them under the supervision of a qualified member of staff. The cost of a session is £2 per child 12-18 months, £4 per child 18 months to 5 years (parent/carer staying) and £6 per child (2 years to 5 years).

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EP SCHOOL CHRISTINGLE AND NATIVITY PLAY



The light of the Christingles.

Year 6 from the EP School performed an excellent Nativity Play in All Saints' Parish Church on the last day of term, December 16th. Because of increased numbers in the school it was necessary to have two performances to accommodate the audience of adults and children. The pupils looked every inch the characters they were portraying in their very fine costumes and the diction was very good indeed, so that the audience could follow the action of the play perfectly. The singing

which interspersed the action was excellent, and here it must be said that the singing voice of the Virgin Mary, namely Anna Jameson, was particularly beautiful. The play had been well rehearsed which added to the quality of the performance, for which Year 6 and their teachers are to be congratulated. Following this play and keeping up the ambience of the occasion, was the Christingle part of the morning or afternoon. Year 3 were extremely well versed in what they had to do. It is a very

responsible task to carry an orange containing a lighted candle around a dimly lit church, not just once but several times and these children did it with such poise and dignity. The idea of the Christingle Orange bringing the light of Christ to shine throughout the world in an effort to bring peace to every corner of it was very well illustrated by these very capable pupils. A lovely message to take home with them for Christmas!

Brenda Craddock
See also photo on back page.



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AWESOME NOISE AT ALL SAINTS

On Thursday December 8th, students from All Saints' Primary School were pleased and proud to invite family and friends to listen to their performance on their African drums. Not only do they obviously enjoy the experience, but they are also learning valuable skills - they are finding out about rhythm, they are working together as a team and their imagination is being encouraged as the drums echo the sounds of the jungle. As one young man described working with the drums - "It's awesome!"



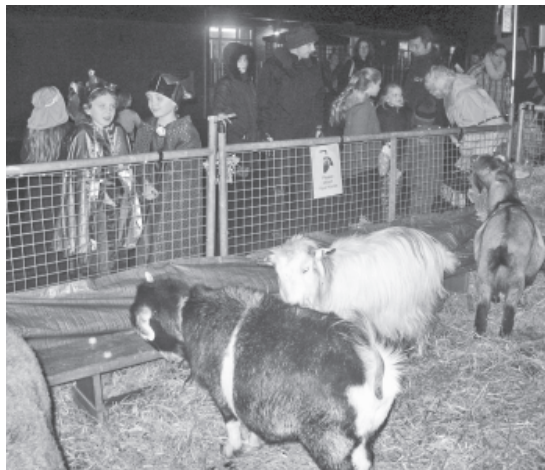
Students from All Saints' Primary School showcase their skills for an appreciative audience.

LANCHESTER GUIDING NATIVITY

1st Lanchester Guiding presented a wonderful Community Evening at the EP school on Tuesday evening 20th December.

Animals about Town arrived at about 6.00 pm, whilst probably in the region of 100 children gathered to pet them and join in the Nativity. Rev Rupert Kalus obviously enjoyed telling the story as much as those listening to it. It took place inside the animal pen with characters from the Nativity each side of him. He delivered the Nativity in such an animated style which had the 'actors' alongside him and those watching, joining in with all the gestures he made throughout the story. He managed to find all the usual characters except what he referred to as 'invisible' shepherds.

With the Nativity over everyone rushed eagerly into the school where the hall was laid out for a huge party, missing out the scheduled carols. There was plenty of food, a disco and party games. The evening



Children enjoy looking at the animals.



Actors leaving the pen.

didn't end until 8.30 pm. and in particular Mrs Jane Davis; Crinnions, who supplied and prepared the food; Animals About Town who supplied some of the actors, and all the actors and helpers.



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LANCHESTER SINGS

The title 'Lanchester Sings' bore out its name on Friday December 9th, when the audience was treated to some very fine singing in the Methodist Church. This concert is the third organised by the Red Cross at Christmas and four members of the staff from our village shop sang a few introductory seasonal songs. There followed a programme of young people singing, all of whom, apart from the

choir from Neville's Cross Primary School, were from Lanchester. The children in the choir were delightful and sang some lovely seasonal songs, with a sense of joy and fun, which was very entrancing. The three young ladies who sang solo items are all pupils of Marie Harrison, who is well known for her own beautiful singing voice. She accompanied her pupils on the piano and

they were Anya Warner, Rebecca Draper and Rebecca Symonds and they all sang absolutely beautifully. Their choice of pieces to sing could not have been better. Anya and Rebecca Draper are pupils at St Bede's School and Rebecca Symonds is a former pupil, who now attends Newcastle College 6th form, where she is studying for A Levels in English, History

and Art. She has recently taken the Grade 8 examination in singing and passed with distinction - a very talented young lady! Phillip Richardson, another former pupil of St Bede's, also sang and accompanied himself skilfully on his guitar and also sang with a young lady called Ellie Hill. The concert was compèred by Mr Steve Lindo and all the items were interspersed

