

BONFIRE NIGHT - A HUGE SUCCESS

Lanchester Lions Club are pleased to report that the Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display held at Kitswell Park on 4th November was financially an outstanding success, and safety wise, they are happy that the Red Cross, who always attend this function, had nothing to do.

The weather was kind except for a gust of wind which upended the Gazebo about two minutes after it had been erected, and at the very end of the evening the same thing happened again. Such is life with the Lions.

The club is indebted to many people and

organisations without which the night would not have been possible. They would like to thank: Red Cross for being there; the Parish Council for their monetary contribution; the Probation Service who provided labour in the form of Community Service Youths; Ronnie

Dixon for transport of pallets; Schmitz Cargo Bull for provision of pallets; the Cricket Club; Lions' Ladies for refreshments; the EP School for the excellent Guy; and of course, all those people who attended and gave so generously at the gate, and bought light sticks, refreshments etc from the stalls. Lions would also like to thank the police, in particular P.C. Alan Patterson for organising the supply of passes and at the same time apologise to the residents of Kitswell area for any inconvenience on the evening. This year the fireworks cost in the



This firework blew smoke rings

region of £1800 and the profit which goes into the welfare fund was a magnificent £1146.



The crowd look in wonder at the display



All smiles from Lions around the completed bonfire: Left to right Top: Alan Hill, Guy Fawkes, Tommy Robinson (Chief Organiser); Bottom: Ian Murray, Eric Tuffy, Tony Corry with grandson Jonathan, Brian Naylor, Mike Stoddart



Alan Hill holds on in despair as the Gazebo takes off



The EP School children who made such a good job of making the Guy for the Lions Bonfire



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,
Your November edition carried thoughtful constructive letters on two subjects:

- the dangers caused by traffic on Ford Road, and
- the behaviour of teenagers.

The Lanchester Partnership is tackling both of these subjects and would like to invite your correspondents (and any other residents interested in making things better in Lanchester) to our next meetings. On Monday December

11th our Working with Young People Group will meet at 6.30pm and our combined Environment and Transport Group will meet at 7.30pm, both in the Community Centre. Subsequent meetings will be on the second Monday of each month. Everyone who comes is made welcome.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to know more about what we are doing about Ford Road, or teenagers or any other subject, please talk to one of our members or ring me on 528 114.

Yours faithfully,
Mike Gladstone

Dear Sir
Thanks to the people of Burnhope who turned up at the war memorial on Sunday November

12th for a Remembrance service both outside at 10.45am and then in the Methodist Church for 11.05 am.

I would like to thank all those who took part, Mrs O. Parks, Mrs O. Emmerson, Mr K. Smite and not forgetting the Rev P. Waterhouse who took the service and Mrs V. Collins who played the organ.

A collection of £66 was taken and has now been sent to the Royal British Legion.
S.F. Collins

Dear Village Voice,
On behalf of all our family we would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers and condolences following the death of our beloved daughter Jenny Copeland. People have been so kind and the many hugs greatly appreciated. Jenny was 56 and had fought her battle with cancer bravely for many years. She died peacefully on the 16th October with husband Billy and son Tom at her side. We are grateful to have been able to spend the last hours with her and take comfort in knowing she is reunited with her son Peter. She was a beautiful, vivacious and talented person who shines through all her wonderful paintings. Good bye may seem forever,
Farewell is like the end, But in our hearts the memory
And there you will always be.
Yours Sincerely,
Tommy and Violet Carter.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

HELEN GOES TO HEXHAM

The Reverend Helen Barton, Assistant Curate of Lanchester & Holmside has been appointed as Associate Vicar of Hexham Abbey in the Diocese of Newcastle. Her last Sunday at Lanchester and Holmside will be 3rd of December. Her new post involves assisting the Rector of Hexham in a very busy church and parish as well as developing Christian education training across the whole diocese of Newcastle. Helen began her ministry in the parish on September 6th, 2004.

WARNING - A' DELIVERY' SCAM

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HELP WITH DISTRIBUTION

The Village Voice is brought to every home by an army of distributors who put the paper through their neighbours' doors. This system works well, with the occasional hiccup, but from time to time people leave the village or are on holiday on distribution day. We are appealing for replacement or occasional distributors to volunteer, especially for the Manor Grange area. Could you please contact Mike Stoddart on 520291 if you can help.

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

This society can help people with Alzheimer's or dementia and their carers. They have a drop-in centre at 5 Trafalgar Street, Consett from 10am till 2pm every day, home support service, carers support, lunch clubs, education and information and other activities. For information contact Alison Rundle, phone 591835, email a_rundle@derwentside.org.uk

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AUCTION SUCCESS

The Auction and Table Top Sale at the Community Centre on Saturday morning 28th October turned out to be a great success, not only monetary but it was a great social occasion with a lively atmosphere. Chairman of the Centre, Arthur Maughan, opened the event with a brief talk to the audience outlining the general financial situation and plans for expansion at the Community Centre with the need to raise £90,000 for the SPACE PROJECT. He informed everyone that already £25,000 had been raised and that Martin Durkin was in the process of applying for some very large grants. Other local fund raising by John Hurran has already been very successful.

The hall was quite full when the auction began and there were 159 lots catalogued and a further 25 added later. There were some excellent new products, plenty of bric a brac, and paintings etc, - even a bicycle had been donated. The table tops were also well covered in large quantities of tempting items. Auctioneer Arthur, zipped through the auction in his own inimitable quick fire style, which put the audience in a very enthusiastic mood. It may well have been his 'day job', such was his professionalism. A massive £545 was raised on the morning which made it all worthwhile. Arthur would like to give thanks to all his helpers on the day. Ken Gardiner organised the event.



Arthur Maughan conducts the auction; Jean Hunter takes the money

Other helpers were: Jean Hunter, who took the money; John Wilson; John Hurran; Tony Corry; Tommy Robinson; who distributed the lots. Peter Smith and Arthur Dodds also gave their services willingly. Arthur would also like to thank all those people who kindly

donated items for auction and sale. Special thanks as well go to Arthur's friends from Newton on the Moor, near Alnwick, John and Jennifer Oliver, who provided the very successful Table Top Sale. Teas and coffees etc. were organised and provided by Audrey

Gardiner, Anne Hurran and Mavis, Arthur's wife. This was a great team effort which along with those who supported the function with their generous bidding, came up with this excellent sum of money to support the village Community Centre.



