

## BRASS BAND PATRONS' CONCERT

The Methodist Church was packed on Saturday February 28th for The Lanchester Brass Band's tribute to its supporters, and it also provided an opportunity to acknowledge band members who had made an outstanding contribution. It was also an opportunity to meet the new conductor Jonathan Fenwick, who took the occasion to demonstrate to the audience his empathy with the band. He also shared some jokes with some of the audience, which others missed through the lack of a microphone. The programme offered a variety of rhythms and tones, starting with the uproarious "Barnard Castle" immediately

followed by the gentle "As Time Goes By". Phil Wilson (cornet) took the solo in an elegiac "Love Changes Everything" and Ben Johnson (flugel) led the hymn "How Great Thou Art". In the final number, "Jamie's Patrol", the band borrowed an idea from Haydn's Farewell Symphony by gradually sneaking out, leaving one tuba valiantly honking away. The second half was opened by the Training Band, conducted by Susan Hayton, which, after a tentative opening number, settled down well and showed great potential. Then the main band were back with the feisty Spanish-sounding "Ballerina" and a fine

rendering of "Floral Dance". Proceedings were halted for the presentation of awards for outstanding work or progress. The junior trophy went to Jonathan Botcherby (baritone) as the most improved junior player, who is now in the main band, and the baton to James McDonald (trombone), who has taken over the solo trombone seat, both local lads. Runners-up were, the euphonium player Joseph Vary and cornet Phil Wilson. The band's treasurer, Cath Johnson, also received an award for her tireless work behind the scenes. Conductor Jonathan Fenwick was also awarded a new baton - a Darth Vader light-sword.



*Ben Johnson (flugel) during his solo spot*



*Susan Hayton with the training band*



*James McDonald is presented with his baton as most improved player in the Band*



# 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.

To the Editor,  
With reference to your front page article "Winter Snow" of the February issue, we were a family not whingeing about the snow, in fact we were delighted that it snowed. Our son Paul, his wife Cassie, who is Australian, and grandson Max aged 2 were over from Australia, and Cassie's greatest wish was that we had snow while they

were here, so we were happy that she got her wish. Max got to have a ride on a sledge and thought it was great. They were also very impressed with the carols around the tree on Christmas Eve and the lights in Front Street.

Cassie took lots of photos to show her family back home to let them see what a lovely village we live in. They returned home to temperatures of 40 degrees plus, but had their photos to remind them of their nearly white Christmas in Lanchester.

Robin and Jackie Gates  
Briardene

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

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### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A Draft Statement of Community Involvement has been left in Lanchester library for you to read, and as it's really about the Local Development Framework (LDF), which apparently replaces the old District Plans, it might be worth reading. Make a list of acronyms, or initials, as you go along or you may not know your LDD's from your LDF's, and take someone to shake you awake from time to time. It seems that Derwentside Council

would like, in future, to consult us on development using a wider range of techniques, and more effective use of results. This may mean not ignoring local opinion, so could be a step forward. The LDF (look at your notes) is a range of documents about Planning Strategy, a vision for the area, with special bits for Stanley, the Team Valley and the North Pennines. A Sustainability Appraisal must be carried out, consulting the Countryside Agency,

English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Derwentside Partnership. When the LDD's have been drawn up, an independent Planning Inspector will conduct an examination in public to test their 'soundness'. Information about the drafting of these documents will be available in Lanchester library and on the District's web-site, and there will be a consultation, which includes the Parish Council, the Partnership and 'All Saints Church'.

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## CES SUMMERS

All Saints Catholic Church was filled to capacity for Ces's Requiem Mass on 7th January. Canon Spence, in his tribute, asked us all to thank God for Ces a wonderful family man - a hands-on father and grandfather and a marvellous and loving husband to Maureen. Ces was very proud of his family and we thanked God for Paul, Maria, David, Catherine, Rachel and Kristian and for a super grandpa to Hannah, Marianne, Kristina, Rory, Matthew, Gabrielle and Darcie. The Reverend Mary Lloyd and Paul did the readings and Catherine, Kristina and a family friend Margaret Matthews led the bidding prayers. The younger grandchildren brought the offertory gifts in procession. Marianne read a Eulogy 'A Loving Grandpa', which was written by Kristina on behalf of the grandchildren and which concluded "He was a wonderful man, and such an important part of our lives. We had everything anyone could ever want from a grandpa and he could not have fulfilled his role better. He was a remarkable husband, father, grandpa and friend to many. We are all so lucky to have had this amazing man in our lives and he will be in our hearts forever." Maria concluded the bidding prayers by reading 'Footprints'. Ces loved, and was very much a part of Lanchester and his Church. His love of music was reflected in the service when Sharon Murray sang 'On Eagles Wings' and Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society joined the Church choir with Mozart's 'Ave Verum' conducted by David Hughes and accompanied on the organ by Bill Gray. Ces was a past member of the Male Voice Choir, the Choral and Operatic Society where he was always very active in helping out backstage and he was a current member of Consett Citizens Choir as well as the All Saints Church Choir. We thanked God for Ces's many strengths - his wonderful sense of humour, his interest in people and the ability to relate to people of all ages, the many kindnesses he showed to people in a quiet and unassuming way, his great capacity to care. Very special thanks to Canon Spence for all his support, to The Reverend Mary Lloyd, Dr James Anderson and the Medical Team and all those who contributed before, during and after the Requiem Mass. Maureen and the family would like to thank you for the donations which amounted to £1025 for Willow Burn and all the support, cards, flowers, mass offerings, visits and letters, given to them during Ces's final illness and sudden death.

## GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

March is a good time to start off your 2006 vegetable crops. You can sow, under cloches if necessary, seeds of:

- broad beans;
- beetroots;
- cauliflowers;
- lettuce;
- salad onions, and
- radishes.

It is also time to prune your buddleia bushes (which are sometimes called

butterfly bushes) and your rose bushes if you have not already done so. You can plant your onion sets during March, but if it is still too cold, start them off in a coldframe and plant them out when they have formed their roots.

You also need to prepare your summer beds this month in

time for sowing your hardy annuals.

March is the time to plant summer bulbs such as lilies, gladioli etc.

If you can't wait for some colour to appear in your gardens visit the local suppliers within the village and the nurseries for polyanthus and primulas.

Graham the Gardener

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## POTTERY CLASS

Following on from a visit to Bowes Museum, at Barnard Castle, children in Mrs McKenna's class at All Saints primary school went on to put their theory into practice. On January 19th Vicky Holbrough, an artist

from the museum, came to school to help the children make pots based on notes made during their visit and some examples of Aztec styles. They used the coil method, building up a long snake of clay

into a pot shape, smoothing it out and possibly applying handles. This was clearly an enjoyable activity, with lots of all shapes and sizes produced as each potter used skill and imagination.



*Vicky Holbrough helps pupils build their pots*

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## SCENE: THE OVAL OFFICE

**Bush:** Nice to see you. What's happening in the world?  
**Powell:** Sir, I have the report here about the new leader of China.  
**Bush:** Great, lay it on me.  
**Powell:** Hoo is the new leader of China.  
**Bush:** That's what I want to know.  
**Powell:** That's what I'm telling you.  
**Bush:** That's what I'm asking you. Who is the new leader of China?  
**Powell:** Yes.  
**Bush:** I mean the fellow's name.  
**Powell:** Hoo.  
**Bush:** The guy in China.  
**Powell:** Hoo.  
**Bush:** The new leader of China.  
**Powell:** Hoo.  
**Bush:** Colin, I want to know who is the new leader of China.  
**Powell:** You're right Mr. President. Hoo is leading in China.  
**Bush:** Now waddya asking me for, you are supposed to know?  
**Powell:** I'm telling you - HOO IS THE NEW LEADER OF CHINA!!!!  
**Bush:** Godammit Colin, that's what I'm asking you. Who is the leader of China?  
**Powell:** That's the man's name.  
**Bush:** That's whose name?  
**Powell:** Yes.  
**Bush:** Will you, or will you not tell me the name of the new leader of China?  
**Powell:** Yes Sir.  
**Bush:** Yassir? Yassir Arafat is in China? I thought he was in the Middle East.  
**Powell:** That's correct.  
**Bush:** Then who is in China?  
**Powell:** Yes Sir.  
**Bush:** Yassir is in China?  
**Powell:** No Sir.  
**Bush:** Then who is?  
**Powell:** Yes Sir.  
**Bush:** Yassir?  
**Powell:** No Sir.  
**Bush:** Look Colin you Shmuk, I need to know the name of the new leader of China. Get me the Secretary General of the UN on the phone.  
**Powell:** Kofi?  
**Bush:** No thanks.  
**Powell:** You don't want Kofi?  
**Bush:** No I'd rather have a glass of milk please. Then get me the UN.  
**Powell:** Yes Sir.  
**Bush:** No Godammit, not Yassir, the guy at the UN.  
**Powell:** Kofi?  
**Bush:** MILK!!!! Will you please make the call?  
**Powell:** And call who?  
**Bush:** Who is the guy at the UN?  
**Powell:** Hoo is the guy in China  
**Bush:** Will you stay out of China?  
**Powell:** Yes Sir.  
**Bush:** And stay out of the Middle East. Just get me the guy at the UN.  
**Powell:** Kofi.  
**Bush:** All right then, with cream and two sugars. Now get on the phone (Powell picks up the phone).  
**Powell:** Please get me Rice.  
**Bush:** Rice? Great thinking Colin, and a couple of egg rolls too. Maybe we should send some to this guy in China, and the Middle East. Can you get Chinese food in the Middle East?

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## NEVILLE'S CROSS

Members of Lanchester Local History Society were privileged to hear David Butler explain the Battle of Neville's Cross at their February meeting, deploying charts, maps and considerable expertise.

