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THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 9 Volume 6

Lanchester, October 2005

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GARDEN SURPRISE FOR PENSIONER



George and Gail Wales make the finishing touches to Bob Thewlis's front garden

What a lovely surprise for Bob Thewlis of Mount Park Drive! Bob, who has not been in the best of health recently and has been unable to work in his garden, had been taken on a family holiday to Majorca for a fortnight with daughter Janet, Paul and family. Whilst he has been abroad neighbours George and Gail Wales and another very good friend who declined to be photographed, decided to renovate his garden. They virtually dug up every part of the front garden, laid pea gravel, edging stones, and planted new shrubs. They also turned over large areas of the very large back garden and carried out some more planting as well as tending to his lawn. These excellent friends did this on the spur of the moment and spent every spare minute after their working day, on the project for a full week. Well done you three! At the time of writing Bob is still unaware who these helpful conspirators are, and hopefully will not find out their names until he reads his Village Voice.

VILLAGE SUPPORT FOR HOSPICE CONTINUES



The start outside the Brown Horse of a successful sponsored walk for Willow Burn

On behalf of the Willow Burn Hospice committee I would like to thank all the people who completed our annual sponsored walk, over a hundred were counted.

We wish to thank all the sponsors, our grateful thanks also to Eileen and Les of the Brown Horse for providing sandwiches, tea and coffee prior to the walk,

Jane and Gary of the Black Horse, Old Cornsay for the snacks, John and Jane of the Queen's Head, Lanchester for their hospitality, in particular

our grateful thanks to Paul Crinnion and Fiona for providing the excellent buffet, and as usual Mary Hall for her plate pies. Last but by no means least the

volunteer drivers who took the walkers up to the Brown Horse for the start. We could not have managed without these good people.
Paul Smith



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 would just like to bring to your attention the state of the graveyard. I have lived in the village all my life, and until quite recently the graveyard was kept in a reasonable condition, but now it is a total disgrace. The grass has not been touched for what seems like years (apart from the front next to the church), trees are overgrown, gravestones just left where they fall. I can remember in days gone by that all the grass from the cottages at the top end to the church was kept in a reasonable condition. Why has it been left to get into this state? You used to be able to walk through and read the gravestones without the feeling that you were taking on a trek up the Amazon rain forest. It

seem a shame that it has come to this. Has this got anything to do with money, and the church doesn't want to spend it, or is there another reason?

Yours faithfully

K Fairish

(address supplied)

Revd Canon Peter Waterhouse writes:

The Churchyard was closed by Order in Council in 1977 and the responsibility for the maintenance of the land passed by law to the District Council.

For many years this responsibility was fulfilled in exemplary fashion, but two years ago all grass-cutting was stopped because the Council declared certain gravestones to be dangerous and a threat to the safety of its workers. At that point the gravestones in question were marked, but no work has been carried out on them.

The result is that nothing is happening and this applies not only to Lanchester Churchyard but to all closed

Churchyards in Derwentside. It is all very frustrating, and made the more so by the fact that Derwentside is the only authority in the County to cease its churchyard maintenance.

However, I understand that the problem is near resolution and we owe a debt of gratitude to Kevan Jones, MP for North Durham and to a number of local councillors for their help in the matter.

The Lanchester Parochial Church Council has been dismayed by the neglect of the churchyard not least because of the money it spends to keep the church in good order for our community. However, the Churchyard is not its responsibility, that is the clear responsibility of the District Council. Peter Waterhouse Lanchester Vicarage 1 Lee Hill Court

We would love to thank all of our friends and family who went to tremendous effort to join us at our Silver Wedding Celebrations in the Community Centre on Saturday August 20th. It was lovely to see our best man and bridesmaid meet up again after 25 years.

A huge thank you to Irene who catered for us and to our ceilidh band who gave us so much fun.

Paul and Janette Hogarth 28 Mount Park Drive Lanchester

Dear Editor

I would like to advise the residents of Iveston, Graham Buildings and Johnson Building that I shall be unable to deliver the "Village Voice" after this October issue.

If anyone would like to take over the round, would they please contact Mike Stoddart, the distributor, telephone 01207 520291

Yours faithfully

Jennifer F Macdonald

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

The family of Joseph (Joe) Welsh would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many cards, flowers, kind words, prayers, support and donations received following their very sad, sudden loss. Special thanks to Dr Matt Cademy, Lindy and Carole at the University Hospital of North Durham Resuscitation Department, Reverend Mary Lloyd, Derek Minto, Funeral Director and staff of Co-operative Funeral Service, Stanley Branch, and to Mel and Sue Somersall and everyone who helped us on the day. Donations to the Stroke Association amounted to £656.86 and David, Joe's grandson and John, Joe's son-in-law are running in the Great North Run for Cancer and The Stroke Association.

Many Thanks

Linda Marrin

Dear Sir,

The man who stole money from our house has been arrested and sent to prison.

We would like to thank PC Alan Patterson and the other members of the police force.

We would also like to thank Victim Support for their help, and the very kind anonymous person who sent us some money.

Yours sincerely

Winnie & Tommy March

Shopalot ... shopabach! I lived very happily in Lanchester 1985-9 and some readers may possibly remember me - my maiden name was Rachel Wilkins. A new job took me to mid-Wales to settle in what some of

my friends called 'the middle of no-where!' I now live on a small holding near Rhayader which is why at least one copy of each *Village Voice* makes an interesting long journey deep into the Welsh hills. My husband Ben (who is English, not Welsh) plays the Northumbrian smallpipes and travels several times a year to Morpeth, Alnwick and Durham to meet with his many friends and mentors in the Northumbrian Pipers' Society. He has also made the required pilgrimage to Lanchester to see the outside of my much-loved little house, 3 The Square.