Bidders at the auction



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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Police Report

There was no police report.

Village Bus

The regular passengers on the Village Bus attended the meeting to ask for help. They said that the bus gave independence and dignity to the housebound, and that it would cost more to provide home or residential care. They were told by County Councillor Tom Forster that the County could not offer finance but were trying to secure some kind of service in collaboration with Langley Park Community Transport. The former 767 bus might be available. A new complication was a Government ordinance that drivers had to be licenced and checked by the police.

It was emphasised that the Parish could not fund

the bus without adding 9p to the precept.

Finally the Parish Plan was quoted, which suggested a Transport Group comprising bus users, Partnership, Parish Council, Health and Social Services and it was resolved to form such a group.

Locality Map

Steve Scoffin, an officer of the Great North Forest who is helping, together with a farming, wildlife and environment group to create a Lanchester Locality Map, travelled 300 miles to give a brief report to the Council. He circulated a draft of this study on land use in the Parish, and also a completed study of the Penshaw/Houghton le Spring area.

Report on CCTV at Park House

Ozzie Johnson reported that BT had still not

connected the new CCTV. There was no information about the Park House camera.

Seats

The contractors employed to install new seats in the village had failed to do so, and a replacement contractor would cost 50% more. There was discussion on leaving one seat, which was costly to install, out of the contract.

DIAL leaflets

The booklet of useful phone numbers, compiled by Lanchester Partnership, will be delivered to every home in the village by Parish Council members in the near future.

NCB Land

It was reported that land along the riverside near Malton, owned by the National Coal Board would be sold by auction. The Parish believe that

this woodland would have amenity value, and decided to ask for either a gift of the land or time to obtain grants to buy it.

Estimates

The Council will soon have to compile a future budget and were asked to consider priorities, bearing in mind a possible loss of a grant of £5000.

Public Participation

During the last year the Council have suspended business after each item of the agenda to permit members of the public, if any, to ask questions or otherwise contribute. This will now cease, and the public will have the opportunity to participate after the Police Report.

Planning

The Council had no comment to make on plans for a garage in Burnhopeside Avenue or

a conservatory in Lee Hill Court, though they had suggestions to improve an extension in Foxwood Court.

They were quite clear that the proposed 10 metre high lighting columns at the Horse Arena, Peth Bank, which have apparently already been installed, would cause intolerable light pollution and affect the Conservation Area and Wildlife Corridor, and that the proposed refurbishment of Greenfield Farm, Waskerley with a two-storey extension was an undesirable intrusion in the countryside.

Need it be added that decisions are ultimately taken by Derwentside District Council, to whom concerned people should write.

LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP

At the December meeting of the Partnership final details of the Film Club to be held on December 3rd were discussed, and plans made for the next Open Day on 29th September 2007.

A letter was read from the County Area Traffic Engineer in response to a request for greater safety on Ford Road. He said that a traffic survey showed little speeding, and that there had been only one accident reported in ten years. It would be a costly exercise to purchase land to widen the road, and to remove columns on the pavement and bury cables would cost £60,000. It was commented that local residents would not be happy with this response, and a further attempt should be made to make the pavements safe.

The DIAL information booklet was to go to the Parish Council the following day. It was hoped that they could arrange distribution, but members of Partnership would help.

An application for floodlights at a riding stable up Peth Bank was discussed and opposed. It was thought likely that a Public Meeting should be held to oppose the Russell Close application. A written report was received that the Derwentside Strategic Partnership was running well, though its offices had had to be abandoned due to vandalism. The County Strategic Partnership was in a shambles, having cut off its own head and not yet grown another. Clarification of this decapitation will be awaited with interest.



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BUS USERS AT COUNTY HALL

Many regular passengers on Lanchester Village Bus took their case to County Hall on Thursday November 1st and came away with what sounded at first like a dusty answer. The occasion was the monthly Council meeting, which involved little business except presentation of certificates and formal answers to questions, including two from Lanchester.

Lanchester's first question came from bus user Ralph Wilkinson, who simply asked Council representatives to come and watch the bus in operation before making decisions.

Mike Gladstone read a brief letter outlining the need for the village bus, stressing that the £15,000 needed was less than the cost of maintaining one senior citizen in a Home.

Basically he was asking for joined-up thinking about "Care in the Community". He too asked for delay in decisions until currently publicised consultations were completed.

Replying, Cllr John Pendlebury shared the community's disappointment at the demise of funding for the village link bus as it is fully aware of the value that it has brought to accessibility for the community. He stressed that the Council has only ever been a minor financial contributor to this service, and it is the termination of funding from other sources which has resulted in this action.

He said that over the last 2 years the Council had had to withdraw support to other worthy bus services to which it has contributed



Some of the Village Bus users and helpers on the steps of County Hall
Photo: Jill Gladstone

financially. This has resulted from the pressures of high levels of inflation in the industry and commercial decisions by operators to withdraw services.

Basically, the Council was hard up, but Council Officers are in ongoing discussion with the organisers of the link bus and other interested

parties on how the Council might help the Lanchester Partnership to keep the service going beyond the end of the year with the involvement of other community transport operators.

Following the formal meeting Cllr Pendlebury invited the protestors to discuss their problems with him and two officers.

It became clear that the Council officers could not approach Social Services or the PCT who seem to have some responsibility in aiding mobility for senior citizens. They advised that the campaigners approach other agencies for help, but they hoped to involve other sources of transport, and were willing to help in negotiations.

More than meets the eye



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SWINGS, ROUNDABOUTS AND LIBRARIES

Durham County Council is currently carrying out a consultation exercise. They want to know what they should prioritise in their budget for 2007-8, and you can collect a form from Lanchester Library, where you can also read the County's wish-list and proposals for savings.

The situation is as follows. The Council has decided, to universal plaudits, that they will NOT close old folks' homes. This will cost money, and we're asked what we would like to cut, such as our local 'part-time' libraries, including possibly Lanchester library.

