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THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 5 Volume 7

Lanchester, June 2006

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THE LAUNCH OF THE SPACE PROJECT

On the 29th April Lanchester Community Association officially launched their extension project that is being named "The SPACE Project" and they are now trying to raise the £90,000 required to build a 55 square metre single storey extension at the rear of the Community Centre. Arthur Maughan, Chairman of the Community Association Management Committee, launched the project and explained that the extension is needed to create more space in the centre and to improve the disabled access. Once the extension is built, the Exercise Centre will be moved downstairs and be open longer. The 2 small rooms upstairs will then be available for hiring out, with improved disabled access. Arthur said "to survive we need to increase our revenue and the only way we can do that is to have more space to hire". He also pointed out that the Community Association gets no financial assistance for the running of the centre or for any capital projects, so the extension can only go ahead if we raise the money ourselves. A small fund-raising team has been formed, and they are approaching many grant providers for



Architect Gary Hodgson (left) and Community Centre Chairman Arthur Maughan (centre) with committee members at the launch of the 'Space' Project

grants, but the Community Association have to demonstrate that they can raise a significant amount of the money locally before they will be considered for a grant. As Lanchester is not considered a deprived area this will not be easy. £10,000 from the Community Association's reserves has been allocated to the project and various events throughout the year are being planned to try and raise more money. The "Buy a Stone" appeal was also launched; this is a scheme whereby individuals can contribute to the appeal. Each stone cost £10 and if a gift aid declaration is signed a further £2.80 can be reclaimed from the government. Forms are available from John

Wilson, Community Centre Manager. Arthur made an appeal to all Sections and Affiliated groups of the Community Association to make donations, organise fund raising events or encourage their members to purchase "Stones". All donations large or small

will take us closer to our target. Gary Hodgson (Architect) and Robin Gates were on hand to explain the plans, Gary said, "The extension will be a purpose-built fitness centre. The exterior walls will be built with stone as per the existing building." The photograph,

produced by Gary, is an artistic impression of how the extension will look. A full colour copy is displayed in the Community Centre. Arthur thanked all those who attended, particularly the Lanchester Lions, Flower Club and Arts Group who all made a donation towards the building fund. Lanchester Band entertained the audience, which was appreciated by everybody. Refreshments were provided, a raffle held and Alma Kelly, who is now the proud owner of a gift voucher for the fitness centre, won the stone's treasure hunt. 111 stones were sold on the morning, bringing the grand total so far raised for the project to £11,673 (including gift aid).



A computer-generated impression of the new wing for the Community Centre



Dear Village....

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

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,

On 19th April I had trouble driving my Citroen C5 to the rear of a friend's house in Percy Crescent, Lanchester which is opposite the Council Office. The Highway Code says that all vehicles should be ten metres back from a junction, but drivers of Council yellow vans don't know this because on two different occasions I've pulled into the road to Church View and Percy Crescent and jammed my

car up against the kerb to avoid parked vehicles, marking my vehicle.

The Council man I told off said "The police said it was ok to park here".

I've a mark on my car and nobody to pay for it because the law is not respected.

W A Hodgson

Address supplied.

A County Council officer has written to Mr Hodgson to say that "staff only use this area for brief periods and only when the rear car park or on-street parking to the front of the building is full. I have reminded all staff of this and of the need to park with full consideration to other road users."

So that's all right then.

THE PERILS OF PARKING

Police have issued 24 fixed penalty notices to motorists during the last month. One motorist, who while being questioned drove away, running over the police officer's foot, is in serious trouble. Is the message being learned?

CHURCHYARD RECORDS

All Saints C of E Parish Church holds records of all the graves in its churchyard. The records have recently been verified by Eric Gaskill, who is willing to help anyone searching for a particular grave. He can be contacted on 521690.

ESSIE HANSON

We would like to thank everybody for their Sympathy Cards, Mass Cards and condolences at the loss of our Mam, Essie. She was a great lady; simply the best. We would also like to give special thanks to Canon Robert Spence who gave Mam a beautiful service; Father Park from Stanley and Mr Andrew O'Connor for their help and support at this sad time. Also to Dennis and Dorothy McGinn for visiting Mam and just being there on the day. Mr Jim Brennan and

Mr Peter Smith for visiting Mam many times; she loved the crack when you visited. All of the Special Ministers who brought her Communion on Sundays and the SVP who have been very kind to Mam over the years. Dr Anderson and his staff at Burnhope surgery who helped me on many occasions, she thought he was a great man, "the bees knees". The nurses who looked after Mam's ailments and gave me great support Jean, Susan and Karen. Mr Reather and the

children of All Saints School who sang for Mam; she would be proud of them all; to Mary Brennan and Dorothy McGinn for their help and support on the day. Last but not least, Mam's dear friend Anne McElrue, she knew you would be there for her. We will miss Mam, her lovely smile and great laugh which was a joy to all; but she is at peace now with those she loved and missed in her life. God bless Mam, sleep the sleep of Angels. Essie's daughters Catherine, Pat and Joan.

BOB THEWLIS

We were very saddened to learn of Bob's death which occurred on the 1st of April. He had been unwell for some time but his death came as a great shock to his family and friends.