I was interested to read the *Shopalot Survey* (comparative supermarket prices in and around Lanchester) in the last issue of *Village Voice*. From my present cottage, we have to travel 31 miles north to get to a Co-op; 44 miles east to find a Sainsbury's and for a Morrisons there is a choice of going west (45 miles), north (31 miles) or south (38 miles). I believe there is an Asda at Shrewsbury (68 miles). So you might have to add a fair bit for the cost of fuel in my case! On the other hand, it is lovely to live near one of the last small towns in Britain not to have a major supermarket: Rhayader's four little streets are still full of small family businesses, run by local people who know nearly all of their customers by name. I remember some similar small, thriving shops in Lanchester and hope that they are still going strong. With very best wishes to all my former neighbours and many friends ... Rachel Palmer

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NEW HEAD TEACHER FOR LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL



*New Head Teacher of Lanchester EP School,
Mrs Jane Davis*

Jane Davis has been appointed as the new Head teacher of Lanchester EP School. Mrs Davis is married to a comprehensive school teacher and has two children, Rebecca aged 9 and Anna who is 4 years old. Mrs Davis began her teaching career at Shotley Bridge Junior School in 1990 and remained there for nine years. During 1999 she obtained the Deputy Headship at Witton Gilbert Junior School,

where she taught until her present appointment. Mrs Davis is excited about her new job and is really looking forward to meeting the children, staff and parents. Her particular teaching skills are music - she plays piano, viola and flute - and she will take over the music responsibilities in the school. She is planning to produce musicals, something she has successfully done in the past and thoroughly enjoys doing. Her ambitions are to build on the firm foundations already in place at the school and to develop even

further, links with the many varied aspects of the local community. She would also like to create a bond with parents by trying to form a Parent Teacher Association. Her vision for the future is that the children succeed educationally but also that they have wonderful experiences at their primary school that they will never forget. Mr Stevenson and Miss Roffe will serve on the Senior Management Team until the end of the summer term, and a Deputy Head will be in place in September next.

VILLAGE BUS

The future of the Lanchester Village Link bus, which is heavily supported by grants obtained by Lanchester Partnership, is now assured until the end of 2006.

Maureen Loy, Chairman of the Partnership's Transport Committee, announced at the September meeting that grants had been obtained of £5000 from the County

Durham Foundation, £2000 from the Sir James Knott Trust, and £3000 from the Sherburn House Charity.

In addition, District Councillor John Ingham has allotted £1000 of his charity budget to providing the bus service on Thursdays as well as the other weekdays, if this is possible.

The bus service is increasingly well used,

and there is a feeling that there should be some more secure system of funding it. It is a tremendous achievement by Lanchester Partnership to arrange for the bus service which travels around the village every morning on a half-hourly schedule, but the sums of money involved in providing half of the £14,955 annual cost are getting harder to find.

PHOTO MAGIC

Adding a touch of glamour and intrigue to the Village Centre in her black Victorian costume on Saturday 3rd September was pretty 17 year old drama student Hannah Wilkinson.

She donned the authentic costume and was handing out leaflets to have your old worn, torn and faded photographs brought back to life using modern technology, even damaged pictures in colour and black and white can be restored at the Digital Gallery, 40, Front Street, Shotley Bridge.



Hannah Wilkinson

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THE WEDDING OF SIMON BELL AND AMY STODDART



Simon and Amy whisked away to their reception in style

Despite abysmal weather forecasts the sun shone brightly for this lovely couple for the duration of their wedding at the Methodist Chapel on Friday 19th August. The service was led by the Reverend Father Caetano. A section

of Consett Brass Band, conducted by Dave Jackson, encouraged enthusiastic singing from the congregation. During the signing of the register everyone was entertained by the choir from St Margaret's School, who gave a lovely rendition of

'Trust Can Build A Dream'. The choir was accompanied by Kate Barthel, a colleague of the bride.

The bride looked absolutely stunning in a white satin dress. The bodice was decorated with crystals. Amy wore a tiara and carried a bouquet of pink and white

roses. The groom, accompanied by the best man Duncan Moore, wore the number one dress uniform of the 4th Regiment of the Royal Artillery. Simon, Duncan and the ushers, who wore mess dress, have recently returned from service in Iraq.

The chief bridesmaid, Kate, was the sister of the bride. She was assisted by her cousin Rebecca and Lucy Ward, along with a friend of Amy's and the Stoddart

family. The bridesmaids were dressed in attractive, beautifully designed pink dresses and carried floral arrangements similar to the bride's. The ring bearer was another cousin, Ross Haydock.

The reception for about 130 guests was held at the Derwent Manor Hotel with about another 50 arriving for the evening's entertainment. The honeymoon was spent in Greece and the couple will continue to live in the village.

LANCHESTER AND BURNHOPE UNITE



Paul Kelly and Wendy Moffitt

Wedding celebrations for Wendy, the daughter of Robert and Sheila Moffitt, a Burnhope family, and Paul Kelly, the son of Alan and Lestrine Kelly, took place on Friday 26th August at Hardwick Hall Hotel, at Sedgefield, where the couple have lived for the past three years.

The Bride wore an ivory satin dress made by 'Exclusively Yours by Tara' from Wingate, Durham, and carried a beautiful bouquet of hand tied burnt orange callalilies. The bridesmaids were Marie and Heather, Wendy's twin sisters, Ashley aged eight and Erin who is three years old, both nieces of the bride. They wore cream satin dresses and carried similar floral arrangements to the bride's.

Seventy guests attended the wedding during the day, swelling to a hundred and twenty during the evening. Family and friends came from far and near, including Paul's school friends who were all local Lanchester lads. The Best Man was Paul's brother Stuart and the Groomsman was David Pickering.

Everyone had a great time and danced the night away with many guests very conveniently staying in the hotel. The party continued on the Saturday at the Kelly's home in Lanchester for family and close friends.

The couple spent their honeymoon in wonderful Copenhagen and will continue to live at Sedgefield.

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THE WEDDING OF DEE WILLIAMS AND ALAN HALL

The wedding of Dee Williams and Alan Hall took place on a beautiful Summer's day on Saturday 3rd September at the Methodist Church.

The best man was Adam Simpson and the maid of honour was Dee's best friend of 13 years Joanne Bland. Joanne was assisted by Dee and Alan's 5 year old daughter Meghan.

The bride, who surprised many by actually wearing a dress, veil and tiara, looked stunning in her ivory dress with just a little crystal and beading detail. She carried a bouquet of red and cream roses, with diamante mixed in. Joanne wore a burgundy dress and carried a bouquet of cream roses. Meghan wore an ivory dress and tiara very similar to her mummy's and carried a small posy of red roses.

The bride, who grew up in the village, wanted to keep



Dee Williams and Alan Hall with their daughter Meghan

the whole event in Lanchester. They had a low key reception at the Queen's Head for the intimate party of eighteen, and the evening reception was in the Social Club with about 150 friends and family attending. The food for the reception and

evening buffet was superb and was provided by John from the Queen's. People were standing in line waiting for more!

