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THE VILLAGE VOICE

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SUPER CARNIVAL

This year's carnival was everything that last year's wasn't - the sun shone, the crowds came in their thousands, and there was plenty of (dry) entertainment for all. Surely all the Lions' hard work in organising the event will have provided a good sum for their charitable work during the next year.

The procession as ever was led by the Lions' Chairman, Alan Hill, Parish Council Chairman Stuart Walker, and District Councillor Ossie Johnson,

followed by Lanchester Brass Band. This year as well as the play group, the Operatic Society, Lady Lions, and veteran vehicles, there were some young ladies from Bede School and Numerus Ballistarium Vinoviensium, specialists in Roman life and customs. The usual side-shows attracted the children, especially the "ball in a jam jar" stall where you could win a goldfish, the trampolines, very popular at £2 a go, and an attractive roundabout. Several

charities had a stall on the Green or Front Street, and several shops seized the occasion to maximise trading. Entertainment was supplied by the Brass Band, the Operatic Society, a surprise visit from Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Doris Day and Cher all closely resembling certain hairdressers, Tai Kwando and some teams of Morrismen. Throughout the afternoon rides were offered on Benny Harrison's charabanc and on Oakwood Stables' ponies.



Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton perform. Pity about the beard.



The gorgeously costumed members of the Operatic Society



This gaggle of Goddesses are Lady Lions



The popular play school float



The Legion and its camp followers join the procession

For more pictures from this year's sunny Carnival, see next month's edition

ETHEL WHEATLEY

The funeral took place on 13th June in the Methodist Church of Wheatley had converted it into a house, where Mrs Ethel Wheatley, a lady with a host of friends in the village.

Mrs Wheatley was born on June 19th 1911, and came to Lanchester with her husband Jim in 1958, when he became Postmaster. Previously they had lived at Crimdon Dene and Edmondsley and Jim was an area manager for Pearl Insurance.

She taught for seven years in the old infants school, now the Community Centre, and when the new school was built became Deputy Head, retiring in 1971. When the cobbler's shop beside the Post Office, run by Mr and Mrs Marshall became vacant, Ethel and Jim

Wheatley had converted it into a house, where Mrs Wheatley continued to live after the death of her husband.

Mrs Wheatley played an active role in village and chapel life, helping her husband in his parochial work at the Methodist chapel. She was a member of the WI, a committee member and Vice-president in the 60's. She and Jim were committee members of the Over 60's group, Ethel playing the piano for the 'Concert Party'. She also played for the Mid-week Fellowship, which met weekly for bible study and prayer, and attended the Women's Fellowship. Ethel Wheatley was a positive person who liked to be busy,

enjoying being and talking with her family and friends. If anyone had troubles, she baked a cake and popped round to see them. Her hobbies included knitting, needlework, cake decoration, tennis and playing piano. The funeral was attended by Mrs Wheatley's sons James, David and Ian, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces and her many friends. Cremation followed at Mountsett Crematorium.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

LANCESTRIAN VISITS POPE'S VILLAGE

Mrs Teresa Steinwender was recently on a visit to her son who lives in Munich. Whilst there, her son managed to take her to see the village where Pope Benedict XVI was born, which was just under two hours east of Munich by car. The village, Markt Am Inn, is much smaller than Lanchester. Whilst she was there she was able to speak to many of the inhabitants and found out lots of interesting information about the new Pope, including personal things like his fondness for cats and that he is an outstanding pianist. She also learned that the Pope went to the Vatican in 1981, but always promised to return to the village of his birth, and did so in 1997 to be made a Freeman of the village. Villagers are really excited about the new Pope but are finding it difficult to cope with the new influx of tourists, who up to now are mainly American and Japanese.



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Mrs Teresa Steinwender at the Pope's birthplace

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!



Joan Osborne, celebrating her 60th birthday

Joan Osborne of Lanchester recently celebrated her 60th Birthday but the quiet birthday meal she was expecting with her daughter Deborah, at the Black Horse, Cornsay, turned into an unforgettable occasion when she discovered all her friends waiting to give her a surprise birthday party!

CONGRATULATIONS FIONA WOOD, OBE

Mrs Fiona Wood of Fenhall Park, Lanchester has been awarded the OBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list. About four weeks ago, out of the blue, a letter arrived from the Prime Minister's Office asking if she would accept this prestigious award if it were offered. After Fiona got over the shock she signed the letter as requested, and returned it not knowing quite what would happen. Then, on Friday 10th June 2005 she was telephoned by the Evening Chronicle Newspaper who offered their congratulations and confirmed the award. The honour is for Services to Education. Fiona was born in Preston and but spent her formative years in



Fiona Wood OBE

Pudsey, Yorkshire. She began her teaching career at Rotherham Primary School where she stayed for two years. After this post she married and moved to Durham and took a teaching post at

West Walker Primary School, Newcastle, where she became very interested in children with learning difficulties and social problems. Whilst at this school she studied for her B.Ed.