Bob was very much part of the fabric of village life, and yet he was a Yorkshireman. He wasn't really called "Bob" either - he was 'Arthur Frederick' but nicknamed Bob by his sister Joyce and it stuck! Bob was born in York, and his first job was for

the National Cash Register Company. However he had hardly made a start when he was called up for war-time service with the RAF and he served for some time in Iraq. He had enjoyed life in the RAF, but returned to Newcastle. At this time he began to study part-time to pass examinations that would qualify him to teach Business Studies. This he accomplished successfully, and as most people know he taught at Consett Technical College from 1958 until the mid 80s when it became Derwentside College. As well as teaching, Bob was also much involved with local and national councils for the regulating of the teaching of Business Studies.

Bob met the love of his life, Maureen, at a dance in Newcastle (she was from Gosforth) and they married and lived at Seaburn before coming

to Lanchester in the mid 60's. Maureen died nearly 21 years ago, but many people in the village remember her and her lovely smile, and she was for many years the secretary at the EP School. It speaks volumes for Bob's courage and the love and support of his family that despite this terrible blow he kept going and realigned his life.

In our community life Bob took an unobtrusive but leading part. He was a member of the Lions, he was for a time on the Parish Council and a member of the steering group that brought Willowburn Hospice into being. He was a great friend to the Parish Church. He ran an enormous magazine round with military precision and was also the first person to collect the magazines hot from the press. His Father Christmas persona was the stuff of legend as were his guest appearances at Parish

continued opposite

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WEDDING IN IRELAND

Tom Bailey of Briardene, Lanchester and Karen Courtney of Armagh Northern Ireland were married on April 8th 2006 at St Mark's Parish Church Armagh. Karen wore a champagne coloured Tiffany dress and carried a bouquet of cream roses and grape hyacinths. The two bridesmaids, Sarah and Andrea, wore shot sapphire blue dresses and the two flower girls, Megan and Olivia wore ivory. The best man was Andy Statham. The torrential rain in the morning gave way to sunshine as they came out of the church and went on to the reception for friends and family at the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick. The couple honeymooned along the north coast of County Antrim and are now living in Bowburn.



Tom Bailey and Karen Courtney

Concerts! He really enjoyed that kind of thing, because he was a very humorous person, and could see the comical side of nearly everything. Indeed, whenever people talk about him they break into a smile. Bob was a lovely man who will be very much missed, but the memories we have of him will continue to inspire and enrich us. The great number of friends who attended his funeral was the most

eloquent tribute that could be paid, and the playing of the tune of his favourite song, "We'll meet again", was just what he would have wanted. We extend our condolences to Janet and Paul, Beverley and Leo, Vicky and Sarah, Philip and Michael, and Bob's sister Joyce. He was above all else a loving father, grandfather and brother. We are privileged to have shared him with them.

MAGAZINE EDITOR RETIRES

Eighteen years ago Suzanne Eckford took over from Jill Finlayson as editor of the Lanchester Parish News, recently renamed the Lanchester & Holmside Parish News, which informs the parishioners of All Saints C of E church of the church's many activities. She had just retired as secretary at Harrison & Harrison, organ builders and repairers, and her typing skills made her an ideal choice. The magazine had previously been produced on a Gestetner, but she bought a Sharp word processor and began to translate handwritten pieces of information into a neat record of church life, month by month, which is delivered by an army of distributors. She also found time to serve as Secretary to the Deanery Synod and prepare the weekly 'pew sheet' and reading lists. Now she continues with the latter two jobs, but has retired from editing the magazine, and now has more time for reading and discussing literature with other members of the Community Centre reading group. Meanwhile the magazine goes on with Margaret Walters as editor.



Suzanne Eckford

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Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the 'flu'.

When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner and someone saw me grin. When he smiled, I realised I had passed it on to him. I thought about the smile and then realised its worth. A single smile like mine could travel round the earth.

So if you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected. Start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.

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OPEN DAY

Lanchester Methodist Church held an Open Day on 28th April in aid of Lanchester House, the orphanage in Monrovia which Lanchester has 'adopted'.

Mel and Sue Somersall's catering team swung into action to provide morning coffee, then substantial lunches for a host of folks from Lanchester and its hinterland. A wide range of main courses were available, then a choice of afters and a cup of tea/coffee.

Mel would like to thank all those who helped, donated food and came in droves to consume it, raising the sum of £1325 for the orphanage.

By the time we go to press Mel and Sue will have returned to the Mercy Ship 'Anastasis' for another spell of voluntary work in Liberia, taking Lanchester's contribution to Lanchester House orphanage with them.



A busy lunch-time at Mel & Sue's Open Day

FORGOTTEN GENOCIDE

IN BURMA

At its recent meeting in the Parish Centre, All Saints' Justice and Peace group learned about the Karen people of Burma.

An ethnic minority living in the south east of the country, the Karen fought with the Allies against the Japanese in World War 2. They hoped for their own independence but when the British left

they were disappointed. Since 1962 the country has been run by a military dictatorship. The Karen people have been continually harassed by the Burmese army and large areas of their region are minefields. Thousands of them have fled across the border to Thailand to avoid imprisonment, torture and murder.

There they live in a string of refugee camps along the border, unwelcome by the Thai government. They are unable to cultivate their own food or even leave the camps without special permission and have to rely on food handouts from the United Nations and the European Union. Those who manage to become migrant workers have no legal rights and no access to healthcare or

education for their children.

For several years now Tony and Anne Stokle usually accompanied by one or more of their three children, have spent their summers visiting the refugee camps doing what they can to help before returning home to publicise the plight of the Karen people. Tony, a teacher, works in the schools set up in the camps, while Anne, a nurse, teaches the refugees about basic hygiene and health care. They have set up a charity, Burma Education Project, to support and develop education and health improvements among the Karen people in the refugee camps and the displaced Burmese living in Thailand. The Justice and Peace group are planning a future event in support of Tony and Anne.