Alan, a factory worker at Malton and Dee, a playgroup leader at our own play-school, will continue to live in the village.

EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

"All The Kings Men", was the title of the fourth concert in the Lanchester Early Music Festival which was given by members of Hexham Collegium Musicum - Brian Stewart (Flute), Philip Cull (Oboe) and Dr Ian Brunt (Flute, Harpsichord and Organ). It featured the musician, playing in various combinations, music from the Court of Frederick the Great, interspersed with topical readings by Dr Brunt. It was a very well received concert, the Bach solo flute sonata played by Brian Stewart being particularly well received. Again, excellent interval refreshments and a cordial greeting at the door, were provided by the ladies and gentlemen of the parish. Personally, while I did enjoy this concert, I enjoyed the pervious concert "Modus Phantasticus" even more.

This concert was given by Greg Pullan (viola da gamba) and Dr Ian Brunt (organ and harpsichord). I especially enjoyed the Anton Forqueray viola da gamba sonata, although being a string player I could appreciate the slight intonation problems due to tuning and the many leaps across the strings. Despite this Greg Pullan gave an inspirational rendering of the piece. He was also playing from a harpsichord score, because although the piece is written for the instrument, it only exists as a harpsichord score published by his son. It did inspire me to find CDs of the music and I can recommend the title "Jupiter" (Alba label ABCD111) for the viola da gamba version and the title "Harpsichord Suites Nos 1, 3 and 5" (Naxos-8.553407) for the harpsichord version. Both these were found at

www.amazon.co.uk. Greg also gave an excellent performance of one of Teleman's unaccompanied sonatas. Although I must admit that I prefer these to the Bach ones, and it also featured the best organ playing by Dr Brunt of the concert series. Alan Williams

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

WHEELSTOWORK

Are you a student or do you have difficulty getting to your work? Then you could benefit from Durham County Council's Wheels to Work Scheme. The operation runs out of Langley Park and gives members the loan of a scooter for six months at the reduced rate of £5 per week for students and £10 per week for those who work. At the end of the six months the scooter is returned and passed onto someone else. The theory is that during the time you borrow the scooter you can be saving up to buy your own form of transport. Currently there are around twelve scooters in circulation, but the council is awaiting the arrival of several more in order to expand the service. If you are interested in finding out more about the scheme (you don't need a referral from the Job Centre to apply), please call Neil Gregory on 0191 373 7492.

PARKNEWS

1 PARKLIFE

Following on from the winding-up of the Lanchester Parklife organisation, which was behind the redevelopment of the children's play area in the village, the Parish Council has received a donation of £2,375.76 from the group. The sum was left in the Parklife account once the fundraising and work had been completed. The Parish Council wishes to thank Mrs Tina Patterson and those involved in Parklife for all they have done for the village and plans to use the donation to improve and maintain recreation facilities in the parish.

2 LOSTPROPERTY

Over the summer months, the Parish Council has accumulated a small amount of children's clothing left in the above Play Area. The Council has agreed to hold onto the items for four months

and if they remain unclaimed they will be passed onto the Red Cross. If you think you may have lost anything in the park, please contact Park House.

3 ILLUMINATIONS

The Parish Council has received a quotation for work to install lighting in the play area. Readers may remember that this is in response to vandalism which has been occurring in the park as well as to prevent parents and children feeling intimidated at dusk when the darker nights draw in. The council says it will further investigate the financial implications of lighting the park and aims to install lighting which won't affect those who live close by.

4 ACCIDENT

A child was injured in the park on 21st August while playing on the 'over 12s' swings. The youngster suffered bruising and grazes after falling from the swing. Upon inspection by the Parish Council it appears that the accident was caused by deliberate vandalism, someone had loosened some bolts on the seat which made it unsafe. All the play areas in the parish are inspected weekly and these swings had been checked and passed as safe just days before the accident. Unfortunately the CCTV camera in the park had been out of action during this period due to technical faults elsewhere, so the vandals have not been caught on camera. The Parish Council says it very much regrets the accident, which appeared to be due to deliberate vandalism.

POLICEREPORT

During the past two months there have been a number of rural thefts, thefts from and damage

to vehicles in the Lanchester area and criminal damage.

RURAL-The Farm Shop at Brockwell Farm on the A691 was broken into. Thieves forced their way into the temporary timber building one night and stole several cans of pop which had been on display in the shop. Because the building is so isolated there were no witnesses to the crime and the police were unable to find any forensic evidence at the scene. Red diesel was stolen from a tractor on a local farm recently. An Ifor Williams Horse Box was taken from a farm in the Lanchester area. The police say this was a well thought out operation as a 4x4 vehicle must have been brought onto the premises in order to take the horse box away.

VEHICLECRIME-Over the last couple of months there has been an increase in vehicle crime in both the Lanchester and Langley Park areas which the police say may suggest travelling criminals are responsible. Two cars which were parked close to each other in Greenwell Park were broken into on the same night, and both had CD players taken from them. The first wasn't damaged in the break-in as the owner had accidentally left it open, a door on the second car was damaged as it was forced open. The police ask that car owners either leave their valuables out of site or preferably take them out of their parked cars altogether. Officers have been unable to find an explanation for the vandalism of two cars in the same part of the village which occurred in the early hours of the morning two weeks apart. Both cars had their

windcreens smashed and had footprints on their bonnets which suggests the same vandals carried out both attacks. The owners of the cars don't know why they were targeted as they didn't believe they had any problems with anyone.

A very cheeky thief helped himself to a strimmer out of the back of a vehicle parked in Spar car park in broad daylight. The man was seen taking the equipment which belonged to a gardener who was carrying out some work in the village. The thief was seen by a member of the public untying the bungee ropes which attached it to the vehicle and then walking off with it. She presumed he must have been the gardener as he did it so confidently in the middle of a full car park at lunchtime! Unfortunately it was only when the gardener returned to find his strimmer missing that the alarm was raised and the thief was long gone. The police say they have a detailed description of the thief but so far have no suspects.

VANDALISM-Windows have been smashed at Park House on several occasions during the past few weeks. The repeated attacks happened day after day on the same window, as the new glass was put in it was smashed again that night. Because of the location of the window in question it isn't covered by the CCTV camera in the park so unfortunately yet again the culprits haven't been caught on film.

