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Issue No 7 Volume 8

Lanchester, August 2007

For contact information, see page 2

## POPULAR HEAD TEACHER RETIRES

The retirement of All Saints' RC primary school Head Teacher Tony Reather was marked on 16th July with a Mass of Thanksgiving in a packed church, followed by a party and presentations in the school.

The mass was conducted by Canon Robert Spence, attended by his predecessor Fr Mallaley, Fr Andrew who is visiting the parish from Goa, Mr Reather's parish priest Fr Doyle and a visiting priest from Warsaw.

The congregation were led by the choir and organist Bill Gray. The singing of Sarah Kelly accompanied on cello by David Edwards and of Sharon Murray with Stewart Murray accompanying on piano enhanced the service.

In his homily, Canon Spence praised Mr

Reather's vocation to teaching, his creation of good standards in the school as shown by OFSTED inspections, his musical talents, his production of musical shows culminating this year in the Time Key, and his work as 'football manager'. The school team, he said, had always done well and recently had reached national finals. He illustrated Mr Reather's dedication by the fact that he was in school during most of the holidays.

Later in the service, Canon Spence presented a Papal Blessing to Mr Reather.

Most of the congregation, which included many of Tony Reather's former pupils and staff, crammed into the school hall, where refreshments were served and presentations made. Canon Spence presented

a cheque from the parish, and Fiona Keenan, Chair of Governors, presented a gold watch from governors and staff. For the Parent Teacher Association, Colm Doyle gave a cheque for a holiday. Further congratulations came from Dave Collingwood and Ken Davison of Derwentside PSFA, Mr Reather's football colleagues, Mrs Vera McGurk, who was Mr Reather's first Head Teacher at Our Lady & St Joseph's school, Brooms where he began his teaching career in 1974, and her Deputy Ann Hughes.

In reply, Mr Reather praised his dedicated staff,

the supportive parents, governors, PTA and clergy for their humanity and compassion. He was also grateful to his family, colleagues and friends for

their support, and of course to the children who helped to keep him young. He was fortunate and blessed, he said, to serve this community.



*Retiring Head Tony Reather received a gift from Fiona Keenan from the governors and staff as new Head Teacher Karen McKenna looks on*

## IMPORTANT EDITORIAL CHANGES AT THE VILLAGE VOICE

The Village Voice management team wishes to announce some important changes for all contributors.

Malcolm McKenzie is retiring as Editor after this issue. He was a founder member of the newspaper and has been the Editor for the last six years. At this point everyone connected with the Village Voice would like to thank Malcolm for his invaluable service in that position. However, the good news is that Malcolm will carry on working for the paper as a reporter (the other half of his current job). Anne McKenzie retired from

the position of Company Secretary earlier this year and Ian Reece, one of our Compilers, has taken her place. We are grateful to Ian that he has assumed that role. We would like also to thank Anne for her long service as Secretary. Fortunately, she will also stay on the Management Council and will help out occasionally.

As the paper has grown so much in the last few years it has been decided that the job of Editor has become too big for one person and in future the paper will be run by an Editorial Team. Consequently, a new

Village Voice email address has been set up which our contributors are asked to use with immediate effect (see contact details on page 2). In addition arrangements have been made with the Community Centre to accept written letters and messages for the paper. Brian Oram will handle all telephone enquiries except for advertising which remains the same, under the direction of John Hurran. Mavis Datta joined the reporting team a few months ago, mainly to cover the Parish Council meetings and has now extended her duties as she has settled in.



*Canon Spence makes a presentation to Tony Reather, watched by his former Head and Deputy Head*



# Dear Village....

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

## IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

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

Dear Village Voice

Having read the Derwentside District Council's magazine 'Inside Derwentside', from cover to cover I wondered if Lanchester is still part of Derwentside. The magazine is all about how good the council is, and all the improvements it's doing for Stanley and Consett in recreation, sporting facilities and theatres etc in these two towns.

The only mention of Lanchester in the whole of the magazine is a tiny

part on a page saying "know your councillors", who appear to have no say about our lovely village.

Eric Burns

Dear Sir

The village needs a comprehensive veterinary service with adequate and safe parking. Our village has a respected veterinary business, but with a dangerous location for visiting vehicles.

Could the business not relocate to the old 'Close Garage' site which is not only adequate in area but in a safe location for animals and owners. Perhaps the planners and the owners of the business would consider this suggestion.

Yours

Alan Forster

## FAREWELL

It is time to hang up my drill, and many will remember when drills were hung on a hook in full view of the patient; children would be encouraged to watch a small fluff of cotton wool as it moved with the drive cord. How things have changed, and hopefully for the better. I returned "home" in 1982, employment for 2 days a week at the Dental School had already been arranged and I was looking for an associateship in general practice. Fortunately I joined Jim Taylor and Stan Pace in Consett and Lanchester in November 1983. On Stan Pace's retirement I became a partner working at both practices.

After my operation in 1999 - 2000 the Consett Practice was sold and I have been at Lanchester since.

Without any exaggeration I have enjoyed all my time in practice, have met some wonderful patients many of whom became friends.

The practice of dentistry has changed dramatically over my practising life and is now very much prevention based.

On retirement my aim was to maintain a dental practice in the village. Under the current NHS contract it proved impossible to sell the practice and with great regret I had to resign from the NHS.

After considering the various interested parties, I chose to entrust my patients to the very capable hands of DEEPINDER SOMAL, TONY GALLAGHER and AKASH GHAI. I would like to think that they will enjoy the same support and friendship that you have so generously given me. I hope to keep active in body and mind, especially since I was taught that an idle mind was the devil's workshop!

I intend to learn about wood turning and silver smithing and forget non-essential numbers such as age, weight and height.

Margaret Matthews

## TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE VOICE

### By email:

lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line to ensure the email is opened)

### By post:

The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0JQ

Telephone enquiries: (01207) 520559

### To advertise:

Contact John Hurran, Advertising Manager, 32 Leehill Court, Lanchester, DH7 0QE Telephone: (01207) 520288 Email: john@hurran.wanadoo.co.uk

## British Heart Foundation Collection

Last month I did a house to house collection in Lanchester for the British Heart Foundation and raised £80.88. Many thanks, to those who contributed, for their support.

Jill Ramsay

## NEW DENTAL SURGERY

The new dental surgery, in taking over from Mrs Matthews on August 1st, will have three surgeries manned by three Newcastle graduates. There will be a monthly plan for check-ups and hygiene.

The building will receive a complete make-over and the garden will be landscaped. Disabled access will be created.

Current customers will be contacted to invite them to an afternoon event on 31st July, when the new dentists can meet customers.

## TESCO BUS

While the former Coop at Annfield Plain is being converted into a Tesco, a bus is being provided to take customers to Chester le Street or Delves Lane, every hour on the hour from 10 till 5. It goes to the Delves Lane Tesco on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and to Chester le Street on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is hoped to open the new Tesco store in October.

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## NEW EXTENSION AT COMMUNITY CENTRE



Left to right, 'Bob the Builders' from the Playgroup, Joe Purdom, Abbi Martin and Jenna Dougal, with Fitness Manager, Margaret Laycock

On the 23rd July building work will start on the new extension to the Community Centre. To mark the occasion 3 little helpers from the Lanchester Playgroup dug the first hole, which signified the start of the building work.

When the building is completed around November this year the exercise equipment will be moved into the extension, this will then release two rooms, which can be used for other activities.

Over the past 12 to 18 months there has been an increase in demand for space in the Community Centre and many times people have been disappointed when rooms have not been available.

It has been reported before in the Village Voice that the Community Association receives no funding, therefore by having extra space available to hire an increase in income will help in ensuring that the Community Centre has a future. During the building work the normal entrance through the conservatory will be shut but a temporary entrance on Newbiggen Lane will be open. Parking restrictions will be kept to a minimum but it is possible that from time to time restrictions will be in place. We ask everybody to take extra care when using the Centre, particularly when walking through the car park.

## INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR LANCHESTER LIONS CLUB

On behalf of The International Association of Lions Clubs, District Chairman for Sight Services, Larry Collins, visited Lanchester Lions at their second meeting in June, to present President Mike Stoddart with a Gold Award for buying 40 Eye Camps in India, during the last forty years. Only a very few Lions Clubs in the UK and Ireland have ever achieved this award. This is only one aspect of the work that the Lions Club contributes to third world countries, in addition to its service to Lanchester and surrounding areas.