degree and began courses in Special Education. Her next post was at Earl's House Hospital School by which time she completed her degree with a thesis on Special Education. It was now the mid 70's, and by this time she was living in Lanchester. Her next post was in Sunderland where she became Deputy Head at Humbledon Special School, at Hendon, Sunderland. This was followed by a similar post at Stannington Special School also in Sunderland. After a couple of years there a reorganization took place and Fiona was appointed Deputy Head at Portland

Special School, Sunderland. In 1991 she achieved the pinnacle of her career when she became head teacher at Villa Real Special School, Consett. She has seen this school move forward, expand in pupil numbers and it has been re-built during the time she has been there. Coincidentally, Fiona received a letter from Lord Chamberlain about 5 months ago inviting her to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace which she will attend on 14th July. This should be good practice for her investiture of the OBE in about five months from now.

DIAMOND WEDDING CELEBRATION



Mr & Mrs Joseph Jackson of Malton celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, proudly displaying their telegram from the Queen

Saturday 4th June was a wonderful day in the lives of Joseph and Jean Jackson of Malton when they celebrated 60 years of marriage. Joseph is from Witton Gilbert and Jean was born in Lanchester. They met at the local colliery, where Jean worked in the office calculating the pay and Joseph of course

worked in the colliery. He jokes that Jean chose him because of his good pay packet! They were married at All Saints Parish Church on 4th June 1945 by Rev. Knowles, who was new to the church that particular weekend, and they spent their honeymoon in Edinburgh.

They began their married life living in Malton and have remained there happily ever since. Celebrations began on Friday evening when a party was held in their house for all their neighbours and friends. This was organised by their daughter and son-in-law Susan and David Cross who live in Warwickshire. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the party and on Saturday, the big day, they opened their post and found a telegram from the Queen. On Saturday evening the celebrations continued with family, which included their grandchildren, who had also travelled to be with their grandparents for this very special day. Saturday evening was spent having a lovely meal at Harperley Hall Hotel.



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PARTNERSHIP AGM

A successful year's work was reported to the annual general meeting of Lanchester Partnership on 22nd May. The Village Design Statement had been applied by the Parish Council in dealing with planning applications, and Shepherd Homes, which has plans for the Kitswell Road site, has proposed to consult the Partnership on the development. The flooding problem had been dealt with by several agencies, notably the County Council, and the Environment Agency has designed a model of the Smallhope Burn which can be used to warn of flooding danger in future. The Rock Club, now

hosted by the Cricket Club, is thriving, with no recurrence of the problems encountered at a previous venue. The Parish Plan, prepared by the Partnership for the Parish Council, was complete and would be 'launched' on July 2nd in the Community Centre. This represented a tremendous task carried out by a committee chaired by Mike Wardle. Kevin McGee had resigned as a Trustee, Jill Gladstone and Dorothy Maskery were reappointed and the Chairman was delighted to welcome as Trustees Judith Lund, MBE, who

is Deputy Lieutenant of the County, and Simon Green, of Southern Green, whose work was crucial in creating the Park House play area. Finally tributes were paid to Michael Horsley, an 'extraordinary Treasurer', and to Mike Gladstone whose untiring work as Chairman has made the Partnership such an effective force in the village.



Maureen Loy in discussion with Partnership Chairman Mike Gladstone

CCTV WITHDRAWN?

The Parish Council discussed at some length the decision by senior police officers that Lanchester should not have an additional two CCTV cameras installed on Front Street to deter crime. It was thought that other areas have more pressing needs. Earlier the Councillors had understood that two cameras were earmarked for Lanchester. Cllr Ossie Johnson reported that a meeting of Lanchester's three District Councillors

to discuss placement of the promised cameras had not been attended by police officers, though they had been invited. He pointed out that local residents had complained, and the police had reported, anti-social behaviour on Front Street. Cllr Ann Cook referred to a stabbing and a robbery in the same area. Cllr Tom Forster thought that the police were taking too great a role in the District/police partnership. He was, he

said, dismayed and disgruntled at the police decision. Cllr Neil Fleming pointed out that the cameras would dispel the fear of crime. It was reported that Benfieldside and Esh village were both earmarked for three CCTV cameras, and stated that Lanchester deserved the same care as the rest of the District. It was resolved to write to the District, asking for Lanchester's cameras to be reinstated as per previous plans.

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NO TO MOBILE HOME

About fifty supporters of Oakwood Stables crowded into the June Parish Council meeting to hear the Council discuss the application to install a mobile home beside the stables on Durham Road. Before the meeting, the Council heard NFU official Dr Bell speak on behalf of the stable owners. He said that this was the only riding stable in the village, with many horses at livery. The Government, he said, had a positive policy towards equestrianism. It was a good use of the countryside, and an easily accessible leisure facility for the public. The planning application was considered during the Planning Committee

which follows the Council meeting, with 30 of the supporters returning to hear the decision. They were disappointed, however, as the committee repeated its previous rejection of the plan. Though it was now recognised that the stables was a viable business, it was outside the development area, and one councillor feared that the mobile home might become a permanent residence. Derwentside DC make the final decision.