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PHOTOS OF DURHAM

Lanchester Local History Society enjoyed a visit from Maurice Richardson, whose ever-growing collection of photographs of Durham and its surroundings is enhanced by his encyclopaedic knowledge of the city's history. There were portraits of grand folk like George Neasham who lived in Ford House, Lanchester, an assembly of freemasons and lesser individuals like a bookie's runner.

Streets and pubs were featured which have now disappeared, Gilesgate post office with a tea-pot above its window, the Market Place full of parked cars and with royal visitors, the pit behind Crook Hall and steam lorry number 1 belonging to the City of Durham Gas Company. Maurice has been collecting pictures and other Durham memorabilia for 15 years. He has 14,000 pictures, of which he gave his audience a generous helping.

EDITH CELEBRATES IN STYLE



Edith with sister Ruth and son Timothy, also celebrating birthdays

Congratulations to Edith accompanied by her daughter Helen, made a lovely speech in which she read the letter she had recently written to the Queen telling her she had heard of Her Majesty's birth on the wireless and pointed out her baby sister had been born on the same day. Edith also suggested the Queen eased up on her workload! She also read out a wonderful carefully written personal reply. There were three birthday cakes at the event as there were two other family birthdays to celebrate at the same time. Besides the organisations already mentioned Edith also belongs to the Annfield Plain Naturalists, is an avid reader, and of course her life revolves around the Parish Church. Edith was born in Todmorden and moved around the country with her parents quite a lot when she was young. She met her beloved husband Martin during the war at a Unity Anglican/Orthodox conference with the Fellowship of St Albans and St Sergius at Abingdon, where she was doing the catering and he was a young clergyman giving lectures. They soon married and spent much of their life in Derbyshire. By this time Edith was a teacher. Edith and her husband moved to

the village in 1972 in retirement, when her husband was terminally ill and it was helpful to be near her daughter Helen. Edith has four children, twelve grandchildren, and four great grandchildren, with another one expected soon. She has had a wonderful, full, active life and a very happy birthday.

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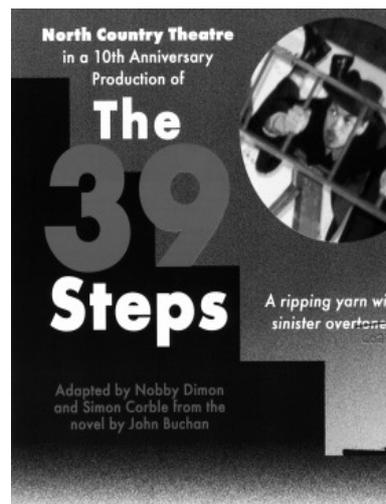
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ALL SAINTS ADOPTS 'RED CRYSTAL'

Somewhere in the Derwent Valley flies a rare bird of prey with a new loving family - the children of All Saints' R.C. Primary School. The bird in question is a Red Kite, a species that earlier last century was in grave danger of extinction because of the mistaken belief that it carried off live farm animals. Thanks to a visit by Melanie Bowden, the Northern Kites Access and Education Officer, the pupils of All Saints now know a lot more about this beautiful rare bird, which is breeding in the north-east of England and has been seen already by several pupils and staff and parents from the school. The children have now adopted one of the Red Kites - number 26 to be exact - and given it the much better name of 'Red Crystal'. Melanie's visit was arranged by local teacher Mrs. Batey, who has had a long association with All Saints' School, and we are grateful to her for the photo right.

Melanie Bowden showing a life-size Red-Kite 'puppet' to the children at All Saints' Primary School



More than meets the eye ...

ALASTAIR WADE
OPTOMETRIST

G R E A T P R E S C R I P T I O N S U N G L A S S E S O F F E R

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PARTNERSHIP AGM AND PRESENTATION

Lanchester Partnership held a well attended AGM on Saturday 13th May. Three new trustees were elected and a new Company Secretary, Liz Thorpe. Chairman Mike Gladstone paid tribute to the retiring Company Secretary, Marian McManus, who has worked so hard for the Partnership over the past few years. Immediately after the AGM, the Partnership were presented with a certificate by the Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Branch for the production of their Village Design Statement. Ian Canfield, Chairman of the Northern Branch, was accompanied by Scott Gibson and Christopher Clarke, last year's Chairman, who actually made the award. They congratulated the Partnership who came third in the North East Region, beating at least four other larger organisations. Afterwards they joined members of the Partnership and others who had contributed to the Design Statement for cheese and wine.



Congratulations to the Partnership for their Village Design Statement



Partnership members watch a presentation of Village Design Statement photographs showing good and bad examples of planning taken by Lanchester residents

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BIKERS RALLY AT LANCHESTER

Nearly five hundred motor cycle enthusiasts assembled near Newbiggen Farm, Lanchester for the second year running for the annual "Ben Hur" rally on Friday May 5th to Sunday 7th.

A forest of tents, a marquee, tented shops, bar and fast food outlet filled the field behind the farm for a convivial weekend of music and fun.

A Friday night concert with Rock Solid and Ska Mania began the entertainment, with a second concert on Saturday with Kimera and Fused. A competition for 'best

bike' was held on Saturday afternoon, and Lanchester Rock Club were invited to play during the afternoon and drew a good crowd. This was followed by 'back to childhood' races including a 3-legged race, a sack-race involving the kind of sacks builders' sand is delivered in, with four contestants per sack, and culminating in a chariot race to emphasise the Roman connection, but with unconventional chariots.