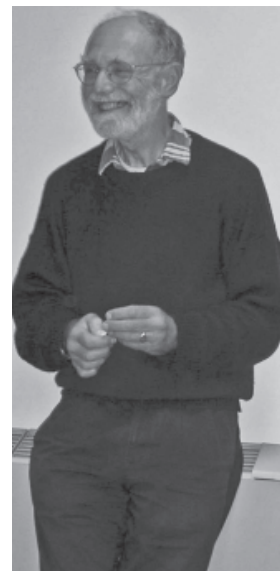
Before describing the battle, Mr Butler outlined the problem caused by England's claims to land which is now French, using maps and a genealogy chart to explain Edward III's claim via his mother and Philip VI of France's claim via his grand-parents following the death of Charles IV of France in 1328.

Philip's seizure of Aquitaine and attacks on the English coast caused Edward III to invade France, defeat its armies at Crecy and go on to Calais. Philip asked his Scottish friend King David to create a diversion, which he did by advancing down West Scotland, then down the Tyne Valley and via Ebchester to Beaufort, a holiday estate for

Durham monks, arriving on 14th October 1346. He demanded protection money from the monastic rulers of Durham.

The English response was to rally the shire levies, a kind of macho Home Guard, which assembled at Eggleston Abbey. Their commanders were Henry Percy, Ralph Lord Neville, William Zouch, archbishop of York and the sheriff of Yorkshire. On October 17th they marched up the Old North Road to face King David, William Douglas Earl of Moray, Robert Stewart and Patrick Earl of March.

Mr Butler explained the battle with a plan of the site and superimposed layers. The English held high ground, the Scots coming from Beaufort had a lower and narrower site. When one Scottish wing tried to advance across a valley, they were massacred by English archers, each firing ten arrows a minute. The other wing, minus those who had decided to retreat,



*David answers questions from the History Group*

advanced but turned, leaving their flank open to the English reserves. King David was made prisoner and Scotland had to pay a massive ransom, some of which they still owe. The sum was said to be £16,000 at compound interest, which would pay off the national debt nicely. Ralph Neville built a new cross to commemorate the battle, which has now been moved and much damaged.

## EVERY STORY HAS A MORAL TO IT

A teacher gave her Ninth grade class an assignment. "Have your parents tell you a story with a moral to it." The next day the kids came to class and one by one they told their stories. Kathy raised her hand first and said "We live on a farm and we have hens that lay eggs for market. Once we were taking a basket of eggs to market on the front seat of our pick-up when we hit a big bump in the road and the eggs went flying all over the place. They all broke."

"And what is the moral to that story?" the teacher asked.

"Don't put all your eggs in one basket." Kathy replied. "Very good" said the teacher.

Then little Lucy raised her

hand and said "We too live on a farm, but we raise chickens for the meat and poultry market. We had 4 dozen eggs once and we made up 48 small boxes for the expected chickens. When the eggs hatched only 30 chickens survived."

"And what was the moral of that story?", asked the teacher.

"Don't count your chickens before they are hatched" said Lucy.

"Excellent" said the teacher. "Johnny, I believe you had your hand up, so tell us your story."

"Yes Ma'am. My Daddy told me that my Aunt Bertha was a flight engineer in Desert Storm and her plane got hit by anti aircraft fire. She had to bail out

over enemy territory, and all she had was bottle of whisky, a machine gun and a machete. She drank the whisky on the way down so the bottle wouldn't break and cause her unnecessary injury. Unfortunately she landed right in the middle of a hundred Iraqi soldiers. She killed seventy with the machine gun before the bullets ran out; then she killed twenty more with the machete before the blade broke. She killed the last ten with her bare hands." "Good heavens!" said the horrified teacher, "What did your Daddy tell you was the moral of that terrible story?" "Stay the hell away from Aunt Bertha if she's been drinking", Johnny replied.

## IAN WHITE AT LANCHESTER METHODIST CHURCH

The worship leader Ian White, noted for his settings of the Psalms to music led an evening of Worship at the Methodist Chapel on 21st January. Ian performed a variety of his music, which included songs for the children. The songs sung during the evening made it a powerful, moving and thoroughly enjoyable concert.

During the evening Ian introduced the **C o m p a s s i o n** organisation to the audience. He outlined his role and gave the opportunity to sponsor a child in a developing country. Working exclusively through local churches in developing countries **Compassion** ensures that there is financial integrity, long-term commitment and the opportunity for every child to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ. One child supported by

one sponsor through **Compassion** is a powerful and enduring way to tackle world poverty.

2006 is Ian's 21st year in music ministry. His diary has some concerts in the UK with trips to the USA and New Zealand in March and April. Although during his 20 years Ian

has never scaled the heights of fame or record sales to match the big American brigade, he has travelled the world, produced more than 16 albums from his Scottish based record label, Little Misty Music.

Watch this space for a repeat visit from Ian White in the future.



