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# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 7 Volume 6

Lanchester, August 2005

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## PARISH PLAN LAUNCHED

The Parish Plan for Lanchester, over two years in the making, was launched on Saturday 2nd July in the Community Centre. The Plan, commissioned by Lanchester Parish Council and prepared by a steering committee co-ordinated by Lanchester Partnership under the chairmanship of Mike Wardle, was warmly welcomed by Stuart Walker, Chairman of the Parish Council, who also commended the Partnership's work in carrying out recommendations in the 1998 Appraisal, resisting undesirable development and tackling the flooding problem.

Mike Gladstone, Chairman of the Partnership, emphasised that the Plan came from the community. The Council had laid down the terms of reference, an all-day public meeting had



*Committee members and guests at the Parish Plan launch;  
back row Mike Wardle, Cllr Colin Burton, Brian Naylor, Sue Smith,  
Maureen Bennett, Mike Gladstone, Michael Horsley, Cllr Stuart Walker.  
Front row Angela Harrington, Maureen Loy, Hilary Armstrong,  
Jill Gladstone, Carolyn Wardle.*

set up the steering committee and an all-day public workshop had followed which generated ideas.

The steering group had absorbed numerous reports, statistics, and in a long series of weekly

meetings devised a questionnaire.

The questionnaire devised by the committee and sent to 1800 households had had 40% replies, a good result, and Angela Harrington of Derwentside District Council had

summed up the responses.

He paid tribute to Mike Wardle, who had worked full-time on the project for a year.

Volunteers would be needed, he stressed, to work on each of the Plan's recommendations.

MP Hilary Armstrong praised this real achievement which deserved to be celebrated, taking ownership of the vision for the village. She praised Mike's skills of bringing people together and getting the best out of them. She also stressed that the real job was now starting, but that working for the community could be real fun and satisfying. A summary of the Plan has now gone out to everyone in the village, and copies of the full Plan are available at Lanchester library and can be bought from Park House.

Solutions to the issues raised can only be found by the community, with the guidance of Lanchester Partnership and the Council. Among the topics needing action are parking, housing, litter, safeguarding the Link Bus, the environment, and improving health care and leisure facilities.

## WHEN BEN MET BENJAMIN



*Ben is presented with his teddy by shop manager Brenda Gibson*

During Red Cross Week every shop had a teddy whose secret name had to be guessed by customers, and even the staff had no idea about the real name. As it happened, Ben James McMahon was the lucky winner when the bear's name turned out to be Benjamin. Ben called in to the shop with grandmother Kathleen Bregan to collect his bear, which was presented by voluntary shop manager Brenda Gibson.

A few little teddies are still looking for a home, price £3.99. Any takers?

## MAN CHARGED WITH KNIFING

A local man was arrested on 10th June in relation to the stabbing in the Front Street in November. Barry Alan Burnett, aged 23, described as 'with no fixed abode' was charged with wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and possession of an offensive weapon and remanded in custody. It is expected that the trial will take place in Crown Court.



# Dear Village....

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

Dear Sir

I noted that in your previous edition of the Village Voice, that information was given in relation to CCTV and the possibility that Lanchester is not going to get any further cameras. No such matter has been decided.

As part of the consultation process, DDC asked Durham Police to look at crime and anti-social behaviour data for all wards. The cold data showed that some wards, including Lanchester, do not suffer greatly from these problems. This does not mean that these wards are any less worthy of receipt of the cameras or in any less need of reassurance, than those more adversely affected.

Indeed one of the wards still to get cameras do not see them as a viable option for the ward, due to the spread of villages within its boundaries. The report

went on to make recommendations for which wards the cameras could be placed in if a decision was taken to redeploy them. The report made more recommendations than there are cameras. This is only one stage of the process and the Police will take no part in the final decision, as this will be made by Council members.

I have to reiterate that no decision has been made and this is just one phase of consultation. When the decision is made where to site the remaining cameras, then the Councillors will be consulted as to the location of them, but even that would not be a final decision as sometimes the cameras cannot be sited in the chosen location. Factors such as the positioning of other utilities, trees, who owns the land etc will have a bearing on the camera location. I hope that this addresses any current fears as to what is happening with CCTV.

Andy McConnell  
Community Inspector  
Consett  
0191 3752444

Dear Sir,

I would like to register a complaint about the parking of the Marc vehicle this morning in Lanchester. It is too far forward and completely masks vans, cars etc coming out of the car park, which if they turn left would be upon any slow or disabled pedestrian trying to cross the road.

When I commented verbally on this I was poo-pooed by a woman with a board and told that she could see perfectly ie the bus standing on the stop. She was neither elderly nor disabled and couldn't apparently visualise a child darting out into the road without warning. That particular spot is a nightmare for crossing with traffic coming from all directions and I think a little more thought in siting by somebody who has the aim of helping everyday life should be considered. There is no truly safe place to cross the road but extra hazards should be taken into account.

Later, from the bus stop on the green I noticed it also masked approaching traffic from the view of cars coming out of the car park. There is a bend in the road and presumably the pavement was enlarged at this point to make it possible for drivers to see up the street before they emerge.

The people who parked the van said that they had it right near the kerb to allow pedestrians to have plenty of room to move behind it. I feel safety is more important than convenience.

Yours faithfully,  
Moira Rutherford,  
7 Front Street,  
Lanchester,  
Durham.  
DH7 0LA

**THE VILLAGE VOICE**

**IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE**

## JOHN WILLIAMS AND KAREN SELVAGGI



John Williams and Karen Selvaggi were married at All Saints' Parish Church, Lanchester on Saturday 9 July 2005. Karen wore an ivory lace suit. Her son, Christopher Todd gave her away and

her daughter Julie was maid of honour. John's best man was David Guy. The bride's family had travelled from America and Canada and had a wonderful time in Lanchester.