There is a long list of possible cuts, which in total would save £15 million pounds plus. The County doesn't need to save anywhere near this much, but could libraries be a nice soft target? Admittedly, closing 3 small libraries would only save £67,000 a year, but on the other hand the County has to spend £280,000 to improve the level of stock and opening hours to meet public library standards. These standards are yet another Government

directive which, it goes without saying, comes without a cash grant to pay for it.

So, the improved library stock and increased opening hours we've all been asking for for years will be financed—for any libraries that haven't been closed to save money. You couldn't make it up. Meanwhile County Councillors have already voted to continue to keep Durham Clayport Library open all day, seven days a week.

Lanchester library has a membership of 3100 and despite its part-time opening is extremely popular. It holds craft sessions for the kids, Family History sessions for the older element, highly popular musical events, exhibitions and book signings, and is home to Creative Writers and web-surfers. It might be a good plan for library users to respond to the Council's consultation, before November 30th if possible.

new image

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ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AT LANCHESTER SERVICES

The petrol station has undergone re-branding and is now selling BioDiesel, a new fuel obtained from processed vegetable oils and can be used as a substitute for diesel. This new fuel is a 5% blend with 95% petroleum diesel that requires no engine modifications. As transport fuel emissions are now one third of total carbon pollution, PetroPlus, a Teeside based refining company, introduced a BioDiesel scheme initially for private fuel suppliers such as Durham County Council and Durham Police. After 3 years, they have sold 2 million litres. PetroPlus have selected 30 rural garages across the North East to introduce BioDiesel onto garage forecourts under the brand name One Green Route. This makes this environmentally friendly fuel available to small

business and local residents. Lanchester Services was recommended to receive the funding in order to sell this new diesel, as well as undergoing rebranding. Usually organic products are more expensive, yet BioDiesel is slightly cheaper than other diesels because of smaller tax charges. Dr. Jonathon Scurlock, a Renewable Energy Project Manager from NE Community Forests said that, 'BioDiesel is accepted by the Motor Industry and meets European Standards'. OneGreenRoute is seeking cleaner transport and making a 'Greener North East' as an attraction to tourists. So as well as the tourists, all the locals in Lanchester can now be environmentally friendly by buying Biodiesel on their own doorstep. Kate Startup

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REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The traditional service was shared in Remembrance Service delivery by Canon was held on Lanchester Village Green at 9.30am on 12th November. A slight change to the format this year meant that all those people laying the wreaths met at the Parish Church and marched from there to the Village Green in company with clergy and councillors. A moving Falklands Conflict. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the following: Durham County Council, Derwentside District Council, Parish Council, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Durham, W.I., Boys Brigade and Anchor Boys, Guides and Brownies, British Red Cross, Lanchester Lions Club.



Lanchester Brass Band play at the Remembrance Service



The procession from the Parish Church to Village Green



Members of the clergy delivering the service

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Halloween in the Library

HALLOWEEN HORRORS

The Library's half-term, dressing up the library with themed Chatterbooks group for the occasion as you art-work, and also celebrated Halloween can see in the photo displayed their scary poems with a craft session at below. They decorated poems.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR?

The ladies in the "Amigos" did a variety of interesting jobs for the war effort!

Number 1

PEGGY ATKINSON was the second Lanchester girl to be conscripted, Beryl Thompson from the paper shop being the first. Peggy joined the WRAF as a cook for almost 5 years. She did her square bashing at Bridgenorth in Wales and cooked for the airmen. She was posted at Llanbedr between Harlech and Barmouth, and was the first WRAF to cook on this camp. Dinner for the officers included salmon. Nothing was wasted; open jam tarts were baked with left-over pastry. A roux was made in such a big boiler that Peggy had to stand on a duck-board in order to reach. Spam fritters, corned beef and New Zealand mutton were the order of the day. Cakes and puddings were made with powdered egg.

Number 2

NOREEN RAFFERTY, originally from Witton Gilbert, served for 3 years. She had a dangerous job filling bombs and shells at Aycliffe along with many Lanchester women of all ages. All the women had to change their clothes and put on white fireproof overalls and a turban. Shoes with no nails and no jewellery were required to avoid setting off the powder. Unfortunately fatal accidents sometimes occurred when the wrong funnel was used to knock the powder down. Noreen worked there until there was a petrol shortage and she was then moved to Spennymoor to make shells. Four years ago Noreen went to Durham Cathedral and was presented with a badge, "Aycliffe Angels", in recognition of her service.

RED CROSS HOUSEHOLD SALE



It was overtime for the Red Cross shop's volunteer helpers as the Household Sale started on 8th November

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BRIDGE FOR SPACE

A bridge competition was held in the Community Centre on Sunday November 12th in aid of the SPACE campaign which aims to build an extension to the Centre. It was organised by Brenda Hartley and well supported by members of Lanchester Bridge Club and friends. Playing fees and a raffle raised £205 from the 48 players, which was gratefully accepted by fundraiser John Hurran.

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ART EXHIBITION

The growing success of the Lanchester Art Group could be seen at the annual exhibition of work on October 21st and 22nd. As usual most of the group members displayed their work, with about 300 pictures on view, and at the end of the viewing 56 paintings had been sold. This total and the number of people visiting the exhibition, 430, were an improvement on the past years and a tribute to the group's reputation, as were the many favourable comments recorded during the week-end.



Viewers admire the work of Jim Railton

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Only one picture at Lanchester Art Group's Exhibition was left without a title. This painting by Jo Shaw was prominently displayed, with a request for suggestions as to what it represented. Many attempts were made to plumb its secret, but none was successful. Any suggestions?



33 Jo Shaw.

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*Ann Stout and Norma Wilkinson enjoy the works of
Barbara Anderson and Jose Gaul*

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP TEN IN TEN

Youth Fellowship members and leaders spent a very busy Sunday 5th November by first attending their various churches followed by a frantic activity of completing a further ten sponsored activities in the allotted ten hours. Some of the events completed were,

Darts; Prayer Writing; Report Writing; Board Games; Rounders; Netball; FairTrade Game; Washing up; Skipping; Tea/Coffee Making; and a Walk. The event finished at about 7.00pm, by which time all were exhausted but happy with the effort put in. An excellent amount

in excess of £500 has been raised so far and this is expected to increase during the next few weeks. This will go to Resurrection House, The Haven Hospice, Port Elizabeth, which one of the Youth Fellowship Leaders, Ann Crinson, has recently visited.



