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THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 8 Volume 7

Lanchester, September 2006

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL PULLS PLUG

Mr Arthur Maughan (Chairman) informed the July Management Meeting of the Lanchester Community Association, that a letter has been received from Durham County Council informing the Community Association that from September they will no longer be a Main Centre for Education in the Community. Apart from the potential loss of the recreational courses, the Community Centre loses £10,500 per year income.

Durham County Council has yet to decide on any future position of Julie Simm (Adult & Community Learning Co-ordinator) but she will no longer work from Lanchester. Lanchester has been

offered the status of a "Satellite Centre" with a greatly reduced grant and an increase in the workload for the Community Centre Manager. The Trustees unanimously decided that they would reject this offer and asked the chairman to strongly convey to Durham County Council the Trustees very great disappointment at their decision.

The future of the courses already running will also be discussed with DCC, as they have the responsibility to inform the tutors and participants of the decision made by DCC. The meeting then thanked Julie for all her hard work during the short period she has

been working in Lanchester. It has been very noticeable the improvements made in the courses run and the numbers attending.

As a consequence of the County Council's decision, it results in the Association Executive Committee having to look at ways of either reducing expenditure or increasing income to cover the financial loss: a full report will be given at the October Management Meeting. Interested onlookers will find it odd that Lanchester, the second most popular centre in the district, has to suffer cuts while Consett and Stanley are spared. Mr Emmerson, the 'Education in the

Community' Manager says that this is to maintain strategic geographical coverage of the County. So, as usual, it is Lanchester which has to do without local courses just as it does without public toilets, a local District Council office and an old folks' home. We only have a good play area because local people worked to provide it. Lanchester is last in line.

An update on the progress of the fundraising for the "Space Project" was given to the meeting. The fund raising committee were very pleased to announce that £20,000 has already been raised and they would like to thank the following for their very

generous donations:- Lanchester Lions, Village Voice, The Sir James Knott Trust, Christ Hospital Sherburn, Wives of the Lions, Play Group and the people who have supported the various events held by the Community Centre.

An Auction is planned for the 28th October and Margaret Southworth will give an illustrated talk about the history of Lanchester on the 12th October. The Chairman stressed that the increase in space, which will be achieved by the extension, is now more important than ever as it means we will be able to increase our income by having additional rooms to rent. The next meeting will be held in October.

SOBER UP THE DRAGON IX RALLY

What a great name for a motorcycle rally! This event was brilliantly organised by the Dragonslayers

Motorcycle Club of Stanley. It attracted participants not only locally and nationally but also from many parts of

the continent including Norway, Belgium and Germany. A tented village was set up at the top of Cadger Bank and the normal countryside view was dominated by about a 1000 mainly small blue tents and a similar number of motorbikes, with a large white marquee and a row of 'shops' selling: leathers; boots; clothes; helmets; trophies; motorbike accessories; as well as fast food and drinks. There was a great

buzz about the place as people gathered together in groups, no doubt with their fanatical love of motorbikes the main topic of the conversation. Competitions were held for different categories of 'bikes' during the day with various prizes being awarded.

On Friday night all were entertained by rock bands: Vanilla; FTB; and FM, whilst on Saturday night there were no less than four bands: My Portraits; Captain Rock; Original Sin; and Sticky

Fingers; all belting out rock to enthusiastic dancers and listeners. About 2000 people attended the event which was a superb social occasion and a great success. Businesses in the village, especially the pubs and takeaway places will have benefited from these friendly visitors to the village. They are well known as great fund raisers and at this event they were hoping to raise several thousand pounds for Air Ambulance.

More Pictures Page 5
The Village Voice Page 1



Two campers set off on a tricycle made for two



Dear Village....

The views expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the newspaper, the editor or persons working for the newspaper. The editor retains the right to cut or otherwise amend any letter published. Letters must contain your name, address and telephone no., all of which may be withheld at your request.

Dear Sir or Madam

I would like to bring to your attention the mess on the parish council grass in front of the Three Horse Shoes pub at Maiden Law.

Not only have the pub landlords got trashy sandwich board signs in front of the pub on the grass and sometimes on the pavement they have hammered large posts into the grass and suspended plastic banners from them.

Oh yes, I pay extra in my council tax to Greencroft Council for grass

cutting etc. not for Publicans to abuse the grass, which they do not cut themselves, Batsons Contractors cut the grass for the council unlike the rest of Maiden Law residents, we have to cut our own bit of grass.

From an annoyed Maiden law resident.

Regards
Brian Oliver
17, LANCHESTER ROAD
MAIDEN LAW
DURHAM
DH70QT

The landlords' reply:

Firstly, may I thank the Village Voice for giving us the opportunity to reply to the complaint received regarding the Three Horse Shoes.

The use of sandwich boards / banners to promote the Three Horse

Shoes (as well as virtually every other Pub in the area) has always been common practice.

Also, the grass to the front of the Three Horse Shoes is, in fact, cut by our own gardener at a significant annual cost to ourselves, and not Batsons as stated. This has been the case not only since we took on the license, but for a period of at least eight years prior to that date.

Unfortunately, we cannot help but feel that this complaint has only arisen due to the fact that Brain Oliver was recently barred from the Three Horse Shoes for repeated use of foul and abusive language, and assaulting the Landlady.

Sincerely,
Jo & Jason Cordey
Landlords
Three Horse Shoes

DENTISTRY CHANGES

From 1st April this year, dentists have had to work to a 'simpler charging' regime.

There are now three charges: £15.50 which includes examination, X-rays, scale and polish. Urgent out-of-hours care costs the same; or £42.40 which includes the above treatment plus additional work such as fillings, root canal and extractions; or £189 which includes the above plus more complex work like crowns, dentures or bridges.

This is a decision that the Government have taken. Many dentists think this 'Procrustean Bed' one-size-fits-all system will not work, it doesn't enable them to offer patients the best service or perhaps doesn't enable them to make a living. In any case the result may well be fewer dentists offering NHS service.

Don't blame the dentists. They didn't jump; they were pushed.

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

UNAUTHORISED ALTERATIONS TO HOUSES

The old core of the village (including Victoria Terrace, Front Street, Percy Place/Crescent, The Square, The Garths and part of Ford Road) is 'subject to Article 4 direction' which means that planning permission is needed for almost all external alterations to buildings, including replacing windows or doors.