*Ian White performing at the Methodist Church*

## GOOD KEY NEWS

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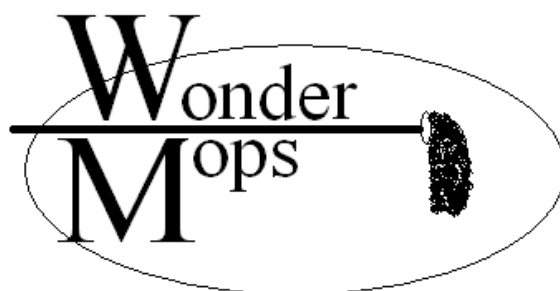
**(Above Elliot, Hird & Partners)**

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# CHARITY TREK



*Richard on his trek to Everest base-camp in Nepal. He is kneeling at the front of the picture.*

## Lanchester Community Centre

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**Phone: 01207 521275 or 01207 521281**

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After months of training and sponsorship raising, Lanchester resident Richard Boulger travelled to Nepal on the 2nd December last year. He took part in a 15-day trek to Everest base-camp to the foot of the world's highest mountain to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. He reports "the trek started off relatively easily, passing through the Nepalese mountain villages and the acclimatisation was steady as the trek slowly went up hill. As the altitude increased the eight hours a day of walking became harder, but the views more spectacular. Camping at night in tents saw temperatures drop to minus 15 degrees. Everest base-camp was finally reached at 5,300m and a further climb to 5,600m provided some amazing views of Everest. As well as losing a stone in weight, I raised £4,000 for the Alzheimer's Society. I would like to give a massive thank you to all those people who sponsored me, it is very much appreciated".

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# NEW ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Following Olive Simpkins' retirement in 2005, Durham County Council have appointed Julie Simm as Adult Community Learning Co-ordinator based at Lanchester Community Centre. Julie is an experienced tutor who has worked in the local area for a number of years. Adult Community Learning offers a wide variety of courses ranging from Mediumship & Reincarnation and Lace Making to more traditional courses such as Flower Arranging, Arts & Crafts and Yoga. Julie said, "I hope to continue to build on the excellent courses currently in place at the Centre, but my overall aim is to find out and deliver new courses that people in the community are interested in. I want to offer learners the opportunity to learn new things in a friendly, informal manner. Courses are available from short taster courses to 10-week full courses. Courses are not expensive, and there are concessions for senior citizens and people on benefits. If any of you would like to meet new people and learn new skills then I would be delighted to hear from you. At present I am looking for new members to join our current courses, which include as Flower Arranging, Yoga, Sugarcraft, German, Lace Making, Belly Dancing, Tai-Chi and Scottish Dancing to name but a few. If anyone would like to enrol please either telephone me or call into the Centre. I would also like to ask readers of the Village



Julie Simm at work in her office


Voice to take a couple of moments to complete the short questionnaire below and return it to me at the Community Centre. I am interested to find out what kind of subjects you would like to know more about and I will endeavour to run courses on those subjects that generate enough interest." Julie will be available at the Community Centre for ten hours a week, mainly on a Tuesday and Wednesday, and would be delighted to hear your comments and suggestions or alternatively please telephone Lanchester Community Centre on 01207 521275 if you would like further details of any courses.



## *Education in the Community*

### *Lanchester Community Association*

*Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0JQ*



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***Courses currently offered by Adult Community Learning include the following:***

|                                   |                              |                               |
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| Dowsing for beginners             | Stilt Walking                | Lace Making                   |
| Glass Painting                    | Mature Movers Exercise       | Flower Arranging              |
| Getting started with computers    | Drumming Circle              | Local & Family History        |
| Internet, web design & email      | Afro-Cuban dance             | Normalising the Paranormal    |
| Word processing (all levels)      | Brazilian Dance              | Mysticism & Orthodox Religion |
| Spreadsheets & Databases          | Radio Production             | Mediumship & Reincarnation    |
| CLAIT                             | Digital Photography          | The Aura                      |
| Computer problem solving          | Painting & Drawing           | Child Protection              |
| Powerpoint                        | Photography                  | Assertiveness & Stress Relief |
| Desk Top publishing               | Various Crafts               | Sociology, Politics           |
| Family history using the internet | Art History & Appreciation   | Understanding Relationships   |
| ECDL                              | Interactive Stories          | Various Languages             |
| Drivers Theory                    | Mosaics                      | Carnival Costume Design       |
| Computer Art                      | Fabric Painting              | Body, Hand & Foot Massage     |
| Garden design & container gardens | Sugarcraft & Cake Decorating |                               |
|                                   |                              | Tai Chi                       |
|                                   |                              | Forensic Art                  |
|                                   |                              | Patchwork & Quilting          |
|                                   |                              | Soft Furnishing               |
|                                   |                              | Embroidery                    |
|                                   |                              | Dress Making                  |
|                                   |                              | Card Making                   |
|                                   |                              | Debt Management               |
|                                   |                              | Soft Toy Making               |
|                                   |                              | Healing for Beginners         |
|                                   |                              | Iridology & Kinesiology       |
|                                   |                              | Herbalism & Homeopathy        |
|                                   |                              | Aromatherapy                  |
|                                   |                              | Reflexology                   |
|                                   |                              | Holistic Therapies            |
|                                   |                              | Indian Head Massage           |
|                                   |                              | Meditation                    |

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***Please choose the courses you may be interested in and return the form to Julie Simm at Lanchester Community Centre Tel 01207 521275 or contact Brenda Beveridge at Stanley Education Centre 01207 232565. We will get back to you when there is enough interest to run the courses. All information provided will be kept private and confidential and will be only used to assess educational needs.***

***I would be interested in attending the following***

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5 .....