There has been some good news though, the police were called to a public order offence involving some youths in a cul-de-sac in the village. At the

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ASSAULT IN LANCHESTER

A new resident of the village has been assaulted twice in recent months.

In July he was walking along Durham Road between Lynwood House and the King's Head, when he heard voices behind him and was pushed forward, hitting his forehead. When he recovered he saw two teenagers on bicycles disappearing round the corner.

On Friday August 12th he was returning home about 10.30pm, passing along the edge of the Green to cross the A691 and heading up

the ginnel opposite. It was at this point that he was pushed in the back and fell to the ground. One of his assailants, who was wearing shorts and had a distinctive scar on his knee, picked up his glasses while others kicked him. His wallet, mobile and glasses were stolen. He set off to return to the centre of the village but collapsed. He was found and subsequently taken to Durham hospital by ambulance for treatment. He fortunately only had bruises and some damage to his shoulder.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

continued from previous page

time three people were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage to a vehicle. One person has since admitted to the offence and has been reprimanded. The police are hoping to prosecute the others involved in the near future.

PARKING - Complaints have been received about parking on the pavement between Peter's Bakery and the Carpet Shop on Front Street. Vehicles are able to pull onto the pavement since the removal of a bollard near the entrance to the Spar car park. Such parking is illegal as there are double yellow lines in the entrance to the car park and regulations state that these extend to the buildings behind them, ie, the shops. So parking on the pavement won't exempt you from getting a ticket! There is also concern that the parking issue could get worse once the new restaurant opens. Durham County Council has said it will monitor the situation.

BURNTOUTWRECK -

A car was abandoned and set on fire on Durham Road early one morning. The police have been unable to find out why the car was left there or who by. The log book of the car has failed to turn up a legitimate owner, so its appearance remains a mystery.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

FARMSHOP - The Parish Council has approved retrospective planning permission for the timber farm shop building at Brockwell Farm on the A691. Councillors said that as long as the building was considered temporary they were happy to approve it because it falls outside the village's development area.

LANCHESTER ARMS - Plans to build three homes behind the Lanchester Arms have been granted planning permission. The council is now to discuss the improvement of the stone bus shelter in front of the former pub with the developers. Councillors say action has to be taken to make it more attractive as well as more accessible for less able bus users.

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BURNHOPE VINTAGE CAR RALLY



Two of the 120 or so vintage cars which passed through Lanchester on Sunday 21st August, which were taking part in the 20th Burnhope Vintage Car Rally

CHANGES TO PLANS

Shepherd Homes have proposed some changes to their development in Kitswell Road on the site of the County depot and the adjacent field. The proposed changes concern decorative features on the buildings, details of fence and wall construction, the possibility of a new fence being built at the bottom of the site, and a footpath link on the East

BIGGIN FARM - Plans to convert a former agricultural building at Biggin Farm at Esh into a dwelling have been passed.

PARK HOUSE SURGERY - Councillors are to meet with representatives from Park House Drs Surgery to discuss their plans to expand the practice's facilities.

side to the sports facilities. Incidentally people who want to look at plans at the Civic Centre, Consett (because the District apparently can't afford to

send copies to Lanchester library) should note that planners are only available from 9.30am till 1.30pm. This is due to being short-staffed.

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WINE AT NINE



Wine waiters Frank Redfearn and Richard Wood hard at work at "Wine at 9"

A group of wine connoisseurs delighted and enlightened over forty people in a wine-tasting evening held at All Saints' RC hall on Friday 16th September. Samples of eight wines were offered by waiters Richard Wood and Frank Redfearn, with an invitation to identify the grape varieties. In addition Margaret Wood invited guests to identify odours from a 'nez de vin', a set of tiny bottles exemplifying wine 'scents'. Jack Clifford provided a tantalising musical quiz, and Margaret McCabe

ran a Hospice stall of goodies. This entertaining evening raised £267 for Willow Burn Hospice.

FROM VIKING TO VILLAGER

As a visitor from my native Denmark to this green valley for three months now, I would like to share my thoughts on my new life as a 'villager'. I've always been fascinated by all things English and dreamed of moving to this beautiful country of yours. I tried the capital, but found it too noisy, too dirty, and Londoners in general are rude. Over the years I've been to several parts of England, spending time in Gosport and Cambridge, but I always seem to return to the NE, a place very

close to my heart. Then I decided to move here, and am a new addition to the village people. Apart from a few unpleasant episodes, my first three months have blessed me in many ways. I have come to know many very nice local people and with a friendliness so typical of the north east I've really felt welcome from day one, meeting and enjoying the company of good people where my path has taken me. I have a sneaking feeling I might just stay here for a while. Alexander Neilson

Kath Stronell BSc(Hons) Pod. MCh.Soc.

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HORTICULTURAL SHOW

No challengers have yet emerged to take on the leading growers in Lanchester's Horticultural Show, held in the Social Club on 10th/11th September. The once paramount leek section featured the three leading prize-winners, with Billy Brunton taking first, David Hall second and Vince Pickersgill third. Vince also had the best pair of marrows, carrots and assorted vegetables, while David won the trio of onions and heaviest onion (5lb 13ozs). There was the usual gorgeous array of flowers, with Vince presenting the best vase of flowers, Billy the best five chrysanthemums and three gladioli, but the best dahlia exhibit went to A. Swinburn. Billy Brunton's chrysanthemums gained him the best exhibit in show, while Vince Pickersgill gained the most points

overall in the show. After presentations on Sunday evening, the produce was auctioned off.

Now might be the time for gardeners to think of preparing their challenge for next year's show, which is open to all comers, not just club members. As well as the honour of winning, and the chance of holding some silverware for the year, there are cash prizes to be won.



Vince Pickerskill gained the most points overall in the Show and Billy Brunton's chrysanthemums gained him the Best Exhibit in Show



Some of the prize vegetables at the Horticultural Show

EDUCATION IN THE COMMUNITY OPEN DAY



Patrizia Clarkson finds a recruit for her class during the Open Day

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ICELAND CHARITY TREK



Rhoda Joyce during the Ice Cap Challenge

On Sunday 21st August I arrived in Reykjavik along with 25 fellow trekkers ready to start our Ice Cap Challenge the following day. The Challenge was in aid of two Charities Tynedale Community

Hospice in Hexham and Macmillan Cancer Relief for this region and it involved a Trek of over 60 miles through a landscape of incredible contrasts and beauty. We hiked over wild volcanic ranges, up and

through mountain passes, glaciers, rocky slopes and canyons. Hot springs (handy on one evening for easing aching muscles at the end of the day whilst temperatures dropped), geysers and waterfalls were

amongst the features of this wonderful Icelandic landscape.