Recently, residents in the area that is 'subject to Article 4 direction' who have applied for planning permission to replace existing wooden window frames with uPVC ones have been refused permission. However others appear to have just gone ahead and replaced theirs without asking for permission, risking being instructed to take out the new windows by the planning authority, Derwentside DC.

If they are told to take them out it could cost a lot of money. If they are allowed to leave them in it will be unfair on the residents who have not been allowed to change their windows. In time this will

lead to more and more traditional windows and doors being replaced by plastic, thus taking away some of the character of the village centre.

This difficult situation was discussed by members of the Lanchester Partnership recently. They concluded that whilst the Partnership has a mandate from the parish residents and a duty to try to preserve the character of the village, it should not inform Derwentside DC of cases it knows of where planning requirements have been breached.

However it could, and would:

publicise the situation, for example by this article in the 'Village Voice' and leaflets in the library;

encourage Derwentside DC to send information leaflets to all householders in the Article 4 area, and

ask builders and suppliers of uPVC windows and doors to check whether there are planning conditions before accepting orders.

What do you think?

CORRECTION

In our last edition under 'Planning Matters' we said that Lynwood House wanted to prune some sycamore trees. This is not correct.

The trees in fact belong to Lynwood House, but it is Mr and Mrs Newton of Woodlands who have to do the pruning, which involves applying for planning permission..

The trees overhang several gardens in the street, but the

County Council, owners of Lynwood House, are unwilling to cut them back. Mr and Mrs Newton have lived in Woodlands for nine years, during which time they have had to have the trees pruned three times, at a cost of about £400 each time.

When this matter was discussed by the Parish Council, it was decided to write to the Social Care Department at County Hall to ask their views.

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ALISON CUTHBERT AND LEE MCGOVERN

The wedding of Alison Cuthbert and Lee McGovern took place on Saturday 15th of July in the Methodist Church, Lanchester in a marriage service celebrated by the Rev Mary Lloyd. The organist was an auntie of the bride, Mrs Lilian Dixon. The bride was driven to church by her cousin, Ian Graham, in his vintage open-topped 1937 Riley car. The bride was given away by her father Mr

Brian Cuthbert. Alison wore an Edwardian gown of ivory satin with a train, trimmed with crystals and pearls, and carried a bouquet of cream roses and stephanotis. The bride was attended by her two nieces Caroline and Joanne Clemitson, who wore gowns of sage green and carried cream roses. The small bridesmaid and page boy were the niece and nephew of the groom,

Anna and James McCabe. Mr Ian Ashby and Mr Gareth Curtis were best men to the groom. The groom's friends Mr Shaun Strong and Mr Lee Coulthard supported the groom as ushers.

A reception for 80 guests was held at Beamish Hall and was followed by an evening celebration at the Civic Hall, Consett. The couple spent their honeymoon in Mexico.



Lee McGovern and Alison Cuthbert

DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICE

Objectors to Council plans to close the office in Park House have received a letter from Mrs Shelagh McGinn, the District Operations Manager. She says that residents do use the office, but on average there is only one customer an hour for non-payments, and payments have declined due to the increase of alternative payment methods. She stated that the office is

funded from Council housing tenants' rent payments, and only 18% of payments were for rent; also that payment can be made by post, by telephone with a debit or credit card, by Paypoint at a Post Office and two village stores. The council can be contacted on 693693 for information and advice on a range of Council services, such as recycling and dog fouling.

We have heard from Ken Harewood, manager of the Office in Park House, that, in the event of the office closing at the end of August as threatened, he has made the following arrangements: doggy-bags will be available from K9 dog grooming parlour in Station Road; and recycling clothing bags for Council collection will be available from the Community Centre.

HERE IT COMES AGAIN 2

The Village Voice planning consultant has reported that a further application has been recently received by the Derwentside District Council for a caravan park to be opened near Ornsby Hill. The application on this occasion includes

the same installation of static caravans and ancillary building as the two former applications which were made. The difference this time being that the access meets Maiden Law Bank lower down than that of the previous applications.

COUNTRYSIDE CONSULTATION

As part of a consultation process, a Durham County caravan was set up near Newbiggen Lane car park by officers Coralie Dickinson and Nick Hall to answer questions from the public about Countryside matters, notably on railway paths, Country Parks and rights of way (footpaths,

bridleways and byways). This is part of both the Countryside Access Survey and Rights of Way improvement plan. Though the weather was very hot and many people were on holiday, the officers talked to walkers, cyclists and horse-riders who passed by and received

comments which will be taken into account when a draft of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan appears, possibly at the end of this year. If anyone could not be there and would like to join in the consultation process, they can contact 0191 3833594 or rangers@durham.gov.uk



County officers set up shop beside the railway path near Newbiggen Lane to consult passers-by

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SUCCESS STORY

Corporal Michael Gent of the Royal Marines has recently been awarded the LS/GC (Long Service/ Good Conduct) medal by Captain Keith Winstanley of the Amphibious Warship, HMS Albion. It was a wonderful day for Michael's mother Rosalie, who has lived in the village for 35 years. Michael, who was brought up in the village and went to the Lanchester EP School and Greencroft Comprehensive, is now married and lives in Plymouth. Michael's wife Kania, his cousin, Paul Robinson and wife Jan accompanied Rosalie to Liverpool for the ceremony. Michael, who is a Coxswain and navigates landing craft, has experienced service in

many parts of the world's trouble spots. He picked up his family and eleven VIP's including the Queen's Equerry, the Sheriff of Liverpool, the Lady Mayoress of Chester and other High Sheriffs from surrounding areas, in a landing craft, and sped them out to the warship which was anchored out at sea. They were then winched on to the deck and proceeded to have a most memorable, proud and exciting day. This began with being piped on board as they disembarked from the landing craft! The Captain made a lovely speech about Michael after presenting his medal. Michael made a suitable reply and a major from the regiment also made a congratulatory speech.



Left to right: Jan Robinson, Kania Gent, Michael Gent, Rosalie Gent, and Paul Robinson on board HMS Albion



Corporal Michael Gent presented with his medal by Captain Keith Winstanley of HMS Albion

There followed a splendid lunch and a full day aboard the ship with a tour of the vessel included. Afterwards all guests retired to the Sergeant's Mess where they had drinks with time to relax, chat and meet members of the crew. Michael had to drink a special naval traditional drink for this particular occasion which

he thoroughly enjoyed doing. The day ended as the ship slipped into port and a very proud family disembarked and were taken to their Liverpool hotel by a Royal Navy PR Executive. Since Michael joined the Royal Marines at the age of 19, he has learned to ski and is now number 1/2 in the Royal Navy Ski Team.