Members enjoying netball



Getting down to report writing



Activity in the Gym

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Paul Rathbone's yoga class meets on Tuesdays starting at 11 am. Here they demonstrate the pose of the warrior (I think). To confirm this, new members are welcome to come along.

RUSSELL CLOSE ON HOLD

The planning application for 10 houses on and around the site of the Russell Close, formerly Witbank Garage can be inspected in Lanchester Library. The application has been withdrawn temporarily to obtain survey reports. When these have been completed the application will be resubmitted, perhaps but not necessarily with alterations to the plans. At that point the whole planning procedure will have to be gone through again, and those people who wrote to the District Council Planning Office to object or otherwise comment will need to do so again.



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ALL SAINTS CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS

On Friday 10th November, the whole of All Saints' School and lots of adult helpers went to Durham Cathedral to celebrate the parish and school feast day of All Saints. The infant children followed a nature trail, finding animals (based on the creatures from Holy Island) around the Cathedral. They then used these images to design and create their own Rose Window. Meanwhile the juniors were Pilgrims and were taken on tours by their guides. They visited St. Bede's tomb in the Galilee Chapel, then said the

Lord's Prayer whilst looking at the Daily Bread Window. At the Chapel of the Nine Altars, they shared unleavened bread, before going into the Shrine of St. Cuthbert, where some children lit candles and the pilgrimage ended with a prayer. The visit ended with a look in the Treasury, where they saw the original Sanctuary Knecker and St Cuthbert's cross. The entire day was enjoyed by all and it will be remembered by the children for a long time. Thank you from the

children to everyone at the Cathedral who made the day so special and to all the teachers and helpers who looked after them. The visit was made even more exceptional when the school received a letter from someone visiting the Cathedral at the same time, congratulating the children on their behaviour. Thank you to the kind person who took the time to write to the school. Frances Gibson, Sophie Kelly, Rebecca Pull, Joe McKinney, Thomas Soutar, Christopher Turner (Year 6)

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HEDGING AND WALLING COMPETITIONS

Durham County Council's Hedgerow Partnership and drystone walling competitions were held on the 4th of November near Colepike Farm on Humberhill Lane, Lanchester. The venue was due to the courtesy of Mr Keith Harrison. The results were as follows:

Hedge Laying

Open Class

1st place - Clive Mathews from Desford Leicester.

2nd place - Mike Wade from Mindrum Northumberland

3rd place - Jasper Prachek from Deepcarr Sheffield South Yorkshire

4th place - Philip Rowel from Barnsley South Yorkshire

Intermediate Class

1st place - Geff Caygill from Chester-Le-Street Co Durham

2nd place - Stan Pikney from Spennymoor Co Durham

Novice Class

1st place Edward & Keith Harrison from Lanchester Co Durham

2nd place

Michael Littlefair from Lartington Barnard Castle Co Durham

3rd place

James Mason from Crook Co Durham

4th place

John Bragg from Frosterley Bishop Auckland County Durham

Overall Champion

Clive Mathews, Desford Leicester

Best Local Competitor

Burt Hunter, from Knitsley, Consett Co Durham

Best Cutting

Clive Mathews from Desford Leicester

Best Re-Growth 2005

John Stevenson from Wolsingham Co Durham

Drystone Walling Competition Open

1st Michael Stevenson

Intermediate

1st Ross Hodgson

Novice

1st Fiona Sharp & Joanne Tiffin

Best Foundation

Ross Hodgson

Best Coping

Michael Stevenson

Best Throughs

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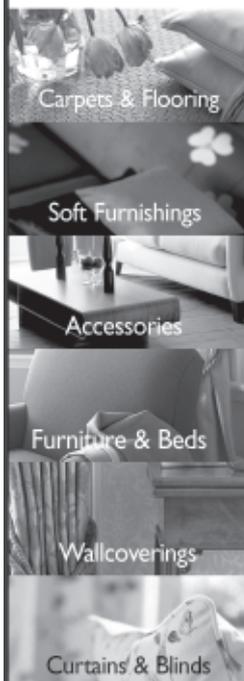
On Friday November 2nd Lanchester Local History Society enjoyed a return visit from George Nairn, collector of local post-cards and publisher of several books illustrating the history of local towns and villages. On this occasion his subject was Pickfords, a firm he worked for over 32 years. The firm originated in Cheshire in the 1700's with a Government contract to move stone, and later bought another firm from a Mr Bass when he moved into brewing. When the canals and railways came along, Pickfords were in the forefront, launching containers by rail. The firm's development was richly illustrated with paintings in the early stages, then photos of gigantic loads

being moved by dozens of horses, a steam road van, traction engines with solid tyres which tended to pick up the tarmac, and boats to the Isle of Wight. The 'bread and butter' jobs included a new boiler for County Hall, but Pickfords delivered first World War guns, underground trains, locomotives, the bucket belonging to 'Big Geordie', the massive digger, parts of Concorde, copies of 'Locomotion', 'Sans Pareil', and Stephenson's 'Rocket', generators for Fylingdales, and the good ship 'Turbinia' en route for the Discovery Museum in Newcastle. All this was accompanied by staggering statistics, loads weighing

hundreds of tons, tractors with enormous engines (sometimes linked as a triple header for steep slopes) and 12 reverse gears, and trailers with dozens of wheels. When arranging long road journeys with a heavy load, George needed to contact every County and police force, know the carrying capacity of every bridge and every lamp-post and trolley-wire that would have to be temporarily removed. It was a great pleasure to hear an expert give such a fascinating account of a working life devoted to shifting heavy loads. The illustrations were excellent, the commentary knowledgeable and lively, the time passed like a flash.