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## HYGIENE IN THE KITCHEN



*With tutor Adrian Evans are Alma Dinning, Maureen Barker, Betty Reed, Olive Simpkins and Jean Hunter with their certificates*

The Amigos, a group of older folk who meet every Friday in the Community Centre for games and a meal, are now guaranteed the best possible skills from the helpers in the kitchen.

All the helpers who take turns to work in the kitchen now have an Intermediate Certificate in Food Hygiene and Safety. Maureen Barker, Alma Dinning, Marie Gray, Jean Hockaday, Jean Hunter, Jennifer McDonald, Betty

Reid, Olive Simpkins, Liz Smith and Joyce Thomas followed a course tutored by Adrian Evans.

Mind you, they were pretty clued up about hygiene before, but now they have a certificate to prove it.

## TALKING HEADS NEWS

Talking Heads welcomes Natalie who has joined us and is taking her apprenticeship. We like her company and along with our clients wish her well.

Michelle has been with Talking Heads for over three years and has accomplished all aspects

of hairdressing. As well as being an excellent stylist Michelle is also a good friend.

My little daughter Bradie is now 2 and a half and loves having play time with grandparents and playgroups, which on a personal level allows me to spend more time in the salon.

I am working on a regular basis and will be happy to take your appointments and look forward to meeting you either as an old friend or new.

During last year we started our end-of-the-week Prize Draw, with each customer entitled to free entry. Each week the winning ticket is drawn awarding a £10 Talking Heads voucher. The odds on winning are better than the Lottery and many of our clients happily heard the news 'You're our Winner this week'. Make

sure you enter at the desk, before you leave. If this is your Lucky Week then I will enjoy phoning you soon.

We have some colouring demonstrations planned for March. Models are welcome and encouraged to apply for this event - please pop into the salon and talk it over with your stylist.

All salons rely on regular customers and we never fail to appreciate your loyalty which is so important to the continuing success of our business, now happily in its 6th year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Talking Heads clients in being understanding, allowing me the time spent with my daughter yet remaining loyal to our salon. Thank you, I hope to see you soon,  
JENICARSON



## MP IN LANCHESTER

Hilary Armstrong MP conducted a Lanchester surgery on Saturday 4th February which proved quite popular, with a good number turning up to take up issues effecting Lanchester, the surrounding villages and the national political scene. Hilary was joined by Ossie Johnson and Mike Wardle to deal with District matters that were raised by constituents and to plan the conference on Care for the Elderly to be held on the 25th. It is definitely hoped to repeat the surgery in the future.



*Councillors Mike Wardle and Ossie Johnson chat to Hilary Armstrong*

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## VILLAGE BUS

Efforts to persuade the County Council to adopt and fully fund the Village Bus are being threatened by a new crisis in transport funding caused apparently by Gordon Brown.

His announcement of free travel for pensioners, combined with inadequate funding, has led many local authorities to look for easy ways to save in other areas. At the same time, bus companies are asking for more money to run their services.

The bus is funded by Lanchester Partnership with the help of grants from various sources, but it is only assured until August next.

The Chairman of Lanchester Partnership, Mike Gladstone, has written to Cllr Bob Pendlebury, Chair of the Transport Committee, to ask him to intervene to save the bus.

## POLICE CONSULT IN LANCHESTER

The Derwentside Police Community Consultative Group met the public in Lanchester Methodist Church on Monday 6th February. The police team included Chief Superintendent E. Suddes and Inspector I. Proud.

Plans for neighbourhood policing were revealed, involving integrated neighbourhood policing with detectives attached. PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers) were introduced to deal with minor matters in the community, leaving PC's to be more active in pursuit of serious crime. In answer to members of the public from around the area who complained of insufficient police presence on the ground, it was replied that more funds would result in more policing.

The printed report circulated at the meeting

showed an increase of violence against the person of 34.5% in Consett area, the vast majority around closing time on Friday and Saturday nights in Consett and Blackhill. Thirty-four of the seventy violent crimes in Lanchester had been detected. Lanchester had shown a 5.4% decrease in criminal damage crimes, with a detection rate of 11.3%.