More than meets the eye ...

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MORE PICTURES OF THE MOTORCYCLE RALLY EVENT - (SEE STORY ON PAGE 1)



*The tented village
at the
Dragonslayers'
event*



*The parade of
shops available
to the campers*



*The arrival
of the
'Dragonslayers'
meant good
business at the
Queen's Head*



*The morning
after the night
before - Robert
Stobbs, Ashley
Barron and Ann
Ellis*

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A NIGHT AT THE OPERA



Applause for their work during the Anvil Chorus for the anvil players

The "Night" was the warm night of Friday 21st July, 2006, at 7.15pm, when Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society, with Guest Soprano Rachel Orr, delighted a packed audience in Lanchester's Methodist Church, with a selection of Solo and Choral music

from a wide range of operas. Chairman of the Society Richard Woods welcomed the audience and promised an enjoyable evening of music, a promise that was certainly fulfilled, judging by the audience's enthusiastic appreciation of all items

in the programme. Conductor David Hughes introduced the opening item, the stirring "Grand March" from Verdi's "Aida". The chorus was supported in this item, and throughout the evening, by accompanist Lilian Dixon on the organ and the piano. Guest trumpeters Ian Hall and Shaun Gladden provided fanfares and brass embellishments, which added an interesting depth to the item. As the applause faded, Chairman Richard Woods expressed his thanks to the trumpeters and presented each with a token of the Society's appreciation.

At this point, Conductor David Hughes welcomed guest soprano Rachel Orr, accompanied by pianist Ruth Armishaw. Rachel is a leading soprano with Opera North. The first item, sung in honour of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, was "Non so piu" from "The Marriage of Figaro" and was followed by "The Jewel Song" from Gounod's "Faust". Both items delighted the appreciative audience whose prolonged applause confirmed their enjoyment.

The mixed chorus of the Society returned to entertain, firstly with "The Voyagers' Chorus" from Mozart's "Idomineo" and then with the "Chorus of

Wedding Guests" from Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor", where Richard Woods sang the solo part of the ill-fated Arturo.

In Rachel Orr's second appearance, she thrilled the audience with "Sempre Libera" from "La Traviata" by Verdi, and then joined the chorus to sing Carmen's part in "Habanera" from Bizet's opera, "Carmen". The first part of the "Night" concluded with the Society singing the "Finale, Act 1" from the ever popular "Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan. As Conductor David Hughes made another valiant attempt to explain the improbable and convoluted plot of an opera, we were introduced to the main characters: the Pirate King (sung by Harry Watson), the Major General (Gordon Knighton), Samuel (Peter Bridgewater), Frederick (Richard Woods), Ruth (Margaret Woods) and Mabel (Sharon Murray) whose fine singing was well supported by the combined chorus.

After applauding the singers, the audience moved, temporarily, from an extremely warm auditorium to Front St., to relax in the cooler outside air, but moved keenly back inside when the second part of the

entertainment was signalled. The Society opened the second part of the "Night" with "The Anvil Chorus" from Verdi's "Il Trovatore" where guest percussionist Stuart Murray played the anvil part on a flat iron, which earned him a well deserved appreciation from the audience. This was followed by the Ladies of the Society singing "The Spinning Chorus" from Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman". Guest coloratura soprano Rachel Orr treated the audience to four solo items in her second half performance, which was split by the society's "Finale, Act 2" from J. Strauss's "Pink Champagne". She began superbly with "The Laughing Song" from "Die Fledermaus" by J. Strauss and continued with "Una voce poco fa" ("Barber of Seville" by Rossini). Her delightfully cheeky presentation of the bouncy "Prima Donna" from Herbert's "The Enchantress" preceded a more serious item, "Je veux vivre" from Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet". During the prolonged applause, Rachel again acknowledged her indebtedness to her

Continued on page 7



Guest Trumpeters Ian Hall (left) and Shaun Gladden embellish Verdi's "Grand March" from "Aida"

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A NIGHT AT THE OPERA - CONTINUED

talented accompanist Hymn” from “Cavalleria
Ruth Armishaw, inviting Rusticana”. This
her to share the provided a superb climax
audience’s acclaim. to an extremely enjoyable
Throughout the “Night at the Opera”.

appreciation and members are invited to Catholic School,
support. He added that attend rehearsals – no
the Society had been auditions – which
privileged to sing with begin for the new
such a talented soloist season in All Saints T.A.



Soloist Rachel Orr (front row left) joins the Society in “Habanera” from Bizet’s “Carmen”

“Night”, the Society had presented a delightfully sung entertainment, but had saved two special pieces to delight and impress the audience for the Finale. First, the Society in Chorus sang Verdi’s beautiful paraphrase of Psalm 137, his “Chorus of Hebrew Slaves” from “Nabucco”. This touched the audience, which responded accordingly, only to be further delighted when Rachel Orr joined the Chorus in singing Mascagni’s “Easter

Following this, Chairman Richard Woods presented Rachel Orr with a bouquet. The audience indicated, in the usual fashion, their approval of this gesture, expressing their belief that they had indeed been privileged to hear a truly talented soprano. Later, he told The Village Voice that he had been very pleased with the Society Members’ quality performance during the evening and would like to thank the audience for their

who had demonstrated the soprano’s art at its finest.

The Society’s next production is “100 Years of Broadway”. New

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During the interval Conductor David Hughes takes a break with (left to right) Visiting Accompanist Ruth Armishaw, Society Accompanist Lilian Dixon, Guest Soprano Rachel Orr and Chairman Richard Woods

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RIPPON HALL

Rippon Hall, who died aged 85 on Sunday 2nd of July 2006, was born in 1921 in the West End of Newcastle and gained his love of sport through his attendance at Rutherford Grammar School during the 1930s. On leaving Rutherford School he joined the firm of International Paints where he eventually became Transport Manager, but, like many others, his career was interrupted in 1939. He saw two years of action before being wounded and captured in Libya in 1942, and, in his own words, 'spent the rest of the war as a guest of the Third Reich'. He married Eva in 1947 and lived in Felling.