Our Trek took us from Mount Hekla, an active volcano with its first fall of snow, to Landmannalauger, then south through the mountains to the permanent Ice Caps of Myrdals and Eyjafjallajokull.

We had been warned that it was a tough challenging trek through a remote and potentially hostile environment and it was! We also got our fair share of high and gale force winds that added to our problems, especially when trying to pitch our two man tents. In places tracks had fallen away and, whilst our Icelandic guides were very expert,

even they couldn't prevent the odd slip or trip that some of us experienced. Trekking poles were definitely an essential item of our equipment. Then, at 5am on Sunday 28th August, we were ready to leave this extraordinary land for our flight back to Glasgow. No time for shopping, but we did leave with a real sense of achievement, and not a little relief that it was all over!

Finally, a big THANK YOU to all who have sponsored and supported me in so many ways, including Jill Pitt, whose massage expertise helped me through the many miles of training. Rhoda Joyce

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LADS



The 'Lads' from the local Care homes set off on a day trip to Whitby, courtesy of Lanchester Lions

PILGRIMS



The pilgrimage to Our Lady of Walsingham starts on a wet morning in Lanchester

FUN FUND RAISING AT THE BLACK BULL

Amy Bell [neeStoddart] and Craig Hole, who are longstanding friends and neighbours in the village, organized, with lots of help from many others, a tremendous night at the Black Bull on Saturday 10th September. This was in conjunction with their forthcoming appearance in the Great North Run in which they are taking part to raise money for 'ME North East' and 'Make A Wish'. About 150 people attended the function, many in fancy dress from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Included in this vibrant evening was Dirty Funk Disco run by Craig Hole, a Music Quiz, a raffle with some excellent prizes and an auction.

Many of the items for this were donated by businesses in the village and private individuals. Winners of the Fancy Dress competition were Bobby Fearon and Julia Bell who both looked fantastic. Food was provided by hardworking Ian and Mary Hole who organized a Barbeque. Staff at the Black Bull also worked extremely hard and well into the night. It is difficult to thank people or organizations by name just in case someone is overlooked. If this happens apologies are given in advance. However, very many thanks are due from Amy and Craig to the following: Asda, Stanley; Crinnions

Butchers; Davisons Fashions; Golden Valley Cantonese Take Away; Indian Chef Tandoori Take Away, K9 Grooming; Lanchester Country Store; Lanchester Fish Shop; Lanchester Hardware; Lanchester Paint and Wallpaper Company; Lanchester Pharmacy; Lillydale Pet Supplies; New Image; Peters Bakery; Talking Heads; The Black Bull; The Queen's Head; Valentino's Italian Restaurant; Durham County Cricket Club; Michael Conroy; Lynne Thomson and David Hobbs; Lanchester Lions; Deneside Taxis and of course, all those who attended, creating an amazing atmosphere, and

generously supported the event by buying raffle tickets and taking part in the auction and the Fancy Dress. The amount of money raised on the evening was an unbelievable £664.50, and added to this will be sponsorship for the Great North Run. Further donations to this event may be made to ME North East by contacting www.justgiving.com/amystoddart

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Fancy Dressers parading for 'ME North East' and 'Make A Wish' at the Black Bull on 10th September

<p>ASHFIELD VETERINARY SURGERY 1 DURHAM ROAD LANCHESTER Telephone: LANCHESTER (01207) 520308</p> <p>SURGERY HOURS</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>9.00 - 10.00 a.m.</td> <td rowspan="3" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> <td>Monday</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.00 - 4.00 p.m.</td> <td>to</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.00 - 6.30 p.m.</td> <td>Friday</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.00 - 10.00 a.m.</td> <td></td> <td>Saturday</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">All by appointment</p> <p>24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE LANCHESTER (01207) 520308</p>	9.00 - 10.00 a.m.	}	Monday	2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	to	5.00 - 6.30 p.m.	Friday	9.00 - 10.00 a.m.		Saturday
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LIBRARY CRAFTS SESSIONS

Thursday-afternoon craft sessions have been provided throughout August by Aunties Monica and Janice, and young persons have responded in some numbers. Our photo shows the August 25th team, featuring two masterpieces created at the sessions, Rhiannon's mermaid and Henry's pirate.



<p>The Queen's Head Lanchester 01207 520200</p> <p><i>Full A la carte Menu available</i> Real Ales, fine wines</p> <p>Sunday Lunch (booking advisable)</p> <p>Buy one meal get one free Monday to Thursday 6.00pm - 9.00pm (Selective menu)</p>
--

THE ROMAN NORTH

Former President of Lanchester History Group, Brian Dobson, gave the group the benefit of his extensive knowledge of Roman history in an illustrated talk at the September meeting of the Group.

Beginning with an invasion of Britain inspired by Julius Caesar's brief incursion in 55BC and Claudius' need for a victory, he described the alliance with the Brigantes who ruled our region from their

capital at Stanwick, the establishment of forts at Corstopitum near Corbridge and Carlisle and the advance to the Moray Firth, the first of two attempts to subdue our Northern neighbours. He emphasised that the

Roman presence in the North was purely military, with none of the villas found in the South. The Roman buildings, both the forts with enormous headquarter and commanding officer's buildings, with

painted walls and mosaic floors, and the 15 foot high Wall, both controlled and impressed the native people. The soldiers enjoyed medical care, clean water, indoor latrines and baths.



Brian Dobson giving his illustrated talk on *The Roman North*

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QUEEN'S REGULARS - DAVE CONDUCT

Pictured below is our Dave, who travels from Durham to the Sunday Session at the Queens Head. I have known Dave for over twenty years, and he's a genuine nice guy as well as an accomplished performer.