EXTENSION NOT DESIRABLE

A proposal to extend a swimming-pool and build a stable at Woodlea Manor, Browney Bank, was unpopular with Parish Councillors at the June meeting. It was pointed out that this was the fourth extension applied for at this site, that there was concern at the "escalating scale" of the development. It was also thought that a soak-away could not cope with the contents of a swimming-pool. As ever, Derwentside DC has the last word.

NEW LICENCE

A licence to sell intoxicating liquor is being sought for an address given as 9, Church View,

Lanchester. This suggests that the opening of a new restaurant in part of the old Coop is imminent.

REPORTING BACK

In a well-attended talk at the Methodist church on June 13th, Mel Somersall described the conditions in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, where he had served as "Chief Cook" on board the Mercy Ship Anastasis.

Following a 17-year civil war, water and telephone services and many of the buildings had been destroyed.

After visiting an orphanage which had been totally destroyed, neither Mel nor his friend Mark could sleep for thinking about the children's plight. As reported here earlier, Mel's wife Sue and grandson Nathan set about fundraising, and the £3400 donated by Lanchester, with the hard work of the orphans themselves, roofed and furnished the children's dormitory in ten days. Mel modelled the white



The new orphanage in Liberia

'robe' and hat which was presented to him at the official opening ceremony.

Mel and Sue are both serving aboard the Mercy Ship from 26th July, visiting East London and Cape Town in South Africa before returning to Liberia. Meanwhile the work

continues to fund school buildings at the orphanage.

Also, Mel and Sue will hold an "Open House" in the Methodist church on Friday 1st July from 9.30am till 4.30pm, with coffee, lunch and strawberry teas at the appropriate times. This event is in support of a

pastor aboard the an MA to become a Peacemaker.

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Copies of the plan available

Displays

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A chance to discuss the Plan over a glass of wine

JOURNEY INTO THE PAST FOR ALL SAINTS!

Having celebrated the centenary of their school in grand style with a 'joint' school and parish Mass on 1st May, pupils at All Saints' embarked on a trip into the past with a whole school visit to Beamish Open-Air Museum as a special treat to mark the occasion.

The visit, on the 4th May, took place in glorious sunshine, slightly tempered by a somewhat cool breeze. All the children were superbly turned out in appropriate costume and had a wonderful day exploring the different areas of the museum. In the morning the infants visited the pit cottages to experience life in the early days of the last century. The younger children had the opportunity to try traditional chores like

dusting, beating the carpets, raking out the ashes and making the beds, while the junior pupils experienced the somewhat harsher rigours of the Victorian classroom.

All the hard work obviously generated good appetites and group by group the pupils made their way to the Porter Room in the 'town' and devoured their packed lunches with gusto. Afterwards the classes took the opportunity to explore the various shops and houses in the main street. The dentist's surgery proved to be a fascinating if somewhat fearful attraction, while the sweet shop with its home-made cinder toffee and assorted chocolates was definitely the most popular.



Children from All Saints' Primary School in Victorian mode in the Beamish school

Later the children enjoyed rides on the trams and visited the railway station and Pockerley Manor before finally making their way back to the coach park. An excellent time was had by all, including the

staff and helpers who had entered into the spirit of the day by coming in costume too. A special thanks to the P.T.A. who subsidised half the cost of the 'treat', Durham County Council who had kindly

made a donation recently to schools to support the cost of educational visits, and also to local fancy dress hire company 'Fantasia' who were most helpful in making costumes available where needed.



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CREATIVITY WEEK

For the second time this school year, staff at Lanchester E.P. arranged a week of creative activities just prior to the half term break. The theme this time was "Africa" and to make the week more exciting professional artists in residence were engaged including a musician, a

story teller and an artist. All the pupils had the opportunity to work with the artists and some really good work was produced. Children had the opportunity to learn about people from cultures other than their own and in a special assembly at the end of the week a speaker from

Traidcraft spoke about how that organisation helps people in Africa. The children also enjoyed a non uniform day and from the money raised cheques for £100 were sent to Traidcraft, Farm Africa and Christian Aid to help with their work in Africa.



Children at EP primary school enjoy a little percussion



Some of the artwork produced in Creativity Week

During the school's Creativity Week, the EP school choir presented the musical "Toby's Ark" to parents and friends in the infant hall.



The show, produced by Miss Kim Potter and Mrs Helen Startup, who coach the choir on Fridays after school,

described a world full of animals to their children, clearly well-

rehearsed, sang lustily and confidently, and both children and audience enjoyed participating.

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The good news to come out of Willow Burn recently is that the future and location of the premises is now settled. This registered charity, which has independent status, has been negotiating with the N.H.S to purchase extra land which will ensure lovely views for the patients whatever may happen to the rest of the land on the site in the future.