## SCHOOL SECRETARY RETIRES

Another chapter in the life of All Saints' School closed recently with the retirement of Mrs. Atkinson, who has been the secretary at the Roman Catholic primary school for the last thirty-six years.

Monica Atkinson, or 'Mon', as she is more familiarly known to many people, is the longest serving member of the school staff and has missed only one day at work in all that time.

'Monica has been an outstanding loyal servant of the school,' said head teacher Tony Reather. 'She has given so much of her time to All Saints', not just 'behind the office desk', but also as a loyal supporter to the various events and sporting activities the school and her grandchildren have



Monica Atkinson

been involved in over the years. She knows all the families so well that she instantly knows whom to contact if a child is ill, and that kind of experience can't be easily replaced. She will be greatly missed by us all.'

Mrs. Atkinson asked if we could pass on her grateful thanks for all the gifts, well-wishes and kind thoughts she has recently received from the school and village community.

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## RETIREMENT PARTY AT EP SCHOOL

Staff, children and parents gathered at the EP primary school in the evening of July 12th to mark the retirement of Head Teacher Malcolm Webb after 19 years of service at the school. Mr Webb began teaching in 1966 as a student teacher and taught in Wickham and Gateshead before joining the school as Junior School head in 1986. When the schools were amalgamated two years later, he successfully applied for the headship. Described by the Chairman of Governors, Canon Peter Waterhouse, as an exemplary head teacher, who has always gone beyond the bounds of duty. Mr Webb's expertise, accessibility, patience and tolerance have

made a major contribution to the excellence of the school. Mr Webb's immediate concern was the wedding of his daughter a fortnight later, but he has plans to do a little supply teaching. Deputy Head Dorothy Parry's departure was no coincidence, as she declared an unwillingness to serve with any other Head than Mr Webb. She came to the school as a volunteer parent and gained a full teaching post. On the retirement of Lynn Lyons she became acting Deputy and became Deputy Head of the amalgamated school in 2000. Mr Webb paid tribute to her work, and children reported that she was kind, caring, and funny.

Among the extra-curricular activities she led were rugby, soccer, netball, athletics, cross-country, French, the French trip and the annual Middleton-in-Teesdale week. Mrs Parry thanked the staff and children she had worked with, with a special mention for Mr Stevenson. She is now taking up a post as a member of the REACH team, working as consultant and advisor to a number of schools. Miss Kim Potter, whose musical talents have been appreciated by parents and children via the musical plays she has helped to produce, also left the school after four years to become Team Leader of Chopwell Primary's Reception and Nursery units.



*Dorothy Parry, Malcolm Webb and Kim Potter*

## GLADYS GRIEVE CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY

Gladys Grieve of Alderside Crescent spent a wonderful day on Saturday 18th June. Her friends and neighbours held a surprise birthday party for her in her garden

in glorious sunshine. Gladys spent all her adult life in the nursing profession. She trained at the R.V.I hospital in Newcastle and reached the pinnacle of her career

in 1968 when she became Matron of Maiden Law Hospital. Gladys retired from that position in 1975 and has enjoyed her retirement in Lanchester ever since.



*Gladys Grieve and friends at her surprise birthday party*

## MAKE POVERTY HISTORY



*Pat Cudden, Sarah Kelly, Chris Kelly and Brian Cudden at the MAKE POVERTY HISTORY rally in Edinburgh on July 2nd. Sarah is wearing a sash with signatures of support from All Saints' parish.*



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# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Mark of Respect

Parish Councillors held a two-minute silence ahead of the July meeting of Lanchester Parish Council to remember those killed and injured in the London bombings on 7th July.

## CCTV

Following on from last month's news that the scheme to provide additional CCTV cameras in the village may be in jeopardy, it was reported that the council had received correspondence from the Chair of Durham Police Authority to say that the decision on CCTV provision didn't fall under their remit. The council is now approaching

Derwentside District Council, who it's believed is responsible for choosing the location of the cameras, to ask for Lanchester's camera project to be reinstated.

## Parish Plan

The Parish Council formally adopted the Parish Plan as its framework for future developments in the village. The official launch of the plan by Hilary Armstrong MP at the Community Centre on Saturday 2nd July was hailed as a great success attracting between 60 and 70 people. An outline of the Parish Plan is being delivered to every home in the parish - if you haven't received your

copy yet, you soon will.

Copies of the full plan are available for reference at Lanchester Library and Park House. Some are also available for sale at Park House for £5 each.

## Late Kick-Off for Football Season

Councillors were informed that work to repair the football pitch on Kitswell Road has been carried out during the close season. An area of grass at the top goal-mouth had to be re-turfed in order for it to be fit for use next season. Lanchester Chapel FC have applied to use the pitch as their home ground for the 2005/06 season and this has been approved by the council on the condition that it isn't used until October so the turf has long enough to become established. The footballers will now have to find another home pitch for their matches between August and October.

## HA HA

"It's funny how old age affects you" said one old man to the other. "Do you know, it's made my wife's arms shorter". "Really?" "Yes, when we were first married, she could put her arms right round me".

# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## Summer House

Lanchester Parish Council have agreed to the erection of a summer house in the grounds of Newfield Hall on Ford Road on the condition that it conforms to Listed Building regulations. This application was considered as a retrospective issue because the summer house has already been built.

## New Post Office

Lanchester is to get a new Post Office. This was revealed to the planning committee when the Super Shop on Front Street applied for permission to install a door roller shutter in time for when the Post Office moves into the shop. The committee said it appreciated the need for a shutter, but that as the shop is within the village conservation area an external shutter could not be allowed. The shop owner is being asked to install an open lattice internal shutter instead.

## New Homes

The Parish Council has been approached by developer, Shepherd Homes. The building firm is hoping to get permission to build 24 new dwellings on the site of the former council depot on Kitswell Road. The council is planning to meet with the firm in the hope that a development can be built which enhances this part of the village.