This was where their daughter Liz was born, and they moved in 1975 to Lanchester. Rippon had joined Elswick Harriers in the 1930's as a sprinter, and in time became a valued athletics coach, supporting, helping and encouraging young athletes. At the funeral, Peter Stanley's tribute to Rippon, read by his son Paul, explained about him "He said he was an athletics coach but he was more than that. He coached "life". He transcended sporting boundaries and he affected individual lives." He was an athletics committee member and trusted official. As well as being a loving and supportive

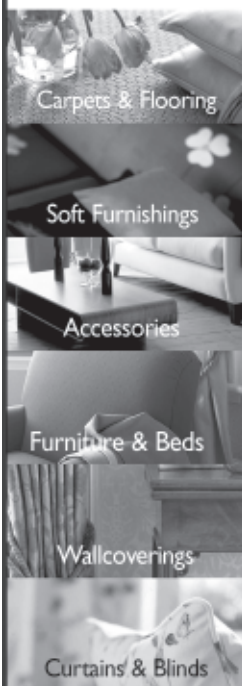


Rippon Hall (left) receiving a 'Sports For All' award from Steve Cram

father to Liz and father-in-law to her husband Alan, he was dearly loved by his granddaughters Jane and Caroline, who spent many happy

holidays with him in Lanchester, and great-grandchildren Katie, Tommy and Liam. Rippon visited the resting place of his wife Eva and would

unashamedly and openly talk to her of current events, each time his parting words being "I'll be with you soon, darling". Now he has kept his promise.



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GARDENING TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Flowers

Dahlias are reaching their crescendo and can be kept going if care is taken this month. Make sure that they are well supported and snip off faded blooms to keep the plants tidy. Similarly, keep watering your pots and hanging baskets and continue taking cuttings from shrubs choosing non-flowering shoots. Plant bulbs for Christmas no later than mid-September. Cuttings root quickly in September forming plants that will overwinter on a windowsill in a cold bedroom. Take cuttings of your pelargoniums this

month. If you cut below a leaf node and remove the lower leaves they will root well. However, keep them quite dry as they can rot if kept moist.

Fruit and Veg

Lift your onions once their tops have died down. As we move into September, the outdoor tomato season ends. Pinch out the tops of plants a few leaves above the uppermost truss as further flowers will not set fruit in autumn.

In the garden

Hoe regularly to keep down weeds and remove any suckers around the stems of shrubs, trees and roses. Treat any persistent lawn weeds.

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1. The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
2. The sermon this morning "Jesus Walks on the Water". The sermon tonight "Searching for Jesus".
3. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
4. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.
5. Don't let worry kill you off, let the Church help.
6. Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the church congregation.
7. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
8. Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
9. The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing "Break Forth Into Joy".
10. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the Church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
11. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
12. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?". Come early and listen to our choir practice.
13. Eight new choir robes are currently needed because of the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
14. Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
15. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
16. The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
17. Potluck supper Sunday at 5 pm. Prayer and medication to follow.
18. The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
19. This evening at 7.00pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
20. The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
21. Our Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7.00pm. Please use the back door.
22. The primary 7's will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7.00 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
23. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

BATS IN THE LIBRARY

A number of children and their mums gathered in Lanchester library on the afternoon of August 1st to learn all about bats from local expert Gerry White. They found out that:

- ☐ bats are no bigger than the top of your thumb, with a wingspan of about 12 centimetres;
- ☐ that they fly by making sounds which act like radar,
- ☐ that they fly at night; and
- ☐ they can eat 4000 midgies in one night.

During the cold, winter months they

hibernate, preferably in a nice warm roof. It is here that hundreds of them huddle together to keep each other warm and cosy. They have been seen in various locations in Lanchester including Kitswell Road, Victoria Street, and especially in the churchyard. The children, during the afternoon session worked hard to make and decorate bat masks for themselves. They also played a game and were introduced to 'Squeak', a pipistrelle bat.



Bat expert Gerry White conveys his love of bats to children in Lanchester Library



Children hard at work making their bat masks



The pipistrelle bat "Squeak"

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GRASS IMPASSE

An open communal area has been the subject of conflict amongst neighbours in Alderside Crescent. The problem arose as council workers began to measure up the grassed area for flowerbeds. Conflicts began as many of these residents were unaware of the proposal and opposed the idea. Initially this land was used by builders whilst the estate was being built; eventually it was landscaped and is now a major selling point for potential homeowners. Older residents have complained that their summer's evenings are ruined because of younger children creating excessive noise, accessing their gardens to retrieve lost balls-trampling well kept flowers in the process. However the issue was

taken further when older youths allegedly displayed anti-social behaviour towards elderly residents. As a last resort; a proposal was received by the District Council to put in flowerbeds to act as a deterrent against any sort of ball game or disturbance on the green. Due to such a negative response from local residents to the flowerbeds, and fears that house prices in that area may drop, it was clear a compromise needed to be reached quickly. In order to allow opinions to be heard a meeting was called by local District Councillors Ozzie Johnson, John Ingham and Richard Young. During the meeting, further allegations were made of foul-mouthed drunken teenagers regularly using the green

to socialise, which have left residents feeling threatened and intimidated. The Council, by law, cannot evict the children forcefully and reports that local authorities have been unable to restore order, due to limited resources has therefore left the issue unresolved.

Several suggestions were made such as flowerbeds only being placed at either ends of the green or to only allow soft ball games; the immediate concern to this suggestion was that easy access for the emergency services would become severely limited. Nevertheless, after much deliberation it was agreed that residents would keep a log of events over the school holidays and another meeting would be held in September to review the situation. In addition, some parents will police the area in an attempt to eliminate anti-social behaviour as well as supervising the younger children.

A number of views were expressed that such a meeting seemed unnecessary, as the issue appeared to be based on lack of communication between residents, and hopefully with cooperation the dispute can be settled peacefully and as a community.

Kate Startup



District Councillors John Ingham, Ozzie Johnson and Richard Young



Residents at the public meeting

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FORD ROAD STUDY

Representatives of the police, the County Council, the District Council, the Parish Council and Lanchester Partnership met in Ford Road on 27th July to discuss the problem of safety for drivers and pedestrians in a part of the B6301 where both the roadway and the pavement are narrow.

The meeting was at the request of the Parish Council, which was represented by Parish and County Councillor Tom Forster. Also present were Cllr Gerry Graham, Vice Chairman of the County's Highways committee, police traffic management officer Maxine Stubbs, Dave Lewin of the County

Highways Department, Andy Turnbull representing the District Council, and Maureen Loy of Lanchester Partnership.

