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Issue No 11 Volume 8

Lanchester, December 2007

For contact information, see page 2

LIONS' VILLAGE BONFIRE NIGHT

A really spectacular bonfire and fireworks display was held on the 3rd of November at Kitswell Park. On a mild evening for the time of year, there must have been at least a couple of thousand people who attended and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Light sticks were on sale on the route to the display and hot dogs were available at reasonable prices on the field, courtesy of Lady Lions. The Lions Club would like to thank the following for their special help and support: Lady Lions; 'friends of the Lions and their Ladies'; the lady who donated some light sticks; the Parish Council for their donation; the Police; the Red Cross; the Cricket Club; Schmitz Cargo Bull UK Ltd. for the pallets; Ronnie Dixon for

transport; the children from the EP School who made the Guy; the Court Community Service who helped with labour; all those who attended and gave so generously, and some villagers who were not able to attend, but also donated towards the event.

The evening was somewhat spoiled by a few who did bring fireworks and lit them during the display, which could have been very dangerous. In addition, a mindless set of youths attacked and hurt a young lad. Also, several Lion members had their cars vandalised in the Cricket Club car park. Otherwise, it was a very successful, safe, enjoyable night with a profit in the region of £1800, which will be used for local worthwhile causes.



The Pyrotechnics - Left to right: Peter Richardson, Martin Durkin, Tommy Robinson (with Guy), Peter Wallace (Bodmin Lions), Ian Murray, Tony Corry, Eric Tuffy (London) and front Jonathan Harrison



The crowd captivated by the display



The spectacular bonfire and fireworks at Kitswell Park watched by about two thousand people



*The Guy Makers
Lanchester EP year six children who made the Guy for the Lions' Bonfire.
Left to right: John, Micha, Sophie and Ben.*



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

As many of our customers will be aware we have closed our Lanchester shop. We will however still be trading at Leadgate.

Everyone at Davison's thank all our loyal customers for supporting us over the last 40 years we have been in Lanchester.

Our daughter Christine looks forward to seeing you at Leadgate in the near future.

Thanks again most sincerely

Muriel and Jack Davison

Dear Sir,

A short Remembrance service was held at Burnhope War Memorial on Sunday 11th November where the Methodist Superintendent of the Stanley Circuit, Rev D Hume, led in worship and Mrs D Parks read the lesson.

After the laying of wreaths, a service of remembrance with the roll call took place in the Methodist Church. Again, this was led by Rev DHume and a bible reading by Mr P Beckwith.

I would like to thank all people who attended this service. A collection of £60.30 was taken to the British Legion.

S.F. Collins, Burnhope.

Dear Village Voice,

I have recently used the shopping on-line system provided by the Community Association and am very impressed with it. When I visited my daughter in Luxembourg I suggested that she give it a try. She was so impressed by the ease of its use, the good level of security and the variety of quality shopping, that she recommended it to all her friends in Luxembourg. The system is now truly international. Well done Community Association. Yours sincerely, Ken Gardiner

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

BOWLING CLUB LADDER

It seems that the ladder belonging to the Bowling Club was stolen recently and possibly used to strip the lead from the roof of Derwentside 6th Form College. What next in this lovely village of ours!

CCTV SUCCESS

The recently-installed CCTV camera on the village green has proved invaluable in identifying youths who attacked two other young men on Front Street in the early hours of Saturday 16th June.

This incident was captured in detail by the camera, which showed a group of youths attacking two other males outside the Queen's Head public house. A youth has since been charged as a result of the surveillance system.

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for October is 49. The draw was made by Sheila Kelly of the Art Group.

THE VILLAGE VOICE YEAR

The annual meeting of the Village Voice was held on Sunday 18th November. Chairman Brian Oram listed changes in personnel. Treasurer Clare Wilkinson had resigned after 5 years, and John Gray returned to the post which he held when the paper started. Anne McKenzie retired as company secretary, and Ian Reece has taken over this post. Malcolm McKenzie resigned as editor after 6 years, and an editorial team has taken over his duties, though he continues as reporter. Mavis Datta has joined the team to report on Parish Council meetings. Kate Startup, who helped with reporting, is now studying journalism at Stafford University. He praised the work of

volunteers who deliver 2700 copies of the paper every month. He also praised correspondents who supply news, who along with advertisers and deliverers were invited to a 7th anniversary buffet in February.

North Eastern Community Newspapers Ltd, continued to print the paper, which is wholly funded by advertising. Advertisers continue to support the 'Voice', and increased revenue has enabled the committee to support some community organisations.

It is anticipated that 2008 will continue with papers of between twenty to twentysix pages, with advertising taking about 20% of the space, and income and expenditure similar to that of 2007.

WEDDING

On the 20th July, Joanne Hurst (originally of Lanchester) married Glenn Fishwick at All Saints Catholic Church. Following the ceremony the reception was held at Durham Castle. Guests were entertained with a Ceilidh in the evening. The couple met while Joanne was on a work placement year during her university course. Joanne went to All Saints' Primary School and St. Bede's School and the couple now live in Manchester.



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

Greetings from Bedfordshire

This year we are not sending Christmas cards but making a Donation to Macmillan Nurses. To all our friends in Lanchester - Joy and Peace this festive season and Good Health and Happiness in 2008.



Margaret & Terry Compton



Christmas Greetings

We wish all our friends and neighbours Peace and Joy this Christmas time
Fred & Pat Heppell



 **Merry Christmas** and a happy and healthy 2008 to everyone from the members of **Lanchester Lions Club** 

GOLDEN WEDDING

Eric and Sheila Mann of Burnhopeside Avenue in Lanchester celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on November 2nd. They enjoyed a wonderful evening in the King's Head where they were joined by family and friends.

Eric and Sheila met and married in 1957. Eric was working as an engineer in a factory where Sheila was an industrial nurse. After several visits to the 'nurse' with various minor ailments, Eric eventually asked for a date and they were married eight months later. They had two children

Ian and Sandra whilst living in London and then moved to Lanchester in 1968. Through Eric's hobby of model engineering and Sheila's of socialising they have made many wonderful friends in the village where they have enjoyed a long, happy retirement.



Eric and Sheila Mann, posing with smiles in the sunshine, for a photograph on their wedding day.