Larry Collins presents the gold Award to Lion President Mike Stoddart

## LIONS INSTALL NEW PRESIDENT



Lion President Mark Draper, surrounded by his new team. Left to right: Martin Durkin, Treasurer; Ian Murray, Vice President; Mark Draper, President; Mike Stoddart; Immediate Past President; Brian Naylor, Secretary.

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10TH JULY

**The Police Report** was read by the Clerk as no-one was able to be present from the force. There had been 44 calls from the local area during the past month, including 7 thefts of metal, 4 incidents of anti-social behaviour and one of a violent attack on an individual. However, due to the CCTV, several arrests are pending. The Police request that anyone who has suffered from or been witness to any of these crimes should not only inform the police but also inform the Village Voice so that this could be made known to the public. Also, 3 fixed penalty tickets had been given out. Cllr Johnson said that he was pleased that the investment in the CCTV was at long last bearing fruit.

**County Council Report** Councillor Forster reported that very little was happening at the moment while the results of the local Government Review were awaited. Several Highways issues in the Parish are being seen to, including the

untidiness of Newbiggen Lane, and the Council is investigating illegal roadside advertisers.

**Matters Arising.** Neil Fawcett, Derwentside Crime Reduction Officer, attended the meeting and showed video footage of the images taken by the CCTV cameras in the village both during the day and at night. He explained that they are watched continuously by highly-trained guards who know immediately where to train the cameras without intruding on privacy. All the Councillors were extremely impressed with the clarity of the images, even at night, due to the infra-red lights. Lighting is a great deterrent and it was stated that dusk till dawn energy efficient lights are available to everyone from good electrical retailers for use on private property if people are worried about security.

**A new Model Code of Conduct** was adopted, with particular reference to Para 12(2). (members with a vested interest in a matter should

leave while it is discussed, but may make a statement before leaving.)

**Quarterly Report on Staff Supervision.** Following the theft of some of the Parish Council gardening equipment, a quotation had been received by the Clerk for the replacement of two items (one item had been handed in). It was agreed that other quotations be sought and a decision be made by the Clerk as the next Meeting is not until September. Tree branches at the bus shelter were to be dealt with and Cllr Glass handed out shed alarms.

A paragraph written by Cllr Jackson about the Parish Council's Annual Income and Expenditure and an explanation of how Derwentside District Council calculate the Precept, for publication in the Village Voice was examined and agreed.

**Conditions of Paths in the Village.** A letter received from the County Council which stated that the cracked paving stones were due to vehicles parking on the pavement and that, as the Highways budget was shrinking, these had to be replaced by tarmac patches was considered unacceptable. Cllr Jackson stated that 95% of the wear and tear is due to pedestrians and not vehicles which are not parked on the pavement in the village centre, as CCTV footage shows. This wear and tear is due to lack of maintenance which is also happening on the housing estates. It was agreed that a reply be sent inviting a Department Engineer to visit the village and shown round by a Councillor to see the situation, and stating that the present situation is not acceptable in a conservation area.

**Annual Audit.** The proposed replacement Auditor was approved due to the illness of the present internal Auditor.

**Parking Issues in Lanchester.** The Partnership is discussing these matters with a representative from County Hall and will come back to the September Meeting. In particular the question of parking while picking up children from school will be discussed.

**Business Plan of Parish Council's Activities.** Cllr Jackson suggested that the Council look at the strategy and plan for the next 4 year term of the new Council. He mentioned such issues as the cleanliness and tidiness of the village, fireworks, Christmas lights and decorations, public toilets, etc. It was pointed out that the previous council had had a plan as stated in the Parish Plan. It was agreed that this Plan be reviewed and that the Parish Plan Group should have a meeting and bring the Minutes to the next Parish Council Meeting. After the September Meeting an approved person would address Councillors on Quality Parish Councils.

**Chairperson's Announcements.** An approach had been made by the Cricket Club about a white, lockable steel container 20' x 10' for equipment and use in inclement weather, to be sited between the garage and the clubhouse. It was decided that local residents should be asked for comments and that further details be asked for before Planning Permission was asked for, in accordance with the Lease. **The Map Board** was to be erected the week beginning 9th July. A Vote of Thanks was given to Cllr Mrs Cook for her tenacity in seeing this project through.

**Christmas Decorations.** The cost of replacement of 2 faulty lights and the maintenance of the others is well within the budget for the decorations and the go-ahead was given.

**Annual Accounts.** The draft accounts (subject to audit)

for the financial year ended 31st March 2007 were approved.

**Hollinside Play Area.** A problem has arisen with the boundary fence. Only part of the land leased is used for the play area and parked cars are causing an obstruction and hazard. There is also a lot of rubbish. It was agreed that the Recreation Committee should visit the site and meet afterwards at Park House to discuss the above and the possibility of changing the lease.

**Questions by Members.** Cllr Harrison asked if the state of the roadside verges throughout the Parish could be brought to the attention of the appropriate body. He has received many complaints about the long grass and vegetation and this is now a Road Traffic Issue. The question of the boundaries of the village green was asked, with relation to the tables and chairs outside Valentino's restaurant, but it appears that there is still, as yet, no definitive answer as to whether this land belongs to the Highways Authority or the Rural District Council. Further enquiries to be made to Durham County Council. Cllr Jackson asked whether or not County Councillor Forster's participation at Parish Council Meetings had been minuted. During the ensuing discussion Cllr Lindsay made some remarks which he was asked to retract. When he refused to do this the meeting was called to order by the Chairman and moved on to the next items. **Questions from the Public.** A question had been asked with regard to grass cutting in Lee Hill Court and this had been forwarded to the District Council. Cllr Gray had also dealt with several calls on this subject. **Date and Time of Next Meeting.** Tuesday 11th September 2007 at 7pm in the Conference Room at Park House.

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# MAP OF LANCHESTER INSTALLED



*Workers Lee and Shaun of Durham CC and Anne Cook, Pathfinders, with Victoria Lloyd, Senior Rights of Way Officer for Durham CC, look on proudly at the new sign - the end of a long project*

Friday 13th of July was a historic day for Lanchester when the long-awaited sign showing a street location map of the village on one side, and footpaths and places of interest on the other, was installed next to the bus stop outside Peters.

The project was started in 2001 and the official unveiling will take place sometime during the early autumn.

Those involved in supporting the project during this long time were: Lanchester Pathfinders,

the Parish Council, Friends of the Fort, Groundwork West Durham and Darlington, the Mineral Valleys Project and Parish Paths Partnership. The total cost of the project was in the region of £3500. Funding came from grants obtained by Derwentside District Council, Leader Plus, Local Transport Plan (Durham CC), Heritage Lottery and Lanchester Lions Club. No money from the Parish precept has been used.

The erection of this signboard is the culmination of much effort

and enterprise by so many organisations and recognises the Pathfinders and Friends of the Fort involvement in publishing historic places of interest and in maintaining, improving and promoting footpaths throughout the local area. Contractors Fred Emmerson and Burt Hunter have been involved in the building and maintenance of stiles. It was interesting that within a minute of this location board being erected someone delivered in the village used it.

## PARTNERSHIP NEWS

At the July meeting it was announced that Village Bus use had increased 3 times since two years ago. Users are making donations and organised fund-raising events to support their service. Applications for planning approval were discussed and the responses approved.

There was discussion about 'affordable housing' and Derwentside's policy about it. It was agreed that a working group of Partnership and Parish

Council members should ideally study the matter.

A suggestion was made to put planning data on the Partnership web-site and ask for comments from residents before replying to Derwentside. The use of a new domain to aid communication will be referred to a think-tank.

There was no progress on plans to improve care facilities because of inaction on the part of the County Council.

The Partnership participation in the

carnival was declared a success, but better siting of display material should be considered.

Jill Gladstone and Maureen Loy are making arrangements for the Open Day on September 29th and seek offers of help.

There was concern that the MARC bus, whose existence had been used to justify the closure of the District Council office in Lanchester, has been withdrawn. Questions will be asked.

# KALEIDOSCOPIIC LIBRARY

Following a week's closure, Lanchester library opened like a butterfly on Monday 9th.

Following advice from consultants Barbie, Kitsch and Schmalz, the walls of our favourite book supply service had been painted in various random shades of mauve, lavender, light purple, white and cream. It must be said that although visitors are obliged to wear sunglasses, making it difficult to select a book, our library service has forsworn the boring

institutional look so prevalent in our public buildings. Boring it is not. It would be fair to describe the decor as interesting, or even striking, perhaps philosophically post-modern.