As a local resident Maureen Loy explained the problems inherent in the road. For part of its length two large vehicles cannot safely pass, and pedestrians are put at risk from jutting rear-view

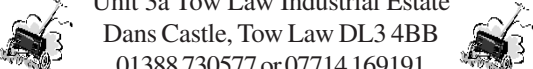
mirrors. There is also danger to pedestrians pushing buggies as electricity poles take up part of the pavement, forcing them on to the road.

Experts agreed that the poles were a problem, and that the owners could be asked to move them off the pavement. However, the answer might well be that the cost

would be prohibitive. It was pointed out that the road could not be widened due to privately owned stone walls on either side. Or rather it could be done, but would cost millions. It was also not possible to put speed bumps on a B road, but rumble strips were feasible and trees masking speed limit signs could be cut back.

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Thirty-two Community Home 'Lads' and carers from Lanchester, Langley Park and Catchgate, set off for a day in York, courtesy of Lanchester Lions, organised by Stan Ashton.

KITES AT THE LIBRARY



Kite Man Michael Goodman helps Lanchester children make a simple kite

Those children who were not away on holiday enjoyed a rare lesson in Lanchester library on 27th July - how to make a kite. A square of plastic, some pieces of wood, some loops of string and a reel of string were supplied by Kite Man Michael Goodman, who led his apprentice kite-makers gently through the process of putting together a kite, suitably decorated. The manufacturing exercise was followed by

test flights on the nearest patch of grass, which in spite of a disappointing lack of wind was great fun. We learn from a fascinating voyage of discovery on Michael Goodman's web-site (kiteman.co.uk) that his love of kites began at Fisherman's Wharf where he first saw adults flying them. Since then he has been to kite festivals all over the world, made a collection of oriental kites and introduced thousands of people to

kites, notably through the Sunderland Kite Festival held in July at Washington. Did you know that the longest ever kite was 1034 metres long? Or that kites were banned in Japan in 1760 as men preferred kite flying to going to work? Or, that some kites weigh over two tons (or tonnes if you like that sort of thing)? Try Michael's web-site and learn more, including kite-making instructions.

A BIG BOOST FOR STUDENTS AT ALL SAINTS

Students from All Saints School Council in Lanchester have successfully won a £1,000 Big Boost grant to partially fund a play trail which will benefit students and the local community. Karen McKenna, teacher at All Saints said: "As part of an activity organised by the School Council, the pupils voted that they would like to have more resources that can be used at play time and would benefit all pupils

within the school - although they still have a lot of fundraising to do, the grant has given the project a great opportunity!" The Big Boost is an awards programme which has been created by the Big Lottery to encourage more young people in England to set up projects that will make a lasting difference to them as well as their communities. A Big Boost award is cash plus the support needed to help young people make

their ideas a reality, specifically aimed at individuals or small informal groups of young people aged either between 11 - 16 or 16 - 25. For more information on the 11 - 16 Big Boost grants, please contact Changemakers on 0191 2267330 or www.thebigboost.org.uk. The charity will be making awards of up to £1000 over the next two years and are currently accepting further applications.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Ladies who lunch have moved into private dining. On Friday 21st July we had decided to try Beamish Hall and arrived to find that the lift was out of order and the restaurant being on the first floor was inaccessible to one of our members. Consternation! There was a wedding taking place as well - what a perfect setting. Anyhow, they offered us a private dining room - what more could we wish for?

We were dining on an offer of two for one for £18.95. From a good varied menu we sampled prawn cocktail, melon and venison pate as starters, sirloin beef, chicken and salmon for main course, we all had Baileys parfait for sweet followed by coffee. Most enjoyable. We were delighted by the whole pleasant experience. Full marks for their personal service and attention to detail.

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CRINNIONS CHARITY BBQ

Paul and Fiona would like to thank all who contributed and attended on Sunday the 16th July, and made the day so special. We would like to report the amazing total of **£4325.00** raised for the Myotubular Trust on behalf of Daniel Bell, our dear friend Clair Bell's son.

Daniel was diagnosed with the condition of myotubular myopathy shortly after his birth. The condition is a genetic muscular disorder, which affects the development and strength of the muscles, in particular the muscles associated with breathing and swallowing. The myopathy trust supports families affected by the condition as well as raising research funds. Clair is a well-known face in the village and we, along with many of her friends, wanted to do something positive for her and Daniel. The money raised will go towards much-needed research into the condition, as well as a portable monitor for Daniel and sensory equipment to aid his development through stimulation.

The day wouldn't have been possible without the help of several friends and neighbours making huge contributions, not only in monetary terms but also in time, too many to name. Also thanks to Canon Spence who must have had a word with his boss to provide such a spectacularly hot summer's day!!

So many thank yous and so little space. Glenn and Emma Coxon entertained us with live music from 1 o'clock till six and really helped make the day go with a bang!, followed by Mike Surtess' band 'The Vendettas', Marie, John and Malcolm Gray with the help of a few good friends stood at the bbq's in staggering heat providing perfectly cooked meat for all, the Black Bull kindly donated their time and equipment providing refreshments through the day and night, Clair's sister & brother in law, Jill and David organised the raffle, apple bobbing, bouncy castle, guess the name of the teddy, tombola and auction. The apple bobbing proved the most popular event with the children, the bucket

became a paddling pool when the apples had gone!!!!

So many local businesses contributed to the raffle and auction prizes, The Black Bull, Valentino's, Lanchester Fruit, The King's Head, The Queen's Head (who also kindly granted the use of their WC's), Lanchester Pharmacy, Lanchester Hardware, Lanchester News, Matthews Country Homes & Gifts, Jenny @ Talking Heads, Chesterle-Street cricket club, Ramside Hall Golf, The

Age Bar & Kitchen, Reef Hair & Beauty, Dunelm Ridge, Sofa's Unlimited, Sun Fm, Metro Fm, Waggots Timber, Wards Skip Hire, Deneside Taxis, Ivesley Equestrian Centre, The County Hotel in Durham, Shafto's Restaurant, Dave Crampton (Builder), Dave Williams photography, Newcastle United & Jenson Button. A HUGE thank-you to all!!!! I hope I haven't missed anyone out!!

However the most surprising and largest

contribution came from Clair's sister Jill's employer, Zurich Insurance who donated £750.00 to pay for Daniel's monitor, donated raffle prizes and doubled the money raised in the raffle at Jill's work-place, the Zurich call centre in Newcastle.

I'm sure all who attended would like to see the photos provided by Dave Williams, we'll have them on display in the butchers from Sat 19th August. Again, a HUGE THANK YOU to all!!