Eric and Sheila, again posing with smiles on their faces, at their golden wedding celebrations on the 2nd of November at the King's Head where they were joined by family and friends

MAP BOARD UNVEILED



On a chilly November 1st evening, many of the folk responsible for the creation and erection of the Map Board on Front Street in Lanchester assembled for an 'official' unveiling of the Board.

Shown in our photo are Andrew Humble from funders Leader+, Christine Lever of the 'Friends of Longovicium', Eric Gaskill of Pathfinders, Victoria Lloyd of Durham County Council, Christine Corker of Groundwork Trust who provided funding and a powerful impetus to the scheme, Brian Naylor of Lanchester Lions, Councillor Ann Cook, also a member of Pathfinders, whose inspiration the project was, Pathfinder Ronnie Barker and Maureen Loy of Lanchester Partnership.

DAVISON'S CLOSE IN LANCHESTER



On Wednesday 14th November, the last day of opening at Davison's, Sue, Maureen and Christine pose for their picture

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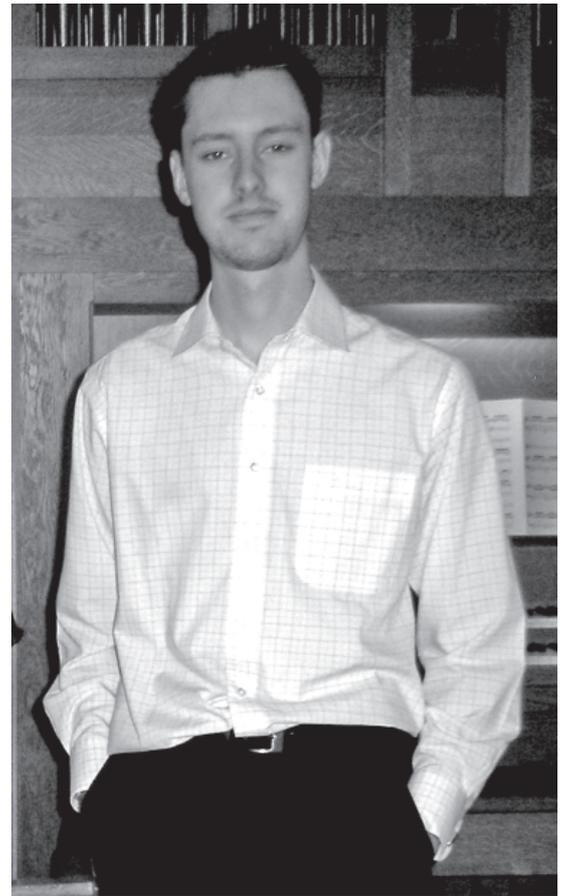
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LANCHESTER MUSICIAN WINS ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP AT ST MARY'S IN WHICKHAM

When Michael and Jean Grave moved from Whickham to Iveston, they did not envisage that Stuart Murray, from Lanchester, would move to a musical scholarship in Whickham. Michael Grave is Director of Music at the church of St Mary the Virgin in Whickham while Stuart is well known in Lanchester musical circles and played recently in Lanchester's All Saints' RC Church

Summer Concert as reported in The Village Voice. Stuart was appointed to an organ scholarship at St Mary's on 1st October 2007 and will work under the guidance of Michael who is a former President of Newcastle and District Society of Organists. During his Organ Scholarship Stuart will participate in all the musical activities of a busy parish church.

Indeed, the purpose of his scholarship is to offer training in all aspects of church music including playing the organ, working with the choirs, administration, the church's liturgy as well as accompanying the wide range of services at St Mary's. Stuart showed his versatility playing the piano, organ and violin, all with skill, at the September concert in Lanchester.



Stuart Murray at the Summer's Evening Concert in Lanchester All Saints' RC Church

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COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Liam McGough, Big Brother celebrity, will open the new Fitness Centre on 2nd January 2008. The opening ceremony will be at 11 am with refreshments available from 10.30 am; everybody is welcome so come along and see the new Fitness Centre. Not only does Lanchester have a purpose-built gym, sufficient funds were available to purchase a new Treadmill, Multi-Gym and Exercise Bike. To mark the opening there is a new logo, **FITNESS4YOU**. If you can't make it on 2nd January, call in during opening times in January and have a free induction. Some of you may have purchased a date in the Community Centre Diary in aid of the Space Project.

The winner was going to be announced at the community lunch in December. Unfortunately the lunch is not being held this year so the Diary winner will now be announced at the opening of the exercise centre in January. As part of our fundraising, a Community Shop will be open each morning for a week in the Community Centre's conservatory starting on 3rd December (10.00 am till noon). The shop will sell sundry items, all proceeds towards new equipment for the fitness centre. If you have any saleable items you wish to donate to the Community shop please contact Margaret Laycock in the exercise centre.

SIR TOM COWIE HELPS EP SCHOOL



*Philanthropist,
Sir Tom Cowie,
presents a cheque
for £1000 to
Lanchester
EP School
representatives,
Katie Armstrong
and
John Dawson
of Year 6.
This will go
towards the
development of
the school
grounds.*

DERWENTSIDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The aims of Derwentside Community Safety Partnership are to reduce crime, fear of crime and tackle anti-social behaviour. To do this effectively, we need information and opinions from local residents.

Listed below are some of the actions we encourage you to take:

- (i) **We need to know where and when incidents are occurring.** Incidents need to be reported to the Police on 0845 6060365.
- (ii) **We need to continue to identify the people involved.** Where we are able to identify ringleaders, we are able to take action to combat the anti-social behaviour going on.
- (iii) **We are determined to try to**

combat under-age drinking. We need to identify outlets and individuals supplying alcohol to or for young people.

(iv) **Parents** are requested to monitor the activities and behaviour of young people and be aware that where offences are committed, arrests and prosecutions can follow.

(v) **Parents** of the youths who congregate in particular locations are encouraged to discuss this matter with their children. Extra Police attention will be paid in the area, and enquiries will be made to establish the identity of those involved in anti-social incidents.

(vi) **Problems regarding Littering and Graffiti** can be reported

to Derwentside District Council Customer Services on 01207 693693. A letter drop has been circulated in the village centre, with Diary Sheets which help in detailing the anti-social behaviour taking place. The Diary sheets can be returned via the Streetsafe Box at Park House, or to the ASB Co-ordinator at Consett Civic Centre.

Please be aware that any information provided will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

D Temple, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Derwentside Community Safety Partnership, Tel 01207 218434, Sgt K Naunton & PC J Hutchinson, Community Beat Team, Consett Police Office, 0845 6060365.