## Oakwood Stables

Last month around fifty

supporters of Oakwood Stables attended the Parish Council meeting to hear councillors reject plans for a mobile home to be erected on the Durham Road site. (This decision was taken because the stables fall outside the village's development area.) This month, after the meeting had closed, Mr Dodds, the owner of Oakwood Stables, returned to voice his concern to the council about rumours which have been circulating around the village. He said that people had been speaking of plans to put 30 to 40 other mobile homes on the site, that he was involved with a building firm and was planning to get houses built there and that he was considering selling the land to Romany Gypsies. Mr Dodds stressed that he was upset by these rumours and denied them, saying all he wanted to do was have a mobile home there so that he and his family could live on the site to protect the horses and property from vandals and thieves. He even offered to sign a covenant to say there would be no future housing development on the site. The Parish Councillors thanked Mr Dodds for coming to speak with them and said they hoped to maintain an open and honest relationship with him. Derwentside District Council has the final decision on the mobile home application and as we go to press, that decision has not yet been made.

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# SUNNY SHOW

After two years of unpleasant weather, the sun shone on the Lanchester Show on July 2nd and 3rd and attendances improved. For the first time the show was attended by

MP Hilary Armstrong, fulfilling her third engagement of the day, presenting some of the trophies and touring the site.

Horse and dog competitions were well attended, a vast array of goods were on sale and there were activities for adults and for the kids from a bouncy castle to 'digger skittles'. Ferrets attracted a lot of attention, especially the races, and the highly strokable alpacas were also popular.

Local businesses contributed generously to a raffle.



*The game of digger skittles was popular at the Show*



*The dog show was run under the auspices of the Kennel Club*

## EP SCHOOL TRIP TO FRANCE

At 6.45 am the sun was shining brightly on Monday 20th June. The atmosphere was both excited and anxious as the children and parents crowded around the bus to say their

goodbyes for five days. Probably in many cases it would be the first time that some children would be apart from their parents. However, they are all in good hands with the experience of Mrs

Parry and Mr Stevenson who have been on the same visit previously, plus the other three adult helpers. No doubt, the five days will drag for some and pass like lightning for others.



*Excited children prepare to sing the 'wheels on the bus go round and round'*



*This monster bouncy castle was a hit at the Show*

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## NO TO CARAVANS

A third proposal to site caravans on a site near Ornsby Hill came before Derwentside's Development Control Committee on June 23rd. A previous application for a larger number of caravans had been refused, and on appeal the inspector had supported the refusal. A second application had been withdrawn after officers had recommended refusal.

Planning Officer Fiona Clarke said that 22 static pitches were planned, with access through the adjacent woodland. 19 objections had been received. She recommended refusal on the grounds of disturbance caused to wildlife by the access through Lodge Plantation and highway safety.

Mike Gladstone, speaking on behalf of Lanchester Partnership and the residents of Ornsby Hill, supported the officer's reasons for refusal, and suggested other reasons, such as the adverse effect

on neighbouring occupiers. He illustrated the quietness of the area by revealing that it is usually one tenth as loud as the 'dawn chorus'. In addition, security fences and lights would cause a nuisance, as well as obstructing the view. The development would also harm an area of High Landscape value.

A Councillor asked if the development would involve the removal of trees. Mrs Clarke replied that some trees had already been removed, contravening a Covenant on the site, and that a Tree Preservation Order had been served on the landowner.

Council leader Alex Watson said that he was convinced by the reasons for refusal, and the Committee voted accordingly.

Of course, due to the current undemocratic planning laws, the applicants can appeal, and make further applications if they want, till kingdom come.

## POLICE REPORT

The police reported that during the past month vandals cut through a telephone wire at the side of Park House in Lanchester. A house window was smashed in Deneside while the occupants were out. House to house enquiries in the area failed to reveal the culprit. Two mobile phones were stolen from students at St Bede's College. Police officers have visited the college to give crime prevention advice to the staff in an attempt to prevent further thefts occurring.

### Door to door

A young man, claiming to be a Polish student, has

been seen in the village trying to sell paintings door to door. When he called at one home, the householder became suspicious and called the police. The man hasn't been seen since. He was described as white and wearing a blue cagoule. The police wish to warn people to be on their guard when they are approached on the doorstep, so they don't become the victims of bogus officials or salesmen.

### Malicious Letter

An anonymous malicious letter was sent to one of the public houses in the village which made accusations about the

cleanliness of the Indian Chef takeaway. While the letter contained no racist comments, the landlord was still concerned about its contents and raised the matter with the police. When officers spoke to the takeaway's manager he said he'd had no problems whatsoever with anyone and couldn't understand what had prompted the letter to be sent in the first place.

The police stress that "there are NO hygiene concerns regarding these premises".

Enquiries in the village have failed to uncover the letter's author.

## BROWNIES' SPORTS DAY



A rather tricky race at the Brownies' sports day

## RECOGNISE THIS PHOTO?



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## QUESTION: Where IS the Black Horse Inn??

Lanchester couple Gary Nattrass and Jane Dancer have taken over The Black Horse Inn at Cornsay Village. Gary was weary of the grind of commuting to London and the pair decided to find a local business which they could develop together. One of the area's hidden treasures, The Black Horse provides an excellent menu under chef Peter Atkinson, real ales (including Black Sheep as standard fayre) and a friendly welcome.

The views of surrounding countryside cannot be surpassed. Since moving in, Gary and Jane have refurbished the 50 seater restaurant and replaced seating and tables throughout, adding to the cosy atmosphere. A self-contained holiday flat which sleeps up to 4 has also been refurbished and is ready for hire this summer. They are keen to develop the business by offering an extended menu and providing a venue for

weddings, parties, conferencing and training.

They are also extending the opening hours from July:

Bar - from 7pm each evening (Sundays-8pm)

Restaurant -

7-9 Wednesday / Thursday

6-9.30 Friday and Saturday

12-2.30 Sundays

Gary and Jane look forward to welcoming you!