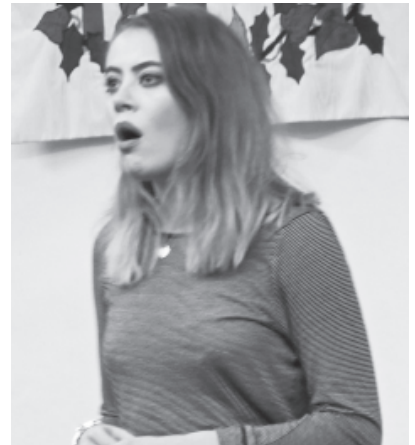
with well known carols sung by the audience and accompanied on the organ by our own well loved pianist and organist, Lilian Dixon. It was a very happy evening and £400 was raised for the wonderful work that the Red Cross do across the world. The coffee/tea and mince pies which were served after the concert were delicious. We hope Lanchester keeps on singing! Brenda Craddock



Anya Warner



Rebecca Draper



Rebecca Symonds

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ELF VISITS KING'S HEAD



Lanchester saw some festive figures over the Christmas period, including this jolly elf! Santa stopped off at the King's Head with several friends.

NEW DRAINS FOR NEWBIGGEN LANE



Durham County Council is in the process of constructing 14 deep drains in Newbiggen Lane to help alleviate flooding in the village. In theory it should stop the lane becoming a fast flowing river. Leaves and any other rubbish will have to be swept on a regular basis for them to work efficiently.

GATE CAUSES CONTROVERSY



This is the controversial gate which has been installed on the corner of the field on Newbiggen Lane, allegedly without planning permission. Our sources have indicated that an application for retrospective planning permission has been sought. Preservation orders have been placed on a number of trees in that field. Recently the Government Inspector rejected planning permission for housing development by Story Homes on that site.

VILLAGE SHOP GIRLS DRESS UP FOR CHRISTMAS



Jeni and staff in their super Christmas gear at Talking Heads.



The SPAR ladies get in the Christmas spirit.

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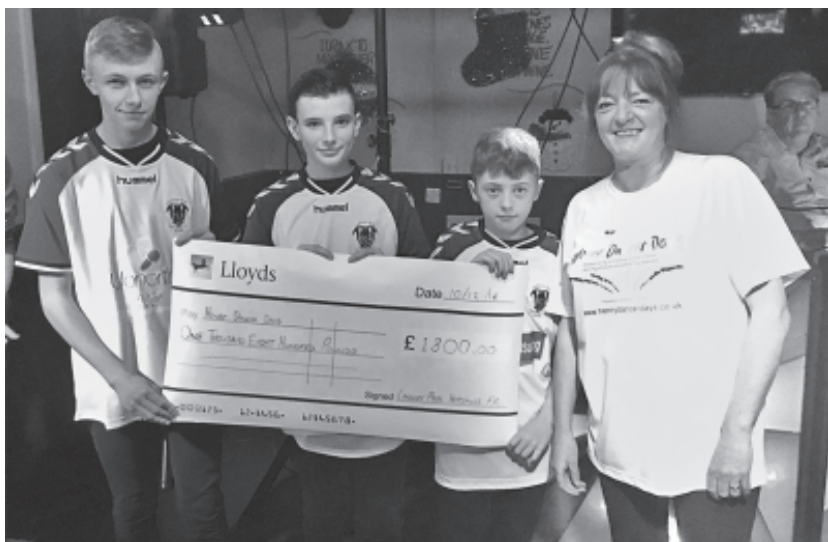
LANCLEY HARDWARE Unit 2, Old Co-Op Buildings, Langley Park Tel: 0191 3732278

The Hotspurs have raised an amazing £1,800 for local children's cancer charity Henry Dancer Days through a sponsored bike ride.

45 members cycled from their base at Langley Park Sports and Social Club to Hownsgill in Consett - a return journey of 16.2 miles. A cheque was presented to Henry's Mum Jane, who founded the charity in memory of 12 year-old Henry, at the Club's Christmas celebration. She commented, "I had no idea that they would raise so much for us. It's remarkable and will go a long way in helping us to support kids with cancer. The families we work with are often

unable to work as the children need so much care. The young footballers' contribution means that we'll be able to assist even more!"