Clearly, the intention was to promote community spirit by providing a subject of conversation which unites all classes of reader from the Catherine Cookson aficionados to the Robbe-Grillet crowd. A dazzling success!



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## SUCCESSFUL LIONS CARNIVAL

Despite the atrocious weather during the week before the Carnival, especially on the Friday just prior to it when it rained torrents, the actual day was reasonable. After a grey morning during the setting up the sun shone for about two hours. The stalls were busy and the atmosphere good, with the rain finally starting at about 5.00 pm during the clearing up.

The takings were about £3500, the net profit about £1900 and from that, some donations will be made. Some of the profit will go toward a number of Lions 40th anniversary trophies

being awarded to various schools, and other organisations involving the youth in the village. The Lions would like to thank so many people for their help that it is impossible to name them. However, to all those friends of Lions who helped the ladies, and to those who manned stalls and helped with the setting up, they offer their grateful thanks. There are many organisations to whom the Lions are indebted. Among them are Willow Burn: The Lanchester Partnership; the Playgroup; MacDonald Racing;

Lanchester Brass Band; The Gents Rock Group; the Durham Rams Morris Dancers; Lanchester Operatic and Choral Society; the Red Cross; Lilydale Pet Supplies; the Parish Council; Elldis Transport; Stanley Lions; Oakwood Stables, who raised lots of money for Lions, and New Image, who provided a fantastic finale, and ended by persuading the children on stage to sing 'happy birthday to the Lions', with Mary Carr dressed as a cake. It was another great day for the Lions during their 40th year, and the village.

## PHONE CHAOS



Colin Freeman, Openreach (BT) Engineer, digging outside the Derwentside 6th Form College to restore communications

During the tremendous storm in the village on Saturday morning 23rd June, there was a clap of thunder and a flash of

lightning at about 11 am. Kate Wicks of the Deanery, who was on the phone at the time, witnessed this as she looked over Paste Egg Bank. The result was that there were several breaks in telephone communications across the village and many people were without their phones until the following Tuesday. Mike Gladstone's computer also went out of action. Thanks to Colin Freeman and his colleague, of Openreach (BT), everything was eventually restored to normal.

## LOST PROPERTY

Recently lost sets of keys have been announced in the Village Voice, and at least one set found its way back to the owner. However it seems sensible to have somewhere in the village where found objects can be left, as the police won't accept things which are not easily identifiable.

Things like keys and glasses can now be left at the Community Centre, where Manager John Wilson is on duty on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons as well as Thursday mornings, and Margaret Laycock can be found in the Exercise Centre every week-day morning. Likewise lost objects can be sought. Aptly, we have a message that a lost Suzuki car key has been found on the Lanchester Derwent Valley Walk towards Malton. Please contact George Walker about it on Lanchester 521655

## SPONSORED TODDLE



*Children from the Playgroup and their parents on the Toddle in the play park*

Playgroup and Tiny Tots held a sponsored toddle in the children's play park on Wednesday 27th July to raise funds for the group. Twenty children took part and went twice round the park and then continued the playgroup session on Wednesday 27th July. After all this effort the al fresco refreshments served at 10.15 were a welcome diversion. The money raised will go towards new and replacement play equipment.

## CHILDMINDING WEEK



*Children from Lanchester Childminding Group with the display made with help from their parents*

"Supporting Families" throughout the year was this year's theme for National Childminding Week held from 16th - 23rd June. The Children and Registered Childminders of Lanchester Childminding Group celebrated by holding a picnic lunch in the Playgroup room in the Community Centre, followed by an afternoon playing in the park. The children and parents made bunting with pictures and slogans highlighting the many and varied ways in which their childminders support them throughout the year. Gillian Nichol

## *new image*

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## METHODIST CHURCH HOSTS HYMN-SINGING

On Tuesday the 19th of June the Methodist church welcomed a party from the Durham centre for adults with learning disabilities at Aykley Heads. An original offer from one member to go to the centre and help with hymn singing suddenly snowballed at very short notice, with the help of musicians and some willing volunteers, to morning coffee, and a wonderful time together all singing favourite hymns, (with actions!) together with a soup and sandwich lunch. It was a pleasure and a privilege to share with them, and we know from what was said by those from the centre and from Church that it won't be a one off!! There will be an encore.



Visitors to the Methodist Church with instrumental backing

## STEEL, STYLE AND SIMPLICITY

One of the main events of the year for Lanchester Flower Club was the visit of Mildred Stafford, President of Shildon flower club, who entertained a large assembly with tales of her home and family as well as creating a series of striking arrangements with flowers from her garden as well as more exotic blooms. The 'Steel' part of her title referred to the 'Vigorous Knight' Hubert Delaval and his brother Richard. Style was clearly visible in all her work, but simplicity? After her two hour demonstration the arrangements were raffled off to members and visitors before the refreshments were enjoyed by all who attended the event.



Mildred Stafford with her creations

# MUSIC TO LIFT THE SPIRIT



*The Operatic Society choir, with director David Hughes and organist Lilian Dixon, take their bow*

The Choral and Operatic Society's summer concert was a bold venture into classical music, in which the choir rose to new heights in support of a quartet of excellent soloists. Though quality seems to lead to empty seats, this was certainly a musical success.

You can't go wrong with Mozart, and his 'Coronation Mass' which opened the programme gave the soloists ample opportunity to impress. It was surprising that Mendelssohn, who can knock out some rousing music, produced this

lacklustre version of the 42nd Psalm, though there is no criticism of the performers.

After the interval came the star of the show, Vivaldi's Gloria. Written in 1715, it seemed more modern than the preceding pieces, and it came as a breath of fresh air, lively and tuneful. The choir and lady soloists clearly enjoyed it, as did the audience.

The choir, conducted as ever by David Hughes, have never sung better, and Susan Jordan (soprano), Kathleen Ireland (contralto), Andrew Fowler (tenor)

and Michael Gardner (bass) were superb. Not to forget the lady hidden behind the organ, Lilian Dixon, who was hard at work all evening and never put a finger wrong.



*The soloists - Michael Gardner, Andrew Fowler, Kathleen Ireland and Susan Jordan*

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# MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT

Lanchester Male Voice Choir held its 39th Annual Concert on Friday July 6th 2007 in the Methodist Church.

The chairman welcomed an almost capacity audience and introduced three new members of the choir. He went on to describe the guest artists, the Lowry Brass, a quintet from the Royal Northern College of Music and the young local artist this year was a young man from the village who would entertain us with his cello playing accompanied by our ever popular Bill Gray. Harry Carr, the choir conductor, assembled his twenty-five strong choir for the opening piece, when the audience was introduced to the stirring sounds of the Cossack Patrol followed by the words



*A packed audience listens to the Male Voice Choir*

of love to Michelle by Lennon and McCartney. David Edwards, the young performer, opened his performance with

Andante con Variazioni followed by Apres un Reve. Both pieces, played without reference to music, brought appreciative applause from the audience.

David Begg, the artistes' steward, then opened the double doors to the church so that the Lowry Quintet could enter while playing the New Orleans jazz funeral march from a Bond film. This novel and unexpected entrance brought huge applause from the audience. The expected all male quintet was in fact four men and a young woman who had replaced the expected

trombonist at very short notice because of his illness. To be able to replace him showed her expertise as the pieces presented by the quintet were quite taxing items. The choir brought the first half of the concert to a close with two North Country songs

that had been arranged for the choir by Brian Sharp, who had joined the Top Tenor line for the evening. My Bonnie Lad was sung with great feeling and Billy Boy, a musical challenge to the choir, was very well received by the

*continued opposite*



*David Edwards*

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# LANCHESTER HISTORY SOCIETY



Members of the Lanchester History Society were welcomed by Lindsay Allason-Jones, who is the Curator of the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle, to a special evening visit on Friday 6th July



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## MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT

*continued from previous page*

audience. The Lennon and McCartney song, When I'm Sixty Four, slightly out of date for several members of the choir, created a tapping of feet and smiling faces to precede the interval. The second half of the concert began with the Choir's rendition of the Trilogy from Les Miserables and Handel's Where'er You Walk. David followed this with a very humorous piece about a donkey. The sounds of the donkey, produced by David on his cello

brought smiles from the audience and much applause. He finished with a piece by Mendelssohn. Lowry Brass opened their final session with Handel's Overture from the Royal Fireworks and concluded with Puttin' on the Ritz, again showing the versatility of the performers. The choir brought the concert to a close with Walk Away, She, and a powerful performance of Morte Criste. The chairman invited David and Lowry Brass to a final

appearance so that the audience could show its appreciation once again. Herald Biagi presented Noreen, the Accompanist, with a bouquet and the Concert finished with 'The Queen'. The Lanchester Male Voice Choir has once again fulfilled one of its aims in bringing a high standard of musical talent to the village. Members of the audience have commented on the professional manner and versatility of the performers and the variety of the programme throughout the concert.