Outline plans have been drawn up to completely refurbish the current building, plus an extension which will include a brand new Day Care Unit. It will remain a four bedded hospice but the new rooms to be built will be en suite and will have excellent views. Willow Burn is contracted to the Primary Care Trust, which pays salaries and it has a remit to provide palliative care for Derwentside. In total it costs about £250,000 per annum to run the service. Of course, a tremendous amount of the work is done by 100 or so volunteers who do all sorts of jobs which include domestic duties, driving, and



Linda Burt, Voluntary Services Manager with Margaret Webb, Manager of Willow Burn

running outlets such as the Charity Shop at Stanley and the Tea Bar at the Magistrates Court at Consett. The cost of the refurbishment and extension will cost around £1.5million, which has to be raised by Willow Burn, and approximately 50% of this will be needed before the actual building starts.



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Though most people say they recycle, or would like to, not everyone does. Residents in Derwentside, Teesdale and Wear Valley have the opportunity to do so using their Green Box Recycling Scheme yet many are not sure how to. The Green Box Recycling Scheme is a fortnightly collection service. It collects various household recyclable products from the edge of your property. So what can you put in your green box? **Paper** - newspapers, brochures, catalogues, leaflets, junk mail, magazines, envelopes (no plastic windows) and telephone

GET RECYCLING

directories - in carrier bags please to protect from the weather
Cardboard - please remove plastic and polystyrene, flatten boxes and cut down large items.

placed directly in your green box. Sorry no lids.
Textiles - clothing, bed linen, blankets towels and paired shoes - please place these in the clear sack provided.

Sorry but the Green Box Recycling scheme does not collect plastics, bric-a-brac, batteries or broken glass.

To promote the scheme the 'Roaming Recycler' team will be coming to local community centres, supermarkets and attending events in an educational vehicle, 'The Roaming



Tins - food tins, drink cans, pet food tins, aerosols - clean and empty please, placed directly in your green box.
Glass - bottles and jars, clean and empty please,

Recycler', so get on board! For more information on the Green Box Recycling Scheme please contact Paula George, Waste Campaign Officer on 07795092577.

POSTER CAMPAIGN

I recently approached Lanchester All Saints' R.C. School, Lanchester E.P. School and Burnhope Primary School, to ask the children if they would like to paint a picture for me under the general heading 'Police'.

The response was tremendous, so much so, that after judging the paintings, prizes were awarded to the best three from each

school, and everyone who took part was given something in return for their thanks. In addition, I had a poster created incorporating the winners' paintings. Each school involved has been given copies to put up in the school.

The posters are also on display in the Post Office and Council Housing Office in Burnhope, also the Post Office and Park

House in Lanchester. The whole purpose was to encourage the children to think about what the police mean to them, and of course to help build a positive relationship between the police and the general public.

On a personal level, I would like to thank all the children involved for their efforts and hope they have enjoyed taking part.

PC 1875 Norman Foster

SNAKES ALIVE!

The public is being asked to report all sightings of Snakes and Slow-worms to the Durham Biodiversity Partnership during the summer months in a bid to ensure the conservation of these reclusive creatures.

The postcard and web-based survey aims to gather as much information as possible about grass snakes, adders and slow-worms, as part of the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan, which safeguards our most threatened wildlife.

Grass snakes and adders are the only two native snakes found locally. Although slow-worms look like snakes they are actually legless lizards.

Very little is known about the whereabouts or numbers of slow-worms and grass snakes in the Durham area, and it is hoped that new information will help wildlife workers to protect existing colonies which may be under threat from development or inappropriate land management.

The survey is the first of many planned local public-participation surveys on a new website created for the Durham Biodiversity Partnership - durhambiodiversity.org.uk. On the site there are links to other national wildlife surveys, links to wildlife volunteering opportunities, and you

can also download the action plans for local species and habitats. If you don't have internet access, postcard survey forms are being distributed to libraries and wildlife visitor centres all over the Durham area from Gateshead to Darlington.



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Tom Storey is a popular contributor to the Queen's Head music nights

RED CROSS CELEBRATE VOLUNTEER WEEK



Red Cross volunteers celebrate 'Volunteer Week'

Brenda Gibson and Elaine Williams from the Red Cross in Lanchester organized an Open Day on Monday 6th June in the meeting room above the shop, for volunteers who work in the different areas. These included volunteers who work in shops, collectors, fund raisers, and first aiders from Derwentside and Durham districts. This is the first time that a group as large as this from all sections has met together. Just over twenty people attended between the hours of 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm. An excellent buffet was provided and thoroughly good time was enjoyed by everyone. Brenda and Elaine would like to thank all those who made the effort to make the visit which made the function very worthwhile.