### The Answer?

Cornsay Village - only 3 miles from Lanchester and NOT Cornsay Colliery! Take the B6301 out of the village (Ford Road) and follow past Lanchester nurseries. Follow the road up the hill and turn right at Square House Farm.

At the next crossroads carry straight on into Cornsay - The Black Horse Inn is on your right. Tel: 0191 373 4211



Jane Dancer and Gary Nattrass in the newly refurbished restaurant at The Black Horse Inn

## VOLUNTEERS REOPEN POOL

Wolsingham Pool, which is located in the grounds of Wolsingham School and Community College, was closed to the public with minimal notice in April 2004. In response a group of Weardale residents established a community enterprise company, Wolsingham Community Pool Limited, with the aim of re-opening the pool and ensuring that Weardale retains an indoor swimming facility, available for the public, into the future. The company is in the process of becoming a registered charity and is managed by volunteers on a not for profit basis.

Financial support to assist with startup costs is being received from Stanhope Parish Council, Durham

County Council and Wear Valley District Council. Valuable technical and planning support is being received from the staff of Jesmond Pool in Newcastle which was reopened as a Community Enterprise Project in 1992 and has been operating

successfully ever since.

The pool is open Mon-Fri 10am till 9pm, Saturdays 10am till 4pm. Charges are £2.50 adults, £1.50 children, under 3's free.

To find out more about swimming at Wolsingham Community Pool ring (01388) 528198.



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# SUPER CARNIVAL



*Parish Council Chairman Stuart Walker, District Councillor Ossie Johnson and Lions President Alan Hill at the Carnival's official opening*



*Benny Harrison offered rides in his Dennis charabanc to Carnival visitors*



*Horse rides along the railway line, offered by Oakwood Stables, were so popular that more ponies had to be sent for*



*Stalls and a tombola collected for the Russ Foundation children's home in Madurai, India.*



*The young ladies publicising St Bede's mission to India at Christmas and New Year. Behind them the Macdonalds racing Morgan passes by.*



*One of our Roman visitors demonstrates the latin version of a theodolite which kept Roman roads so straight*

# (CONTINUED)

Yes, it was a Super Carnival, in every way, but the success could not have been achieved without all the support of people and organizations who helped the Lions both prior to the event and on the day. Lanchester Lions are indebted to so many villagers that perhaps it is dangerous to name them just in case anyone or any group is left out. If this happens apologies are given in advance. However, thanks must go to the following: Red Cross; Operatic Society; New Image; Parish Council; Partnership; Friends of the Fort; all the floats; St Bede School (India); individuals who ran or helped at stalls; Taikwando; Morrismen; Elddis Transport; Benny Harrison (charabanc); Cliff Hudspeth; Elsie Cuthbertson; Methodist Church and Croft View; Oakwood Stables; Lanchester Brass Band; Lady Lions and helpers; those who helped on the green before the event and counted money afterwards; all those organizations who brought their own stalls for fundraising for their own causes, which added to the



*The Lady Lions worked all afternoon to feed the ravening hordes*

superb atmosphere on the day. It was a wonderful day with glorious sunshine which seemed to enjoy. The profit after expenses and donations is approximately £2500 which depleted Lions Welfare Fund. The Lions would like to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone which will go to a very everyone.



*A new roundabout at the Carnival was very popular*



*This year Morris dancers entertained at the Carnival*



*Romans invade the frog hopping game*



*These musicians accompanied the Morrismen*



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## TEA AT 3

Willowburn was one of many Hospices which joined in the national fund raising event 'Tea At 3' which was held at the Catholic Hall on Friday 17th June. Thousands of people across the country in schools and workplaces

took part in the event and there were many who gave donations during their normal tea breaks. 'Help the Hospices' is a national charity for the hospice movement which coordinates UK fundraising.



Local residents enjoying their 'tea at 3' in aid of Willowburn

## K9 GROOMING

Proprietor of K9 Grooming Trisha Donley is living her childhood dream by running her own dog grooming business. As a youngster she loved dogs and as a thirteen year

old indulged in what was then a hobby. The business in Station Road, Lanchester, was launched in April this year and is going extremely well with customers now making

repeat appointments. Her aim is to make the best of all dogs to breed standards or to the client's requirements.

At the moment K9 Grooming is open at weekends and evenings during the week, but eventually Trisha hopes to open the doors every day and make the business a full time career. The dog in the photograph is a toy poodle called Jodie, and is about to be beautified and pampered by Trisha for the second time. Trisha very much appreciates the support of villagers and those customers in surrounding areas who have helped the business take off.



Trisha Donley of K9 Grooming cuddling Jodie before her pamper session

## WILLOWBURN FAIR



Willowburn Fair, held in blazing sunshine on Saturday 9th July, attracted swarms of people who spent generously, especially on refreshments and ice cream



Doing the quiz at 'Tea at 3'.  
Can I phone a friend?

## BAND IN ACTION

Lanchester Brass Band played for the Ushaw Moor Banner at the Miner's Gala in Durham on 9th July this year. As there is no banner for Lanchester, the Band plays for different local banners. This year they were

invited to play for Ushaw Moor. The banner returned to the Gala after an absence of many years. It has undergone some restoration but more work is needed. This photo shows the band, as is

traditional, playing before leaving Ushaw Moor for Durham. An early start is needed with breakfast being provided at 7am. In spite of it being such a hot day they enjoyed the occasion.



*Lanchester Brass band sets off from Ushaw Moor*

## LIONS' PRESENTATION



*In his final duty as President of Lanchester Lions, Alan Hill presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mary Carr of New Image for the tremendous support she and her staff have given to the Lions Club this year*

## MTB

Some time ago, a motor torpedo boat was 'sponsored' by Lanchester. It was certainly number 36, and its name is believed to be Emma.