Lowry Brass

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## TROMBONE POETRY

Once again Lanchester library promoted an original talent. It was Wednesday 11th July, and the mystery guest was Paul Taylor, who is both a trombonist and a poet.

He deployed his twin skills in an engaging, almost self-deprecating alternation of jazz and poems, both his own creations.

The jazz was an almost free-wheeling extemporisation ranging from Kid Ory to 'All of Me', with one odd offering turning out to be an introduction to a poem denouncing uptalk. This is a variety of estuary English where every sentence ends in a question? Annoying isn't it?

Paul's prestidigitation with words was so slick that twisted clichés and verbal puns slipped past too quickly for the brain-mouth link to create a laugh, but we glowed with satisfaction and of course clapped. His wry humour informed the titles of his poems (Nouveau



*Paul Taylor*

Kitsch) and his surrealist fractured proverbs – 'Two heads are better than none' or 'A fool and his money are a friend indeed'.

Fruit juice was served at the interval (the days of wine and cheeses are gone) and those present were thoroughly

entertained. If you missed Paul's performance, feed the title of this article into your search engine.

Meanwhile, here's a haiku:

Farewell Concert  
rain beats the garden  
blackbirds sing for their supper:  
worms must love music.

## HEALTHY LIVING

### WHY AREN'T WE LOSING WEIGHT?

Here is the secret to fat loss.....the big secret is.... there is no secret, no magic formula. We are a nation obsessed with weight control and this is fuelled by the media, so what do we do? We join a gym and start pounding the cardiovascular machines, which by the way are totally useless when it comes to fat loss. While in the meantime we start our crazy crash diet of cabbage soup 3 times a day, with the hope of losing 12lbs a week. Do you know what these poor exercise habits and yo-yo dieting are doing to you? Well it's damaging your metabolism. Your metabolism determines the rate at which your body burns calories. We can increase our metabolism and turn our bodies into a calorie-burning furnace all day long, fantastic. The way to do this is through resistance training, which is lifting, pushing or

pulling a weight. If you think that by going for a long run or bike ride you will lose weight then you have been very misinformed. Resistance training will not only burn calories throughout your workout but will also increase the amount of lean muscle tissue on your body, in turn increasing your metabolism. If you think that by doing resistance training you will become big and bulky, this is not the case. You would have to lift heavy weights for 2-3 hours a day. What I'm suggesting is a light resistance training program for 30-40 minutes 3 times a week, consisting of exercise such as squats, lunges, press-ups and triceps dip. These exercises can be done at home or in a gym.

Article by David Wilkinson, fat loss and weight management specialist. Creator of the Re-Lite fat loss program. [www.fittec.org](http://www.fittec.org)

### JOKE?

A group of chess players were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?", they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

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# EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL, 14TH JULY 2007

For the first concert in this year's Lanchester Early Music Festival, the organisers put on their most ambitious programme so far. To mark the three-hundredth anniversary of Buxtehude's death, they devoted a whole evening to a performance of that composer's most telling works, set in the context of his more familiar organ pieces. To perform this programme, the festival managed to attract some of the finest singers and instrumentalists in the country, and it would be no exaggeration to say that many in the audience will have been hard put to remember attending a more vivid and moving evening of music.

Buxtehude is perhaps usually associated with the organ, of which he was a master, and the programme began with a Praeludium played by Dr Ian Brunt which reminded us of the delicate proficiency of a composer who was revered by Bach. A trio sonata brought fine interplay between the violin of Mieko Kanno and Greg Pullen's gamba, which came to the fore in a Ciacona in which Buxtehude managed the rare trick of being both lengthy and tightly argued.

These instrumental works served as an appetiser to the main course, as the five singers of The Chapter House Clerks of Durham joined the players for the first of the seven cantatas comprising Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri*, a meditation on the body of the crucified Christ. From the opening chords it was apparent that the ensemble as a whole was very fine, and well balanced. Taken one to a

part, the subtle cross-rhythms and echoes sounded clearly in the wonderful space of Lanchester Parish Church. The group's tenor, Andrew Fowler, directed unobtrusively, keeping ensemble tight and rhythms buoyant. The cycle reached a marvellous stillness in the third cantata, as the chorus contemplated the wounds on Christ's hand. Taken at a wonderfully undisturbed pace, Buxtehude's exquisite dissonances and suspensions created a powerful sense of suffering and grace. In the subsequent arias, Jessica Holmes's creamy soprano moved easily between airy gentleness and moments of beautiful power. Sarah Kelly, by contrast, sang with a bell-like clarity; the two voices worked well together. The alto, Kathryn Crowder, sang with a lovely rich tone and fine projection, while Benjamin Eadon was a bass of the reedy, nibble kind, well suited to this repertoire and the needs of the ensemble. Andrew Fowler sang as well as he conducted. After the interval, I for one couldn't wait to return to the elevated but never dull world of Buxtehude's religious meditations. The dance rhythms continued to delight, no more so than in the final cantata with its joyful and vibrant Amen where bold syncopations preceded the final major chord. The journey had been intense and uplifting. Throughout, the little instrument group kept the music light and elegant. Mieko Kanno gave a masterclass in the baroque violin, never dull or stiff, and always looking for partnerships, particularly with Greg Pullen, who played the gamba with the



*Dr Ian Brunt with his musicians and singers before the first concert in the Lanchester Early Music Festival*

swing and freedom of a jazz musician - and why not since this music requires the breath of improvisation to bring it to life? And behind it all, indeed the festival itself, lay the erudition and good-heartedness of Ian Brunt.

His harpsichord underpinned the sound and played off the gamba, while his gentle compeering of the evening was just what was needed to involve everyone. A complete translation of the texts in the programme allowed the audience to

follow the spiritual as well as the music tale, and at the end I don't think there was a single person present who hadn't discovered Buxtehude as a composer of fine and moving music, fully deserving of a concert all to himself.  
Arthur Haswell

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# EXTRAVAGANZA - A TRILOGY OF SHAKESPEARE

What an incredible evening! It must have been a culture shock for the uninitiated. There was a clue of what may be ahead, however, when Phil Close, a St Bede's College student, and compere for the evening walked on stage dressed in jeans and tee shirt, picked up the microphone and told up to date jokes, stories, news from the press and really warmed up the audience for the

evening. That set the scene and the atmosphere. The plays performed were Twelfth Night, The Taming of the Shrew, and Much Ado About Nothing. They were three original modern interpretations inspired and produced by teacher June Ramsey. They each lasted for just over half an hour and were sheer entertainment. In a sense the original

complicated plots were slightly irrelevant as there were some amusing adjustments made. It was just watching these young thespians giving their best and enjoying themselves so much that made the evening such a huge success. They seemed to particularly enjoy the fight episodes, the love scenes (usually a verbal moi and a slapping of hands), and being drunk and disorderly. Surely they hadn't experienced the latter in their own lives! The music, generally jazz or rock/pop was brilliant, as was the singing, dancing and choreography. The humour was extremely funny, well delivered and very much appreciated by an enthusiastic and full capacity audience. If anyone forgot their lines, and they did occasionally, the cast just laughed and got on with it. Props were few and far between, generally the odd few chairs, a small table and on one occasion a pulpit. In 'Much Ado' even mobile phones, a computer and a large screen were used to determine unfaithfulness. The cast in this play



*Philip Richardson, saxophone, and Anna Costello, singer and guitarist, at the beginning of Twelfth Night*

played the roles of the idle rich, and glamorous celebrities from the rock world. Dress was mostly jeans and tee shirts or other casual gear, with the occasional dress where appropriate. The actors sometimes left the stage and interacted with the audience, as well as frequently using the centre aisle to make an entrance. Phil Close again took charge during the interval, but amusing as he was, he was forcibly

dragged off stage by his fellow actors. The night certainly was an extravaganza with a multi-talented cast, a hardworking backroom support, and a brilliant producer. There were star performers and those who took bigger roles but it would be inappropriate to name them. The cast were in effect, all stars. What would Shakespeare have made of it? The thought 'turning in his grave' comes to mind.