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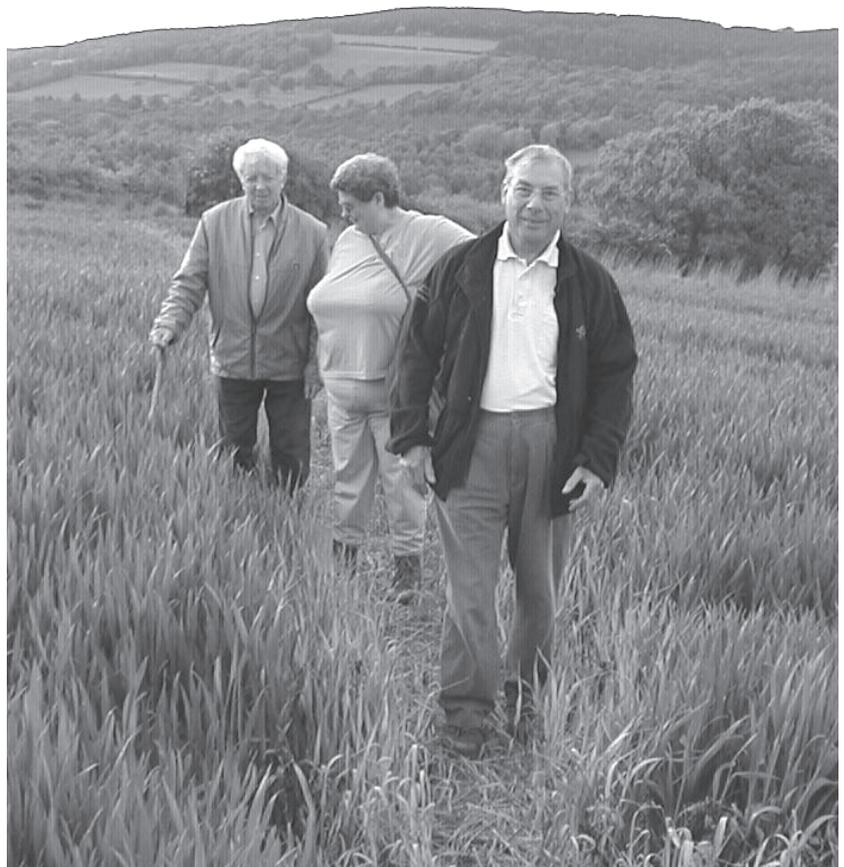
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RED CROSS COLLECTION

The recent house-to-house collection in aid of the Red Cross raised the sum of £896.51, a slight increase on last year. Organiser Mrs Elaine Williams would like to thank all who helped and donated.

PATHFINDERS



Though the 5-mile walk on 26th May did not attract crowds of guest walkers, members of Lanchester Pathfinders enjoyed a pleasant stroll through Malton nature reserve to Biggen Farm. They were pleased to find the path up to the farm immaculately cleared of crops for the convenience of walkers.

COACHING FOR TENNIS CLUB YOUNGSTERS



Lions' Chairman Alan Hill presents a cheque to Pam Graham and Dennis Laycock of Lanchester Tennis Club

Perhaps any new coach young children comes to the village will not yet be aware that there is a superb Lawn Tennis Club situated down a footpath off Ford Road which was established just a few years short of 100 years ago. This is a well attended club by old and young alike. In 2001 a programme was introduced to

coach young children and in 2004 forty local children between the ages of 4 and 16 began coaching sessions with tennis coach, Phil Atiss. This year the aim is to increase these sessions for those who are seen to be showing real potential for the sport and this will incur extra expense, in fact, something in the

region of £700 pounds. The Tennis Club themselves are putting on various events to raise this money and Lanchester Lions Club have provided a donation of £100 towards this project. Anyone who would like to consider joining the club should contact Secretary, Dennis Laycock, on 520278.

LANCHESTER CHAPEL FOOTBALL TEAM PRESENTATION



The successful Lanchester Chapel football team and friends gathered for a Presentation Evening in the cricket club on May 21st. The photo, provided by Peter Sword, shows the team which won the Charity Shield on May 5th. Back row Dave Marrin, Jeff Parker, Graeme Hall, Nigel Hepplewhite (captain), Ray Wilkinson, Ian Lockey, and Karl Hepplewhite. Frontrow Glyn Davison, Olly Webster (Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year), Andy Sword (top goal scorer), John Cudden and Matty Bradford.



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MICHAEL KELLY SINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Talented local musician and folk singer Michael Kelly entertained a small but appreciative audience at the Library on Wednesday evening 1st June. He played the guitar and sang a beautiful collection of songs with a calm, relaxed, mellow voice. Among his considerable repertoire was the sensitive "Sand Through The Hour Glass"

which was also the title of the disc which he has recorded for sale to the general public. He was joined by nephews and nieces, Michael, Phillip, Sophie and Anna for part of this number which added to the ambiance of the occasion. As is usual now for library events, Monica provided the customary glass of wine and cheese during the interval when the

people who attended had chance to circulate and chat. The second half of the programme continued in similar vein with the addition of requests which included the ever popular 'Penny Lane' and 'Blowing in the Wind'. An excellent evening was enjoyed by all and Michael's CD would be a good buy for music lovers.