Michael Stephenson, the Hotspurs Chairman said, "It's good that our lads can give something back to the local community. Having had such great support over the last couple of years from people in the village and local businesses we thought it was time for our players to help those less fortunate than themselves, which is why we chose Henry Dancer Days. We knew whatever we raised could make a real difference to a young person's life."



Left to right: Kenny Shevells, Dean Metters and Regan Matthews present the club's donation to Jane Natrass.

I would like to say a big thank you to my Mam, family, friends and the people of Lanchester for helping my Dad raise £400 towards GB Swans Australian rules football team.

It was quite a shock when I saw the photos of my dad for the first time with

no hair, a big thank you Dad.

The fund raising is still on going with a race night organised and a raffle, with one of the prizes being a visit to the Shard in London.

Thank you again for your support.

Zoe Rowe



The photo on the right shows Zoe in her GB Swans team kit.

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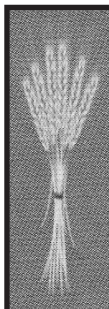
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New Image look good in their Christmas attire led by Mary Carr, alias, 'THE STRUTTER'.

PRINT ME IT PARTNER WITH WILLOW BURN HOSPICE



Laura Douthwaite, Senior Fundraiser and Adam Chetter, MD, Print Me It.

Local printer Print Me It is raising funds for Willow Burn through its paper recycling scheme. Print Me It receives payment through the paper recycling company and in 2017 all proceeds from this will be donated to Willow Burn Hospice. The initiative is hoping to raise significant funds for Willow Burn as well as helping the environment.

Print Me It, based in Stanley, has supported Willow Burn for over 3 years with a variety of activities including sponsorship of the printing for the 2016 Charity Ball.

The local community is encouraged to take part in this scheme. Paper, including card and newspapers, can be

dropped off at the Print Me It offices between 9 am-5 pm, Monday to Friday. An extra collection point will be available at Willow Burn Hospice reception.

Adam Chetter, Managing Director, said "My mother was cared for by the wonderful staff at Willow Burn Hospice so I know first-hand the dedication shown by their hard working team and the compassion they show during the worst personal experiences families can go through."

Laura Douthwaite, Senior Fundraiser, said "This is a great way to get the local community involved and also raise awareness and funds for Willow Burn. You wouldn't think that a bit

of old paper could make a difference but it all adds up. We are looking forward to working with Adam and the team and building a partnership with Print Me It.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WILLOW BURN

Willow Burn Hospice have hit the ground running in 2017 and they need your help to keep them going. They are looking to expand their team of volunteers in the local area and are asking for anyone with a passion in helping a local charity to come forward.

They currently generate around £20,000 in collection box donations a year, which helps greatly towards keeping the hospice afloat but more needs to be done. They are looking for keen, trustworthy people who will give them a hand with the collection of these boxes when they're full. The best part is, the hours are completely flexible. Emma Storey - Senior Fundraiser said, "2017 is going to be a big year for

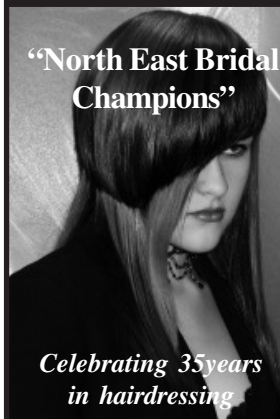
Willow Burn, we have a lot planned already and so much more to come. We just need the help of amazing volunteers to bring our plans to fruition."

The work of volunteers helps hugely in the world of charities and without them, many wouldn't exist today. So if you have a spare few hours a month that you don't mind giving up, please give us a call on 01207 523 900 or email us at: fundraising@willowburnhospice.org.uk



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**Contact - sarahmilburn72@sky.com
07786233420**

LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 'SHOW AND TELL'

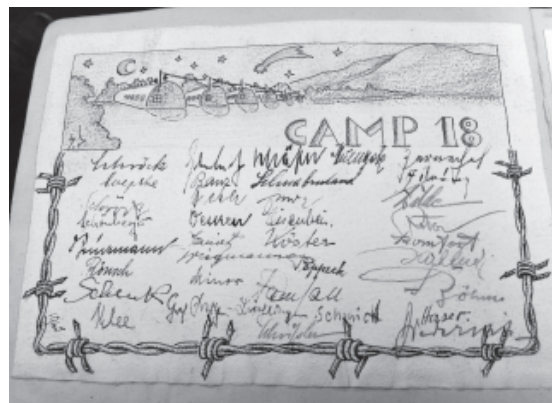
Another amazing evening of enjoyment, entertainment and discovery greeted members at the first meeting of 2017. Members brought along historical items, which have special significance to them and gave a unique insight into each object, some dating from the 1870-1880s! A collection of pit ponies' 'horseshoes' (still being turned up from the fields above Maiden Law) started the evening off, closely

followed by the production of a miner's yardstick or 'wand', bought locally in Tow Law, used to measure lengths of coal produced by miners - still with its brass markings along the very straight and hard ash shaft.