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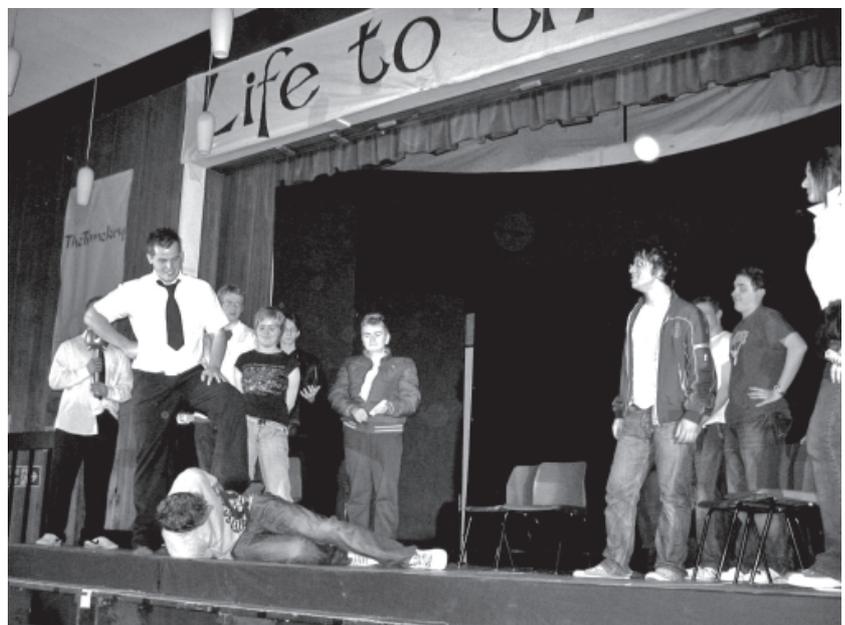
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*A scene from Much Ado About Nothing*

## MRS DAWN HERBERT RETIRES



*Amy Richardson presents a bouquet to Mrs Dawn Herbert*

During the interval of the recent Shakespeare extravaganza (see report opposite), Mrs Dawn Herbert, Food Technology Teacher at St Bede's Catholic School since 1989, was invited onto the stage. Mrs Maria Matthews, Deputy Head, paid a glowing tribute to this dedicated, hardworking, popular member of staff

who supported virtually every extra activity at school. Mrs Herbert, who retires at the end of term, was then presented with a beautiful bouquet by Amy Richardson.

## FROM LUXEMBOURG TO LANCHESTER

Sebastian Kenneth Francois Mostert, pictured here at three months, is the first grandchild for Ken and Audrey Gardiner of Kitswell Road and Francoise and Irmi Mostert, and great grandchild of grand'mere Berthe of Luxembourg.

Our beloved grandson made his first visit to England during July with proud parents Karensa and Joel to be introduced to family and friends. He is a delight to us all and has brought much joy and love to both families.



*Sebastian Kenneth Francois*

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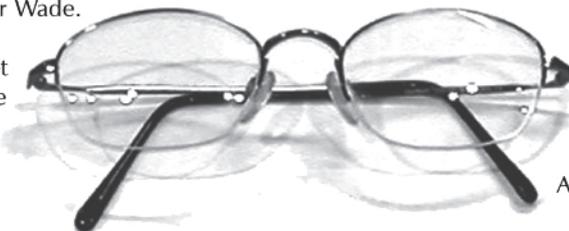
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# LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR

Once again the weather was good for what is becoming another major event in the village. People were flocking to the grounds of the school well before the 11.00 am opening time. The atmosphere was excellent, with lots of children evident, excitedly spending their money. The Fire Brigade brought

one of their engines and the Mountain Rescue manned one of their ambulances. There was a trade show trampoline for the youngsters to enjoy and a bouncy castle. Other stalls and games included: Football; Coconut Shy; Netball; Shooting Tins (with water), Hook a Duck; Flip the Frog; Hoopla; Play your Cards; Toys; Books;

Bags and Purses; Fruit Stall; Cakes; Plants; Treasure Map and tombola. The face painters in the new outside classroom never got a rest. The Dog Agility attracted a widespread interest, culminating in a race between the teachers (with the dogs running beside them). Pony rides provided by Oakwood

Stables also proved to be very popular. Even the swimming pool was open for the more energetic visitors. However, the most popular activity was 'drench the teacher', and who wouldn't enjoy this as a pupil in the school? Bravely in the stocks were teachers Mr Taylor, Mr Stephenson, Mrs Davis (Head), Mrs Jones, Miss Murphy, (Deputy Head),

and a courageous Miss Roffe with her new hairstyle. Inside the school there were excellent hot dogs on sale as well as other tasty refreshments. It was a very enjoyable event for all those who attended and thanks are given to those who supported and helped at the Fair. The total raised was an excellent £1,320.



*Peter Taylor gets the wet sponge treatment*



*Both watching and jumping is fun on the Bouncy Castle*



*The Frog-Hopping causing consternation*



*Natasha encourages 'Inch' in the dog agility competition*



*Andrea Dawes gives Kathryn a make-over at the EP Fair*



*Hoop-la at EP school Fair*

## 'SKIPPING CRAZY!'

Pupils at All Saints' School are currently 'skipping crazy', following the recent workshop at the school given by Chris Corcoran. He came initially to work with the year five pupils, who then demonstrated the newly acquired skills to the rest of the school in assembly. Within a few days, large numbers of children throughout the school were performing all manner of skipping techniques, from simple two-footed jumps to 'twisters', 'cross-overs', and 'double-unders.' One year five boy, Thomas Rothwell, even managed a complicated skip which involved holding one end of the

rope with the right arm under the right leg, and yet managing to turn and skip with the rope himself. All Saints' have recently received the 'Healthy Schools Award' at a special ceremony in Spennymoor on the 29th

of June. As well as the 'healthy lifestyle' aspect of skipping, the children have also managed to raise over

£285 for the British Heart Foundation through a sponsored skip at school - and had great fun into the bargain!



*The fun of skipping being demonstrated at All Saints School*

## SAINTS' FINISH IN STYLE!

All Saints' brought the school sporting year to a very successful close with a number of winning performances in recent weeks. The school cricket team have won all their competitive games in the Derwentside Kwik Cricket League, except for one narrow 'one

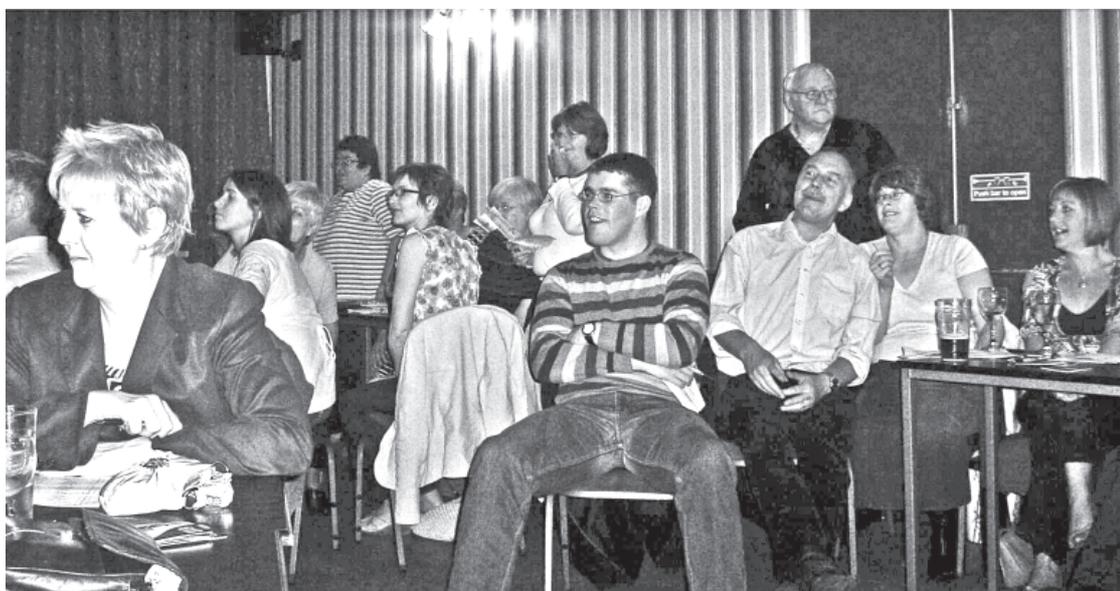
run' defeat, and then went on to win every game in the Kwik Cricket Festival in Lanchester on Thursday 21st June. Just over one week later, on Monday 2nd July, year five and six girls and boys took part in a football tournament at St. Bede's and swept the

board, winning every game in each of their respective competitions. This completed a very successful season for both the boys and girls, with the boys' team winning the Conroy League outright, and the girls reaching the semi-finals of the County 7

a-side, as well as winning every game they played in the Derwentside Girls' Football Festival at Burnhope. More recently the whole school had a rare sunny day for Sports Day on Tuesday the 10th of July, when all the children

participated in a mixture of traditional races and a carousel of timed activities. 'Cuthbert' proved to be the most successful 'House' on the day, but everyone enjoyed the taking part - and the ice-creams and drinks, courtesy of the PTA, went down a treat!