Dave has played regularly at pubs and folk clubs and has delved into electric as well as acoustic music. He projects his personality into his

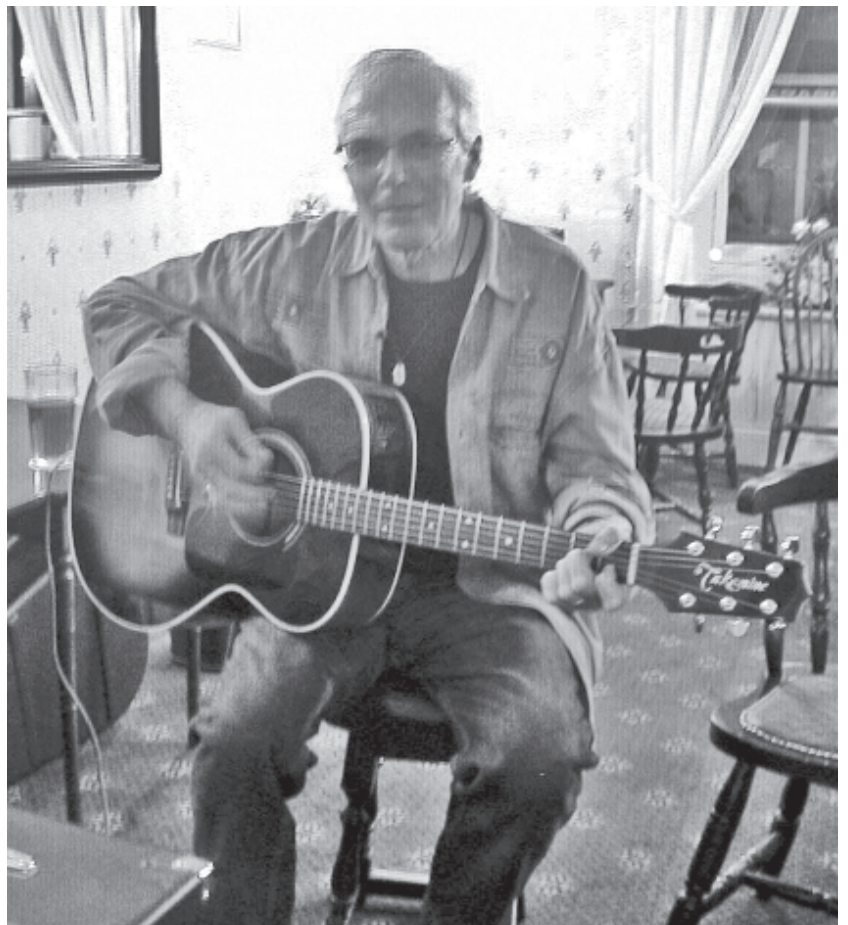
songs and sings with great confidence and much style.

Like many of the group, Dave has identified his own repertoire over the years, tending to focus on blues, country and gospel music. He plays some fairly unusual songs but is most known for his superb rendition of the non p.c. but hilarious "Trashy Women", often used to great effect to finish off an evening.

At the time of publication, Dave will be on holiday in America. We will look forward to seeing him in October.

I have never failed to be amazed incidentally, by the sheer amount of talented musicians and singers that live within the area. If you have a penchant for a canny musical evening, pop along and join us any Sunday at The Queens Head at 8.30 pm.

Yours, Ian Tute



Dave Conduct - a regular performer at the Queen's Head on a Sunday evening

DINING OUT

The Black Bull, Corbridge

The Black Bull at Corbridge sells consistently good food at a consistently reasonable price.

We visited The Black Bull on Wednesday 14th September and weren't disappointed. The ambience is warm and cosy and the service friendly and accommodating.

On arriving, we ordered main courses consisting of two lasagnes, one garlic and paprika roast chicken and one smothered chicken

with sweet cured bacon for myself, which was both rich and delicious.

This establishment through experience accommodates subtle menu changes and they were more than happy to substitute chips for potatoes and to alter certain accompaniments on request if they were able to do so.

All of the main courses were very satisfying and up to the high standard I have become used to

when dining at this eatery.

The portions are generous but not ridiculous and are more than satisfactory.

For dessert I ordered a toffee pavlova, which was as good as it always is and does exactly what it says on the tin, whilst one of my companions chose a fruit tart which looked delicious and I was assured that it was.

My other two companions shared in

our desserts although I have to admit I ate the majority myself but all four of us felt the meal as a whole was as usual, well worth the money.

The meal in total was accompanied by 5 pints of lager, one large glass of very good red wine and a sparkling mineral water which accumulated a grand total of £56 for the four of us.

Atmosphere 7/10
Service 7/10

Price versus quality 7/10
Food Quality 8/10

Disability access – Wheelchairs can fit through the front doors but toilet facilities are not accessible.

However the manager stated they had plans to change this.

Telephone no. 01434 632261 (however please note that it is advisable to book as we have been disappointed in the past)

PARISH CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

A lively morning at the Chapter House with a raffle, tombola, and cake stalls etc. raised

£126 which will help fund the forthcoming Autumn Fayre on November 26th at the

Community Centre. Thanks are given to all those who attended and the helpers.



Beverly Moralee enjoying selling home made produce at the Parish Church Coffee Morning.

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ART EXHIBITION

Lanchester Art Group holds its annual art exhibition in the Community Centre on Saturday and Sunday 15th/16th October, from 10am till 5pm each day. Admission is 30p.

As well as the opportunity to buy pictures by local artists, tea, coffee, and cakes will be available.

BOWLING CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Lanchester Bowling Club will take place at the Pavilion on Thursday 13th October 2005 at 7.00 pm.

ANYONE FOR COFFEE?

The WI has a coffee morning on October 5th, the Flower Club on the 26th, both in the Community Centre.

CONTAINER GARDENING

There will be a container gardening workshop in the Community Centre on Saturday October 29th from 9.30 to 12.30 in the Community Centre.

VOICES FOR HOSPICES

A concert in aid of Willowburn Hospice takes place on Saturday 8th October at Consett Empire Theatre

The programme starts at 7.15pm with SNUG performing songs from the shows, and after the interval Duncan Bythell will conduct the choir and orchestra in favourite pieces from the classical repertoire.

Tickets are £6, concessions £5 and are available from the Empire Theatre Box Office on 01207218171. For online bookings please go to: www.derwentside.gov.uk/whatson.

COUNTRY MARKET

The market formerly known as the WI market will take place in the Community Centre on Saturday 1st October, starting at 10am.