Michael Kelly with a family backing group

THURSDAY CLUB HOSTS MP

Hilary Armstrong, Had she ever thought speaking to the May meeting of the Thursday Club, gave a picture of a busy life with dual duties as constituency MP and Chief Whip.

As Chief Whip, she must always be there while Parliament is sitting, working in her office in Downing Street in the morning and in the House in the afternoon, where she organises the business of the House with the help of 14 Whips.

Her constituency is a large one geographically, stretching from Willington to Blanchland and taking in the whole Wear valley. She has an office in the constituency which can be contacted during her absence, and through her 'surgeries' she meets people with problems. This casework gives her an insight into what may be going wrong, and she pursues these topics while talking to the police, health providers, business and schools. Her audience then asked some polite questions.

of leaving the Labour Party? No, she had been born into the Labour party and the Methodist church.

What was her advice to young people? Start off by doing something well and learning about people (Hilary herself started by doing VSO in Kenya).

Are we safe in our own houses, and if we attack intruders, will we be prosecuted? Most cases of self-defence do not result in prosecution. Common crimes are now reducing significantly, though gun culture keeps figures high.

Was there enough discipline in schools? Head teachers had enough power, and bullying is best dealt with by involving the children. Parenting orders were useful, as was the involvement of adults in youth work.

Though not an orator, Hilary Armstrong gave a clear account of her life as an MP and fielded questions adroitly.

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MERRY JEST
 Q. Who lives in the sea and can shoot eight people at once?
 A. Billy the Squid.

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Hilary Armstrong addresses the Thursday Club

THE HISTORY OF DILSTON

Lanchester History Group enjoyed a tour had been arranged with Frances Dickinson, Dilston Castle on June 11th, where a guided tour had been arranged with Frances Dickinson, whose involvement in



Lanchester History Group visit Dilston Castle where Frances Dickinson reveals the secrets of Dilston's history

the restoration of the castle and its chapel, and writing of two books on its history, made her the ideal guide.

The fortified Castle was built in 1417 in unsettled times, but was converted into a grandiose house by James Radcliffe, the 3rd Earl of Derwentwater who was beheaded five years later for supporting his cousin James Stuart in the Jacobite uprising. This house became dilapidated and was demolished in 1778, but the tower house remains, as does the

chapel which has been well restored.

Built in 1616, it was alleged that it was financed by money raised for the Gunpowder Plot. Frances gave intriguing details of its history, including the mistreatment of the rebellious Earl's body, its removal to Essex and the recent

excavation of the crypt where the body lay.

When the property passed to Greenwich Hospital, the adjacent Beaumont House was occupied by John Grey, the local agent. It is now occupied by Mencap.

In mid-tour the party repaired to the restaurant for a light lunch.



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MANDOLINS IN THE LIBRARY

The superb 'Live in the Libraries' series brought the virtuosos of the mandolin, Simon Mayor and Hilary James, to a delighted audience on May 20th. From their collection of mandolins the duo had brought Simon's standard mandolin and Hilary's mandobass, but Simon is also an excellent fiddle and guitar player, tackling the most difficult pieces with insolent ease. Hilary's repertoire took in ancient ballads, self-

written songs and blues in a pure, soaring soprano. Together they ranged from Vivaldi and Berlioz to Jake Thackray, from Sally Gardens to Black and White Rag, enhanced by Simon's witty commentaries and introductions.

Needless to say the library staff supplied interval wine and cheese, and vast numbers of CD's were sold. If you missed this event, and tickets sold out very quickly, watch out for this duo's next tour on www.mandolin.co.uk.



Simon Mayor with his standard Mandolin and Hilary James with her Mandobass

POLICE REPORT

Local police report antisocial behaviour on Front Street, 3 incidents of dog-owners not controlling their dogs, and criminal damage to the play area surface during the last month. Repair to the play area surface could well cost £1000.

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MARC VAN

The travelling information van (Multi Agency Resource Centre) visited Lanchester on Tuesday 7th June, which happened to be a fine day which brought the people out. This service is provided by Derwentside District Council, and the two people manning the van, Carole and Debbie, were able to deal with enquiries about housing, council tax, welfare benefits, neighbourhood problems, rent, repairs to

council properties, debt counselling and home security. It appears to be a good all round and valuable service and several people had visited the mobile office during the first hour of its stay. Eventually pensioners will be able to obtain bus passes as well as advice about all the aforementioned. The MARC van will be on Front Street from 10am till 12 noon on July 5th and 17th.



Carole and Debbie of Derwentside District Council outside the MARC van in sunny Lanchester

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WI

The meeting on 4th July will include a strawberry supper and bring and buy sale, starting at 7pm in the Community Centre.

WILDLIFE GROUP

The outdoor meetings continue on July 12th, when members will meet at Low Barns nature reserve, near Witton-le-Wear, at 7pm.

A specially-arranged visit on June 11th to Foxcover Covert, which is inside Catterick Camp, had to be cancelled as a royal visitor was in the area.