George Nairn, whose working life involved the shifting of heavy loads, with some of his collection of Pickfords models



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SHARING FAIR

The last weekend in October brought a colourful display of crafts, toys, Christmas decorations and cards to parish centre at All Saints Catholic church. Sister Lucina Wogan of the Good Shepherd sisters spoke at both Masses of the work done with vulnerable women and children throughout the world which had led to this display of beautifully made items. She was inundated with

customers who rewarded her with sales and donations of over £2000. After the Saturday evening event she had to restock some of the stalls and at the end of the Sunday session took away orders for some popular items rather than disappoint customers. 100% of all money raised goes to the producing projects or to help set up new self-help groups. Anyone who missed the event can visit Sharing

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Wogan
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“SMASHING PUMPKINS”

On Wednesday 1st November, 2006, the Lanchester Community Centre was the venue for the appearance of Smashing Pumpkins, at a coffee morning in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance. From 9.30am to 11.30am on a lovely autumnal morning, the Dining Room was packed, as supporters of the Great North Air Ambulance were hosted by the ladies of the Thursday

Club and invited to contribute through raffles, tombola and the Great North Air Ambulance stall. Coffee and cakes were in plentiful supply and, of course, all patrons were provided with a delightful piece of smashing Pumpkin Pie. The ladies of the Thursday Club wish to express their grateful thanks to all who donated to, and supported, their two

events this year. Together, these events have enabled the ladies to contribute £950 towards the Great North Air Ambulance. In their turn, the ladies are to be congratulated on such a superb effort for such a worthwhile cause.

VILLAGE VOICE AGM

The annual meeting of the Village Voice committee took place on Sunday 12th November. In his annual report, Chairman Brian Oram regretted the loss of Lindsay Weston who had to leave the area for family reasons. On the plus side, Tim Taylor had offered to help with reporting, and Kate Startup is reporting on a temporary basis to gain journalistic experience. Brian Naylor had agreed to act as auditor. The size of the paper had varied from 18 to 22 pages and 24 pages in October. He thanked all contributors and distributors for their work. During 2006 the Village Voice had been able to

sponsor the Brass Band on a two-year basis and would consider further help in July next. £1000 had also been pledged to the SPACE project. Treasurer Clare Wilkinson said that though expenses and printing costs had risen, due largely to larger papers, advertising had risen by 35% leaving a net profit of £3963.89. Advertising Manager John Hurran said that advertising was £1000 more than last year at this time, so he had decided not to ask for any rise in advertising charges. To help printing, he would like adverts to reach him two days earlier than the news deadline.

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WI NEWS

On 6th November Lanchester WI celebrated its 81st Birthday by holding a party in the Community Centre. Fiona from "Crinnions" supplied a delicious 3 course hot buffet with coffee and macaroons. She placed fresh flowers on the crisp white tablecloths and fanned serviettes in each wine glass. A few bottles of wine were opened and there were excellent prizes for the free raffle. Mr David Conlin, accompanied by pianist Mrs Lilian Dixon, sang in his lovely baritone voice a delightful selection of songs which included



Lilian Dixon and David Conlin at the WI party.

delightful selection of songs which included

"My Little Grey House in the West", "Don't Bring Me Roses", "Portrait of My Love" and "On the Street Where We Live".

The next meeting will be held on 4th December at 7.00 pm in the small hall. There will be a Faith Supper followed by "fun

and games". Further entertainment will also be provided by Lanchester Male Voice Choir.

If you are interested in joining the WI please come along and enjoy 3 free visits before membership is required!

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VILLAGE TRAIL

Lanchester Local History group is undertaking a new project to put history on the map literally.

It is hoped to publish a village trail guiding visitors (and residents) through the history of the village, including historical details of its buildings. Information already gleaned by Lilian Dixon and Eric Burns provides an excellent basis, but there may be a lot more to learn from householders in our Conservation Area of Front Street and the Green area. Photographs of times past would be welcome.

If you can help with historical information, please get in touch with Malcolm McKenzie on 521427 or any member of the History Group.

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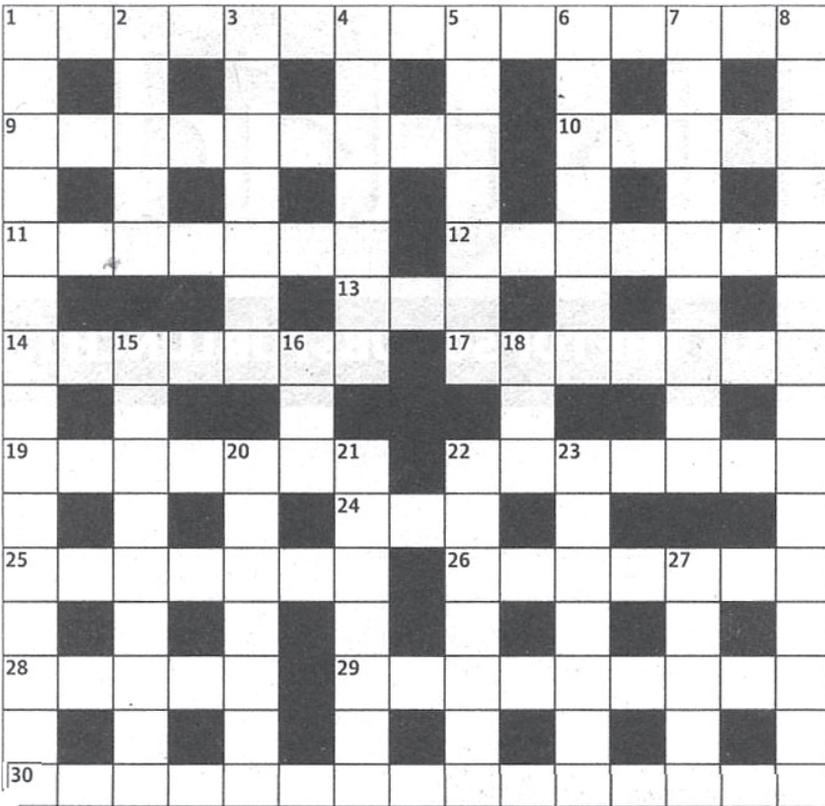
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PRIZE CROSSWORD 7



Eight correct solutions to Crossword No 6 were received and the winner out of the scrabble-bag was Margaret Raper of Humberhill Drive who will receive the £10 prize. Why not try number 7?