There were 120 house burglaries in Consett area over the year, with a detection rate of 10.8%, a decrease in vehicle crime by 18.9%, with a detection rate of 8.1%, and an increase of 79% in drug offences with a detection rate of 81%.

Anyone who missed the consultation event will be pleased to know that the Village Voice will be able to publish advance notice of these events in future.

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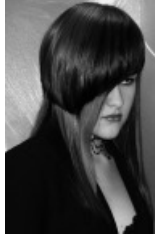
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# LADIES WHO LUNCH

## reporting on the newly owned and refurbished Knitsley Mill

We are a group of 8 ladies who meet and eat out once a month, something we have been indulging in for the past 15 years. We have our favourite haunts and places we wouldn't dream of going to again, likes and dislikes honed over the years - we definitely know what we like.

On Friday, 20th January, we decided to go and try out Knitsley Mill - we have been once before, in through the door and out again. Not so this time - it now looks quite lovely with a welcome to match. There was an à la carte menu and a

£6.50 2-course menu (starter and main course) to include a glass of wine and a cup of coffee. Now, one of the definite things we like is a good offer - so we all decided to try out the £6.50 menu.

A varied choice of starters were offered: Pea and Ham Soup/Forestière and mushroom terrine with Cumberland sauce and warm toast/Smoked salmon roulette on a house dressed crisp salad/ Home-made black pudding wrapped, baked and coated in a flaming tomato sauce. Main courses were just as inviting: Baked herb crusted cod on a bed of

Cheddar mash with buttered greens/Prime mince beef, garden peas and carrots in a rich gravy with leek dumplings/Strips of chicken breast in a Thai red curry sauce on Basmati rice/Creamy mushroom risotto the old-fashioned way.

Most of this was sampled by one of us and we were all delighted with our choice. Good food, well cooked and presented, excellent service, a palatable wine and a good cup of coffee. Knitsley Mill is destined to become a haunt.

What a delight!  
The Gourmet Girls

## THURSDAY CLUB An American Dream



*Olive Simpkins giving her presentation to the Thursday Club*

At the February meeting of the Thursday Club, Olive Simpkins was to be found taking the members on a fascinating journey across America. A 2005, month-long holiday

translated into an entertaining evening talk, visiting New York, San Francisco, Yosemite, Carmel and Monterey, the Big Sur and Californian Highway 1, Las Vegas,

Miami and the Florida Keys. All in all a great night out! Thanks to Christine Monaghan for endless assistance with the compilation and help with the presentation.



# OVER THE MOON AND BEYOND

Lanchester EP School chose for their recent Creativity Week a Space theme which gave great license to staff and children to create some magnificent wall features and fun things to do right across the curriculum. There was a visit by Professor Brainstorm, a Space expert, who taught the children such things as gravity, food for astronauts, breathing, various experiments and general space activity among planets, stars, and the Moon and Mars in particular. Artwork in the school depicted the first moon landing and many models of spacecraft were made from junk materials. The children enjoyed

space maths by learning about shapes and certainly had lots of fun with space music and moon dancing and inventing aliens. At the end of the week the whole school including staff dressed up in a fine array of space costumes and held a moon party for lunch with school dinners with very inviting names.

The whole atmosphere of the school was one of enjoyment, fun and sheer pleasure of relaxing for a week by learning perhaps without realising it. As for the staff, they seemed to enjoy it just as much but with so much work put into the event were probably glad of the immediate break for half term.



Mr Spock and Darth Vader met at the EP School



Imaginative costumes worn by children from the infant classes



Nursery children in their space costumes



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## COUNTRY MARKET

Cakes, veg, eggs, jam and much more for sale in the Community Centre, starting at 10am on Saturday 4th March.

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

The annual general meeting of the Community Association, which runs the Community Centre, will be held on Wednesday 15th March, starting at 7pm. Anyone interested in what happens in the Community Centre is welcome to attend.

## FAMILY HISTORY

On the last Thursday of every month you can find out how to surf the net in search of your family history. Meet in the library between 9.30 and 11.30am. The March meeting should be the 30th.

## SPRING FAYRE

There is an invitation to a spring fair with an Easter flavour in the Chapter House of Lanchester Parish Church on Saturday 18th March, from 9.30 till 11.30am. Your coffee or tea comes with a hot cross bun and/or one of those famous cheese scones, while children get free juice and a mini-egg. There will be a grand draw and lots of attractions - books, bric a brac, plants, cakes, bottles, smellies, and produce, and all for a mere 50p.

## BLOOD DONORS

There will be a blood donor session in the Community Centre on 24th March from 2.15 till 7pm

The Village Voice Page 14

## CLEAN UP LANCHESTER

Following an appeal to Lancastrians to comment on the litter problem via a box in the newsagents, there will be a concerted attempt to clean up the whole village, supplementing the good work done by village handyman Cliff Hudspith in the park and village centre and workmen from the District Council who regularly tidy Front Street.

The day for the clean-up is April 1st (NOT an April Fool!) from 10am till 3pm, with the support of the District and Parish Councils who are providing equipment and a skip.