## RACE NIGHT TO RAISE FUNDS



*All Saints PTA and the Parish Pastoral Council joined forces for a fund raising event in the Social Club on June 30th. About 80 people attended a Race Night which was the first event in a campaign to raise funds for upgrading the car park and improving access to it. Our picture shows race goers intent on willing their horses past the winning post. A total of £786 was made for the two organisations.*

# FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

The title of this concert was very aptly named, as there was an obvious affection between the Russian students and staff from St Petersburg, and those of St Bede's College.

This hall was the best place to be for those with a catholic taste in music and singing, and the audience seemed to thoroughly enjoy it.

The concert was divided into sections, and began with a saxophone solo by jazz player, Donald Marshall, who gave a marvellous performance of Benny Colson's 'I Remember Clifford'. This set a wonderful scene and St Bede's students followed with fine performances by Carina Smith and Ashleigh Brown with singing duet and piano. Next came Anna Costello, with a wonderful rendition of Alleluia, accompanying herself with her guitar. Matthew Coates, the peripatetic music teacher, played two lovely classical pieces on his guitar. To end this opening period Hannah Prime played Menuetto on her flute which was captivating.

There followed the

Russian Choir who sang very melodiously, with some fabulous harmony. They sang either unaccompanied or with piano accompaniment. Some of their songs were religious and there were familiar works from Tchaikovsky, Handel, and Rachmaninov, to name but a few. However, the outstanding piece was 'The Lord Bless you and Keep you', by Rutter, which was performed in perfect English.

After the interval the Russian soloists took to the stage and once again the entertainment was varied and very professional. There were performances on the piano, both jazz and classical. A very young girl played the cello with perfection, there was a superb male violinist, and an accomplished soprano. However, the highlight was a young girl, Victoria Gorelkina, who played classical piano in the beginning and then enthralled the audience later with an Eastern Dance dressed in a beautiful red costume.

The final part of the concert was a selection of Russian folk songs,



*The Russian Choir who sang so harmoniously and with some fabulous harmony both with and without accompaniment*

once again sung beautifully by the choir, both in Russian and English. They finished with a sincere rendition in English, of 'Goodnight Sweetheart, It's Time to Go', which was very appropriate.

At the end there were speeches in Russian by a St Bede's pupil and in English by a Russian counterpart. Maria Matthews, Deputy Head, gave a 'thank you' speech and presented the Russian conductor with a bouquet. Further gifts were accepted by Maria from their guests from St Petersburg.



*Victoria Gorelkina - performing her Eastern Dance in her red costume*



*Deputy Head Teacher, Maria Matthews, presents a bouquet of flowers to the Russian Teacher, Larissa Korchinskaya*

# ELDDIS SUPPORT WILLOWBURN

*'Launching' the Willowburn truck are Mel Cummings, Key Accounts Manager and Trevor Simmonds, Managing Director of Bell Truck Sales, Helen Mills, Chief Executive Officer of Willowburn Hospice, Margaret Webb, Matron and Nigel Cook, Managing Director of Elldis Transport.*



Willowburn Hospice needs to raise a million pounds a year to stay open, and must therefore supplement the grant from local health services, so its fund raisers are constantly searching for new income. Fund-raiser Susan Jones found a sympathetic ear at Elldis, a national transport firm with its headquarters in Delves Lane. Managing Director Nigel Cook suggested an ingenious way to fund the hospice. One of the firm's 165 vehicles, newly acquired from Bell's Truck Sales, has been dedicated to the Willowburn Hospice, and its name emblazoned on the front of the vehicle. For every mile covered by the vehicle, Elldis will donate 15p. It is estimated that at the end of three years, driver Colin Kendrick will have racked up £50,000 for the hospice. In addition, Bell's have donated £2000 to the hospice.

The 44-ton (or maybe tonne) truck also has its own web-site, [www.trucking4willowburn.co.uk](http://www.trucking4willowburn.co.uk), (also reachable via LorrySpotting.com) where we can all follow the fortunes of the vehicle and, who knows, may be moved to help support the hospice. Some media interest has been raised by the publicity surrounding this generous donation, which it is hoped might attract more help for the hospice. Willowburn's Chief Executive Officer, Helen Mills, recorded an excellent live interview for BBC Newcastle on the day of the presentation at Willowburn hospice, explaining Elldis' donation, the work of the hospice with residents, day patients and home family visits, and the need for public support. Now the new truck (number plate W1110WH), while carrying goods for such household names as SCA Hygiene,

Masterfoods, United Biscuits, Proctor and Gamble, Waverly Vintners and Diageo, will carry the hospice's message all over Britain.

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# CIRCUS SKILLS ARE FUN

The skills of the circus came to All Saints' primary school in the person of Jay, who spent the day (July 13th, since you ask) introducing each class to a variety of skills. The children tried

juggling with light scarves, balancing a peacock feather on a finger or chin, balancing a spinning plate on a stick, ball juggling and some balancing on wheeled machines.

All of the children obviously enjoyed trying out all these games and many showed great natural aptitude, skill and coordinating ability. Plate-spinning seemed a

great favourite and developed into team competitions. At the end of the day Jay gave a show to the whole school, showing how far the basic skills the children had tried

could be taken. Later he showed another of his skills at the end of school-time by doing baffling magic tricks with coins and playing cards for parents and children.



*Children at All Saints' school learn to spin plates*



*The children and parents trying their hand at juggling with scarves*



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## SPORTS DAYS

Once again it was warm and sunny for two more outside functions at the EP School following the good weather at the Summer Fair. On Monday afternoon the Foundation years enjoyed their sports, followed by Key Stage two on Tuesday pm. Both events were inter-house, but non-competitive for individuals. This didn't seem to make any difference to the effort and enthusiasm that was put into the various

events by the children. There were about seven activities which took place for the little ones who were allowed five minutes to complete them. They included a straightforward running race; a sack race; walking on tins holding the strings; egg and spoon race; fancy dress race; obstacle course; and throwing bean bags into hoops. The older children had slightly more or less overlapped with similar

activities but also included a relay; running with skipping ropes; football skills; hockey skills and netball. They were two lovely afternoons for the children, parents and staff who all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The Normans happened to obtain the most points but the children were really interested in the sweets and ice cream treats that they all received at the end.



*Maximum effort and enjoyment being put into the sack race*



*The obstacle race nearing its end.*

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## WI NEWS

On 19th June eleven members attended a Celebration Day for DCFWI's 90th year at the new WI House in Spennymoor. Having been shown around house and also looked at a display of crafts, members were served with afternoon tea by the Executives. There was a veritable feast of delicious home-made cakes and dainty sandwiches. Nine Lanchester members were particularly lucky on the tombola as they won a total of twelve prizes! The Manse Singers provided the varied entertainment at the

Strawberry Supper on 2nd July. They are a voluntary group from Houghton Methodist Church and are currently celebrating their 25th anniversary. Despite their numbers being depleted that night they gave a mixed programme of jokes and mimes, ponderisms and lively religious songs. A drama, 'the Race of Life', involving a young lady, a vicar and a 'flashing' policeman caused some considerable hilarity. The songs included 'Streets of London', 'What a Wonderful World'

and 'May each Day'. The group also enjoyed strawberries and cream with a selection of shortbread, and were then entertained by the

members as bidding became heated when some crafted items proved popular at an Auction. The competition for the Autumn Council

Meeting on 6th October at Elvet Methodist Church is a five-line Limerick. The opening line is 'At an Institute meeting one night'... Any ideas, please?