Answers to Crossword No 6

Across

- 8. Monument
- 9. Burka
- 10. Nero
- 11. Emancipate
- 12. Pliant
- 14. Honduras
- 15. Swagman
- 17,20 Used-car salesman
- 20. See 17
- 22. Marshy
- 23. Dissension
- 24,25. Nine lives
- 25. See 24
- 26. Upheaval

Down

- 1. Coleslaw
- 2. Judo
- 3. Cement
- 4. Attache
- 5. Absconds
- 6. Propounder
- 7. Mantra
- 13. Aggressive
- 16. Admonish
- 18. Athenian
- 19. Antique
- 21. Avidly
- 22. Months
- 24. Neat

Name: _____

Address: _____

ACROSS

- 1. Paean to nationalism ? (3,4,3,5)
- 9. Young S. American mammal (6,3)
- 10. In accompaniment (5)
- 11. Somebody in the know (7)
- 12. More unkempt (7)
- 13. Can be sweet or split (3)
- 14. Tense (7)
- 17. Fairy Queen (7)
- 19. Plant extract from water penetration (7)
- 22. I glance in a good and virtuous way (7)
- 24. Not a rocker (3)
- 25. Fortifying tippie (3,4)
- 26. Arrived (5,2)
- 28. Refer to more liberty (5)
- 29. First Hock produces earthquake (4,5)
- 30. Grimm tale (6,3,6)

DOWN

- 1. Not a good day for grouse (8,7)
- 2. Residue (5)
- 3. Junk food (1,3,3)
- 4. Extract 7
- 5. Custom at home (7)
- 6. Two pints and French foursome (7)
- 7. Len, I am too upset (9)
- 8. Abuja (8,7)
- 15. What the envious do? (4,5)
- 16. Women's party (3)
- 18. Charged particles from lawless action (3)
- 20. Expand near leg (7)
- 21. Shops (7)
- 22. Cited (7)
- 23. Grumbler (7)
- 27. Turn out (5)

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'No' came the stern reply. So Geoffrey stroked the dog and the dog bit his hand.

'I thought you said he didn't bite', he complained.

'He doesn't. That's not my dog.'

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PTA MUSICAL EVENING

Staff, parents and friends of All Saints RC primary school enjoyed an excellent evening of music and song on the evening of 11th November.

Genial compere Colm Doyle introduced the artistes and some gems from his joke book and began proceedings with a song.

The high standard of the entertainment was set by Michael and Jessica

Burns, followed by Tony Reather and Laura Bell backing singer Jim Rafferty in 'Baker Street' and an impressive solo version of 'Pinball Wizard' from Tony.

After a song from Sara Symonds with guitar backing from Eric, Chris Kelly gave his usual polished performance to close the first half.

After the audience had enjoyed a buffet meal

they heard the fine voice of David Conlin backed at the piano by Marie Harrison. Mother and daughter duo Margaret and Megan O'Brien contributed songs and a harmonised version of 'I will Guide Thee', and the evening was brought to a close by the popular Michael Kelly.

This highly enjoyable evening also raised the sum of £650.



Michael and Jessica Burns

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As well as performing at the PTA concert, Chris Kelly gave a solo concert the previous evening as part of the regular Friday night music nights at the Three Horseshoes, Maiden Law. He is also a welcome visitor at the Sunday music nights at the same venue.

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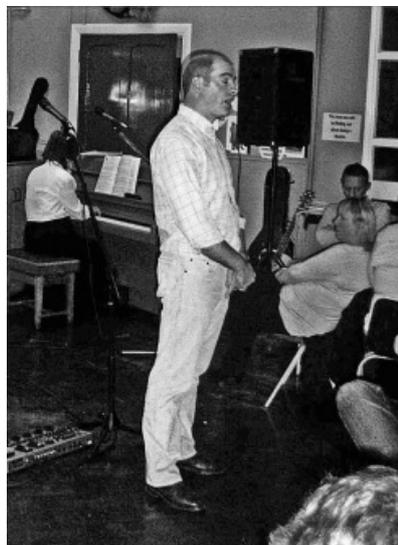
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Mother and Daughter duo Margaret and Megan O'Brien contributed traditional songs

LOST 'DOG-TAGS'

The family of Rippon Hall, late of Kitswell Road, Lanchester are keen to trace his Prisoner of War dog-tags. They say he never let them out of his sight, having had them since 1942. He was issued

them while a prisoner in Germany at Stalag IVB from 1942-45, when he was liberated by Cossacks of the Russian Army. His son-in-law Michael feels that Rippon may have loaned them to

someone for research reasons, and they may not be aware of his death in June this year. If you have them, or know someone who may have them, could you please contact Michael on 0191 4172337 after 5pm.

GENEROUS SCHOOL DONATION

N.S.P.C.C. worker Christine Black confessed herself 'amazed' recently by the outstanding generosity of All Saints' pupils and their families. Christine visited All Saints' School in October to make an appeal on behalf of the National Society for

the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and was stunned when she returned to find the school had raised £965 for the work of the Society. Head Teacher Tony Reather said, 'To raise almost £1,000 from a

school made up of 110 pupils from 83 families is a tremendous achievement, and Christine was overwhelmed by the response. On behalf of Christine I would like to thank all the school community for their amazing generosity.'

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Some of the children from Lanchester EP School with the shoe boxes they provided, ready for collection

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, which 'meets the needs of victims of war, poverty, famine, disease, and natural disaster, while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ'.

Many organisations such as churches, schools etc, encourage children in the U.K. to provide a shoe box of gifts for deprived children of the third world, many of whom receive nothing at all at Christmas. The EP school children managed to provide over 100 shoe-boxes of gifts for this year's effort. They were shown a DVD of children in a third world country receiving a gift at Christmas, and the look of wonder and happiness on their faces left a marked effect on many of the Lanchester pupils. Due to import regulations, lists of suggested gifts, and those unsuitable, are available on leaflets provided by Samaritan's Purse. More information about this year's appeal may be obtained from their website at www.samaritanpurse.uk.com

GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER

Flowers

Plant bare root roses, trees and shrubs. Prune standard roses to prevent wind rock during winter. When we have snow, shake conifers to prevent the weight bearing on branches. Protect susceptible plants with fleece or recycle old net curtains - they are just as good.

Greenhouse

If you have a heated greenhouse monitor heaters daily. Dead head over wintering plants and water sparingly.