An appeal has gone out through the schools for children and their parents to come down to the Village Green at any time from 10 till 3, but of course anyone is welcome. Please spread the word. For further information contact Carolyn Wardle (521662) or Jill Gladstone (528114).

## MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting is on Wednesday March 8th at 7.30pm in the Chapter House adjoining the Parish Church, when Margaret Walters will give a slides with music presentation on St John's Gospel.

## PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14th March, beginning at 7pm, in Park House. Any citizens of Lanchester are welcome to attend, and will have the opportunity to speak on matters before the Council. Enter by the door to the right of the building.

## SONGS OF TRAVEL

A second feast of vocal delights is promised from Lanchester Male Voice Choir, Chillbill with Bill Gray and Andrew Fowler and friends from Durham Cathedral. Like the similar concert last year, this event is to support Mel and Sue Somersall's Mercy Ships fund, and if it's like last year's do, it will be well worth the ticket price of £5. Tickets are available from the performers and Mel on 529153.

## COFFEE?

The Community Association coffee morning is held on Wednesday 22nd March. On Thursday the 30th, the Red Cross offers coffee in the upper room.

## FRIENDS OF THE FORT

The group with an interest in Longovicium meet in the Community Centre on Thursday 23rd March from 7 till 9 o'clock. Work will continue on preparing a book and other publications to inform about the former Roman residents of Lanchester.

## JUNIOR WILDLIFE

The wildlife group for small people meets at Malton Picnic Area at 10am on Saturday 19th March. Children from 5 to 11 are welcome, as are their parents. For more details please contact Noel Jackson (560684) or Elaine Williams (520063).

At the February meeting members learned to identify garden birds, then walked along the railway and identified sparrows, blue-tits, robins and jackdaws.

# WHAT'S ON?

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The special service will be in Lanchester Parish Church on Friday March 3rd from 2 till 3pm. Reverend Mary Lloyd will be the speaker.

This year's theme, "Signs of the Times", has been prepared by Christian Women of South Africa, a country which won democracy but still has health, violence and poverty problems.

## FLOWER CLUB

The meeting on Wednesday March 22nd, starting at 2pm in the Community Centre, will enjoy a demonstration by Jean McLure of Saltburn called "Spring into Easter".

## CONTAINER GARDENING

There will be a one-day class on Container Gardening held in the Community Centre on March 11th. The class runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

## EDUCATING RITA

Leeds Library Theatre makes its annual visit to the Community Centre with Willy Russell's play Educating Rita, an engaging tale of the clash between an upwardly mobile hairdresser and her cynical tutor. The show is on Thursday 9th March, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets price £4 can be had from the Centre or the Post Office. It gorra lorra laughs.

## AMIGOS COFFEE

A coffee morning will be held on Friday March 17th from 9.30 - 11am in the Community Centre Dining Room to help support our Over 80s housebound group. Tickets 50p.

## MUMS AND BABIES

Mothers with babies up to nine months can now attend a group created to meet their needs. The group meets in the Community Centre small hall on Fridays 1-3pm, and is backed by the Primary Care Trust. Mothers can get advice on nutrition and other subjects, meet one another and learn about 'baby massage'. For more information join the group on Friday afternoons or contact Pat Goldsmith, 214710.

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

On the 4th March at 7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Community Centre, Lanchester Lions are presenting their theme evening, 'The Sound of Music'. Guests will be able to enjoy a two course meal whilst enjoying the film and a 'sing-along' to all the wonderful songs in the musical. Hopefully, guests will turn up in fancy dress but this is not compulsory. However, there will be a prize for the best dressed person. There will also be a raffle. It sounds like a great night in store so why not get in touch with Mark Draper on 529775 or indeed any Lion member to obtain your ticket, priced at £6.50. All profits will go to good local causes.



## LIONS' CARNIVAL

The 17th of June 2006 is the date of the Lanchester Lions Carnival, so make sure there is a bold entry in your diaries.

The theme this year will be "Circus", which should give everyone plenty of scope to use their imagination and make the event as picturesque and colourful as possible.

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.

We plan to have a parade as usual and it will start from Lanchester Cricket Club's ground on Kitswell Road at 1.00pm and proceed 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.

Jack Collins.

Tel: 01388 488706

E-mail: jack.collins3@btinternet.com

## FLOOD PROTECTION MEETING

The Partnership and the Parish Council are to hold a public meeting on March 7th in the Community Centre Small Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Since parts of the village flooded in 2003, Durham County Council and Northumbrian Water have done an enormous amount of work to our drains and sewers. At the meeting they will tell us about it and the Environment Agency will explain what it has learned from its new detailed flood prediction computer model.

If you would like to learn why another flood is now much less likely, or to ask questions, or just to look at photographs, please come along.

## SHORT WALKS

Acorn Amblers have a short walk on Sunday 19th March, starting at 1.30pm from Dipton public car park and taking in Pontop Pike.