*The Manse Singers providing their varied entertainment at the Strawberry Supper of the 2nd of July*

## HARLANDS AWARD

At an awards ceremony in the Mermaid conference centre in the City of London, in front of 318 fellow accountants from across the UK and Ireland, Derwentside-based Harlands accountancy firm were named as the 2007/8 Accounting Firm of The Year for Consulting. The Award, sponsored by AVN The Accountants, is the only award of its kind where the winners are actually chosen by a panel of over 200 fellow accountants. Accepting the Award, Harlands partner Glyn

Davison praised his consulting team, and emphasised that their main focus was to help clients grow; help them create jobs and help them become more successful. To celebrate their Award, Harland's are offering the first 100 Village Voice readers to call them on 01207 581717 the chance to have a business consultation assessment lasting two hours for free (usually £197). This will help to benefit your business by showing how to maximise outcome and profits, the most personal way for your individual needs.



*Left to right: Glyn Davison, Partner at Harlands, Steve Pipe of AVN presenting the Award, Phil Murray, Business Development Consultant at Harlands*

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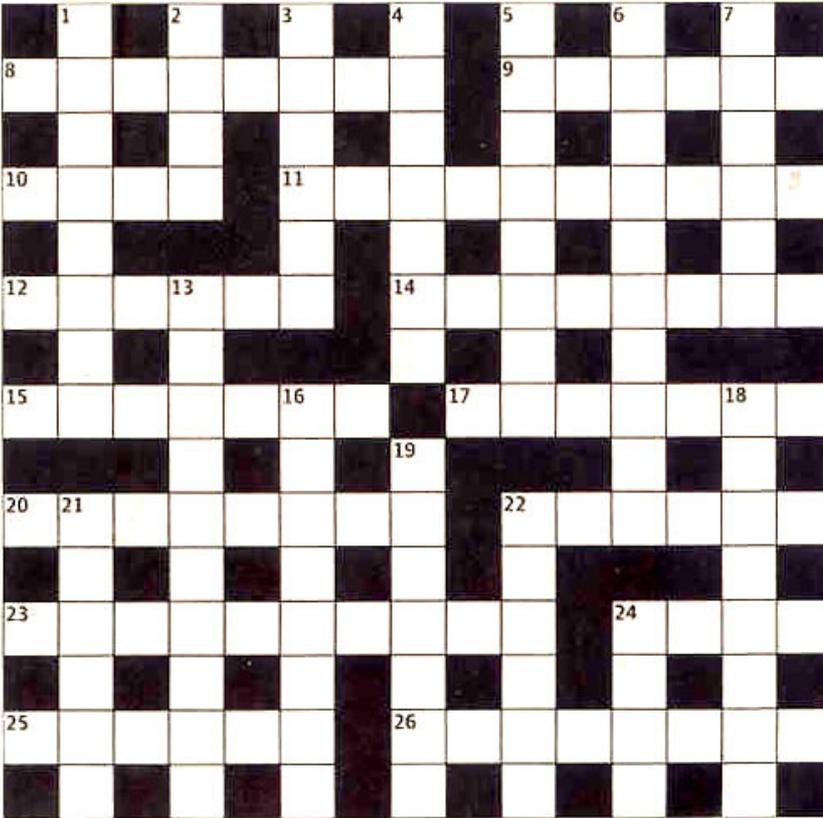
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# CROSSWORD 15



## ACROSS

8. Able to count (8)
9. Roofing material (5)
10. Goes with sugar, hammer, sum and it (4)
11. Unruly (10)
12. Get (6)
14. Flying (8)
15. Grow rich (7)
17. Put in the shade (7)
20. Vice sin I find penetrating (8)
22. Fight (6)
23. Red hairy ET is genetic (10)
24. Paddle (4)
25. Nearby (5)
26. Dead (8)

## DOWN

1. Cool part of salad? (8)
2. Source of hashish, cannabis etc. (4)
3. Diamond or graphite (6)
4. Small citizen breaks up real performance (7)
5. Obscure ice store (8)
6. Flag-waving (10)
7. Dress bauble in coarse quince (6)
13. Absence includes tin avoidance (10)
16. Suitable (8)
18. Sloppy (8)
19. Lace bed fiasco (7)
21. Irk (6)
22. Withdraw (3,3)
24. A bit more than 11 across (4)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your entries to The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0JQ.

## CROSSWORD 14

The winner plucked from the Scrabble-bag this month is Jill Ramsay, whose £10 prize is on its way.

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 14

### ACROSS

1. paragon
5. see 9
9. Elgin Marbles
10. relevance
11. confidante
12. Tsar
14. horse racing
18. grocer's shop
21. idle
22. ubiquitous
25. menagerie
26. nadir
27. rest-day
28. larceny

### DOWN

1. pierce
2. regent
3. gunfighter
4. Norma
5. milk teeth
6. rave
7. longship
8. steerage
13. campaigner
15. raspberry
16. aglimmer
17. Lowlands
19. doodle
20. osprey
23. quell
24. aged

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## TRIATHLON

Ian Holmes who successfully completed the Wimbleball Lake half iron man Triathlon on the 17th June ran for his favourite charity. The distance covered was 1.2 miles swim, 56 miles cycle and 13.5 miles run, TOTAL 70.7 miles. The time taken was just over 8 hours,

which was slightly longer than Ian had anticipated.

THANKS to all who sponsored Ian to a total of £500, which his employers at Coventry University will match. This money will be divided between Macmillan Cancer Support & Guide Dogs.



*Ian crosses the finishing line in his triathlon*

## CHILDREN'S CONCERT

Pupils of Mrs Marie Harrison showed off their skills to an admiring audience of family and friends in All Saints' Catholic Church on Saturday July 7th. The concert opened with a song from Billie, Jennifer and Bethany, a very professional rendering of "The Sound of Music" which they followed with "If you're happy and you know it", to put the rest of the performers in a more relaxed mood. The audience joined in with gusto. They were followed by pianists of all ages who performed a variety of pieces ranging from nursery rhymes from the youngest performers to

more difficult pieces from the classical composers such as Schubert and Rossini by the older pupils. The concert ended with Michael Scott inviting the audience to join him in the final song "Getting to know you." There was a retiring collection for N.E.S.T. children's charity in Zimbabwe.



Marie Harrison's pupils after the concert

## CHILDREN HELP TYLER

Three children from Lanchester EP school, Ellen Barnet aged 7, her brother David, 5, and friend Emily Dewar aged 7 heard about 2 year old Tyler Hunter who was diagnosed with a tumour the size of a football. Surgeons were forced to remove his kidney in order to stop the tumour from

spreading. Tyler suffered months of chemotherapy treatment before finally beating the cancer. These three children set up a help box, doing jobs around the house, and each time they were paid 20p. Tyler's parents had put their wedding plans on hold and promised their son a holiday in

Disneyland once he was well enough. After lots of jobs the children were happy to hand over a cheque for the sum of £366 to help Tyler have more fun when on holiday. Once again the children are doing jobs, ready to help someone else. J Smith



The children hold up their cheque for the camera

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

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## Country Market

Jams, vegetables, crafts, pies, cakes and other goodies will be available in the Community Centre from 10am on Saturday 4th August.

## Churches Together

The combined churches will hold a service on the green on August 5th at 6pm.

## Poetry Group

The next evening when people read their own or their favourite poet's work is on Monday 6th August in the Community Centre computer room, from 7.30 to 8.30pm.

## Lanchester Social Club

August entertainment continues at the Social Club, with 50/50 dancing every Friday from 7 till 11pm a big attraction. Saturday's musical menu includes Debbie on the 4th (a great act), Lezlie making her debut on the 11th, karaoke night on the 18th and Chris James, a brilliant male singer, on the 25th. Sunday night is games night with darts, pool, dominoes including 21's and cards including 'crash'.

## The Bat Man

There are two events for children in Lanchester library coming up. The first is on Tuesday 31st July at 2pm, when Gerry White, 'the bat man' will be on hand to amuse and inform.

On Tuesday 21st August from 10 till 11am it's a 'Zoo Lab' for children 5-12 years old. Tickets for both events, price £1, are available from the library.

## Wildlife Group

The group will have an outdoor visit to East Hedleyhope Fell on Tuesday, 14th August.