Warm work for some at Crinnion's barbecue



Happy eaters at Crinnion's barbecue

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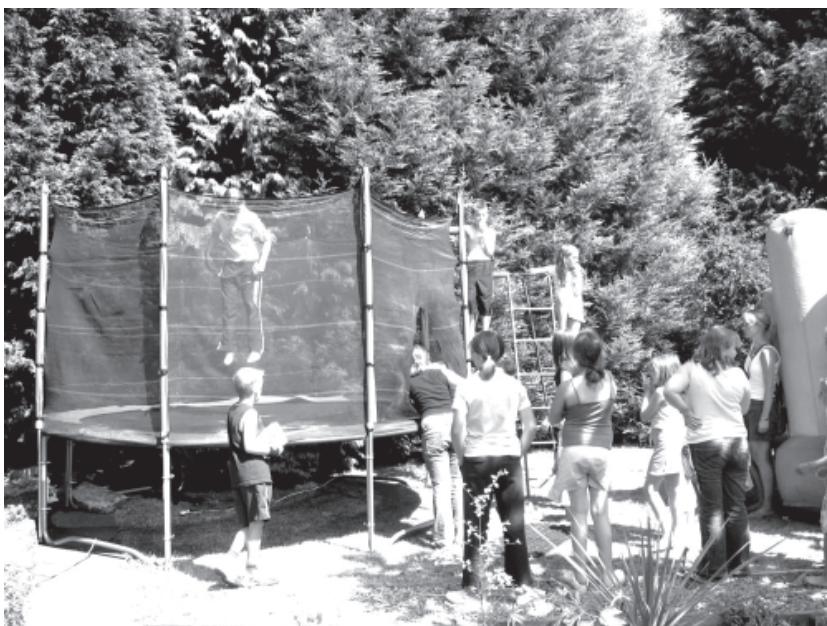
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LEAVERS SERVICE

This was a Leavers Service held at the Parish Church just before the end of term - with a difference. The service, which was before a completely full church of pupils, parents, relatives and friends spoke volumes about the talents of the children and the work put in by the teachers. The children led the service extremely confidently with a mix of singing, prayers, instruments and a Taize Chant, which was indeed, enchanting. Josh Littlefair welcomed everyone. There were four violinists who performed beautifully as did the choir. Jacob Cain played his cello solo admirably as did Andrew Scoins on the euphonium. Other children read out their most poignant memories of their times in the EP School. The end of the service was really a moment to remember both for year six pupils and parents as Mrs Davis, Head Teacher, read out many amusing comments about all the children who were leaving and presented them with a graduation certificate.

JOKES?

- | | |
|--|--|
| Q. What is yellow and writes underwater? | Q. What has pointed ears and eats lettuce? |
| A. A ball-point banana | A. Mr Spock on a diet |
| Q. What has four eyes and one mouth? | Q. What's yellow and sings in a foreign accent? |
| A. The Mississippi | A. Banana Mouskouri |
| Q. What is six and grumpy? | Q. How many ears has Captain Kirk got? |
| A. The seven dwarfs | A. 3 - a left ear, a right ear, and a final frontier. |
| Q. What do Frenchmen eat for breakfast? | Q. What do you get if you cross the A1 with a skate-board? |
| A. Huit heures bix | A. Run over |
| | Q. Where's Spaghetti Junction? |
| | A. Just past-a Birmingham |



Children loved the trampoline at Crinnion's barbecue

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BARBECUE ENDS CHRISTIAN CAMPAIGN

Following the huge success of NE1 around the country, this Christian based event has finally made its impact on the North East. The main organisers YFriday and Youth 4 Christ, along with the Bishop of Durham as their Patron, were aiming to get thousands of young Christians in the North East involved in

NE1, so they could display God's love through serving in local communities. Some even travelled from as far as Dallas Texas USA, experiencing England for the first time, however they were all there for the same purpose - to proclaim the message that 'NE1 can be a Christian'. From the 24th - 28th July

hundreds of projects have taken place in local communities across the North East. At one of the projects, activities ran each day throughout the week in Greencroft School. There were football sessions with a professional coach as well as the opportunity to use the school's many sporting facilities including trampolining

and table tennis. The Green Corridor Neighbourhood Partnership also teamed up with NE1 to help clean up the Green Corridor area which would benefit residents and the community. The day concluded for each team at a Youth Café hosted by various villages. Lanchester became involved by

holding a barbecue for the exhausted teams at Croft View. The evening was an open event and a total of 70 people enjoyed food donated by the Lanchester Lions. A great atmosphere was the perfect end to a very successful week. Maybe the project will return only bigger and better next year!
Kate Startup

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An orderly queue forms at the NE1 barbecue



American visitors from a Baptist Church in Dallas, USA at the NE1 BBQ

Kate Startup interviews project leader Natalie Edwards from Harpendon, for the Village Voice at the NE1 barbecue. Kate is gaining practical experience for her intended career in journalism as well as making a contribution to this paper.



EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL



Dr Brunt with Marrion Hillier and Noel Broome

Since the last edition of the magazine, we have had two more superb concerts in the Lanchester Early Music Festival. The concert series, now in its third year, is held to raise money for the Parish Church funds and are the result of a lot of hard work and effort by Dr Ian Brunt.

Ian has worked hard at both organising the concerts and attracting some superb soloists. So I was disappointed at the second concert, and I mean at and not by, because of the smaller audience. Marrion Hillier and Noel Broome (on Baroque Violins), together with Ian Brunt (Harpsichord), gave a superb recital from the music of Scottish

composer James Oswald. If you saw the adverts and thought that it was not your kind of music, then you missed a very accessible concert, because most of the pieces were based on or evolved into today's Scottish folk music. The music was interspersed with readings, by Ian, from the 'Gardeners Monthly Directions' of 1688 (and you can find pictures of the 'Marvel of Peru' very easily on the Internet). The third concert was a recital of Restoration secular and sacred songs, brilliantly sung by baritone Dr Peter Carey, accompanied by Dr Ian Brunt on the Harpsichord and Organ. It was an interesting concert of songs by Purcell, Boyce,

Humphrey and others. I especially enjoyed the piece by Purcell to text by Hilaire Belloc. The superb interval refreshments were again provided by the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Parish, and I must say that they not only make a good cup of tea, but also provided some excellent home made cakes and scones. This alone is worth coming to the concerts for. The concert on the 9th September, music for viola da gamba by St Colombe le Fils is a rare chance to hear music from the Durham University archives. The concert starts at 7.30 pm in the Parish Church; and bring a cushion, you'll enjoy the music more. Alan Williams



Dr Brunt and baritone, Peter Carey, at the third concert

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Country Market

The market will set up shop in the Community Centre on Saturday 2nd September, with the usual range of cakes, pies, jams, vegetables, crafts, eggs and more. Opening time 10am.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 27th September at 2pm in the Community Centre, Carol Grieves of Brampton will give a demonstration called 'Country Life'.