CRAFTS AT THE LIBRARY



Children making Halloween crafts at the Library under the direction of Librarian Janice

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

It was Sunday November 11th. A wintry sun greeted the crowds who gathered to remember the dead in two world wars on the Village Green. The service was attended by members of the village's youth groups, by the Parish

Church choir and representatives of local organisations who laid wreaths at the memorial. The Rev Gavin Hume, Canon Robert Spence and Canon Peter Waterhouse conducted the service and read out

the names of the young people who lost their lives, while Stephen Burt and Sadie Densham completed the poem 'For The Fallen'. Lanchester Brass Band played with frozen fingers for the hymns.



Lanchester Brass Band played for the hymns with frozen fingers

The Boys Brigade watch the service at the War Memorial on the Village Green



The three ministers, Rev Gavin Hume, Canon Spence and Canon Waterhouse at the War Memorial

The wreaths which had been laid by members of local organisations



The procession of church personnel to the War Memorial

OLIVE GROWER JETS IN TO LANCHESTER TO LEARN DRYSTONE WALLING TECHNIQUES

Italian olive grower Salvatore Papaccio made a dash across Europe to pick up some drystone walling techniques in Lanchester. Signor Papaccio owns an olive grove outside Naples which has a number of walls and terraces in need of restoration.

An internet search for information on how to do the work led him to the National Drystone Walling Association website where he saw that the 10th County Durham Hedgelaying and Drystone Walling competition was about to take place at Lanchester. He telephoned a friend in Manchester and asked, if he got the next flight out of Naples, could he make it in time to Lanchester for the competition. Signor Papaccio's round trip of about 2,000-miles wasn't in vain as he got to the venue in time to see the action and gather information from the Northumbria Drystone Walling Association.

The event, which was sponsored by Durham County Council, Trees Please, and Lanchester Dairies with a prize for the best local hedgelayer being donated by North East Community Forests Tree Nursery, was hosted for the second year running by Keith and Gillian Harrison of Coldpike Farm on Saturday, November 3rd. Keith and his son Edward took part in the competition and both came third in their classes. For the second year

running, Clive Matthews of Leicestershire was the overall champion and first in the hedgelaying open class with David Leedale open dry stone waller champion.

The full list of winners is –

Drystone Walling Competition

Open: 1 David Leedale, Richmond, 2 David Boyson, Morpeth, 3 Michael Stephenson, Esh Winning.

Intermediate: 1 John Pridmore, Harrogate, 2 Peter Nailon, Weardale, 3 George Leng, West Auckland

Novice: 1 Geoff Gilpin and Melanie Parnell, Belmont, 2 Andrew Bennett, Stanley, 3 James Hassan, Esh Winning

Best Finds: John Pridmore Hedgelaying Competition

Open: 1 Clive Matthews, Leicestershire, 2 Mike Wade, 3 Jasper Prachek, Sheffield, 4 Philip Rowell, Bamsley.

Intermediate: 1 Andy Brown, Staindrop, 2 Stan Pinkney, Spennymoor, 3 Keith Harrison, Lanchester.

Novice: 1 Beth Brown, Staindrop, 2 Simon Chivers, Witton Gilbert, 3 Edward Harrison, Lanchester, 4 Harry Humble, Iveston.

Best Regrowth: Clive Matthews, Leicestershire

Best Cutting: Clive Matthews, Leicestershire

Best Local Competitor: Beth Brown, Staindrop

Overall Champion: Clive Matthews, Leicestershire Local MP and former Cabinet Minister, Hilary Armstrong attended the event although she was unable to present the prizes because she had a prior engagement during the afternoon.



The Drystone Walling competitors hard at work

Edward Harrison, son of the farmer who staged the event, grapples with the hedge and received third prize in the Novice section



John Stevenson, explains the skills of Drystone Walling to Hilary Armstrong MP

REAL STORY OF HELICOPTER

In the last issue there was a photograph of a helicopter in All Saints' Parish Churchyard. It seems that someone alerted the police that the

church floodlights had been vandalised. They responded promptly with their helicopter to ensure that the church building was safe.

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2007

Police Report given by PC Alan Patterson. There had been no burglaries last month but there were 5 thefts, including items from cars and PC Patterson stressed the need to lock items in cars out of sight. There were 6 reports of suspicious persons/actions and

although none of these led to any arrests, again PC Patterson stressed the need for residents to be observant and to keep reporting anything suspicious. There had been 20 cases of anti-social behaviour. Two individuals are on bail and have to stay out of

Lanchester. The Police are increasing vehicle and foot patrols in priority areas and residents are asked to continue to report any problems. PC Patterson warned that theft of lead and copper is on the increase due to the current high price of scrap metal and that preventative measures should be taken to protect those buildings which are most vulnerable. Councillors remarked on the excellent police presence in the village on Bonfire Night.

A report was then given by County Councillor Forster on matters of mutual interest to the County Council and Parish Council. He stated that there is a new scheme relating to urban/rural renaissance which could benefit Lanchester. There has been a request from residents at Malton with regard to the condition of the road bridge across the burn and that there should be a weight restriction. Both the District Council and the County Council are working on plans to strengthen the bridge. A new wildlife pond is to be made at Malton. The County's mid-term budget is 'on track'. This brought about questions from the Council about funding for the village bus as the money runs out in March.

A letter of complaint had been received about the state of Lanchester Cemetery. As this is the responsibility of Derwentside District Council, a letter is to be sent to the appropriate department with a copy of the letter of complaint. **Kitswell Road Development** - the play area has been accepted and money received from

the planners. Cllr Wardle and Cllr Mrs Gray are to attend an exhibition showing what has been done in the play area in Leazes Park. A letter, together with plans, has been received from the residents of Lanchester House and Lanchester Cottage in Front Street showing the difficulties experienced due to people parking at the ends of the short road which leads on to Front Street. The letter is to be forwarded to the County Council. A flood risk questionnaire is to be completed by Cllr Glass. **Esh Partnership.** Their plans for the Bobby Robson park and play park has reached the final round of a national competition and a film is to be shown on North East Tonight at 6 pm on Tues 27th Nov. They ask that we vote for them to help them win the £80,000 prize. **Public Seat on Cadger Bank.** An alternative, cheaper location has been suggested and this site is to be investigated. **Working With Young People in Lanchester.** A draft report was presented by Mr M Gladstone in response to a recommendation of the Lanchester Parish Plan. A great deal of information had been collected from numerous sources and many discussions had taken place with advisers, local organisations, etc. The needs of the young people in the village were stated in the report and these were discussed. It was agreed that the document be accepted in principle, subject to work being done on the financial implications. Cllr Mrs Gray is to take the place of Cllr Burton in the working group and she will investigate the possibility of travel