The event was hosted by Lanchester Centurions motor-cycle group.



Just a few of the bikes at the rally

ELLIE THE BUS

At the request of local councillors, Derwentside District Community Bus called Ellie has visited Lanchester three times in the April/May period. The project is currently run by Nigel Hogg, assisted by Jos and

Ashley. Youngsters from the village are encouraged to spend up to a couple of hours on board and use the extensive facilities. On Tuesday 24th April about 30 young people visited the bus and were

able to use some of the following: Lap Tops; DJ Decks; TV; Videos; Playstations; Board Games; Art and Craft; whilst they are also able to take part in issue based discussions such as drugs and alcohol abuse.

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Some village youngsters aboard Ellie with staff Nigel, Jos and Ashley



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SNAPPERS SNAPPED



Consett and District Photographic Society held their Annual Dinner and

prize-giving presentations at the Three Horseshoes, Maiden Law, Lanchester.

Pictured here left to right are Betty Coates, the Ladies Photographer of the year, John Taylor, the set of four slides winner, colour slide winner, colour print winner and the Photographer of the year, Joanne Cordey, Landlady of the Three Horseshoes, who presented the awards and George Ledger, winner of monochrome print and the Portrait winner.

Picture by Eric Burns

MARTYN BEDFORD

Lanchester library welcomed author Martyn Bedford on Tuesday 9th May to talk about the war novel and to give a short reading from his fifth novel. He first discussed the way that novelists have used warfare in their writing, beginning with Mailer's 'The Naked and the Dead' and Hemingway's 'For Whom the Bell Tolls', which mainly described the soldiers' experience in battle. Then there were works like Ballard's 'The Empire of the Sun' and Sarah Williams' 'Night Watch' which concentrated on the effect of war on civilians. Tangentially there were post-war novels like Rachel Sieffert's 'The Dark Room'.

The novelist, said Martyn, could be an antidote to politicians, whose job was to sell war to the public with dubious pretexts. The novelist showed the human condition and detailed the effect of war

on combatants and innocent civilians.

After the library staff had plied the audience with fruit juice, Martyn then read from his novel 'The Island of Lost Souls' (Bloomsbury, £10.99). He explained his opposition to war in the Falklands and Iraq, and the impression made on him by his grandmother's recollections of losing two brothers at the battle of the Somme in WW1. Though his novel was set in a future when conscription was in force for a war against an Arab enemy, the passage he read was a sensitive description of the thoughts of a widow caring for an unconscious, wounded draft-dodger.

He then answered questions about his work and the difficulties of a professional author in a world of fewer and fewer publishing firms which are part of large conglomerates.



Martyn Bedford

Andy The Plasterer

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POST OFFICE MIGRATES

After major works to Lanchester's paper shop, it reincarnated as Lanchester's Post Office on Friday May 12th.

After protracted negotiations about the outward appearance of the building, planning permission was granted and the shop was gutted and completely refitted, while business went on as

usual in an outbuilding. The redesign of the interior has resulted in a more logical arrangement of the goods on sale while making room for the post office counter in one corner. Although the front of the new counter looks shorter, the staff feel that they have more working space. A condition of the grant of planning

permission in a Conservation Area was that a downstairs window should be inserted, similar to those upstairs.

Tony and Gillian Morland took over the newsagents in September 2004 and now they have a much bigger responsibility as well as a major investment. We wish them well in this new venture.



The 'old team' in a new setting. It's business as usual for Denise, Postmaster Tony and Bernadette.

**LADIES WHO
LUNCH**

On Friday April 2nd, the Queen's birthday, we were found dining at 'The Moorings', Hett Hills. We used to go there years ago when it was lovely, with a super salad bar; then the food went off, and so did we. Well, we hummed and ha'ed about it for a while and finally decided to give it another go. Two of us went in and did a recee - it seemed ok, so we negotiated a table in the conservatory and brought in the others. A most solicitous young man gave us his undivided attention. The welcome was warm, the drinks invitingly cool and the view out over

open countryside extensive. A most comprehensive menu gave a varied choice of two courses (starter and main course) for £9.95. We sampled a starter of haricot bean soup with rustic bread (it was, as they say, 'to die for'), cold smoked chicken and crispy bacon folded in a creamy coronation sauce on mixed salad leaves, or duck liver pate with port wine sauce and warm toasted bruschetta. We all had the same main course of pan-fried medallion of salmon on chive mash with stir fried leek and sugar snap peas with creamy lobster

sauce. The mouth-wateringly delicious sweets of a bowl of home-made amaretto amoretti, light chocolate with cadbury chip flake and real vanilla pod ice cream/ hot steamed jam roly-poly with warm vanilla cream custard sauce/ meringue pavlova with poached cinnamon peach and autumn berries, lemon scented yoghurt and raspberry coulis were heavenly.

The presentation was outstanding, the taste sublime, the whole experience a delight. A venue that definitely merits a return visit.

The Gourmet Girls

MUSIC NIGHT AT THE THREE HORSE SHOES

Music nights are now held every Sunday in the Three Horse Shoes at Maiden Law starting at 8.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come to hear a variety of live music, with occasional poems, in a relaxed atmosphere.



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MUSICAL EVENING AT ALL SAINTS



Local Songster Colm Doyle at All Saints musical evening

All Saints Primary School PTA organised another varied musical menu on Saturday 29th April for a packed audience of parents and friends.

The programme combined local talent and professional singers in a packed programme guaranteed to appeal to all tastes, with a buffet and bar and even a quiz as added incentives.