FLOWER CLUB

Lanchester and District Flower Club will hold a coffee morning on Wednesday 26th October in the Community Centre, starting at 10am.

DAD'S ARMY

Lanchester Lions are presenting 'Dad's Army' at the Community Centre on Saturday 22nd October. Tickets in the form of Identity Cards will be issued on production of £8.00. Included in the evening will be a three-course meal provided by Lady Lions, as well as games, entertainment and a disco. It is assumed that most people attending will dress up for the occasion in appropriate attire. So, 'get fell in', march up to any Lion member and obtain your Identity Card. If, however, you would prefer to deal with top brass, ring General Graham McVeigh on 528016 and he will deal with you promptly and efficiently, in a proper manner, as per the British Army.

AUTUMN FAIR

Durham Day Service will hold its Autumn Fair in the Community Centre on Saturday 22nd October from 10am till 12.30pm, to raise funds for its day service. Bric-a-brac, art work and cards will be on sale, and there will be a raffle, tombola and refreshments. All are welcome.

HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting of the Local History Group will include the traditionally brief AGM followed by talks given by group members. The meeting is in the Community Centre on Friday October 7th.

WHAT'S ON?

MARC VEHICLE

Answers to enquiries about housing, council tax benefit, welfare rights, tax credits, pension credits and any customer services related issues to the council are available from the MARC vehicle which will be parked in Front Street on Tuesdays October 11th and 25th. The police may be present, but if not, queries/complaints can be passed on to them. It will also be possible to obtain bus passes, if people bring along proof of identity and date of birth.

MP SURGERY

Our MP Hilary Armstrong will be available to hear from constituents on Saturday 8th October at Citizen's House, Consett from 11am.

MOTHERS' UNION

The October meeting takes place on the 12th October in the Chapter House of the Parish Church at 7.30pm, when the speaker will be Mr John Milburn Henderson talking about family history.

NOBBY'S BACK

Advance warning that Nobby Dimon and his theatre company will be appearing in an entertainment called 'The Imitation Game' on 10th November in the Community Centre.

MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY

Good news for music-lovers is the forthcoming British tour of young musician Jali Sherrifo Konteh, who will be in Lanchester library on Friday 21st October at 7.30pm. Sherrifo plays the kora, which he and his brother learned from their father. Musicians make their own 21-string koras, using a calabash, a mahogany neck and cow skin.

The main outlet for West African traditional music in the Gambia where he lives is in tourist hotels, solo or with his eight-piece group Roots Mandin, and opportunities to record and broadcast are minimal. He is pleased to play in Britain, and this is his second tour.

Tickets are obtainable only in the library.

BOOKSTART DAY

There is a special day for pre-school children in Lanchester Library on Thursday 6th October. The session is from 2.00-3.30pm making party hats and playing party games.

NOT ON

Following a disappointing take-up on registration day, two courses offered at the Community Centre will not happen. They are 'Introduction to a Zen Garden' and 'Lacquered Leather Jewellery Making'.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Twenty one days' notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of Lanchester Publications Ltd to be held at 7.00 pm in the Community Centre, Lanchester, on Monday 14th November 2005. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

PARTNER- SHIP OPEN MORNING

10.00 am to 12.30 pm on Saturday October 8th in the Community Centre. You are invited to come for an enjoyable morning, being entertained by young performers (the superb Brass Band Training Band and the exciting Tae Kwando class) while you have home-made refreshments.

The morning will be opened by the Rev. Mary Lloyd.

The beautiful models made by the Model Boat Club and the wonderful bikes of the Centurions will be on show, as well as various other static displays.

The Partnership display will focus on the newly published Parish Plan. Your questions and comments, whether supportive or critical, will be welcomed.

Please come, and bring your friends!

READING GROUP

The date given last month for the start of the reading group in Lanchester library was not correct. The group meets on the second Tuesday in each month, so will next convene on Tuesday 11th October from 10.15 am till 12 noon.

TABLE TOP SALE

Anyone who would like to reserve a table at a table-top sale to be held on Saturday 19th November is asked to contact Jill Ramsay on 520501. The sale will be in the Community Centre, and is in aid of Framwellgate Moor scout group.

SHORT WALK

The Acorn Amblers walk in October will be led by a member of the Friends of the Fort group in Lanchester. The five-mile walk is on Sunday 23rd October, starting at Newbiggen Lane car park at 1.30pm. The route uses lanes and grassland paths and goes 'over the hill' from the valley of the Smallhope Burn to the Brownley valley.

SOCIAL CLUB

There is entertainment on Saturday nights in the bar room of Lanchester Social Club, with no cover charge. Three singers make their debut, with the popular Steve Ashwood making a return visit

Saturday 1st October - Elise

8th October - Steve Ashwood

15th October - Nigel's karaoke

22nd October - Dee Dee Jones

29th October - Christie

There is ballroom dancing every Friday in the Concert Room from 7 to 11pm, with only a £1 cover charge.

PARISH PLAN

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE! The Lanchester Partnership is about to set up small teams to tackle 'Actions' that are recommended in the Parish Plan.

This follows much work done on it by the Parish Council in recent weeks. If you might consider joining (or leading) any of these small teams, and thereby helping the community, you are warmly invited to an open meeting in the Community Centre at 8:pm on Monday 10th October.

TAIZE WORSHIP

The centre for ecumenical worship founded at Taize in the Eastern part of France by Brother Roger in 1940 is the inspiration for a service which will be held on Thursday 3rd November at 7pm in Lanchester Parish Church.

Anyone who would like to familiarise themselves with the Taize chants is invited to come to the practices to be held in the church on Thursday evenings from 6.00 to 7.00 pm, beginning on Thursday 29th September.

No specific singing experience is necessary, so we are told. Further details can be had from Margaret Walters on 521214.

OUCH!

For those men who think that they are squeamish, don't read on. For those ladies who like to see men suffer, do read on.

More importantly turn up, both men and women for this amazing fund-raising event at the Queen's Head on Friday 21st October from about 7pm onwards.

Led by John, the owner, about six men will undergo waxing - no not waxing lyrical but they will have their chest and leg hair removed by a beautician using this very sadistic method. Why? It's all in the name of the charity Tiny Lives Premature Babies, so please turn up and support this very worthwhile cause and watch these brave men suffer.