QUEEN'S HEAD

As I write, I am pleased to report a good regular turnout of singers and audience.

We have a healthy core of musicians and singers, backed by occasional visitors from around the area. Instruments played include the guitar, banjo, mandolin, and the occasional violin or concertina.

The banjo, incidentally, tends to sometimes be the brunt of jokes - eg. "What is the definition of perfect pitch? Someone who can lob a banjo into a skip without touching the sides". Don't let this stop you, I have one myself!

Contrary to opinion, by the way, we are not a folk club, just a group of people who enjoy music, whatever the style. If you want to come along and sing, tell a joke or recite a poem please do! You will be most welcome and should be assured a very pleasant evening. We meet at 8.30 pm every Sunday in the restaurant.

Ian Tute (529286)

WHAT'S ON?

ICE CAP TREK CHALLENGE

The walking boots are back on again as I shall be one of 23 trekkers (some from the Sahara Challenge in November 2003) taking on the eightday Iceland Ice Cap Challenge Trek at the end of August. This is a "tough and challenging trek through a remote and potentially hostile environment, taking us from the active Mount Hekla to Landmannalaugar and then south through the mountains to the permanent icecaps of Myrdals and Eyjaqafra", the words are not mine, but of the organisers! As before, I shall be covering all of my own expenses so any amounts raised will go to Tynedale Community Hospice and to the Macmillan Cancer Relief

for this region. I have been fundraising through the sale of handcrafted cards and various items through the Methodist Church, which will continue. A Quiz Sheet (£1 each) is also available a challenge in itself, to be returned by 15 July. The proceeds from this fundraising, and any sponsorship given, will go to the above charities. More information about this Challenge will be displayed on the Church indoor notice board. Thank you for your support. Rhoda Joyce, 1 Middlewood Road, Lanchester (Tel: 521674).

SUMMER FAIR

Willowburn Hospice holds its Summer Fair in the hospice grounds on Saturday 9th July from 2 till 4pm. On offer are strawberries and cream, plants and flowers, tombolas, raffle, pies and cakes, hot dogs and ice cream. Teas and refreshments will be available.

FLOWER CLUB

Philida Irving, of Haydon Bridge, intriguingly asks Flower Club members to "Tie up Those Loose Ends" at the meeting on Wednesday 27th July in the Community Centre, starting at 2pm.

SOCIAL CLUB

On Saturday nights the following entertainers have been booked. There is no cover charge for members or guests. 2nd July, Robbie Gibb 9th July, Kirsty Allen 16th July, Nigel's Karaoke 23rd July, Russell Bruce 30th July, Michele B There is also a fun karaoke on Sunday nights, and ballroom dancing in the Concert Room on Friday nights 7 till 1pm, cover charge £1.

MP

Hilary Armstrong will conduct her monthly 'surgery' on Saturday 9th July at Citizens House, Consett, starting at 11am.

60'S/90'S MUSIC

The Queen's Head, Lanchester hosts an evening of lively music in aid of the Willow Burn Hospice on Saturday July 9th, starting at 8pm. A raffle will also be held, and donations of prizes, unwanted gifts etc can be left at the Queen's Head. There will be a late licence until 12.30am.

CHORAL MUSIC

Lanchester Operatic Society offer a concert of choral music, with guest soloist baritone John Kirk on Friday 6th July, starting at 7.15 in the Methodist church. Programmes, £5 including light refreshments, can be obtained from Society members.

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING!

.....not with snow on their boots, but with a song in their hearts, to complete their 2005 Cultural Exchange Programme with the North East.

Over Easter 2005, a party from Lanchester (St. Bede's), Prudhoe and Morpeth flew to St. Petersburg on the first leg of a Cultural Exchange. The visitors stayed with families of students studying at St. Petersburg's Music School No.9. The group received amazing hospitality, with visits to The Hermitage Museum, the Ballet, the Opera, the Theatre, President Putin's Official Residence and even a visit to the site of Rasputin's murder. The visit culminated in a joint concert, where music of the highest standard was shared with an appreciative audience.

A party from St. Petersburg's Music School No.9, with students ranging from the ages of 9 to 20 years

old, will be returning the exchange visit in July. Following a coach and ferry journey, they will arrive in the North East to experience English family life and enjoy a programme of visits to places of interest in the Region. The visit will culminate in a joint concert, featuring the vocal and instrumental talents, through both solo and ensemble performances, of both the visiting Russians and students from St. Bede's. The concert will take place at St. Bede's School on Monday, 11th July at 7.30pm. Tickets, price £2.00, are available from the school - Tel. 520424 - and Matthews' "Country Gifts", Front Street, Lanchester.

All monies raised by this event will be used to ensure the future of this extremely worthwhile cultural experience. So come along and enjoy music of the highest standard, and support a valuable International Exchange.

LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership has its monthly meeting in the Community Centre on Monday 11th July, when the implications of the Parish Plan will certainly be on the agenda.

Bringing together people concerned to improve the village, the Partnership has assembled a team to produce the Plan on behalf of the Parish Council.