The popular choice to top the bill was Michael Kelly, combining a fine voice with skilled guitar

accompaniment, who regularly supports the school.

Paddy McAloon, also an excellent singer and guitarist, introduced his songs with humour and just a little name-dropping! Local lad Chris Kelly, who closed the first half, deserves to be bracketed with these professionals for the quality of his singing and accompaniment as well as the songs he composes.

The evening was compered by local songster Colm Doyle,

who also introduced Michael and Jessica Burns, Head Teacher Tony Reather with Jim Rafferty and Laura Bell, classical guitarist Matthew Coates, Angie Winter and last but not least Sara Symonds, who persuaded Paddy McAloon to provide the guitar backing for her impressive rendering of 'Every Time I say Goodbye'.

It all added up to an excellent evening's entertainment and a total of £720 to be added to the school funds.

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GARDENING TIPS FOR JUNE

Harden off tender bedding plants by leaving outside during the day and covering/bring inside during night. Hanging baskets will benefit from being potted up and hung undercover to become established, before leaving out for the summer months. Remember to include water-retaining products and feed pellets. Take care when hoeing around last years dahlias and fuchsias to

prevent damaging any emerging shoots. Lightly prune back Spring flowering clematis if they are taking over or are bare at the base. Now is the time to plant out your leeks, draw earth up around your potato shoots, and thin out any plants you sowed earlier. Spread compost around your raspberries and harvest rhubarb. If you have bought fuchsias from your local garden centre, before planting out take a

cutting by removing the shoot tips just above a pair of leaves. Trim the cutting below a pair of leaves and remove all lower leaves. Remove any flowers or buds and plant into gritty compost. This cutting should take straightaway and provide you with another plant in a few weeks. This does not harm the original plant but will make it bushier as it grows, giving you two plants for the price of one.

Graham The Gardener

STARS IN THEIR EYES

Bob Dylan (alias Colm Doyle) came top of the judges list at the Lions Club 'Stars in their Eyes' night on the 6th May. There was strong competition from Joel Gray (Dennis Laycock) and the Cabaret Girls, Robbie Williams (Glenn Thomas), Bob Marley (Colm Doyle) and Nora Jones (Emma Coxon). Once the stars had taken their turn in the spotlight, the audience enjoyed a 2-course meal and a lively session of karaoke and dancing. When the fun was over, £700 had been raised which will help the Lions to cover the cost of summer bus trips for local pensioners.

MORE WHAT'S ON YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH

The Village Voice has already reported that the Parish Council and Lanchester Partnership have asked Mr Steve Scoffin, Director of the Great North Forest, to prepare a Locality Map of the whole Parish. Steve has already had a well-attended meeting with Landowners and Farmers, which was an important first stage in the work.

The next very important stage will happen on Saturday July 8th. Everyone in the Parish is invited to call in to the main hall at the Community Centre between 10.00 am and 4.00pm to let Steve know their particular concerns about the Parish as it is now, as it was and as you would like it to be.

You will find a very large map on the wall in the hall as well as an equally large Aerial photo of the Parish. Bring your own photos of your most and least) favourite parts of our countryside and locate them on the map or photo. Come and

talk to Steve about how you think the countryside should be taken care of. What would you like the farmers and landowners to do? What would you rather they didn't do? As a farmer, how can the Parish as a whole help you in your work? Steve will welcome your comments in any way you wish to make them! Apart from photos, you can write them in a book or on post-it notes and stick them on the map, you can record them on a tape recorder or simply chat to Steve.

We have a very attractive countryside, which we all enjoy in different ways; this is an opportunity to help work out how we safeguard it for the next generation. Drop in to the Community Centre on July 8th. Refreshments will be available all day. Share your thinking, and see what others think and use this opportunity to safeguard this little bit of England.

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PLAYGROUP SPONSORED TODDLE

The Playgroup is organising a 'sponsored toddle' in aid of the Space Project on Wednesday 21st June. Information can be obtained from Liz Smith at the Community Centre.

SHORT WALKS

The Byways and Bridleways group has a walk from the Feathers pub, Hedley-on-the-Hill on Tuesday 13th June starting at 7pm, and another on 27th June starting at Wardles Bridge Inn, Holmside, same starting time. Acorn Amblers meet at 1.30pm on Sunday 25th June for a walk between Holmside and Burnhope. For starting place ring Joanne on 07966 330025.

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LANCHESTER INFOLIST

From time to time we publish a list of the classes and clubs to be found in Lanchester.

Please advise any errors or omissions.