General

Plant rhubarb - it grows best in full sun and rich soil. Also plant up some winter hanging baskets as there are plenty of plants to choose from including ivy, euonymus, skimmias, mini cyclamen and ornamental cabbages to mention just a few. Remember to look after wildlife - keep surfaces where birds feed clean, and that water is just as important as food so ensure it is changed daily. If anyone would be interested in making cake on a rope for birds check our website.

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BALL

Helen Emery-Scott continues her campaign to raise money for Breast Cancer research with a ball at Lumley Castle on 10th March 2007, from 7pm until late. Tickets are £30 and include food, entry to a grand prize draw and entertainment.

The evening music will be in the form of a live band, 'The Gents', and a disco by 'Loony Choons'. We are also hoping to arrange a 'Strictly Come Dancing' style ballroom dance display. She reports that the event will be huge, with 200 tickets for sale. If people would like tickets they are to contact her via email please at info@challenge-helen.co.uk

JUNIOR WILDLIFE

The next meeting of the Junior Wildlife Group will be on Saturday 16th Dec. in the small hall of the Community Centre. All young people from 8 upwards, or younger if they bring a parent or minder, are welcome to come from 10am till 12.

MP

Hilary Armstrong will be available to constituents at the Civic Centre, Consett on Friday 8th December at 6pm.

METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday Dec. 10th
Family Carol Service
10.30am

Evening Service
6.00pm

Sunday Dec. 17th
All Age Worship
10.30am

Words and Music for Christmas
6.00pm

Tuesday Dec. 19th
Christingle Service
6.30pm

Sunday Dec. 24th
All age Worship
10.30am

Carols on the Green
Christmas Communion
11.15pm

Christmas Day
Family Christmas Service
10.00am

Sunday Dec. 31st
Services at 10.30am and
6.00pm

Watchnight Service at
11.15pm

PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be on Tuesday December 12th in Park House, starting at 7pm. Members of the public are always welcome to attend and if they wish, to have their say.

BE A STAR

As part of the Christmas Market and Christmas Tree Festival in the Methodist Church on the 8th to 11th of December, I am planning to have a Charity Tree inspired by one I saw in Kuala Lumpur, where businesses and individuals make a donation, and have a star hung on the tree. The money raised will go to the Aids Haven in South Africa.

Anne Crinson, a member of the Methodist Church, visited this project in the summer and is hoping to go again next year and take other volunteers with her. The hospice is for both adults and children who are affected by HIV and Aids.

If you would like to be a star this Christmas and make a donation to a charity that brings love and comfort to both adults and children, please fill in the slip below and return it to me with your donation, and a star bearing your name will be hung on the charity tree.

Yours faithfully Jean Carr,
6, Alderside Crescent
Lanchester DH7 0PY

Name
(to be written on star)
Donation £

OPEN HOUSE

All Saints C of E parish church will hold its monthly Open House on Thursday December 7th from 11.30am till 1pm. Enjoy a quiet visit to the church and a light lunch. All are welcome.

MOTHERS' UNION

For the December meeting on Wednesday 13th we will be joined by the other churches' women's groups for an Advent service followed by refreshments. We will be meeting in the Chapter House and going into church at 7.30pm.

WHAT'S ON?



GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

You are invited to a Celebration of Christmas Presented by Lanchester Male Voice Choir. The choir will be joined, once again, by the Choral and Operatic Society. This annual event will take place in the Methodist Church on December 18th 2006 at 7.15pm.

All are welcome to enjoy the Christmas music, bible readings and to join in the singing of carols. The collection will be in aid of a local charity.



COMING SHORTLY

The Wildlife Group will be holding a Ceilidh on the 31st December. Details next month.

The Choral & Operatic Society sing their way through 100 years of Broadway in February.

A Ball will be held at Lumley Castle in aid of Breast Cancer Research on 10th March 2007. Tickets from info@challenge-helen.co.uk

The Walsingham Pilgrimage will be from 14th-16th September 2007.

Planning ahead? Let me know when and where.

LANCHESTER FILM CLUB

A trial film show will take place at the Community Centre on Sunday 3rd Dec, at 6.30 pm, presenting 'The March of the Penguins' (U).

'This beautiful film was made by the National Geographic Society and is about Emperor Penguins and their extraordinary survival in the Antarctic. Every summer hundreds of Emperor penguins trek in single file across the frozen tundra to converge on one particular nesting ground. They pair and after the egg has been laid the females walk miles back to the sea to feed.

The males stay behind to hatch the eggs in blizzards and sub zero temperatures. The females return weeks later and swap duties with the males who walk back to the coast to feed after months without food'. Price Adults £2.00 and Children under 12 £1 (Children to be accompanied by an adult). Enquiries to: lanchesterfilmclub@hotmail.co.uk

MORE BRIDGE FOR SPACE

There will be another bridge competition on the afternoon of Sunday 17th December in aid of the SPACE campaign to extend the Community Centre. Tickets are £3, which includes tea and biscuits.

If you would like to play, please contact Brenda on 01207 520204.

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Tel 07813150599 after 6pm

Email: enquires@yogasarah.co.uk

LANCHESTER PARISH CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

8am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Christmas Eucharist
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (said)
10.30am Holy Eucharist with Carols

Christmas Eve

At St John, Holmside (Burnhope) 7.30pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion with carols
Churches Together Carols on the Green with the Lanchester Band on Christmas Eve at 6pm.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Lions Christmas Concert will be held at the Methodist Chapel on Friday December 1st beginning at 7pm. Among those taking part will be All Saints School choir; Lanchester EP School Choir; Lanchester Brass Band; Woods/Murray Families; and the Jane Robson Theatre Club. Tickets will be £3.50 for adults and £2.50 for children.

POETRY PLEASE

Lanchester Poetry Group meets in the Community Centre on Monday 4th December from 7.30 to 8.30pm in the Computers for All room. Come and read your favourite poems, and/or one you wrote yourself.

LITTLE REDYOU KNOW WHO

This play with puppets for children aged 3 to 7 will be presented at the Community Centre on Sunday 3rd December at 3pm. Taking the well-known story as a starting-point, the play follows an unconventional path through the woods, it promises beautiful visual effects, inventive puppetry and original music on harmonium, bass melodica, piano, cello, recorder, flute, voices, windchimes, small drum, Turkish cymbals, Maddy's violin, claves and bicycle bells! This production of the Freehand Theatre is under the auspices of 'Elements: the Co. Durham Drama Initiative' costs £3 to adults with concessions and children £2.