WI

Lanchester Women's Institute holds its annual general meeting at 7pm on Monday October 3rd, when new members would no doubt be welcomed.

There is also a coffee morning on Wednesday 5th October.

Both of these activities are to take place in the Community Centre.

WILDLIFE GROUP

On Tuesday 11th October, at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, members and guests will hear a talk on 'Bats'.

JOKES?

What's red and white and slides down the table? Sunderland.

Why do Sunderland players use lighters? They keep losing their matches.

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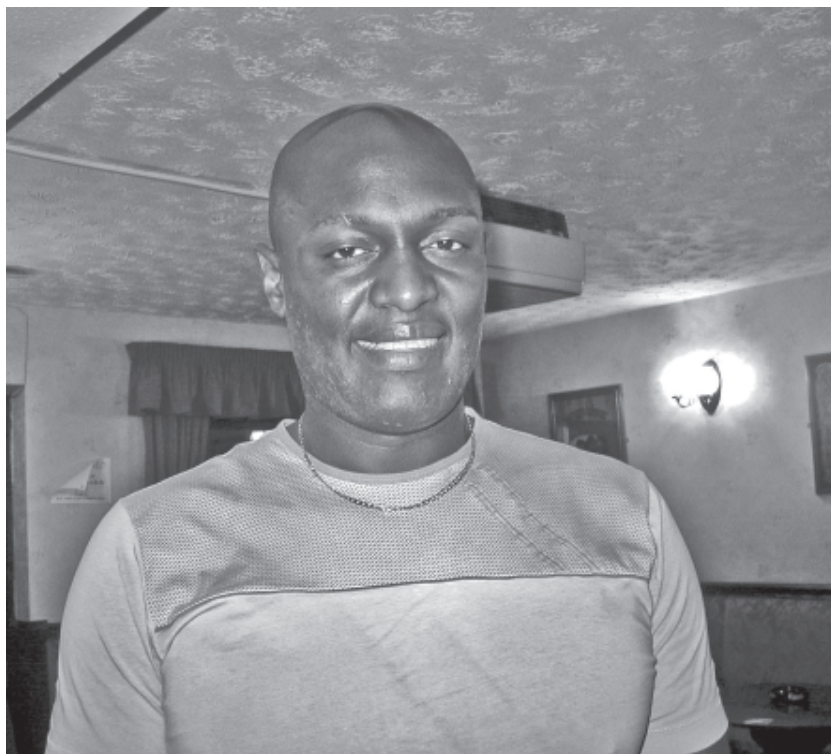
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EUKANUBA WAFCOL JAMES WELBELOVED

GEORDIE JOHN - BRISTOL JOHN?

Many locals may have seen this tall, dark handsome man who appears in the village roughly once a fortnight at the weekend. The story began about four years ago when Paul from the Black Bull received a call in his Bed and Breakfast Accommodation at Maiden Law. The man at the other end of the line had been locked out of a friend's house in Langley Park and John, as he was then known, was looking for a bed for the night. After many phone calls within minutes, John said to Paul that he had found Barclays Bank and Nat West Bank but could not find the Midland Bank. Of course, John, who was not fluent in 'Geordie' then, had mistaken Maiden Law Bank for Midland Bank. Unsurprisingly, by this time, Paul thought it was a 'wind up'. Then five minutes later, John appeared on his doorstep. And so the relationship with Paul, Pam and many Lancastrians began. John, a teetotaler, is a regular at the Black Bull and has made many friends in all parts of the North East. At Sam Jacks Night Club in the 'toon' the doormen think the world of him as he always gives them some fruit to gain entry to the club. So plain John, the Bristolian,

has become Geordie John with his unique Geordie accent. Why did it all happen? It happened all those years ago because Geordie John came north to watch Spurs, his then favourite team, play Newcastle. He was won over by the atmosphere at St James' Park and the wonderful fans who made him so welcome. He changed his allegiance from Tottenham to Newcastle after that game and ever since has made the five hours each way drive from Bristol to Lanchester for every home game, with the added incentive of meeting his many friends in the North East.



Geordie John - Newcastle United Fan

FOOTBALL IS BACK

The Chapel lads returned to pre-season training buoyed by the success of the previous season and hoping this year to retain the Shield we won last year and hopefully add to the trophy cabinet. Pre season was, as usual, interrupted by holidays, but the lads who trained put in some hard work when they could get along.

Only two pre-season games were played (with one being cancelled due to super striker Andy Sword tying the knot!). A 3-3 draw at Chester-le-Street, St. Cuthberts and a 5-4 defeat at St Johns, Snods Edge, were not ideal preparation for the season ahead but it gave the lads a chance to blow the cobwebs away.

The Charity Shield once again has a 'Champions League' first round but this time you only play each team once. A rematch against pre-season opponents St Cuthberts saw Lanchester struggle early on, 3-1 down at half time with Ray Wilkinson grabbing an equaliser after an early St. Cuthberts goal. A half time 'gee up' saw the lads roar back to 3-3 as an Olly Webster slide rule finish and Graeme Hall free kick fluke took the plaudits. With St. Cuthberts on the back foot Lanchester hammered home their superiority with goals from Nick Tinkler, Olly Webster and David

Marrin sealing a 6-3 win. Still in the Charity Shield, the lads travelled to All Saints, Preston on Tees in Stockton. On arrival we were told that the Council had to loan them smaller goals as the adult posts were not ready. Both teams agreed to play the game, as it was the same for both sides. The Preston keeper had a blinder and if we weren't denied by the Preston Stopper we found the woodwork! 0-0 a very rare score in our leagues but that's how it finished.

The League Campaign began at Sunderland (formerly Metro Church now Hope House) who for a lot of years have always been there or thereabouts when the Premier Championship is decided. Having been soundly beaten 'at their place' last year, the signs looked ominous once more as the Chapel went 3-0 down before half time and then lost our Super Keeper John Cudden to a hand injury. Craig Hole donned the gloves, relinquishing his Centre forward role and becoming 'Holey the Goalie'! Nick Tinkler improved dramatically in the second half and notched two goals to bring the Lads back into it then at the very end of the game Lee Hall latched on to a Nigel Hepplewhite flick on to equalise. 3-3 was the final score.

Happy days!
Yours in football
Jeff Parker

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NEXT DEADLINE

Please send us any contributions for the next Village Voice by Tuesday, 18th October. Thank you.

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