Organisation	Contact	Phone
Aerobics	Claire McElrue	520607
Agricultural Society	Carol Cliffe	0191 3734565
Amigos	Olive Simpkins	520229
Angling Club	Ted Brabbam	570447
Art Group	Judy Lowther	581336
Beamish Quilters	Elaine Williams	520063
Benfieldside Folk Dance	Jean Longstaffe	0191 3844445
Bereavement Support	Mrs P. Burton	230777
Bobbin Lace Making	Elaine Williams	520063
Bowls	Alan Wharton	520872
Boys Brigade (11-18)	Geoff Martin	520103
Boys Brigade (8-11)	Amos Morris	521921
Boys Brigade (under 8)		521466
Brass Band	Adam Towe	529742
Breatheasy	Jean Beard	0191 384 1558
Bridge Club	Jan Vasey	521948
Brownies	Liz Smith	521682
Carers Support	Dawn Mallows	502688
Centurions Motorcyclists	David Jackson	521401
Children's Society	Brenda Craddock	520749
Children's Dance	Karen Stewart	520468
Choral & Operatic Soc	Moirra Watson	0191 4106082
Church Wives	Brenda Craddock	520749
Community Association	Harry Taylor	520495
Community Policeman	Norman Forster	0845 60 60 365
Computers for All	Christine Monaghan	529001
Country Market	Eveline Cowan	0191 5813703
CPRE	Cathryn Gander	529650
Creative Writing	Malcolm McKenzie	521427
Cricket Club	Philip Laidler	520255
DLI 68	Jane Parker	520077
Dog Obedience	Mr & Mrs Churlish	0191 373 1185
Exercise Centre	Community Centre	521275
Flower Club	Helen Tomlinson	503667
Guides	Alma Kelly	520560
History Group	Kevin Leary	521627
Italian Conversation	Patrizia Clarkson	0191 3849513
Keep Fit	Liz Wood	520278
Keep Fit	Tanya Johnson	581466
Lace Circle	Heather Parkin	01833 621393
Lanchester Partnership	Mike Gladstone	528114
Lanchester Pathfinders	Anne Cook	529334
Library	Monica Murfin	521021

Organisation	Contact	Phone
Line dancing	Lynn Nixon	231622
Lions	Brian Oram	520559
Macmillan Nurses	Brenda Hall	521408
Male Voice Choir	John Wills	520249
Model Boat Club	Ted Welding	0191 3733046
Mothers Union	Margaret Brown	529714
MP	Hilary Armstrong	01388 767065
Needlecraft	Elaine Williams	520063
NSPCC	Diane Quail	521377
Parish Council	Jim Owens	521957
Playgroup	Liz Smith	521682
Poetry Group	Isam Husain	521181
Rainbows (girls 5-7)	Kathryn Trotter	521226
Ramblers Association	Joyce Thomas	520568
Reading Group	Monica Murfin	521021
Red Cross	Dorothy Cox	520123
Scottish Dance Group	Jill Ramsey	520501
Scouts	John Wills	520249
Slimming World	Dawn Ferguson	507245
Social Club	Trish Bennett	528304
Tae Kwando	Kevin Allison	0191 373 0673
Tennis Club	Dennis Laycock	520278
Thursday Club	Olive Simpkins	520229
Tiny Tots	Jacquie	0191 383 0488
Village Voice Advertising	John Hurrant	520288
Village Voice Distribution	Mike Stoddart	520291
Village Voice Editor	Malcolm McKenzie	521427
Wednesday Whist		521042
Weight Watchers	Lynne Lightfoot	0191 4104568
Wildlife Group	Elaine Williams	520063
Womens Institute	Barbara Sproat	520247
WRVS	Betty Tregonning	521210

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THREE CHARITIES GAIN

The Youth Fellowship held a very busy Coffee Morning at the Methodist Chapel on Saturday 22nd April. There was a Fair Trade stall and all produce on the tables was Fair Trade. They raised £95.63 and the money was divided between three charities:

- Traidcraft (Fair Trade charity);
- Mel Somersall (Mercy Ships); and
- an Orphanage in Sierra Leone.



Some of the Youth Fellowship Members at the Coffee Morning. Left to right they are Beth Lloyd Hannah Lown, Helen Lown, Emily Oram, Jonathan Botcherby, Elizabeth Botcherby, Peter Cole, Peter Lown and David March.

LANCHESTER ACOUSTIC MUSIC NIGHTS

The musicians and singers now meet at The Three Horse Shoes, Maiden Law, as previously, on Sunday evenings. We usually use the conservatory, which has the benefits of a suitable environment with little background sound, and surprisingly strong acoustics.

We are still strongly supported, with people travelling from a wide radius. Jo, the landlady, is also pursuing a policy of encouraging live music, and normally has a local guest performer every Friday evening. As always, everyone is welcome to join us, whether as audience or performer, and we kick off at 8.30.

Regards
Ian Tute (529286)

THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS

Are the glens of Scotland and Big Ben to appear in Lanchester Community Centre? With Nobby Dimon in charge, anything is possible.

The North Country Theatre will be with us on Thursday 8th of June with "a ripping yarn with sinister overcoats". The 1915 story can be attributed to John Buchan, but the version we shall see is by Nobby Dimon and Simon Cable, and it will differ in amusing nay hilarious ways.

"My all-time favourite. The things he can do with a red step-ladder." (Olive Simpkins)
Tickets, price £7, can be had from the Community Centre and Lanchester Newsagent. Book early.

LIONS' CARNIVAL

Don't forget that the Lions' Carnival is on Saturday June 17th, and the theme this year is 'Circus'. If you haven't got your costume made yet, you need to get cracking quickly.

There will be the usual array of sidestalls, kiddie's roundabouts, refreshments and entertainment. As always there will be lots of charity stalls raising money for their own good causes and this may be a good time to remind everyone that **all** the money raised by Lanchester Lions Club is distributed to local, national and international good causes. Recently these have included the South East Asian Tsunami and the earthquake in Pakistan, among many others supported by Lions International.

The parade starts at 1.00 pm as usual from Lanchester Cricket Club's ground on Kitswell Road and proceeds to the village green. You don't have to have a float, you can walk as a group or an individual and create as much colour and noise as you like! We hope you can join us and have fun raising money for your good cause! Tables are always in short supply and this year is no exception, so we would ask everyone intending to have a stall to bring their own tables.