Junior Wildlife Group

On Saturday September 9th the group for children aged 8 and over meets at Malton at 10am to look for late summer bugs. All welcome.

Lanchester Wildlife Group

At the meeting on Tuesday September 12th starting at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Anna Moody will speak on RSPB Conservation.

Music at the Three Horseshoes

Music nights on Sunday evenings from 8.30pm are going spiffingly to date, up at the Three Horseshoes. Please note however that on Sunday 27th the pub have their own acoustic music and barbeque evening, which has been pre-arranged for a considerable time. So come along and support Jo and Jason and have a good time! Singers and musicians will be back to normal on 3rd September. Ian Tute

LMVC

After a very successful Annual Concert (see Village Voice (August)) and a Summer break, the Lanchester Male Voice Choir resumes the weekly practice on September 4th 2006. The choir meets at 7.30pm on Monday evenings in the main hall of the Community Centre. New members are always welcome. Why not pop in and see if you would like to take part. This is a good time to join us as we begin practising for our Celebration of Christmas in December. For further information call John Willson 520249.

Library Exhibition

During the month of September Consett Photographic Club will mount an exhibition in Lanchester library.

Mothers' Union

The next meeting will be on the 13th September at 7.30pm in the Chapter House adjoining the Parish Church, when the speaker will be Wendy Stephenson who will talk about the work of the Deanery Literature Representative.

MP Surgery

Hilary Armstrong, MP for NW Durham, will hold a surgery for her constituents at 11am on Saturday 9th September in Citizens' House, Consett.

WI

The September meeting of the WI is in the Community Centre on the 4th at 7pm. Kim McKie will speak on the intriguing title 'Look what we have found', and a competition for a 'simple soup recipe' will be judged.

Lanchester History Society - Change of View

The first of the Society's talks for the 2006/7 season sees the welcome return of Mr Julian Harrop, specialist photographer and Assistant Keeper of Resource Collection at Beamish Museum. The collection at Beamish is constantly growing as more and more photographs are discovered, not only by householders, but also by many businesses, and sent to Beamish for identification and catalogueing. Recently, a hoard of some 5,500 photographs was found at ICI Wilton, and subsequently sent to Beamish to swell their collections. Over the years, images of locations can change beyond recognition, and it is some of these changes that Mr Harrop will be showing with the aid of a Power Point presentation. The talk will be given on Friday, 1st September, in the Community Centre at the usual time of 7.30pm.

History Talk

On 12th October Margaret Southworth will give a 3rd talk on local history. This time she will cover in more depth Lanchester and its people, with some new photographs and maps showing how the village has developed from the past to the present day.

Acorn Amblers will start a walk entitled Durham Riverside from the car

WHAT'S ON?

Early Music Festival

The final concert in the current festival in All Saints C of E church is on Saturday September 9th at 7pm. The title, Through a Glass Darkly, will no doubt be explained during the contemporary readings which accompany music played by Greg Pullen (viola da gamba) and Dr Ian Brunt (harpsichord and organ).

The programme comes from the Durham Manuscript of music for basse de viole by Sainte Colombe fils and music from the organ masses by Francois Couperin. Tickets priced at £8, concessions £5 and full-time students nil can be had by sending the appropriate money and a stamped addressed envelope to Dr Ian Brunt, The Lodge, Lanchester, DH7 0LF, cheques payable to 'All Saints Lanchester P.C.C', or at the door. Refreshments are included.

Poetry Group

The Poetry Group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Room 3. Each person in turn reads a poem, which is then briefly discussed. Some members write their own poetry, others read favourite poems. All welcome to the meeting on September 4th.

Short Walks

park beside Shincliffe Bridge on Sunday 24th September at 1.30pm.

Lanchester Partnership

The Partnership, which was formed to improve the village, meets on the second Monday of the month (September 11th) in the Community Centre small hall. There are two meetings; the Youth Provision group meets at 6.30pm, the combined Environment and Transport group at 7.30pm.

The Partnership is run by volunteers, who work to provide a better life for the village and anyone is welcome to join.

Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 12th September in Park House, starting at 7pm. Any Lanchestrians who have anything to say to the Councillors, or are interested in the matters to be discussed, can attend the meeting.

Wine At Nine

An evening in aid of Willowburn Hospice is being held in All Saints RC church hall on Friday 15th September, starting at 8pm.

The evening includes wine tasting, a quiz and nibbles. Tickets, obtainable by ringing 528264, cost £7.50.

Weight Watchers

Persons wishing to downsize may be interested to know that Weight Watchers commence in the Community Centre from 6 to 8pm on Tuesday September 5th.

“Not Quite Write”

The writing group formerly known, as something else will be relaunched, rebranded, and perhaps reinvigorated on Tuesday September 12th as the Lanchester Creative Writing Group and Chocolate Biscuit Appreciation Society. The group meets in Lanchester library from 2 till 4pm To give new members a good start, the new season will begin with How to Start Writing and continue in succeeding weeks with Short Poems and A Family Story.

This is a self-run group, with present members taking turns to lead, but this is voluntary and no one has to lead unless they feel confident to do so.

During the session members write a poem, the beginning of a story or just a short piece to develop an idea. The others give feedback and positive criticism with the aim of helping each other's skills, and the same applies to homework, which is set by the leader.

All this costs is 20p - for tea or coffee (and chocolate biscuits) halfway through the session.

If you are a writer who is just starting to write, or more experienced you will be welcome to come along and join the fun.

For details contact Peter on 0191 4161677 or peter.andrews1@ntworl.com.

Courses at the Community Centre

A number of courses were due to begin in September and October, but the bombshell dropped by the County Council has put many courses in doubt. Julie Simm, who organised the classes in the Community Centre, is sadly no longer employed.

The following will definitely still run: German (basic) Wed 4th October 2.30-3.30pm German Survival Fri 29th September 2-3pm.

Other courses previously advertised in good faith may run, but not in Lanchester, or may be continued privately by their leaders.

Coming Shortly

There will be a Harvest Supper in the Methodist church on Saturday 23rd September.