A plaque in Park House, where the Parish Council now meets, recorded this connection, but like the panelling and some other boards recording the

names of the Parish Chairmen it has now vanished. Can anyone supply any details about this boat and the Lanchester connection?

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# MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING



*David Hughes conducts the choir*

Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society entertained a packed audience with some challenging and adventurous works in their Summer concert on 15th July. The familiar melodies of the Polovtsian dances from Prince Igor were presented in a choral version which was immediately attractive. The second work, Carl Orff's Carmina Burana, sung in Latin and mediaeval German, was less accessible to a general audience and perhaps a shorter selection would have been preferable.

In the second half the choir continued with choral songs by Elgar before reverting to its core repertoire with some Gilbert and Sullivan arrangements, ending with the lively Tales of the Vienna Woods. The choir was conducted by David Hughes and accompanied by Lilian Dixon, who also accompanied the Society's guest.

The society's guest artist, baritone John Kirk, chose a programme which showed off his excellent voice and included Supermarket Blues and It Ain't Necessarily So. The Society are keen to welcome new members, 'especially men', who can ring 0191 410 6082. Their next show will showcase the music of Cole Porter.



*Lilian Dixon accompanies John Kirk*

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## LIONS' BOOKSTALL



*Last bookstall as Lion Hill along with Treasurer, Brian Naylor*

# A BUSY WEEKEND FOR THE MVC

The choir held its annual concert in the Methodist Church on Friday 8th July.

A large congregation was entertained by the choir's presentation of a varied selection of nine songs culminating in the feet tapping; body swaying spiritual "Amen".

Guest performers were the Cefiro Clarinet Quartet from the Royal Northern College of Music who presented an excellent programme of music to an appreciative audience. The skill of the players and the choice of music delighted the audience who responded with rapturous applause.

Our local artists this year were Laura Graham and Anna Wilkinson, each singing three songs and finishing with a duet. The audience was very appreciative of the girls' talents and presentation. On Saturday 9th July, the choir took part in a concert in the Empire Theatre in Consett. This event had been organised by Joyce Shaw and the proceeds were in aid of the NCH.

The choir is now taking a well earned rest until



*Harry Carr conducts the Male Voice Choir*

practices resume on 5th September 2005 when we shall be preparing for another concert in the Empire Theatre in Consett. We shall be joining the Annfield Plain

Gleemen and the Leadgate Gleemen for "Male Voices in Concert" on 5th November 2005. Our own Celebration of Christmas will be held

on 19th December 2005. New members are always welcome. JW



*The Cefiro Quartet - Geoff Parkin, Matthew Dunn, Lenny Sayers and Marianne Rowles*



*Laura Graham and Anna Wilkinson*

## FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Some very talented young people gave a concert at St Bede's School on 11th July. The artistes were from St Bede's School and Music School No. 9, St Petersburg, part of a cultural exchange which took local pupils to St Petersburg last year.

The concert began with songs or instrumentals by Laura Bell, Elizabeth Davies, Daniel Diver, James MacDonald, Abigail Moncaster, Emma Reagan, Amy Sinclair, plus Kerry-Anne Dixon and Stephanie Seymour who

sang two duets. Miss E. Ferguson prepared and accompanied the students in the concert, as well as playing oboe to accompany Abigail on flute.

A charming choir of the Russian pupils entertained with a number of songs before the interval, and after refreshments it was the turn of the musicians who demonstrated the high standard attained in the Music School in a variety of instruments. Particularly impressive were two xylophone players whose speed and

accuracy were amazing. Staff from both schools

exchanged compliments and hoped that the

exchanges would continue in the future.



*The choir from St Petersburg entertain at St Bede's*

# NATIONAL CHILDMINDING WEEK

Lanchester Registered Childminders and children celebrated National Childminding Week (18th - 25th June) by holding a sponsored sing-along picnic. This year's theme was "Make Chatter Matter". The money raised by the children was donated to ICAN, a charity which helps children with speech and language difficulties across the UK.



Some of the children "making chatter matter"

# BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

An audience of ninety flower enthusiasts were treated to a breathtaking demonstration of floral art at the Lanchester and District Flower Club's Summer Open Meeting. Derek Armstrong, a national demonstrator from Penrith, entertained the packed Main Hall in the Community Centre on Friday, 24th June with arrangements on a theme of 'Trends and Traditions'. The displays ranged from a candle-stick with sunflowers and a table centre-piece made of orange roses and grasses to a wrought-iron trough filled with delphiniums, alliums, hydrangeas and campanulas. Although shop-bought flowers were used in the demonstration, a lot of emphasis was put on making the most of the flowers growing in your own back garden. In a demonstration lasting over an hour and a half, the audience was shown how to create seven beautiful arrangements, some of which were traditional and others which had a modern twist. While creating the beautiful displays, Mr Armstrong, who owns three florist shops in Carlisle, amused the crowd with anecdotes from the world of floristry including stories from his recent visit to the Chelsea Flower Show. Lanchester and District Flower Club would like to welcome any new members interested in joining. For further details, please contact Helen Tomlinson on 503667.



Derek Armstrong with some of his creations

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## GOOD NEWS FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

Lilydale Pet Supplies has been selected by one of its major suppliers as an example of 'how it should be done'. Mainly due to their excellent window displays and promotional expertise they are to feature in the national press and many magazines by brand leader, C.S.J. dog foods, as 'Top Shop' in the U.K. Lilydale Pet Supplies is owned and

managed by David and Margaret Kay and in September will be celebrating its tenth Anniversary in Lanchester. Their other branch is at Delves Lane, Consett. David and Margaret would like to thank all their customers for the support they have given, which has helped make Lilydale the successful business it is today. In September there

will be events and competitions to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Lanchester branch. C.S.J. dog foods is based in North Wales and owned by International Sheepdog Trialist and first woman to win 'one man and his dog', Ceri Rundle. Ceri supports Working Trials Society who hold their annual dog trial at Satley each September.