Various celebratory items including a most imposing dark glazed commemorative teapot, inscribed with the bride and groom's names dating from 1887 (belonging to one member's maternal grandmother) and

several items of engraved glassware carrying the names of the children on a visit to the coast customary for around 1887. A brightly painted model coach with horses and attending riders and footmen was shown - produced for the Queen's Jubilee (1977). Other items included the world's smallest Championship Cup (standing barely 2" tall) won at a swimming gala in 1933 and badges issued by local cycling clubs (Stanley, Clarion) dating from 1870-1880s, and several print items promoting 'Hindhaughs' food products and recipes from around the time of WWII (again with family links to the village).

One member produced a fascinating 'autograph book' used by her grand aunt from the early 1900s. Working as a nurse, she attended Harperley POW camp, several of the entries included drawings, poems, messages of thanks and lists of names of those held there. Linked to this, was a WWI small metal tin



Autograph book from Harperley POW Camp dating from the early 1900s.



1887s dark glazed commemorative teapot engraved with bride and groom's names.



Lanchester Workhouse 1960

box presented by Princess Mary, with a Christmas message and an embroidered handkerchief, which was sent to the troops at the front. The evening finished all too soon, and brought us back to Lanchester, with a study of a photograph taken of the whole Workhouse site (black and white) dating from about 1960, prior to more recent development.

A fascinating evening; perhaps you would like to come along and share your treasures and memories.

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THURSDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS OUTING



Members of the Thursday Club during their visit to Newcastle Theatre Royal.

For our 2016 Christmas outing we visited the Theatre Royal in Newcastle for a backstage tour. It was always going to be very interesting and entertaining but, it was Panto season - what an exciting time to go backstage - there was 'stuff' everywhere. Our most knowledgeable guide took us all over, into the tiny darkened orchestra pit, through the green room, even into the exclusive press office enclosure. We saw trap doors, holes for the blood pumps, heard about the ghosts - Lady

Grey with her telltale waft of lavender perfume (one of our number swears she could smell it).

All around was the panto gear - brightly coloured costumes, a giant insect with multi coloured wings and, best of all, Cinderella's glorious coach with white horses waiting in the wings to transport her to the ball - magic!

The good times continued 'cos just over the road from the theatre is Carluccios where a good number of us partook of a superb lunch. After all that we

had just a short while left to do some last minute Christmas shopping and then home.

What a treat - fairytale magic!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Honey Mustard Chicken and Parsnip Casserole

This is a comforting, warming dish, perfect for a cold winter evening. It's very easy to produce, made in one pot, and is a Slimming World recipe, allowing you to feel very virtuous after the excesses of the Christmas period. Serves 4, serve with fluffy mash or your favourite accompaniment.

You need:
 Low calorie cooking spray
 8 bone-in chicken thighs, skinless
 2 onions, peeled and finely chopped
 350 g parsnips, peeled and cut into thick sticks
 300 ml chicken stock
 2 tbsp runny honey
 2 level tbsp wholegrain mustard
 2 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD
 1) Spray a large shallow flame-proof casserole dish with low calorie cooking spray and heat gently on a hob. Brown the chicken thighs until golden, remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.
 2) Add the onions and stir-fry for 5 minutes over a medium heat or until softened.
 3) Place the chicken thighs back with the onions and add the parsnips.
 4) Mix the stock with the honey and mustard then pour over the chicken. Scatter over the thyme then bring to a simmer.
 5) Cover and cook for 30 minutes over a gentle heat or until the chicken is tender, then season to taste.