vouchers for the young people to go to facilities outside the village. In the meantime, suggestions for locations, services costs, etc. are to be made and Cllr Mrs Glass to convene a meeting with regard to the Ellie Bus. **Car Parking in Lanchester.** The possibility of a 2hr parking limit was mentioned while considering a report from Lanchester Partnership following a meeting on 8th October. Also it was suggested that a cycle rack be installed next to the Information Board. **National Tree Week.** The Wildlife Group is to plant trees at the other end of the Kitswell Road Play Area with a grant of £150 for the trees. **Memorial Plaque.** A request has been received to have a memorial plaque fixed on a seat outside the King's Head. It was decided that the previous policy of sponsorship of NEW seats be adhered to. **Appeals Committee Membership.** It was agreed that Mr Paul Jackson replace Cllr Mrs Glass. **Christmas Lights - Thank You Evening.** The Brass Band has been arranged, Mr. Liam McGough is delighted to accept the invitation to help the 4 children from the two schools to switch on the lights on 1st December at 6 pm and members of the Village Voice team and the clergy have been invited.

Next Meeting. This will take place on Tuesday, December 11th at 7 pm in the Conference Room, Park House.

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

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETINGS

Tuesday 23rd October 2007

1 Proposed erection of single storey rear extension at 2 Prospect Terrace, Lanchester. **R E S O L V E D .** Supported subject to strict conformity to related District Council policy and the Village Design Statement.

2 Proposed floodlighting to tennis courts at Derwentside College, The Green, Lanchester. **R E S O L V E D .** Supported subject to conformity to related District Council policy and the Village Design Statement. Also that courts be not illuminated later than 10 pm and that neighbours in the immediate vicinity be consulted before a final decision is taken.

DECISION OF DISTRICT COUNCIL

Removal of window and door to rear and erection

of single storey extension to rear to Westlands Dental Surgery, Front Street, Lanchester. **GRANTED.**

Tuesday 13th November 2007

1 Proposed conversion of barn to four live/work units, erection of four holiday cottages and renovation of gingang to provide dwelling at Middle Newbiggen Farm, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester. **R E S O L V E D .** That Planners' attention be drawn to the relevant sections of the Parish Plan regarding a n i n c o m p a t i b l e development in the countryside. Also, due to the nature of Newbiggen Lane being very narrow with high hedges and poor visibility, that the Village Design Statement regarding access and egress be consulted.

2 Proposed crown lifting and pruning of one maple, one sycamore and one horse chestnut tree at 4 Lee Hill Court, Lanchester. **APPROVED.**

3 Proposed erection of two storey extension incorporating a balcony at The Granary, Ragpathside Farm, Lanchester. **RESOLVED.** Planners' attention to be drawn to appropriate sections of Parish Plan.

DECISION OF DISTRICT COUNCIL

Conversion/Change of use of existing unit 18 to form a restaurant extension, erection of single storey rear extension to create stock room at 18 and 20 Front Street, Lanchester. **GRANTED.**

Erection of one additional dwelling at former Council Depot and Land to West of Kitswell Road, Lanchester. **GRANTED.**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

At the Lanchester Partnership meeting the following planning matters were announced: There were concerns over trees, loss of car parking, etc. at the proposed King's Head car park development. Parts of the application for Burhopeside Hall had been withdrawn due to major concerns about the ecological impact of the proposed activities as well as

noise interference with residents. The Partnership had asked for tight control of the proposed floodlighting to tennis courts behind the Green School, and had objected to proposed large extensions at Newbiggen Farm. Local residents had raised objections about light pollution from the new car park at St Bede's school,

which was dazzling from Consett direction. A letter had been sent to DDC on breaches of conditions of planning permission on particular sites, as well as sites with some planning permission that had been left to deteriorate, such as Russell Close site and Lanchester Arms.

NEW ROAD LAYOUT AT A691 JUNCTION

The road junction with the A691 beside the King's Head will shortly be getting a makeover. New markings and a

change of layout, including moving a traffic island, are designed to increase safety.

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LIAM SUPPORTS ANTI BULLYING

A surprise visitor for the children in their recent Anti Bullying assembly at the EP School, was Big Brother's Lancastrian, Liam McGough.

The children were enjoying their assembly with Rachel Crowe, a County Anti Bullying Officer, who had encouraged the Buddies and Mini Buds, all dressed smartly in their new tabards, to perform appropriate sketches and songs which put over the right message in an amusing way. They had already had two 'visitors' in the form of Madge the Monkey, brought and demonstrated by school governor Leslie Suddes,

and a huge 'Bertie the bear', the biggest anti bully ever, when Liam made his entrance. Not only were the children enthralled, but also the female members of staff! Liam seemed very comfortable standing in front of the children and told them about his time at the EP School, and bullying experiences during his school days. He fielded some very difficult questions with humour and commonsense, and was also able to help endorse the anti bullying message to the excited children. Then it was a mad rush for autographs which he signed very patiently.



School Governor, Leslie Suddes, and Rachel Crowe, (Anti Bullying Officer), get as close as possible to Liam McGough, from Big Brother



Liam fields awkward questions from the children with consummate ease

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Liam cuddles Madge the Monkey who used to be a bully

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Monday 10th December	USA, Canada, Japan and Eastern Europe.
Thursday 13th December	Western Europe

YOUTH MEETING

A large number of children and parents attended a meeting on 12th November to discuss the needs of young people in the village

After introductions, Chairman Jill Gladstone explained what the Lanchester Partnership does - e.g. it had organised the litter-picks that many of the children and young people had taken part in. She spoke about the Link Bus and the Longovicium book. She then explained that the Partnership has a 'Working with Young People' group that tries to make things better for the children and young people of Lanchester, for example by running a youth club.

She and the other Partnership members could not properly help

the children and young people of Lanchester unless they know what they are thinking, what they want, what annoys them, and so on.