David and Margaret Kay of Lilydale Pet Supplies

### "OPEN HOUSE"

Mel and Sue Somersall held Open House in the Methodist church on Friday 1st July. Refreshments were available all day, with first coffee from 9.30 onwards, then salad lunch, then strawberry tea, all of which

were well attended. The proceeds of this pleasant day of indulgence was to raise money for Henry Gwani, senior chaplain aboard the Mercy Ship 'Anastasis' for the last four years, whose ambition is to attend Fuller

Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California to follow a programme of Intercultural Studies. He then plans to serve as a peace negotiator. Thanks to Mel, Sue and a posse of helpers £820 was raised to help this project.



Mel surrounded by his happy group of helpers



The busy lunchtime at the "Open House"

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# ST BEDE'S SCHOOL SUMMER FAYRE

Friends of St Bede's organized the Summer Fayre on Saturday 25th June as part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations. Luckily the weather was excellent and there must have been well over 1000 people who attended. The Fayre was opened by Councillor J Fothergill, Vice Chairman of Derwentside District Council, accompanied by Headteacher, Maureen Bates. The school hall was filled with more than twenty stalls full of excellent things to buy or win. The cafeteria was busy for most of the afternoon selling all kinds of lovely refreshments. In addition the computer suite was open to the public, as well as the gymnasium where dance mats and a bungee run were installed for the day. Both of these activities were great fun, especially for the fit and young. In the playing fields there was a football game, coconuts,

bouncy castle as well as the SPICE BUS and a police patrol car. At the far end of the field St Joseph's Primary played against St Patrick's Primary at touch rugby supported by lots of friends and relatives. However, the two most popular events were 'teacher in the stocks' where pupils could throw soaking cold water sponges at their teachers and 'gunge the teacher' which drew the biggest crowd. Pupils had a week prior to the event to purchase a vote at 10p a time to have their favourite teacher 'gunged'. This entailed two members of staff, Mr Hammil and Miss Robson, who were placed on a low table separately, ready to receive a bucket of filthy liquid, consisting of dirty water, sour milk, fish heads, fruit, etc poured over their heads. Mr Hammil was gunged by Mr Bunting, a teacher,



Mr Hammil was gunged by fellow teacher Mr Bunting

who obviously enjoyed the experience of seeing the discomfort of his colleague, while Miss Robson was gunged by a pupil after fellow teachers declined to commit the foul deed. This was a massively successful and most enjoyable Fayre and the funds raised on the day are to go to a new building programme for the school. Funding of £4.2 million has been obtained for various new buildings which include a Sixth Form Block. Plans have been drawn and the project is now out to tender. It is hoped that the scheme will begin very

soon and hopefully will thank everyone, including be completed within two local businesses, who has years. The Friends of St contributed to and Bede's would like to supported the Fayre.



A contestant tries the bungee run

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## SONGS OF PRAISE

On Sunday evening 3rd July Churches Together held the first of their summer Songs of Praise on the village green. On a beautiful summer evening

Jean Carr introduced a programme chosen by local people. Each person introduced their hymn, explaining the significance of their choice and why it

was one of their favourites. There will be a similar event on the village green on the first Sunday of August at 6.00pm. All are welcome to join in.



Choir and musicians at Songs of Praise on the Green, led by Jean Carr

## A LONG BIKE RIDE



Aidan and Steve in action on a night section of the 2003 Paris-Brest-Paris ride

On the 23rd July Steve Bateman and Aidan Hedley will be starting with over 300 other cyclists from around the world to ride from London to Edinburgh and back, a total distance of 896 miles or 1400km. This has been organised by Audax UK, a cycling club which promotes long distance cycling.

They will have to complete the ride inside the maximum time limit of 4½ days. The route runs from North London to Lincoln, Darlington and across the Pennines to Carlisle, then through the Scottish border hills to Edinburgh. During the ride they will be travelling independently with their own luggage apart from

check points along the route. The riders take part simply for their own personal pleasure and are not being sponsored for this ride.

As Steve has partial sight they will be riding a made to measure tandem, bought for them by Gateway Wheelers for a similar ride during August 2003 in France. They use the bike for regular long distance rides and cycling holidays.

Steve, 48, was brought up in North Tyneside and now lives with his wife Jackie and daughter Loren, 4 in Kendal, Cumbria. Aidan, 45, is from Lanchester and is married to Lynn and has two daughters Aimee 20 and Chloe 18. Aimee and Lynn will be helping at Thorne control near Doncaster, one of the main stops for riders on the route.

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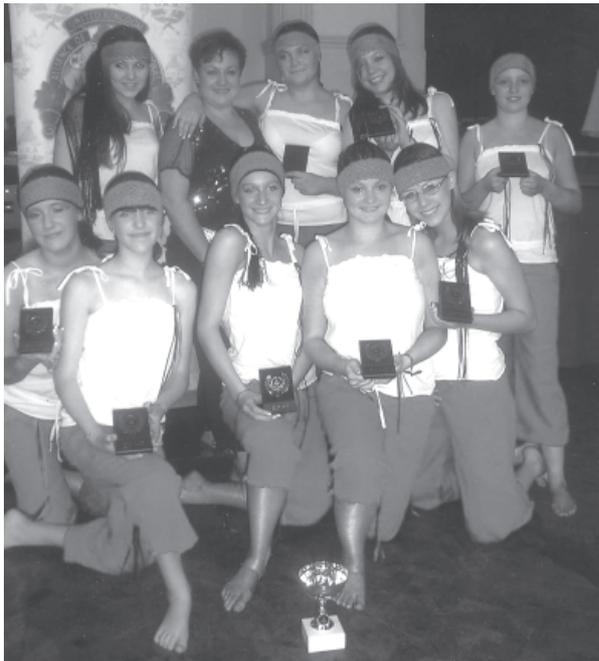
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## THAT'S DANCE