As announced in last month's Voice, the Parish Plan will be launched on July 2nd at 10.30am in the Community Centre, with MP Hilary Armstrong as

guest of honour. There will be an opportunity to discuss the main recommendations of the Plan, and wine and light refreshments will be served.

On July 11th the work will begin of analysing the main points of the Plan for future action.

There are two meetings, firstly the Youth meeting at 6.00pm examining all aspects of work to help young people in the parish, then a combined Environment and Transport meeting at 7.30pm.

Anyone is welcome to attend.

LANCHESTER WELCOMES BLUE BUS

The village seemed particularly busy on the morning of Thursday 2nd June. The big blue BBC Bus, full of technical equipment, filled the pavement outside New Image Hair Salon with Benny Harrison's Tram just behind. The bus tours North East villages on a regular basis as part of the popular 'Paul and Ian Show' which promotes places of historical and cultural interest as well as the 'phone in' aspect of the show which covers a multitude of topics. Presenter Ian and Producer Charles Hodkinson also encouraged local villagers to 'air' their views on any topics of their own choice. The technical equipment inside the bus included computers and Mark, one of the BBC team, offered all those who ventured inside some insight into how to use them and to 'surf' the internet. The bus remained in the village all morning and until 2pm in the afternoon.



Presenter Ian, broadcasting 'live' chatting to IT man Mark, and Producer Charles Hodkinson

Manor Park Youth Club wants a PAID SUPERVISOR

The Youth Club, for teenagers, meets every Wednesday at Croft View Hall.

The Supervisor will need Child Protection Act Disclosure clearance. The rate of pay is to be agreed.

For more information please contact Mike Gladstone on 528 114 with:

- names of 2 referees;
- Disclosure clearance;
- any qualifications you have in youth work or teaching.

BLOOD DONORS

There will be a blood donor session in Lanchester Community Centre on Friday 15th July from 3-7pm.

WI MARKET

The market is open to sell the usual fresh and freshly-made produce on Saturday 2nd July, opening at 10am.

GOING GREEN

An exhibition, The Greening of County Durham, is unveiled in the library from July 4th.

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CRICKET REPORT

The season is now well under way with the regular helpers performing the usual heroics to ensure all runs smoothly. Our groundsman John Bell notes that at this stage last season the ground had staged 32 matches, however so far this year only 22 have been played due to the poor weather, with numerous games cancelled. We have needed repairs to sight screens once again following a very windy Saturday. Is the summer ever coming?? The catering section are in full swing, providing superb lunches and teas for hungry players of all ages. The U13 side are unbeaten with our crop of very promising youngsters being expertly marshalled by Bob Gardiner and Andy Smith. The only home fixture for July is on the 17th versus Blaydon. The U15 side are in mid-table and play at home on the 4th v Ryton, 18th v Greenside and 25th v Swalwell. Thanks to Gerry Stephenson for his help. Our under 18s are having a very successful year. They are also unbeaten and have high hopes of finishing in pole position at the end of the season. The only home fixture is on the 12th v Burnopfield. The senior sides are having mixed fortunes with the 1stX1 struggling to find any

kind of form and seeming to have lady luck against them. This was in evidence when in a cup match at Morpeth over 380 runs were scored and we lost by 3 runs! Home fixtures are 2nd July v Benwell & Walbottle, 16th v Leadgate and 30th v Swalwell.

The 2ndX1 have been involved in some high scoring games, scoring over 250 runs at Annfield Plain only to lose narrowly but defeated Percy Main comfortably the week after. They entertain Seaton Burn on the 9th July and Consett on the 23rd.

The club were delighted to host a recent county U13 match against Cumbria when the many spectators present enjoyed a fine day with some excellent cricket being played by both sides. On the 1st of July between 10 am and 2pm Durham County Cricket Club have invited the junior schools from Lanchester, Burnhope and Langley Park to the ground with a view to promoting cricket at school level.

On the social scene we are pleased to have Glenn Coxon returning to entertain us on the 2nd July. Tickets are available on the night from Robbie Selby. Many thanks to our loyal band of supporters and anyone wishing to join them are more than welcome.

GD

SAINSBURY'S SPONSOR FOOTBALL

Congratulations to All Saints' Primary School who have reached the finals of a football competition sponsored by Sainsbury's. Of the 4,000

schools who entered, the local team, will battle it out at Keele University. To encourage them Sainsbury's sent along

two representatives, Susan and James, to distribute goodie bags to the team members. They also gave a selection of fruit to everyone in class 4.



All Saints' children enjoy the fruit donated by Sainsbury's

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE



The first arrivals line up for the sponsored cycle ride in aid of Willowburn Hospice on Sunday 22nd May. They cycled from Lanchester to Broompark and back, a distance of 14.5 miles, and at time of writing had earned £1038.12 for the Hospice.

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NEXT DEADLINE

Please note that the closing date for contributions to the next issue will be Tuesday, 19th July. Thank you.

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