After an 'ice-breaking' exercise, children were asked to write down ideas for improvements in the village. The ideas they wrote were:-

- a) Bike track/jumps around fields in Lanchester (*There was strong support for this idea*)
- b) Swimming pool
- c) Fencing club
- d) Water fountain on the village green
- e) Youth club twice a week instead of once.

Most improvements would need funding. It was agreed to hold another meeting in January 2008.

BULB PLANTERS



After the All Age Service on 4th November, children who were at the service planted bulbs in the Parish Churchyard. These were donated by Margaret Walters, and organised by Maving Taylor. Left to right: Ellie, Ellen, Emily Rose and Ben.

More than meets the eye



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'CHILDREN IN NEED'

Lanchester Brownies worked hard on Friday 16th raising money for 'Children in Need'. Croft View was a hive of activity with youngsters and adults helping on the Toy Stall, Food/Drinks/Ice cream, and Cakes/Biscuits stalls. The total raised on the evening was an excellent £97.



Alex (left) and Kirsty really enjoying the cake stall



Brownies on the Toy Stall

PENNIES FOR PUDSEY

Children at All Saints primary school paid for the privilege of coming to school in pyjamas and dressing-gown on Children in Need day. Every little helps. They also helped People's Kitchen in Newcastle, which provides free food for lonely and disadvantaged people, by bringing food of all kinds to their Harvest Festival to donate to the charity.

TRICK OR TREAT?



Two devils, a horrible hoodie and a cat, or familiar. Worth a sweetie or three? Certainly.

LOCAL CHILDREN RAISE MONEY FOR TILLY

Many will remember that Tilly Lockey, a three year old toddler from Consett was recently taken ill with meningitis and lost her hands and some toes. Sadie Densham aged 10, of Lanchester with some of her friends, decided to have a sponsored walk to

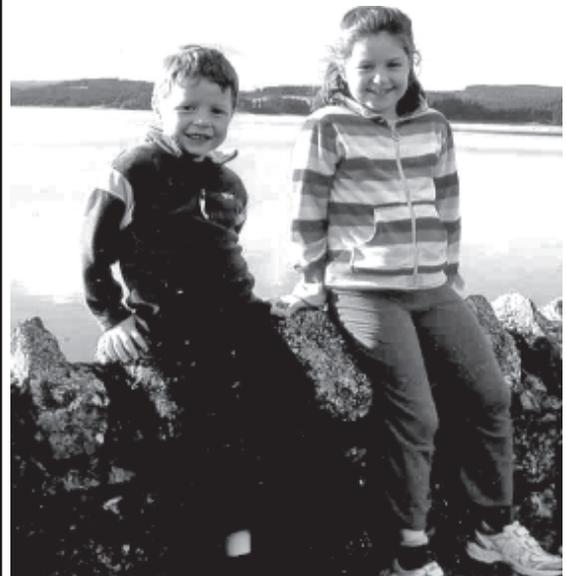
Malton and back, in order to raise money for Tilly. This was completed on a rainy, cold, Saturday morning, 10th November. Sponsor forms were authorised by the Meningitis Help Charitable Trust and the excellent total raised was in excess of £150.



The young girls who braved the weather and walked for Tilly were, left to right: Lindsay Roantree, Erin Densham, Sadie Densham and Anna Crowe

Ellen and David Barnett, aged 7 and 5, have also continued their good work to raise money for Tilly. They decided to do a sponsored walk around Kielder Reservoir. It was a wet and cold morning when they set off, but 8 hours later they had done

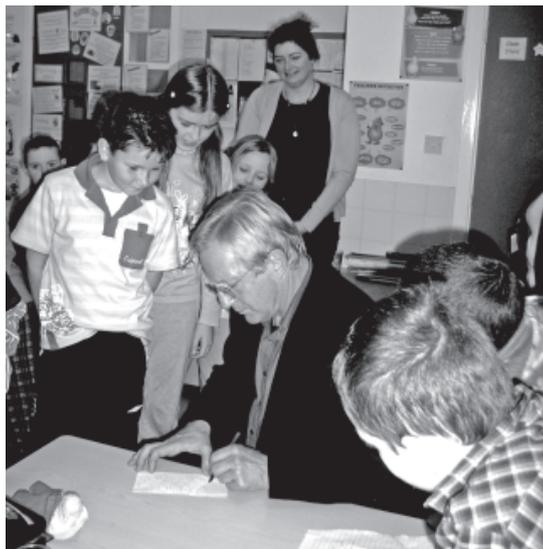
it, just over 26 miles, a magnificent feat for such young children. They raised £505 which will go into their Help Box and at the end of November all the money they have collected will go to Tilly. They will then start again, helping someone else.



David and Ellen Barnett at Kielder Reservoir

SAM LLEWELLYN ROCKS AT ALL SAINTS

Years 5 and 6 at All Saints primary school were treated to valuable lessons on 'How to write a story' by children's author Sam Llewellyn on Friday 16th November. Along the way his descriptions and sound effects had the small audience in stitches, and his songs - with some nifty guitar work - about such things as elephants and being hungry added to the hilarity. Maybe the children will remember about the importance of Character, Location, and especially 'What if', especially after the story about stepping off the pavement and causing Newcastle United's bus to float down the Tyne (Cries of 'oh, no!'). The build-up to the story of his new book about a ghostly rock guitarist involved lots of audience participation and a bit of guitar blues. There were a few questions - his favourite author is Tolkein, his favourite work is his last one (most authors say this) and he writes a book by thinking for 3 months, *and making notes*, then writing it down. Before leaving, he patiently signed a room-full of autographs. Sam Llewellyn has been visiting lots of schools in the North East during the two-week Northern Children's Book Festival. I bet they all enjoyed it.



Sam Llewellyn signs autographs for the children

BOYS BRIGADE COFFEE MORNING



Members of the Boys Brigade serve one of their many customers at the coffee morning at the Methodist Chapel on Saturday 17th November. They raised £60.00 for their funds.

LIONS 60'S/70'S NIGHT



The Gents



A cool bunch of dudes

Lanchester Lions held a very successful 60/70's night at the Social Club in October. About 80 people turned up, many in appropriate dress, eager to dance to 'The Gents' band, followed by a Disco. The

food on this occasion was pies and peas which was enthusiastically consumed by hungry revellers. A profit of £381 was made on the night which will help fund Christmas activities.