Lanchester Partnership's Open Day will be on Saturday Sept 30th.

Methodist Church Open Fair 21st October.

October 28th will see the Community Centre "Cash for Space" Auction.

The Thursday Club plan a 'Pumpkin Pie' event on November 1st in the Community Centre in aid of the Air Ambulance.

The third Christmas Tree Festival will be held in the Methodist Church on the week-end of 8th-11th December

(so plan designs for a decorated tree) in conjunction with a 'German' Market.

Male Voice Choir and Operatic Society Celebration of Christmas 18th December.

THURSDAY CLUB JULY MEETING

The July meeting of the Thursday Club was well attended with members listening to an animated account of the history of Peters Bakery, which included a DVD of the 2004 horrific fire which almost ground the business into the dust. A buffet supper provided by Peters added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. In lieu of a speaker's fee Peters requested a donation to be given to a charity of the Thursday Club's choice which resulted in a £30 donation going to Willowburn.

Right: Some of the members outside Peters



A THURSDAY CLUB AWAY DAY

We travelled to Alnwick via Heighley Gate Garden Centre, then some of us toured the castle and gardens while others looked round the town. By 6.30pm we were all assembled at the magical Alnwick Garden Tree House for an evening meal. Hogwarts here we come - there is more than a shade

of the fairytale Harry Potter experience about the Tree House. It provides a unique dining environment which is quite stunning. On the 11th August it was a particularly chilly evening and as we approached from outside there could be glimpsed a fantastic roaring fire - right in the middle of wonderland.

Friday evenings are live music nights and we were entertained by the Landermason duo. Their music was bluesy and folksy and wholly entertaining.

We thought menu prices were rather expensive. Even so, we all had an enjoyable meal and a truly memorable experience.



Dining in Alnwick Garden Tree House

Answers to Crossword 3

ACROSS

1. passive
5. blossom
9. reflect
10. onerous
11. enrolment
12. dipso
13. tenor
15. imitators
17. automatic
19. Therm

22.

- infer
23. liberated
25. eternal
26. travail
27. drastic
28. rotated

DOWN

1. perfect
2. saffron
3. ideal
4. extremist

5.

- boost
6. overdraft
7. Scorpio
8. mascots
14. Rembrandt
16. incubator
17. aniseed
18. taffeta
20. extract
21. muddled
23. lilac
24. roast

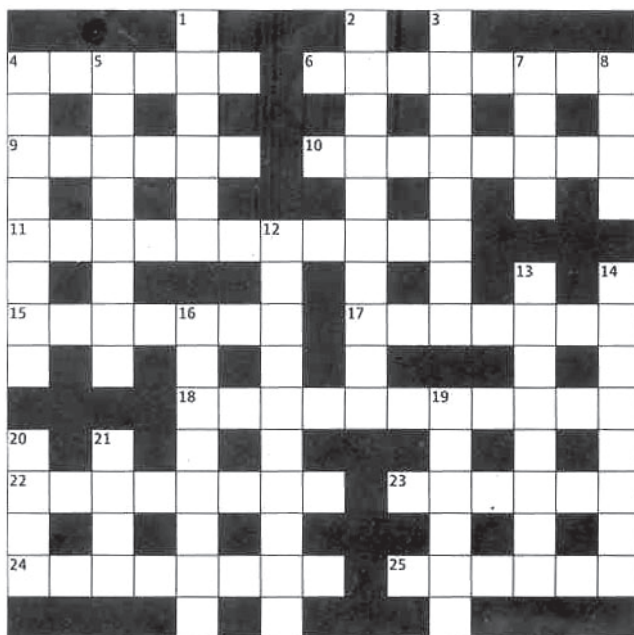
CRICKET CLUB BARBECUE



The annual barbecue was held at Lanchester Cricket Club on August 5th. The weather was fine, nearly 70 people enjoyed the event and about £120 was raised to support club funds.

PRIZE CROSSWORD 4

We received seven correct answers to last month's crossword, and the name drawn from the Scrabble-bag was Andy Gordon of Deanery View. As a fairly crisp "tenner" wings its way to him, we invite you to try No. 4. Please return entries to the Editor or any of his cohorts by 19th September.



Name.....
Address.....

ACROSS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 4. French revolutionary (6) | 17,7. Granny Smith often stops doctor's call(2,5,1,3) |
| 6. Reverse gas discharge (8) | 18. Tough prince creates tribe (6,5) |
| 9. Space in Villa Cunard (6) | 22. Time for a mile at 2mph (8) |
| 10. Cheapest berth on board (8) | 23. Research scientist (6) |
| 11. Contents of a banger ! (7,4) | 24. Attractive part of Wales (8) |
| 15. Enmity (7) | 25. Looked after (6) |

RUNNERS UP SLOT FOR BOWLS TEAM

After last month's club competitions and downbeat bowls report, friendly matches along with the Saturday league matches. There is still time for anyone (including women) to give bowls a try. Contact Alan Wharton Tel 520872 to arrange a trial session or just come along to the bowling green with a pair of flat shoes. You will usually find someone around most weekday afternoons at 2 o'clock. The latest results are as follows:

Veterans League

Triples (Mondays)
Away v Dipton Won 8-2, Home v South Moor Lost 2-8, Home v Consett Park 'A' Lost 4-6, Away v Consett Park 'B' Lost 3-7.
Fours (Tuesdays)
Home v Sherburn Park Won 10-0, Away v Leadgate Drew 5-5 (abandoned after 10 ends due to flooding); Home friendly v Cockton Hill Won 3-1 rinks.

N.W.D. Saturday League

Away v Sherburn Park Won 8-2, Home v Dipton Won 6-4, Away v Pelton Fell Won 8-2, Home v Burnopfield Won 8-2.

DOWN

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Eye part (6) | 14. Had another look (8) |
| 2. A-list celebs with leg it trait (10) | 16. Close by (4,4) |
| 3. Beverage sounds like ones darling! (5,3) | 19. Scowl (6) |
| 4. Roy's duel is unreal (8) | 20. Government officer (4) |
| 5. Pensive piece of music (8) | 21. Shellfish (4) |
| 7. See 17 | |
| 8. Retain (4) | |
| 12. Seismic shift (10) | |
| 13. Mollycoddled (8) | |

**ANSWERS
FOR
CROSSWORD 3**

See page 19

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Thank you

NEWS PLEASE

Please send contributions for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday, 19th September. Thank you.

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