Lanchester can once again be proud of its dancers. The KSDA team, made up of Amy Henderson, Sarah Coburn, Julia Willmot, Lucy Dunn, Rebecca Davison, Zoe McCourt, Amy Owens, Kay McEnaney, and Laura Henderson, won freestyle Medallist of The Year Team Champions in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, held by the United Kingdom Alliance Dance Society. Throughout the day there were also Solos, Pairs, Rock and Roll and Slow dance, with a lot of the top positions coming home with the KSDA dancers. Not to be outdone, the younger group entered the Cheerleader Team and were given 3rd place. I was really proud. The venue was packed to capacity and it was really hot and the competition tough but we did it again! Coming home the dancers



The KSDA dancers

had no time for rest as they held a 3 hour non-stop variety show of dance routines in their theatre debut at Stanley Lamplight Theatre and ended their gruelling schedule with their annual medal test presentation. Summer's here and they all need a break as they move into a packed autumn with competitions, theatre shows and guest

appearances. Karen has rearranged class times to accommodate everything - Tuesdays are now 6.30 - 8.00pm in Lanchester Social Club; Wednesdays from 4.00pm will be Ballet, Tap, Stage, Drama and Theatre in the Community Centre. Enrolment is on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th September. For enquiries ring 520468.



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## EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

A series of concerts will be given in Lanchester Parish Church by Dr Ian Brunt and friends, starting with "An Evening at the Palace of Reason" on Saturday July 30th at 7.30pm. This includes the complete sonatas for flute by JS Bach, played by Dr Brunt (harpsichord and organ) and Brian Stewart (flute).

This is followed by concerts on 13th and 27th August and 10th and 24th September, the last one being in Rowley Baptist Church.

Programmes will again be interspersed with readings from contemporary journals, letters and accounts of the period.

Tickets for the concerts in Lanchester will cost £8, concessions £5 and under 18's or full-time students free, with admission at the door or reservations in advance by enclosing an SAE to Dr Ian Brunt, The Lodge, Lanchester, Co Durham, DH7 0LF, with cheques payable to "All Saints Lanchester PCC".

## WI

The August meeting is on August 1st in the Community Centre at 7pm. Maggie Deamer will be recounting the History of Soap, and there will be a competition for 'a tablet of soap'.

## WI MARKET

As ever the WI market will start on the first Saturday of August, the 6th, at 10am.

## WILDLIFE GROUP

The group will be meeting at Greenwell Farm on Tuesday 9th August at 7pm, or foregather in the Community Centre car park at 6.30pm.

## CRAFTS IN THE LIBRARY

There will be craft sessions for young people in the library on every Thursday in August, from 2 till 3.30pm.

## LANCHESTER SOCIAL CLUB

On Saturday nights the following entertainers will appear in the lounge bar, with no cover charge.

August 6th, Andy Max 13th, Stella 20th, Nigel's karaoke 27th, the return of the fabulous Jeff Wright by popular request.

50/50 dancing in the concert room every Friday from 7 till 11pm. Only £1 cover charge

## READING CHALLENGE

Lanchester Library offers a "Reading Challenge" during the Summer hols. 'Set sail on the reading voyage' by borrowing a book or two from the junior library, and get stickers and activities.

## MARC

The MARC vehicle, which provides information and advice about Council services, will be in Front Street, Lanchester on Tuesdays 2nd and 16th August from 10am till noon.

## SHORT WALKS

Acorn Amblers offer a 4.5 mile walk on Sunday 21st August, starting at 1.30pm. It starts at the car park next to Dipton Junior School, and passes through Dipton Woods.

The 'Short Circuit' Ramblers group also has a walk in Pontburn Woods on 21st August, starting at 10.30am at a car-park on the Burnopfield-Hamsterley Road at the bottom of the woods, map reference NZ 146563.

The Byways and Bridleways group has its last walk of the season on 9th August, starting at 7pm at the Black Horse, Cornsay. The four-mile route includes a path along the Hedleyhope Burn.

# WHAT'S ON?

## HOLIDAY FUN WITH MUSIC

Booking has opened for a series of music workshops for young people in August with the opportunity to take part in evening concerts in Durham Cathedral on Thursday, August 18th and 25th with the Cobweb Orchestra. There will be morning sessions every weekday from August 15th to August 26th in the Cathedral Chapter House bookings can be made for all or even one or two sessions. Anyone under 16 can take part but children under eight years old must be accompanied by an adult. During the first week Andy Jackson, who directs and plays with the Cobweb Orchestra, will show how to make musical

instruments out of familiar everyday materials and use them to create simple pieces of music. In the second week Bridie Jackson will concentrate on singing with musical games and activities.

Each session starts at 10 am and finishes at 12.15 pm, and each workshop will be different. These musical events are organised by Durham People's Opera Group to accompany Durham City Embroiders Guild 10th Anniversary exhibition in the cathedral.

Workshop tickets cost £2.50 a session but the concerts are free.

Bookings can be made by phoning 0191 386 4266, extension 4.

## WILLOWBURN WALK

The annual sponsored walk from the Brown Horse, High Stoop to the Queen's Head, Lanchester in aid of Willow Burn Hospice will as usual be on Bank Holiday Monday, the 29th. Organiser Paul Smith reports that transport will be available from the Queen's Head up to the Brown Horse for the start from 10am onwards. After enjoying the hospitality of mine hosts there, walkers will set off about 11am, passing through Inkerman to the Black Horse at Cornsay village, where

further sustenance is available, then continue to the hospitality of the Queen's Head. There is no time limit, the distance is seven miles with a lot of downhill, fancy dress is optional, and Paul hopes to beat last year's record of £3580, so more walkers are needed, and he would especially like some teenagers to join in.

Sponsor forms are available from participating pubs, from All Saints' RC Church, from the hospice and from the organiser on 521952.