60's enthusiasts, Lion Vice President, Ian Murray and his wife, Heather

THE 'BIG GIG'



A group of Lanchester Guides off to the Manchester MEN Arena for the BIG GIG, a charity concert in aid of Girlguiding UK. The girls saw McFly, Natasha Bedingfield, Kate Nash and many many more...they had a great time! The girls from left to right are: Ellie Allport, Georgia McGrath, Victoria Wyatt, Beth James, Gaby McConnell, Catherine Burnham-King (kneeling), Alex Clewlow and Ellie Metcalfe.

THE ELECTRICAL WIZARD OF THE NORTH



The North Country Theatre cast: left to right: Susan Jinks, Mark Cronfield (back), Simon Kirk, Nicola Woods and Nobby Dimon, writer and director.

North Country Theatre once again delighted the Lanchester audience with its annual production called 'Twenty-nine reasons why you should buy a programme'. This half-hour vignette never fails to delight and entertain, as did the following tale of Dr Walford Bodie, a man with skills in magic, scientific showmanship, and healing, played with pizzazz and a fine moustache by Simon Kirk. Behind every successful man, they do say, is an ambitious wife, and the good doctor's wife Jeanie, aka Mystic Marie (Susan Jinks) is shown to be a smooth operator who boosts his career but disapproves of her husband's post-show medical services to anyone who cares to queue at the stage door.

The cast is completed by Mark Cronfield who plays Thomas Hoyle, the stage-hand and a host of minor comic characters, Nicola Woods as Kitty, the waif cured by the doctor and

recruited as musician, and Nobby Dimon who figures as stage-hand, mill-owner and MPMr Hardcastle and a potty judge. The wig looked really good on him. A major contribution was made by Shep, who returned to the scene of former triumphs as Mr Hardcastle's surly dog and later gave vital evidence as a witness in the trial scene.

As usual Nobby was also the writer and director of the show, which combined genuine 'magic' tricks and scientific wizardry, equally genuine jokes, audience participation (some were unruly medical students, the rest behaved as Edwardianly as they could) and the serious undercurrent concerning the relationship of magic and medical practice.

The simple proscenium arch scenery served as theatre, back stage, courtroom, park, boat and a good place to do levitation. The above trick also employed two chairs which combined to become electric in a trick demonstrating that 20,000 volts will light a 60 watt bulb. Weird things happen in Nobby Dimon productions, which made Dr Walford Bodie the ideal hero for his latest play. The audience, as ever, went away happy and no doubt planning to return for North Country Theatre's 2008 offering, The Prisoner of Zenda.

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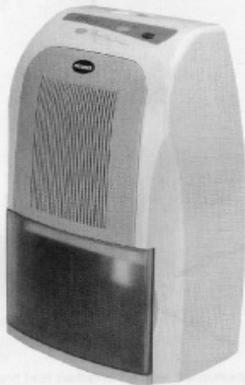
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TRACTOR RALLY

The final figure for the money donated to Willow Burn from the 'Tractor Run' held at the Old Mill at Knitsley last month was £2783.50, and the main raffle prize, the 'Little Grey Fergie' Vintage Tractor, was won by John and Val Shaw.

CUBA COMES TO LANCHESTER

For ten days this month a Cuban Methodist minister, Pastor Onay Lopez has been staying in Lanchester. Our Methodist church has linked with his in Consolación del Sur in the west of Cuba. In fact, because of the political position in Cuba his church is his house! Methodism there has been growing almost exponentially since the

1980's, from a base of two ordained ministers and 500 members, to about 250 churches and 30,000 members, 90% of them under the age of 30!! What a difference to the Church in Britain! Whilst here, Onay helped in a service in Sunderland led by our District Chairman, Rev. Leo Osborn, and one in our own church here in Lanchester led by Rev.

Dr. David Wilkinson. He spent time at Fairtrade in Gateshead and when he visited the Metrocentre was duly "gobsmacked". He told us that the average wage in Cuba is the equivalent of 10 US dollars per month, which only buys absolute basics and he had never seen so many "luxuries". In his town of 30,000 people there are fewer than 100

cars - a number to be seen in Lanchester any day. Onay has a wife and young daughter and was thrilled when he was able to buy presents for them following a retiring collection. He also took home small gifts from people he met and Lanchester Methodist Church gave him a

banner to use in his "church" or "temple" as he called it. Although we have so much more materially than they do, I am sure that spiritually we have much to learn. Their church is growing, despite their physical deprivation, so perhaps we have to ask ourselves - are we too comfortable?



Left to right: Rev Leo Osborn, Pastor Onay Lopez, (Cuba), Rev Gavin Hume, Rev Paul Cleaver Thorp

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SHARING FAIR

All Saints Justice and Peace Group organised a sale of crafts, cards and toys in the Parish Centre in aid of Sharing Fair. This is a project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd throughout the world to

better the lives of women in developing countries. The goods were made by the women and all money raised goes directly to the various projects. Over £1170 was made at the sale after Mass on

Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th of November.



Mary Jackson and Helen Hedley discuss a purchase at the Sharing Fair

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THE ROMANS IN COUNTY DURHAM

County Archaeologist David Mason addressed a packed meeting of Lanchester History Society on November 2nd. He summarised the recently uncovered evidence for Roman occupation in this Romanised and prosperous area. A villa at Home House Farm near Piercebridge had been excavated,

though the report was not published. This site was abandoned in 200AD, about the time that a new bridge was built in stone with a timber

superstructure. Some remains of the latter can be visited, as can part of the fort, most of which is covered by the village of Piercebridge.

more work the following year but making few finds - a piece of a mortarium (a mixing vessel) and a toggle from a Roman coat. Exciting developments at Binchester, a 10-acre site, were shown by another Time Team visit. A temple was revealed and a male burial with two pots. Only the Commander's bath-house has been fully revealed, and there is potential for more work, with possibly another Time Team dig. Dr Mason's talk was fully illustrated by photos and diagrams and provided a clear picture of Durham archaeological progress in the county.



Dr David Mason

At Sedgefield, the East Park between the village and Hardwick Hall had been tackled in 2002 by Time Team, who identified the line of Cade's Road which led north to Newcastle and a number of enclosures. Students of Durham University did

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ART EXHIBITION

Lanchester Art Group's two-day exhibition on 20th and 21st October, featuring the work of the group members, attracted a large number of art-lovers. There were so many paintings that they overflowed from the main hall into the smaller one, where refreshments were served. Many of the art works were sold to the public.