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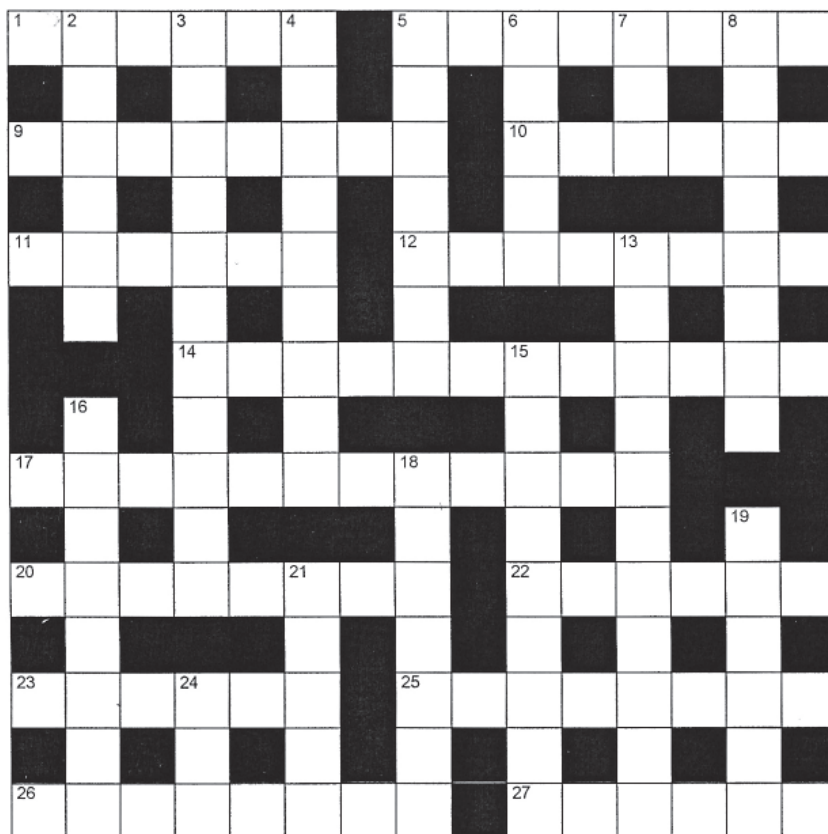
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CROSSWORD 129



ACROSS

1. Split (6)
5. Cheek yet reversal covers value (8)
9. Obsession (8)
10. Lithe (6)
11. Hand operated (6)
12. Dark plan for recreation area (8)
14. Vegetable (5,4,3)
17. Tamed (12)
20. Adventurer (8)
22. Swindle (3-3)
23. Old Testament book (6)
25. Blossomed (8)
26. Embracing opals use (8)
27. Scorched (6)

DOWN

2. Neck adornment for men (6)
3. Briefly (2,1,8)
4. Work unofficially at a second job (9)
5. Animal catcher (7)
6. Skinflint (5)
7. Knock (3)
8. Able (8)
13. Butterflies and I depart pole (11)
15. Disreputable (9)
16. Lives together (8)
18. Prudent (7)
19. Weak small lieutenant dropped by confused left feet (6)
21. Eros's flowers ? (5)
24. Olé for the lion (3)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 128

ACROSS

9. convolute
10. thump
11. agitate
12. chained
13. grate
14. repudiate
16. leaning
18. in depth
20. rewritten
22. fatal
23. disdain
24. stirrer
25. sieve
26. look smart

DOWN

1. octangular
2. intifada
3. forage
4. cube
5. perception
6. stranded
7. Luanda
8. aped
14. right-angle
15. exhilarate
17. imitated
19. paternal
21. waster
22. flimsy
23. dash
24. sloe

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

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

CROSSWORD 128

There were just 10 entries in last month's crossword competition. Congratulations to W Phillips of Briardene who was the winner in the draw and will receive the £10 prize.

SUDOKU

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

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



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LANCHESTER WI

Our first meeting of the year took place on January 9th. We were greeted by President Marie Murphy who reminded members about reserving a place for the WI Centenary lunch later this year and voting on our annual resolutions, etc. Members are urged to keep looking at the notices on the Information table and check for ways to get involved with your WI by volunteering as

refreshment hostesses and by offering readings, raffle prizes etc. There is now a suggestion box and your opinions about destinations for trips, visits and general proceedings are invited. This year is a very special time, as it's our Federation Centenary Year, with several events planned, all to be notified in our County Newsletter.

Raffles were won by Eileen Mee and Dorothy Beadling. Following the

evening's theme of local history, our competition was to exhibit early 1900s memorabilia, with interesting items coming from Cynthia Pearson, Lynn Hodgson and Maureen Barker. We settled back to listen to John Gall, describing 'Lanchester and its trades in the 1900s', although John's story began far earlier, in the time of the Roman occupation, when a civilian settlement

developed around the fort of Longovicium. John related a fascinating account of Lanchester and its surrounding area over the centuries - it was mentioned in the Boldon Book, as part of the Bishop of Durham's estates and much of the stone used to construct the village church came from the Roman fort. In the 16th century, parish records began to be kept and we can add names to local tradesmen and

farming folk, suddenly bringing these people to life. By the 19th century, the railway had come to Lanchester, there were law courts and a large workhouse, a police station and a post office. John completed his fascinating account by showing some wonderful old slides, a really enjoyable presentation! Our evening ended with tasty, hot soup made by members, perfect for the cold winter evening.