## Early Music Festival

The festival in Lanchester C of E parish church continues on Saturday August 4th at 7.30pm with An Italian Journey, with guitar concertos by Vivaldi plus lute and organ music, featuring Dr Ian Brunt and David Malkin. The Great Dane is the subject of the August 18th concert with music by Buxtehude, Bach et al, played by Dr Brunt on harpsichord and organ. Tickets at £8 and £5 concessions (under 18's and students free) obtainable from Dr Brunt or at the door.

## Lanchester Show

### Rescheduled

Due to the Newhouses Farm venue being completely water-logged, our annual show had to be postponed on July 7th and 8th.

The committee put in a lot of time and hard work to try and re-locate to the Genesis Park site in Consett for that weekend but were told eventually on Thursday pm 5th July that the Derwentside Safety Advisory Group could not support our request due to traffic management concerns. Following a meeting of the committee on July 9th, it was decided to arrange another show for Sunday August 5th. For this year therefore we will revert to a one-day show.

There still will be plenty to see and do. The only casualty will be the KC dog show which due to KC rules had to be held on the weekend of July 7th and 8th (and was at Holmeside Hall).

There are still some craft and trade stand spaces available which might interest those who could not make the original dates.

Any queries please contact the Secretaries on 0191 3734565 or email las-sec@tiscali.co.uk

## WI Events

6th August 7pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. 'CHILDLINE' - Claire Framrose. The competition will be an unusual child's toy.

Visitors welcome. 16 August Visit to Beamish Resource Centre and Beamish Cottage Gardens for afternoon tea. Members only.

# WHAT'S ON?

## Family Events with the Countryside Rangers

Fancy doing something different during the summer holiday for FREE? Then come along to the Countryside Rangers' Summer event on Monday 27 August - Environment Fun Day in the grounds of County Hall Durham. If you just fancy fresh air and exercise give us a call to get your free copy of *Country Durham* which contains Guided Walks, Events and News. This is also in Lanchester library. For information on either of the above ring Sites, Rangers and Ecology on 0191 383 4144 or e-mail rangers@durham.gov.uk

## Coming Shortly

The Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes is from 3rd to 19th August. The Walsingham Pilgrimage will be from 14th-16th September. The Community Centre has a table-top sale on September 22nd. Lanchester Partnership has an Open Day on the morning of 29th September. The Leeds Library Players will perform *The Wind in the Willows* on 4th October in the Community Centre.

## Sponsored Walk For Willowburn

Once again a sponsored walk will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 27th August, starting at the Brown Horse, High Stoop at 11am. The route passes through Cornsay, where the Black Horse provides a hospitable resting place, to the Black Bull, Lanchester, a distance of 6 miles.

This increasingly popular walk raises money for Willowburn Hospice. Sponsorship forms can be had from the Hospice or by ringing 523292. Let's make this the most successful ever.

North Country Theatre will present *The Electrical Wizard of the North* on 8th November.

Lanchester Cricket Club presents a Sporting Dinner on December 14th with world boxing champion Ricky Hatton.

Celebration of Christmas at the C of E Parish Church on 17th December.

Organisers, please try to avoid listed events dates. Planning ahead? Let me know when and where. Ring 520559.

## Lanchester Agricultural Society Scarecrow Competition

We are inviting individuals and groups to take part in a scarecrow competition at Lanchester Show on the 5th August. You can have any theme or subject of your choice and you can

give it a name. Entries to arrive on the show ground by Saturday 4th August no later than 6pm. Please fill in the form below and attach it to your scarecrow. Good Luck.

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## BENCHES GIFT

On Thursday 21st June Shepherd Homes made a neighbourly presentation to Lanchester Cricket Club of two wooden benches.

The firm, which is currently building an estate on Kitswell Road, was represented by Lucy Butcher, seen in our photo (right) with cricketers Jonathan Hames, Andy Allen, club professional Darren Broom and vice-chairman Stephen Robinson.



## PLAY AREA DANGER

A game of football at the Park House play area turned into a crisis when one of the players, Cameron Snelgrove aged 6, had to be taken to hospital with a deep cut due to broken bottle glass on the pitch. People taking bottles into this area are asked to put them in the rubbish-bins provided.

## CRICKET FESTIVAL



*A keen match at the schools cricket festival*

On a perfect day for cricket, Kitswell Park hosted the Derwentside School Sport Partnership Cricket Festival. The field was awash with primary school children all enjoying one of our major national sports. Nineteen teams entered the 'competition' with some schools supplying two teams.

Both village schools took part. The EP School being larger provided two representative teams.

There were four leagues with the winners playing each other. Some schools took the whole event seriously, but others were just there for a fun day out,

written test, and Jessica Bolam, who got the highest score on the practical exam.

hoping that all the children would have a good time. In the end it didn't really matter. Although the festival started at about 10.00 am all schools were due to return by 2.00 pm and there was simply not enough time to finish the tournament

However, it was a great day out for everyone. The rules ensured that every member of a team batted and bowled, as well as fielding, and the teachers and Head Teachers who officiated as umpires seemed to be as happy as their charges. It was an excellent event enjoyed by boys and girls, well organised by Derwentside staff.

## BOWLS REPORT

*continued from page 26*

The results are as follows:  
Veterans Triples Monday  
 Burnopfield Home 8-2, Consett A Away 4-6, Dipton Home 2-8, Consett B Home 6-4.  
Veterans Rinks Tuesday  
 View Lane Away 3-7, Consett Away 2-8, South Moor Home 1-9, Annfield Plain 10-0 (opposition unable to raise a team).  
Wednesday Fixtures  
 Annfield Plain Away 3-3, Leadgate Home 0-6, White le Head Away 2-4, Dipton Home 0-6.  
Saturday Fixtures  
 Pelton Fell Away 5-5, Burnopfield Away 4-6, Sherburn Park Home 8-2, South Moor Away 8-2.

## 'SAINTS' CYCLE SAFELY

Years six pupils at All Saints' kindly helped the had the benefit of professional police guidance and instruction recently, when they undertook a whole week of Cycling Proficiency Training after school in June. PCSO Barnes very youngsters develop their cycling skills over the five-hour course, to the extent that all eleven passed successfully. Two pupils in particular excelled themselves - Jessica Morris, who achieved 100% on the



*Successful cyclists with their certificates*

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# CRICKET FOR MARIE CURIE



*Three of the teams ready to compete*

## TENNIS "EVENT" OF THE YEAR

Following quickly on the heels of Wimbledon, Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club staged its own grand "event" on Saturday 14th July. Unlike its more illustrious SW19 counterpart, the weather was perfect for tennis. Using equipment kindly loaned by Derwentside sports and leisure department, now known as Leisureworks, and funded by Grants for Groups, the club was able to hold a mini tournament series for all age groups. With trophies and prizes at stake, competition was high and the standard of play excellent. To keep the energy levels of the young players up, a sausage sizzle was provided by the club. The event followed a winter coaching programme, again funded by Grants for Groups, in which over 200 hours of tennis coaching were provided for members and non-members alike. After the junior competitions had been completed, it was the turn of the seniors to show their paces with some impromptu games, some players returning to the game after long absence. A BBQ was held afterwards which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the day go so well. Anyone interested in tennis can call the secretary, Dennis Laycock, for details about the club or coaching etc.



*Sally Laverick, Junior Co-ordinator, with Dominic Scott, Nicky Laverick, Joseph Hume and Henry Dancer who took part in the event*

A cricket tournament with a difference was held at Lanchester Cricket Club on Sunday 15th July. The four teams involved – a police team, a magistrate's court

team, a 'bar' team of social members and a Ryton team of footballers - were all novices. Each player paid £3 to play, and this money, together

with the proceeds of a raffle, tombola, auction and barbecue, was donated to the Marie Curie charity, the total being an impressive £1150.

## ON THE UP

The fortunes of the Bowls Club have improved in the mid season. While the results have been mixed they are a definite improvement on the early season form. The Saturday team has had good results against Sherburn Park (Consett)

and South Moor and the Veterans Triples team wins over Burnopfield and Consett B. The club had a very enjoyable trip to Barnard Castle for a friendly match in the grounds of Bowes Museum. Our hosts provided a lovely tea for

us and a well fought game of bowls. Lanchester came out winners 81 shots to 73 despite having to play on a green that due to the heavy rain this "summer" resembled a Sunday league football pitch.

*For results, see page 25*



*The Lanchester Bowls team who played a friendly match against Barnard Castle at Bowes Museum*

**NEXT DEADLINE**  
Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by 21st August.  
The deadline for **adverts** is 19th August.

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