There had also been an enthusiastic response from the artists to a challenge to produce a 'portrait

from a photo.' The resulting portraits were displayed with the original photo.



Some of the artists' portraits with the original photos



Visitors enjoying the display at the Art Exhibition

TAIZE WORSHIP

The Taizé Worship service took place at the Parish Church on the evening of November 11th. About sixty people of all denominations attended.

At the beginning of the service the silence was deafening! The dimly lit church was adorned with many tea light candles which beautified the

surroundings and had a serene, calming effect. The introductory prayers were said with a sung response and this set the theme and tone of the evening, which was peaceful, calm and relaxed with the congregation joining in with those who had rehearsed the Taizé chants. Many readings

were interspersed with chants and further prayers. The musicians who accompanied the chants were Margaret Walters, Piano, Pam Bygate, Violin, Wendy Hughes, Flute, and Colin Wilkinson, Electro Acoustic Guitar. The evening was organised by Margaret Walters.



Left to right: Pam Bygate, Violin; Wendy Hughes, Flute; and Colin Wilkinson, Electro Acoustic Guitar

RUNNING FOR BUS PAYS OFF

Margaret Doyle, of Lanchester, completed the Great North Run in a very creditable 2 hours 27 minutes which was a great achievement for her. She ran to support the Village Bus (see last issue), and raised a magnificent £800.

Margaret would like to thank all those who sponsored and supported her, especially her family, and one particular anonymous supporter who gave a substantial amount to the cause.



A tired but proud Margaret at the finishing line

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AFRICAN JOURNEYS

Elephants have fascinated Noel Jackson, Head of Education at the Centre for Life, ever since his dad took him to London Zoo. It took a year or two, but Noel recently travelled through Kenya and South Africa to see them and shared his experiences with members of the Wildlife Trust at their November meeting.

The talk was illustrated with some stunning photos.

In South Africa he found that Table Mountain had more varieties of flower than Britain and that the Cape had many birds with the same name as British birds but with 'Cape' added to their name. The cape sparrow had gorgeous plumage, but the malachite sun-bird far outshone it. The shore provided views of southern right and humpback whales, great

white sharks, bottlenose dolphins and African penguins.

In Kenya he visited the Ark, North of Nairobi, meeting water buffalo, mongoose, wart-hog and weaver birds. At Samburu National Park he met elephants, a cheetah, giraffes, Thompson's gazelle, chameleons and a tiny antelope called a dikdik. Close up, he said, an elephant sounds like a coffee percolator only louder.

Moving on along appalling roads he descended to the rift valley, illustrated with photos of flamingos, rhinos both black and white, lions, wildebeest, buffalo and a leopard. This talk was a feast for the eye accompanied by an informative commentary delivered with erudition and immense good humour.



Noel Jackson introduces a very wet leopard he met in Africa

BOUND FOR GHANA

Though Luke Facey's ambition is to go to Sandhurst to train as an army officer, he is determined to get some life experience first. After a year working for

his father, he is taking a year off to work for the charity Tree Appeal (www.treeappeal.com). His work will be in Northern Ghana at Anomabo, where there is plenty to do completing a dairy farm and pasteurising unit, building a play fort, and establishing a fruit tree nursery to provide fresh fruit for the village. Luke has been collecting donations of useful equipment for the village, including computers, tools, educational equipment and boxing gear, which will be sent in

a container to Ghana. At a concert held in All Saints Parish Centre, Martin Matthews and his group entertained with guest artists including Paddy McAloon and raised the sum of £647 for the charity.

The parents and children in of All Saints school have been doing their bit too. Parents have been making a donation of £4, and as a result trees will be planted in the school grounds and the cash will go to Uganda to help the projects there. St Bede's School is also making a donation.

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Luke Facey

WI NEWS

On Guy Fawkes night members (plus visitor, Betty Reed) travelled to 'The Moorings' at Hett Hills to celebrate the 82nd birthday of Lanchester WI. The Hotel, known 20 years ago as 'The Board Inn', has a nautically themed decor and offers a good variety of 'Specials' with the fish being bought daily at Hendon Docks by the chefs. Two of the nine bedrooms have a hot tub but members were content to enjoy a delicious 2 or 3 course meal, free raffle

and a fortuitous half-price wine night! The tables were attractively set in the conservatory and Mr Craig Archer, the manager, and his staff gave an attentive service.

Vouchers were presented to Ann Carr and Shirley Lamb for being the overall Competition winners for the year.

On 11th November Jesse Goodall laid the Remembrance Day wreath on behalf of all Lanchester WI members.

WILLOW BURN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

In order to maintain the high standards and care that Willow Burn offers its patients, it relies very much on volunteers from the local community.

Caring, friendly natured people are required, to take up several volunteering opportunities that have recently arisen. If you have some spare time at the weekend between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm, the hospice requires help assisting staff with patient lunches, answering the telephone, and making refreshments for

visitors. If you have some spare time during the week from Monday to Friday there is an opportunity to serve behind the counter in the busy tea bar at Consett Magistrates Court. The sessions are from 9 am to 1.00 pm and 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm. Till training and a tabard are provided.

This really is a very worthwhile cause so if you feel able to volunteer for any of these positions or would like further information, then please call Linda on 01207 523295.

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

Joy of joys, the Gourmets made a welcome return trip to that holy of holies - Bistro21 - mecca of good food. We hadn't made a booking and they were full. Would we like a private room? Would we? What a treat! We decided to really indulge and go for a full 3-course

meal. We chose from the £16.50 set menu and for starters, sampled prawns and grapefruit cocktail, mackerel salad and sweet potato and honey soup. Main courses were salmon, navarin of lamb, fishcakes and minute steak. For pud we indulged in iced coffee parfait with lemon cream,

hazelnut and muscavado tart with yoghurt sorbet, blackberry sorbet and crème brulée. The whole delightful experience was rounded off by excellent coffee and moreish chocolate coffee beans.

Will we be back? You couldn't keep us away.