*Lanchester Community Association*

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## REGISTER FOR CLASSES

A registration day for autumn classes at the Community Centre has been arranged for Saturday 3rd September. Registration will take place for the classes, organised under the Adult Community Learning programme, in the Main Hall from 10am till 12. If you can't make it, you can ring the Community Centre on 521275 for information and to register. The following courses are available:

TaiChi for Healthy Living	Mon	5 Sept	1.30-3.00pm	10 weeks	£30.00
Taekwando	Mon	5 Sept	6.00-7.15pm	Ongoing	£3.50
	Thurs	8 Sept	6.00-7.30pm		per session
Yoga	Tues	6 Sept	10.00-11.30am	10 weeks	£22.50
Belly Dancing Beginners Stage 2	Tues	6 Sept	1.30-3.00pm	10 weeks	£22.50
Beginners Stage 1	Fri	9 Sept	7.00-8.30pm	10 weeks	£22.50
Digital Photography	Mon	12 Sept	9.30-11.00am	4 weeks	£9.00
Watercolours Beginners	Mon	12 Sept	10.00am-12 noon	10 weeks	£30.00
Male Voice Choir	Mon	12 Sept	7.30-9.30pm	Ongoing	
Spanish Conversation Intermediate	Tues	13 Sept	6.00-7.30pm	10 weeks	£22.50
Scottish Dance Tuition	Fri	16 Sept	7.00-8.00pm	10 weeks	£15.00
German Verbs Types /Tenses	Wed	21 Sept	2.30-3.30pm	10 weeks	£15.00
Silk Painting and related crafts	Thur	22 Sept	1.00-2.30pm	10 weeks	£22.50
German Survival	Fri	23 Sept	2.00-3.00pm	10 weeks	£15.00
Lace Circle	Mon	26 Sept	2.00-3.30pm	Ongoing	
Reading Group	Tues	27 Sept	1.45-3.15pm	10 weeks	£22.50
Russian Beginners	Thur	29 Sept	1.30-2.30pm	10 weeks	£15.00
French Conversation	Fri	30 Sept	10.00-11.30am	6 weeks	£15.00
Introduction to a Zen Garden	Thur	6 Oct	1.30-4.30pm	1 x 3 hr	£5.00
Lacquered Leather Jewellery Making	Thur	13 Oct	1.00-3.00pm	10 weeks	£30.00

## CREAM TEAS



*Cream teas at the Community Centre were very popular on June 29th, raising £252 for Community Association funds. This was a chance to show off the new tablecloths, bought with a donation from Elaine Williams' needlework group.*

## NEW LIONS PRESIDENT



*Lanchester Lions President Alan Hill hands over his chain of office to Brin Jones, who begins his year as President on July 1st 2005*

## BRIDGE CLUB SUPPORTS CHARITIES

Lanchester Bridge Club holds special evenings throughout the year in aid of local charities. Following the session on June 14th, the sum raised

for Willowburn Hospice was rounded up to £500, and an additional contribution of £250 was made to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

## LEAVE THE CAR AND TAKE THE BUS

In a recent survey by Go Northern East it would seem that local people are doing exactly as the government would wish and making much more use of public transport. The Newcastle-Lanchester route, X30 and X31 is now their most improved service and has increased its passengers by 131% between 2003 and 2005. There are now two buses per hour instead of one and there will be a review of fares and the type of bus currently used.

## Alan Madrell Coach Tours



### King Robert Hotel, Stirling

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Alan Madrell, 3 Ivy Terrace, Langley Park

## SCHOOL FOOTBALL SUCCESS

All Saints' RC Primary School, having qualified for the National finals by coming second in the Northern Area six a side finals, acquitted themselves well in the national finals.

On a roasting hot day, Saturday 18th June at Keele University, the team won their first game and narrowly lost two others, coming 6th overall. This means they are 6th out of the original 4000 entrants.

The sponsors, Sainsbury's, treated all competitors well, giving them football strips and other goodies.

## TENNIS COACHING FOR VILLAGE YOUNGSTERS



Children who attended the coaching session at Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club. A slim line Tim Henman (centre) also turned up due to his early exit at Wimbledon

## EXTRAORDINARY SPORTSWOMAN - CATHERINE BROWN



Catherine Brown

Catherine Brown of Alderside Crescent recently spent a weekend of her hectic life at home visiting her parents. Cathy who now lives in London, obtained a degree in photography and worked for the forensic department of the Metropolitan Police for about seven years. During that time she learned kickboxing and within a few years became the undefeated British Women's Kickboxing Champion. Moving on from kickboxing Cathy became a professional boxer and is the current European Flyweight Champion. In her most recent contest she defeated the Russian

About thirty to forty young children turned up at the Lanchester Lawn Tennis club on Saturday 25th June which was a day designated by the Lawn Tennis Initiative to encourage more people and particularly children to play tennis. In fact, the LTA slogan is 'Do more than just Watch ... Play Tennis. Gavin Mason of Durham, who is based at Shotley Bridge Tennis Club, and is a fully qualified LTA CCA level 2 coach, took charge of

the session helped by club secretary Dennis Laycock. The coaching session took place in the afternoon between 1 pm and 4 pm when it happened to be warm and sunny. The children really seemed to enjoy the experience and played with lots of enthusiasm. Gavin is holding a similar coaching session at Shotley Bridge Tennis club on Saturday 30th July from 9 am until 4 pm. For further information please call Gavin Mason on 07830818682.

Svelta Tascova by a knockout. In August she will be competing for the vacant W.B.C. World Flyweight Championship in Rimini, against Italian, Stephan Bianichini. This will be the first world title fight to be held in Europe. Cathy is known in the

boxing world as Cathy 'the bitch' Brown. In her 'spare' time Cathy is a personal trainer to celebrities and teaches keep fit classes. She has also featured on BBC TV 'The Challenge' when she sailed as a crew member from Newport Rhode Island to Falmouth.

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## NEWS PLEASE

We would be grateful for any contributions to the next issue of the Village Voice by Tuesday, 16th August. Thank you.

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