THE MARC INFORMATION VEHICLE

The travelling office will be parked on Lanchester Front Street on Dec 12th and normally 26th (the latter seems unlikely). Someone there can advise on claiming housing benefit or council tax benefit, filling in forms for pension credit, attendance allowance, general welfare rights advice, debt counselling, home security, housing applications, recycling information or any other matter to do with Derwentside District Council, which provides this service. The MARC vehicle is in Front Street from 9.30am to 12 noon on the above dates.

LANCHESTER LIONS TRAVELLING SANTA

Santa Claus and his 'Travelling Grotto' are planning to be visiting surrounding areas near Lanchester on Sunday 17th December. The first stop is to be in Hollinside at 1.30pm and then on to Satley for 1.45pm. The next visit is planned to be to Cornsay Village at 2.15pm, followed by Cornsay Colliery at 2.30pm. The last two calls will be to Hamsteels at 2.45pm and Wilks Hill at 3.0pm, when a thoroughly exhausted Santa and his helpers will wearily be travelling back home to recuperate in order to get ready for their really big journey on Christmas Eve.

SANTA'S POST BOX

Lanchester Lions, who are very friendly with Santa Claus, will be helping him by placing a special Santa Post Box exclusively for letters to be posted to him at the North Pole toy-making factory, by children in the village. The box will be situated outside the RED CROSS shop from Friday December 1st until Friday December 15th. So please children, get all your letters written quickly and posted in the bright red box between those dates.

SHORT WALK

Acorn Amblers offer a Christmas walk round the Beamish area, starting from the Eden Place picnic area at 1.30pm on Wednesday 27th December. Mince pies and mulled wine are on offer.

SWITCH ON

As is now traditional the Christmas Lights will be switched on at 6pm on Saturday 2nd Dec. The lights are provided by Lanchester Parish Council, who have invited children representing our two primary schools to aid in the switch-on. The ceremony will also include carols accompanied by Lanchester Brass Band.

WILDLIFE GROUP

The meeting on Tuesday 12th December will be the AGM and Social.

WRITERS WANTED

The Creative Writing and Chocolate Biscuit Appreciation Society, which meets on Tuesdays at 2pm in Lanchester Library, would like to welcome more writers. Just bring a pen and your imagination.



The Three Horse Shoes

(Lanchester Road Maiden Law)



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Lunch Menu Sunday 12-3pm

Evening Menu Available

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LANCHESTER EASE INTO QUARTERS

A 'home game' (at our adopted home in Consett) against Jesmond Parish Athenians in the league turned out to be a very entertaining affair, Lanchester eventually coming out on top with a 4-3 win. The goals, two from Andy Sword and two from Mark Riley were top drawer and certainly would have graced Gary Lineker's Goal of the Month slot. A league trip to Heworth (not a very happy hunting ground in the past) saw the lads turn in a great performance and record a 4-0 win. Matt Bradford covered in goal very well as our goal-keeping crisis continues (any goal-keepers reading please get in touch if you need a team on a Saturday morning, international experience not really necessary). David Marrin notched a great hat-trick and Steven Poulter poached the other. This win took the team to the lofty heights of second in the league. Having qualified from the group stages of the Charity Shield, Lanchester headed to Jesmond Parish Athenians, the side we had beaten two weeks previously in the league. Again it was a humdinger of a game with Lanchester racing to a 4-0 lead (goals from Andy Sword, Nick Tinkler, Mark Riley and Mark Oliver), only for the home side to up their game and pull it back to 4-3. With Athenians pushing on they finally ran out of steam and Lanchester turned the screw again with Andy Sword scoring a his second to wrap up the game 5-3 and win a place in the quarter final draw. Yours in football Jeff Parker

BOWLS CLUB AWARDS

The Bowls Club held its annual awards ceremony and dinner on 8th November. After a sumptuous meal provided by the King's Head, the new Chairman Ken Raper introduced John Goodacre, the retiring Chairman, to present the trophies. John held the post for eleven years and said he was happy to hand over to an enthusiastic new Chairman. He also said he intended to stay on as a bowler with the club and hoped to continue playing for the teams. Along with the trophies presented for the competition winners, a special award was given to Mike Stoddart as the player of the year for his enthusiasm and the improvement in his game over the year. Ken Raper also awarded two personal prizes for the best and poorest scores in his jumbles competitions held in the latter part of the season. Both prizes went to Eric Westgarth which only goes to show that bowls is a funny old game.



John Goodacre (back row left) with the trophy winners from left to right Richard Ball, Peter Harrison, Mike Stoddart, Stan Easten, Ken Raper and Ron Cole. Fred Ledger and Frank Tonks also won trophies but did not attend the ceremony.

RUGBY UPDATE

Lanchester Rugby Football Club has been awarded grants of £5,000 and £4,375 respectively from the Big Lottery Awards for All and the County Durham Foundation. This money is currently paying for extra equipment, buses for the away matches and laundry bills. They have assured our first full season's costs. Two teams are being run at the present time, one at under thirteen level and one at under fifteen level, but more players are still required. So, if you are interested, are 10 to 15 years old and want to play a good hard healthy game, come along to St Bede's

School, Lanchester. Training is every Saturday morning from 9.15 to 10.45am, and a good welcome from Dick and Dorothy Perry, Jack Wilkinson and Steve Mitchell is guaranteed. On the playing front, a very hard-fought result of 20-20 was gained at Old Novocastrians by the Under Fifteen's

and the Under Thirteen's won both their games against Berwick and Old Novocastrians in a mini-tournament at the same venue. A tour at Easter time is currently being planned for the Under Fifteen's so team places are being fought for seriously. This club is run for all

youngsters from our surrounding areas and at the moment we have a hard-core of membership of about forty-five. If anyone is interested in donating something to help our operations or if you could sponsor a game please contact Dick or Dorothy Perry on 520412.

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NEXT DEADLINE

The deadline for **articles** from our esteemed contributors is 12th Dec. The deadline for **adverts** from our even more esteemed advertisers is 10th December.

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