SATLEY WI

Our first meeting of the New Year began with Linda, our President, welcoming the members and wishing everyone a Happy New Year. The business was then discussed. The Northern Sheep Exhibition is to be held on June 7th at West Shields Farm, Satley. Our WI has been invited to

take part in a marquee exhibiting the products of wool etc. Ideas were discussed.

We were reminded that the Christmas lunch will be January 24th at 'Chapters', Consett.

Names were taken for a visit to 'Carousel', the musical at the Gala, Durham in March.

The talk was then given by Linda on 'all things chocolate', how it began and what can be made with cocoa today. It takes 400 cocoa beans to make 1 lb of chocolate. This was followed by a chocolate tasting competition guessing the names of chocolate displayed on the plates. This was won by

Christine Wilson. There was also a quiz game with clues and guess the names of the various chocolate and sweets which provided some fun. Kathleen Snowdon's team won, with only one point more than Ann Darlington's team.

The Christmas card competition was divided into 3 groups: Snow scene, Religious and Animals, one exhibit in each

category. The results were: Snow scene; 1st Linda Horn, 2nd Avril Carpenter and 3rd Pat Gibson; Religious: 1st Avril Carpenter, joint 2nd Joan Smith and Linda Horn; Animals: 1st Ann Darlington, joint 2nd Linda Horn and Avril Carpenter. The raffle was won by Pat Gibson and Jean Portwood. We then had tea and biscuits and a social chat. A most enjoyable evening.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

We had a lovely gourmet start to Christmas - dining in style at fabulous Langley Castle; everywhere you looked was decked out in glittering decoration. The welcome was warm, the fires burning as we sat in the Great Hall alongside a magnificent Christmas tree, to decide on what, from their festive menu, we would like to eat.

It was £25.50 for the 3 course menu - a lunch menu just running through December as they don't open the restaurant at lunch time throughout the rest of the year. Once we had placed our order it was time to move into the dining room guided by our most attentive waiter.

We ate, for starters, Crayfish and prawn

cocktail, Chicory salad with pear, walnuts and blue Stilton, Parsnip velouté with truffle honey and Chicken liver parfait with raisin purée and brioche. Mains were Turkey with all the trimmings, Braised ox cheek with creamed potatoes and Bourguignon sauce and Pan fried salmon with heritage potatoes, kale

and bois boudran. Puds were Clementine posset with pistachio biscotti, Salted caramel iced parfait and Christmas pud with vanilla sauce. The food, service, in fact, every detail, couldn't be faulted.

A perfect start to Christmas - we'll maybe have to do it all over again next year!

The Gourmet Girls



The ladies, looking at the Christmas decorations through the window of Langley Castle.

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WHAT'S ON?

Vintage Tractor Club

Meet on Wednesday 1st February at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Junior/Family Wildlife Group

Our next meeting will be on Sunday 12th February Meet 10.00 am at Malton car park.

Sunday Bridge

Are you a Bridge player? Why not come along to the Community Centre on 5th February at 2.00 pm for an enjoyable afternoon. The entrance fee is £3.00 and all profits to the Community Centre.

Thursday Club

The next meeting of the Thursday Club will be on February 16th at 1.30pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. Glynis Grainger will be with us to give a talk entitled 'Irene Sandler - Life in a jar'. Everyone is welcome to join the Thursday Club, annual subscription £12. A good place to meet and also make new friends.

Wildlife Group

The next meeting will be on 14th February, the subject will be 'How amazing are flowering plants?' with Lizzie Maddison and will be in the Community Centre Dining Room at 7.30 pm.

Mothers' Union

The speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 8th February at 7.30pm in the Chapter House will be Susan Gray with a talk and DVD entitled Partnership in the Gospel.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Methodist Church, Friday March 3rd, 2.00 - 3.00pm. All welcome. For more information, 01207 520749 or steve24c07@aol.com

Community Centre

Coffee Morning

The Community Centre will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 9th February from 9.30 - 11.00 am.

Lacemaking

In the upstairs room of the Community Centre, on Mondays and Fridays 7.00 - 9.00pm.

Needlecraft

continues on Wednesdays 1.00-3.00 pm

Baby Group

Meet Wednesdays and Fridays in the Community Centre dining room between 9.15 and 11.00 am. Birth to 2 years, £1.80.