Short Circuits Ramblers have a 5-mile walk starting at the Eden Place car park, Beamish (map reference NZ220537) at 10.30am on Saturday March 4th, and another of 5.5 miles starting at the Pontburn Woods nature reserve car park (NZ145563) on Saturday 18th March at 10.30am.

## WI

In case they didn't know members can learn "What is a Homesitter" from Margaret Blyth on Monday 6th March at the Community Centre, starting at 7pm. There will also be a competition for 'an unusual household item'. Don't bring your husband for the latter.

## LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Legacy Of German POW Camps In The United Kingdom Presented by Dr J. A. Hellen.

Born in Cornwall and serving as an Officer in the Royal Navy and a Colonial District Officer in Africa, followed by a fellowship at the University of Bonn, Dr Hellen was later to be offered the post of Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University with visiting professorships at home and abroad. His expertise on POW Camps led to his involvement with the BBC and German TV Companies on a number of productions.

The illustrated talk will describe the POW camp system across Britain which was established from Cornwall to Orkney between 1941 and 1948, eventually numbering some 300 main camps and 1200 satellite hostels, holding some 157,000 Italians and 401,000 German prisoners.

The legacy of the POW still survives, not only in public records, but in their artefacts and art, camp newspapers etc, all of which can now be viewed in the museum at Harperley in Weardale.

The talk will take place on Friday, 3rd March, at 7.30pm, in the Community Centre.

## MP'S SURGERY

Hilary Armstrong, our local MP, will be conducting a surgery on Friday 10th March at the Civic Centre, Consett, starting at 6pm. Her contact numbers and surgery dates are on a card available from Lanchester library.

## SOCIAL CLUB

50/50 dancing continues in the concert room from 7-11 pm on Friday nights, with a cover charge of £1.

There is no cover charge for entertainment in the bar lounge on Saturday nights, including; 4th March, Natasha Newman, highly recommended by previous singers 11th March, male singer Dexy 18th March, Nigel's karaoke 25th March Caroline. Fun karaoke in the bar on Sunday nights.

## WILDLIFE GROUP

At the meeting on Tuesday 14th March in the Community Centre, starting at 7.30pm, Lindsay Waddell will be talking about Management for Nature in Upper Teesdale. New members welcome.

## LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

The March meeting of Lanchester Partnership, on Monday 13th, will be addressing the matters thrown up by the Parish Plan and of course, by the Conference on Lynwood House.

There are two meetings, the Youth Committee meets from 6.30-7.30pm and the combined Environment and Transport Committee from 7.30 till 9. These are not private meetings - anyone is welcome to attend and take part.

## WISE WORDS

Wherever you have an efficient government, you have a dictatorship. (Harry S Truman 1959)

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# VILLAGE VOICE PARTY



Guests at the Village Voice party listen to a welcome from Chairman Brian Oram



The Village Voice committee again held a midday get-together to thank the many people who lend support. Wine and snacks were provided in the Community Centre on 28th January for advertisers, deliverers and correspondents, who were thanked in a brief speech by Chairman Brian Oram. He sympathised with deliverers who had recently had to cope with twenty-page papers, and thanked advertisers whose support makes the whole thing possible. He thanked reporter

Lindsay Weston, who has recently filed comprehensive reports on Parish Council meetings, but due to her husband's change of job will soon be leaving Lanchester. She will be hard to replace, though volunteers are being sought. Brian thanked the committee members who organised the party, and Christine Monaghan who set up a Powerpoint presentation of photos from last year's Voice. He also announced the Village Voice's sponsorship of Lanchester Brass Band.

## SHORT WALKS IN NORTH-WEST DURHAM

The above book is still for sale in Lanchester library, comprising 30 walks from 2 to 5 miles long in the area between Derwent and Wear.

## GLASSES LOST

A pair of glasses in a green leather case were lost in the village on Tuesday 31st January. Could the finder please ring 529881.

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR EDITOR

Would all contributors please note that the Village Voice Editor, Malcolm McKenzie, now has a new email address. Please contact him at: [malcolm.mckenzie@mckenzie.btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.mckenzie@mckenzie.btinternet.com)

## NEWS PLEASE

We would be grateful for any contributions for the next edition by Tuesday, 21st March. Thank you.

*Please mention  
The Village Voice  
when contacting any of our advertisers*

**Thank You**

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### Consett and District Golf Club Elmfield Road Consett



*Have you recently moved into the area?  
Do you want to change golf clubs?  
Are you interested in learning to play golf?*

*If yes to any of the above Consett Golf Club currently has a limited number of memberships available for both male and female members.*

- Beautiful, well manicured 18 hole parkland golf course.
- Professional teaching facilities available.
- Well furnished club house.
- Extensive catering facilities.
- Ideal for friendly social golf.
- An excellent competition programme.
- A year round entertainment programme for members and guests.

*Golf is a great sport to help you keep fit and meet new friends*

**Ring the secretary NOW for details on  
01207 505060**