If you have any queries, get in touch with Jack Collins, Tel. 01388 488706, E-mail jack.collins3@btinternet.com

WHAT'S ON?

THURSDAY SOCIAL CLUB CREAM TEA

The Cream Tea is in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance on Wednesday June 21st from 2 till 4pm, in the Community Centre main hall. Tickets can be obtained from any Thursday Club member or from the Village Newsagents, price £1.

FLOWER CLUB

One of the major presentations of the year takes place in the Community Centre on Friday 23rd June at 7pm, when Olive Dalrymple of Gilsland gives a demonstration called "Colour My World".

HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting will be a visit to Harperley prisoner of war camp for a tour by Dr JA Hellen, who gave a talk to the society in March. Members meet at the Community Centre at 10.30am on June 10th.

JUNIOR WILDLIFE GROUP

The group of children and parents meet at Malton car park at 10am on Sunday 18th June. The theme will be 'butterflies'.

MP

Our MP Hilary Armstrong now has a new role in Government but continues her 'surgeries' where constituents can have a word about matters close to their hearts. She will be at Citizens House, Consett on Saturday 10th June, starting at 11am.

Though a change of personnel makes it impossible to give details of the Saturday night entertainment at Lanchester Social Club, we are sure that a tuneful and varied programme continues.

On Friday evenings you are invited to join the ballroom dancers in the Concert Room from 7.00pm to 11.00pm and to come and enjoy the dancing to live music for a mere £1.00.

WI

At the meeting on Monday June 5th starting at 7.00pm in the Community Centre, Margaret Watson will speak on "Victorian Jewellery". The competition is for a piece of jewellery.

WILDLIFE GROUP

On Tuesday 13th of June the group will hear a talk to be given by Kevin O'Hara of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust on "Water Voles". The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

COMING SHORTLY

Planned events in the Methodist Church include a Harvest Supper on Saturday 23rd September, and the third Christmas Tree Festival on the week-end of 8th-11th December (so plan designs for a decorated tree) in conjunction with a 'German Market'. If anyone is making forward plans for an event, would you like to add it to the Coming Shortly list?

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**MORE
WHAT'S
ON**

See page 13

THIRD PLACE FINISH

The last two games of the season had the Chapel lads still in with a chance of a Premier League runners-up spot. The first game saw Lanchester travel to Heaton Hearts and come away with a hard fought 2-1 win which confirmed the Geordies' relegation. Heaton took the lead on 30 minutes in what was a very scrappy game with Heaton fighting for their lives. Soon after the restart Lanchester caught the home team still celebrating their shock lead when Peter Ollivere popped up at the back post to tap home the equaliser. A great flowing move from the back involving Andy Sword and Nigel Hepplewhite saw Nigel get on the end of Andy's chipped pass to make it 2-1 and that is how it stayed to the end despite good chances for

both teams, Lanchester just about deserved the win.

The final game of the season was a re-arranged game against Consett at Belle Vue. Both teams were well up for it with local pride at stake as well as that runners up spot. Consett took the lead just before half time with a well worked free kick but Lanchester fought back in the second half as Michael "jock" Backett headed an equaliser. Some dubious refereeing saw Lanchester denied the chance to get in front, but a tiring Jock was substituted for the old war-horse Ray Wilkinson, who after missing a good chance made amends to tap in and make it 2-1. Slack marking from a corner saw Consett get back to 2-2 with minutes to go. Lanchester pushed everything forward and

got the reward as Andy Sword crashed home a brilliant goal to make it 3-2, the ref told the lads there was 90 seconds left, we were nearly there. Minutes passed by and the whistle did not sound, then a lucky break from midfield by a Consett player put him clean through and he finished to make it 3-3. Lanchester took the kick-off and the full time whistle was blown. **WE WAS ROBBED!**

Never mind though Consett still had a game in hand which they duly won and pipped us to second place but third place is a good result for the lads in our second season after promotion and definitely something to build on for next season, so well done to all the lads for their hard work.

Yours in football
Jeff Parker

LANCHESTER BOWLS

Lanchester Bowls Club had its Spring meeting on 20th April. A number of new members have joined the club since last season reversing the downward trend in membership. It was said that the Green was looking better at this time of year than it had for a number of seasons and thanks were given to the Council for this. Matches began on 1st May and the results are as follows:

Veterans League

Triples (Mondays)

Home v Leadgate, Won 8-2; Away v View Lane, Lost 4-6; Away v White-Head, Won 6-4

Fours (Tuesdays)

Away v South Moor, Lost 2-8; Home v Dipton, Drew 5-5; Away v View Lane, Won 8-2

Midweek League

Away v Craghead, Lost 2-4; Home v South Moor, Lost 0-6

Saturday League

Home v Sherburn Park, Won 8-2; Away v Dipton, Won 6-4

Next month's home fixtures

31st May v Consett A, 6.30pm; 3rd June v View Lane, 2.00pm; 5th June v Consett A, 2.00pm; 7th June v Leadgate, 6.30pm; 12th June v Consett B, 2.00pm; 13th June v Leadgate, 2.00pm; 20th June v South Moor, 2.00pm; 21st June v Consett B, 6.30pm; 24th June v White-Head, 2.00pm; 26th June v Burnopfield, 2.00pm.

New members (men and women, novices or experts) are always welcome. You can also come along for a casual game for £1.00 per session. Flat shoes are necessary but bowls will be provided for you.