Come and Sing

Come and sing a cappella, for the pure joy of singing in harmony. The Chapter House, All Saints' Parish Church, Lanchester, Mondays from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon. Enjoy singing Gospel, Folk, Jazz and more. Start the week with a smile! EVERYONE WELCOME. Look out for our posters around the village.

Local History Society

Subject: The Pit Village
Speaker: Bill Saunders
Date: Friday February 3rd
Time: 7pm
Venue: Lanchester Community Centre
Bill is a member of the thriving and active Whickham History Society.
For more information about the History Society contact marianmorrison@btinternet.com

Lanchester Writers

Lanchester Writers meet in Lanchester Library every Tuesday 2 - 4 pm during school term time. New members are welcome.

Cuppa, Lunch and Company for the over 70s

Free Cuppa, Lunch and Company age 70+.

Do you have neighbours or family who would like a cup of tea, lunch and company out of the house for 2 hours a month?

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month in conjunction with Age Concern.

Starting 14th February 2017, 12 noon to 2 pm in Lynwood House there will be a cup of tea, sandwich and cake.

You will have a driver to collect you and bring you home (all drivers are DBS checked).

We do need an idea on numbers attending. Please phone to say if you would like to come and if you need a lift there and back.

Call Jo on: 07969454815.

Last Night of the Proms

Last Night of the Proms comes to Lanchester. Why not join with Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society in the Methodist Church on Friday 10th March to enjoy all the 'panache' of this great occasion. All the favourites of the Royal Albert Hall are included from Rule Britannia to Jerusalem via Land of Hope and Glory, plus a full supporting programme of choral favourites. Flags and bunting welcome!

Tickets from any Society member, 520427 or 521458.

Satley WI

The next meeting will be 13th February with a talk and demonstration on 'My upholstery business' by Heidi Maddison in the Village Hall Satley at 7.15 pm. All welcome.

Library Book Club

On Monday 27th February at 2.30 to 3.30 the group will be discussing Wonder by R.J. Palacio, a story about a boy who was born different. The Times suggest it is destined to go the way of 'The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night Time'. "Incredibly charming, brutal and brilliant" (The Observer). 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 Library Book Club

At the second meeting of this new book club on Thursday February 23rd from 5.30-6.30, the group will discuss 'Life after Life' by Kate Atkinson. The book won a Costa Novel Award. 'What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right?' The Guardian reviewed this book, "Her most ambitious and most gripping work". If you would like to join this group, pop into the library and pick up the book and join the discussion.

Lanchester Social Club

Every Friday - **FRIDAY NIGHT 50/50 DANCING**
Every Sunday - **SUNDAY NIGHT BUSKERS**

Saturday 4th February **ABBY FAYE**, Female Vocalist.

Saturday 11th February **BRIAN M**, Top Class Vocalist.

Saturday 18th February **ASHLEIGH**, Top Female Singer

Saturday 25th February **JOHN MAC**, Vocalist.

Open House

Join us in the Chapter House of the Parish Church on Thursday 2nd February, 11.30 am until 1.00 pm.

Paradiso Social Club

The next Paradiso Social will be held on Sunday, February 12th, at 7 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre.

There will be the usual raffle, refreshments and the chance to see a film on the Big Screen! The film we are showing that evening is - 'FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS', starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.

The film is described as hilarious and poignant and tells the true story of a woman who followed her dream to be a great singer and lit up the lives of all who came to know her. All are welcome.

Ticket entry:

£2.50 members

£3.50 non members

£2 young persons

This covers the raffle, refreshments and film.

Flower Club

The next meeting will be on Wednesday February 22nd at 2 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. Our guest will be Michael Robbie who will be showing slides.

Lanchester WI

Our next meeting will be on Monday February 6th, at the usual location of the Community Centre, and time of 7.15 pm. Our guest speaker is Rosy Allan, and she will be describing Northern Quilts and Quilters. Our monthly competition will be to submit a patchwork or quilted item made by yourself. So come along and enjoy an informative and fun evening with friends and find out how to become more involved in your own WI. Several visits and outings will be taking place over the coming months, so make sure you keep up to date with the arrangements by checking the Information table.

BEER FESTIVAL 2017

Here's the important dates for your social diary - Friday 26th-Sunday 28th May, that's when our fourth beer and cider festival will take place. Following on from the success of last year, where the increased attendance figures cleaned out the beers and ciders before the festival ended, we would expect to have more beers again to offer.

The hard work starts now as we look to engage with sponsors to be able to bring you this great event. Hopefully many of our local sponsors such as Talking Heads, Alexander Lettings, New Image, Hanley and Swinbank and

the Black Bull can support us again. Sponsorship starts at £150 for a beer, for which a sponsor gets around £75 worth of entrance and drinks back, plus advertising through the beer festival website and in the programme.

The event is bringing people into the village from further afield and we would be interested to know if anyone who provides accommodation wanted to advertise through our beer festival website. We know that visitors have had to go further afield last year, so if you didn't get anyone last year and can offer accommodation, then

please get in touch. We should be able to announce next time which charities we are linking in with to provide them the opportunity to raise money during our event. Similarly we are in approaches to bands and entertainers to ensure that we get the best that we can afford for your delectation. We are fairly confident that event perennials, The Pretty Weeds, will feature once again, but this year they may well do the Saturday night spot. Let's hope so! So if any of these items interest you please get in touch at Lanchestercc @outlook.com

CRICKET NEWS

This is always a quiet time of year for cricket but things will start to get going at the end of the month. It's the AGM for the leagues we participate in and we start to find out who's in and who's out, rule changes etc. Many of our junior players have been taking part in district nets aimed at using them in league teams later in the year. Our under 11s in particular are benefiting from this coaching opportunity. Our own nets start on Sunday 5th February, run between 2 and 4 pm with the 15 and unders

on first at 2 and the seniors plus over 15s on from 3. Cost is £2.50 at Fyndoune, Sacriston. All existing players and anyone interested in playing or starting playing are welcome.

Off the field, it's a good time to get work done in the club and we should get the kitchen totally refurbished and new flooring in a part of the club, plus we are looking at getting some honours boards sorted out. It is nice to recognise those who have dedicated their time to the club and it will be great to display those names for all to see.

NATIVITY AT ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH

There were some very smartly dressed visitors in the Parish Church on Friday December 16th. They had travelled from Bethlehem especially for the occasion. There was Mary and Joseph and their young son Jesus, angels, shepherds and three wise men and although they had travelled a long way they did not seem tired. Indeed they were excited and eager to tell us their story. This they did very well indeed, and they were pleased to join in with the singing of well loved carols with the many families who were attending the service. It was almost a case of 'No room at the Inn'! The visitors were also impressed to hear their



Austin Arthur Pickering in the arms of his mother Victoria.

names mentioned in most of the carols.

They also listened carefully to the Bible readings read by Reverend Ali's

daughters, Lucy and Beatrix, and they loved seeing some of the young people of the church leading and reading the prayers. They said

afterwards that they had loved the welcome they had been given at this church by Reverend Rupert Kalus, Reverend Ali Miller and all the

congregation and definitely wanted to return next year to Lanchester, even if it was a lot colder than their own town of Bethlehem. They were not quite sure about the man dressed from top to toe in red, who at one point made an appearance and gave all the visitors a Christmas present. Someone had to explain who he was!

They especially liked it, that a ten day old baby had come to the Nativity Service, as they loved babies, especially Jesus, who was so special to them. The baby at the service was the baby son of Richard and Victoria (née Jackson), namely Austin Arthur Pickering. Brenda Craddock

See photo on back page.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION NATIVITY

There is something so special about very young children performing. They are absolutely natural and spontaneous and a delight to see. These very young children handled the nativity story splendidly with the special touch of

their teachers who skilfully guided their performance. The whole cast of at least fifty children were dressed up in a style fitting for the nativity story and looked resplendent in their finery, due no doubt to mothers and

members of staff. The confidence each child showed as they stepped up onto a small platform in order to talk into the microphone was amazing. Their words were as clear as a bell and in the songs which they sang with great

enthusiasm, the words were again clearly distinguishable. It was a delightful afternoon shared by a packed hall of parents, grandparents, childminders and many others, and how proud they must have felt of their children. This was

the first Nativity Play of the season and what a splendid beginning, by the very youngest pupils of the school. Congratulations to you all, teachers and pupils alike.

Brenda Craddock

See picture on back page.

NATIVITY AT ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH



Mary and Angel Gabriel, sisters Lucy and Anna Eastwood.
See article on page 23.

EP SCHOOL CHRISTINGLE



The Heavenly Host. Article on page 12.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION NATIVITY



Everyone take a bow. See story on page 23.

CONCERT FOR CHRISTIAN AID AND MACMILLAN



The Music Group in song. Story, page 10.

INNOVATIONS CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Performers at the Innovations Christmas Variety Concert.
See article, page 10.

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 14th February.
The deadline for **adverts** is Friday 10th February.