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CRICKET NEWS

The season is under way, with so far a mixture of sunny, cold and recently very wet days. The 1st Eleven began with a tricky away match at Longhurst Hall, Morpeth which is a lovely setting with the ground surrounded by trees and the hall in the background. After a very high scoring game Lanchester lost by 20 runs, scoring 235 in reply to Morpeth's 255-6. Their second fixture was at home to Whickham with hopes being high for a victory, but despite M. Small carrying his bat for 75 not out, a total of 150 all out was not enough as Whickham, who batted first, posted 210. It seems that we are weak in the bowling department and hopefully our professional John Raywood will soon adapt to the slower wickets. Unfortunately we were unable to field an Under 13 side this season due to lack of players, but the Under 15s and 18s have both won matches recently. The home fixtures for the next few weeks are:

1st X1
3rd June v Consett
17th June v Burnopfield
24th June v Backworth

2nd X1
27th May v Percy Main
10th June v Alnwick

U18s
30th May v Sacriston
20th June v Annfield Plain
U15s
5th June v Chopwell
12th June v Lintz
26th June v Shotley Bridge

The featured club member for June is John Bell, Groundsman. John has looked after the ground for many years and continues to produce excellent wickets every year. Some 50 to 60 games are played at home each season and many hours of preparation go into producing a good playing surface to ensure a game where bat and ball have an equal chance.

A typical Saturday during the summer can see John working on the ground at 7.00 in the morning. He will be preparing the wicket and cutting the outfield. Then in the afternoon he will be watching and supporting the team (assuming that he is not called into the team if a player drops out). He finishes his day by ensuring the Result Sheet is completed and posted in time to avoid a fine from the league. Also he doubles as barman in the winter. The club rely heavily on the willing few, John being one of them.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE

The Village Voice is delighted to introduce a new feature, thanks to our Community Centre Manager John Wilson. He challenges

you to solve his puzzle, which has a variety of clues: straightforward, cryptic and anagram. Send your solutions to

the Voice address or any member of the committee. For the winner there is a warm glow of satisfaction and a prize of £10.

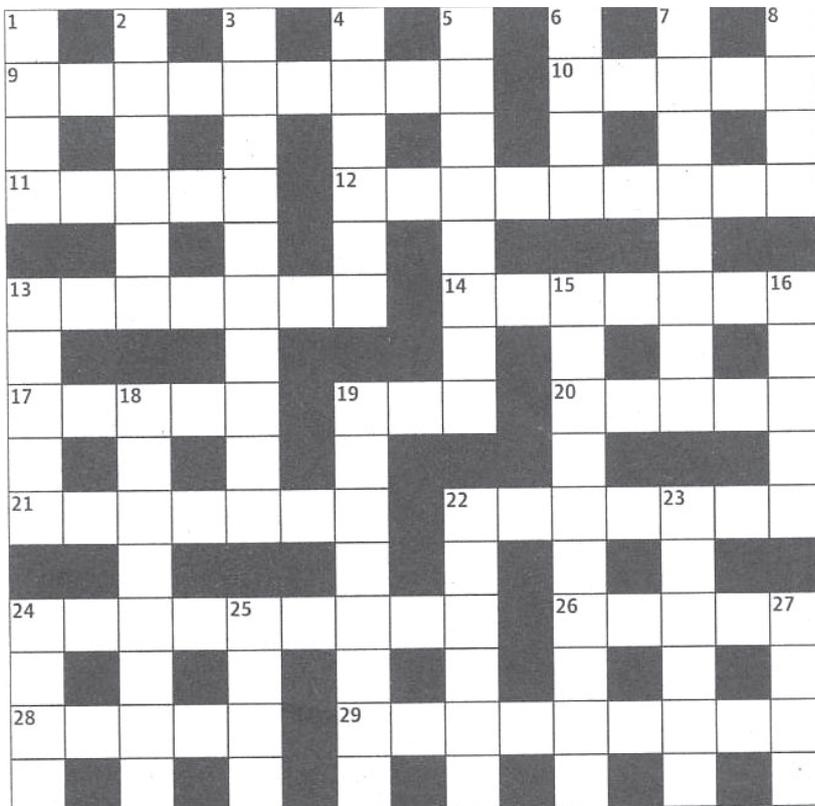
CLUES

ACROSS

- 9. Banish backward taken in by trick (9)
- 10. Clean feathers (5)
- 11. Bottle lost point from over ground (5)
- 12. Invalidation (9)
- 13,14. Plug in dead cert for sweet (7,7)
- 14. See 13 across
- 17. Italian island (5)
- 19,24. James Edward Stuart (3,9)
- 20. Room in colossal onion (5)
- 21. Zap tree for swing (7)
- 22. Incite, show around OK (7)
- 24. See 19 across
- 26. Essential (5)
- 28. Incorrect (5)
- 29. Clerk sits for insisters (9)

DOWN

- 1. Grip a smug person (4)
- 2. Shrewd (6)
- 3. Vengeful (10)
- 4. Fellow takes time to cope (6)
- 5. Spend on a different laxative (5,3)
- 6. Gemstone (4)
- 7. Corrective REMEdial (8)
- 8. Reef, Gordian, Granny etc. (4)
- 13. Implied Titanic lost in wreck (5)
- 15. Author of 'Crime and Punishment' (10)
- 16. Type of green (5)
- 18. Substitutes in commonplace Boston (8)
- 19. Take too much (8)
- 22. Allow exchange rate mechanism in mine (6)
- 23. Opening for lute to restore (6)
- 24. Hock (4)
- 25. Brink (4)
- 27. Lean over to one side (4)



NEWS PLEASE

Please send contributions for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday, 20th June. Thank you.

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