The Gourmet Girls

OPEN DAY AT LITTLE FEET



Staff and guests at Little Feet Nursery:

Left to right; Back row: Roger Jeffries (Proprietor); Kim Dodds; Jackie Gerrens; Carmel Forster; Kristy McCartney; Anna Bolam; Chris Jeffries (Proprietor) Amy Eldridge Front row: Louise Jackson; Kim Fazackerley; Rachel Carr with Lukas Quiney; Amanda Graham, with baby Ella; Mei Mei Quiney

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Maiden Law, Near Lanchester

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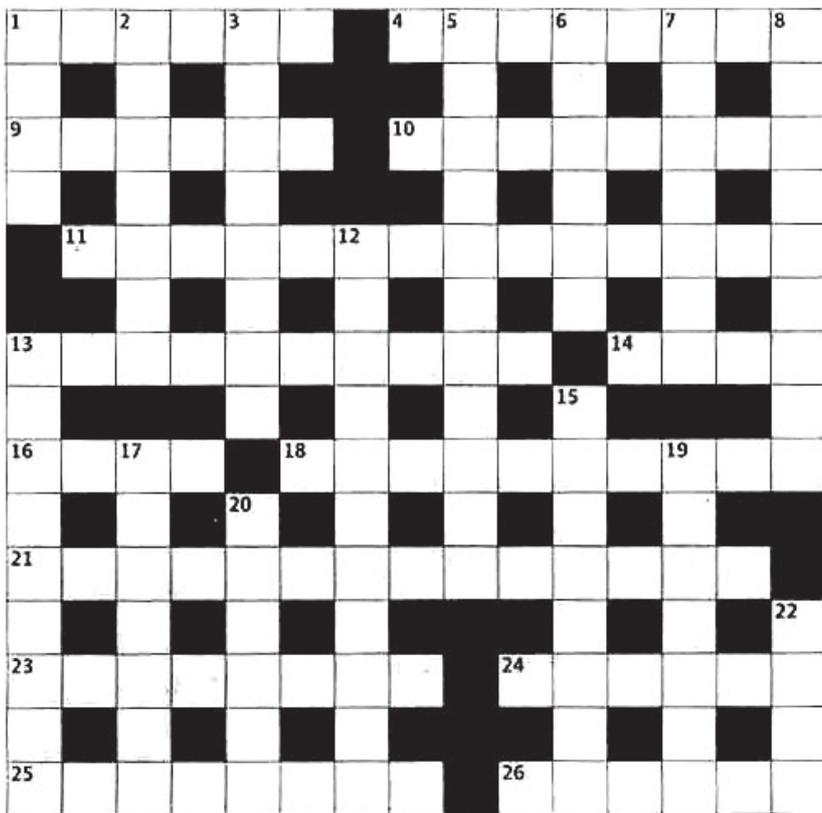
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01207 528581

Have a look at our Nursery website
www.littlefeetnursery.co.uk

CROSSWORD 19



ACROSS

1. Assumed iconic status for doctor (6)
4. Ps. PC Read is discarded (8)
9. Property (6)
10. Rand R and evolve weapon (8)
11. Dry Rimini coast is partisan (14)
13. Weather glass pressure (10)
14. Anagram of Etam (4)
16. Anagram of Etam (4)
18. Ribald chin forms original idea (10)
21. Royal Family (7,7)
23. Excessively dull (3,5)
24. Irritate (6)
25. Skin infection (8)
26. Palindromic grass (6)

DOWN

1. Anagram of Etam (4)
2. Information pack (7)
3. Linked caves (8)
5. Trustworthiness (11)
6. Unethical (6)
7. Cake eating ballerina! (7)
8. Rotten trick (5,4)
12. Explicator (11)
13. English spa town effluent (9)
15. CIA act is painful affliction (8)
17. Rainy season in Southern Asia (7)
19. Number (7)
20. Surety from Dow-Jones crowds (6)
22. Anagram of Etam (4)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 18

ACROSS

1. motorway system
8. rabid
9. Croatian
11. isthmus
- 12,15. gunboat diplomacy
13. glean
15. see 12
17. Louisiana
20. ocean
21. riviera
23. airship
25. scorpion
26. ox-bow
27. clarinet player

DOWN

1. morning-glory
2. Tibet
3. rudiments
4. accused
5. stopgap
6. Satan
7. elaborate
10. staying power
14. equivocal
16. on our soil
18. Arabian
19. against
22. error
24. hobby

Name _____

Address _____

Please send your entries to:

The Village Voice
c/o Lanchester Community Centre
Newbiggen Lane
Lanchester
DH70JQ

CROSSWORD 18

There were 10 entries in last month's competition and the winner in the draw was Arthur Dodds of Croft Court, who wins the £10 prize. Why not try your luck with No. 19?

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A FRANCHISE OWNED & OPERATED UNDER LICENCE



ROMAN RAMBLERS



Countryside Ranger, Brian Page, (foreground) prepares his ramblers for his guided walk entitled 'What Have The Romans Ever Done For Us'. They began their three hour walk from Newbiggen Lane at 11.00 am on Saturday 3rd November in perfect walking weather.

GAME, SET AND MATCH FOR TENNIS CLUB

continued from back page completed. Of those that were, presentations were made at the function.

Winners for 2007 were:-
Men's Singles - Kevin Hall

Boys Singles - William Haynes

Boys Doubles - Kieron Day and Stuart Whitesmith

Ladies Doubles - Anne Hurran and Heather Murray

Mixed Doubles - Dennis Laycock and Heather Murray.

The Tennis Club is indebted to the Lanchester Lions for donating two doubles trophies as part of their 40th year anniversary.

JUNIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT AT LANCHESTER CRICKET CLUB

continued from back page myself, Bob Gardiner, Rob Selby and Andy Smith goes out to the parents who brought food for the evening. We would also like to thank the Lanchester Lions for providing us with a new trophy to coincide with their 40th anniversary. Mark Draper from the Lions was on hand to present this to Joel Hall, a new U11 who has excelled this season. A big thank you to Mandy Ellison, manager of City Sports in Durham who have provided us with equipment, discounts, clothing and impeccable service for the last 2 seasons.

The individual awards were as follows, U11s -

bowling went to David Selby and Greg Patterson, with Greg also picking up the most catches with Lee Murray, with the batting averages going to Kieran Hall.

In the U13s Lee Murray won the batting, Jake McCall took the bowling, and Andy Elsbury won the catches, Stanley lad Ryan Bell won the Coaches Player of the Year.

In the U15s Ashton Hughes won the bowling, Hayden Petch won the batting, Craig Smith won the catches and James Robson was named Player of the Year.

In the U18s Ashton Hughes won the bowling, local lad Dan Storey won the batting, Hayden Petch the catching and Simon Tweedy won the Player of the Year.

This year was also the first year for a new trophy, named after Cricket Club legend Ray Clish who passed away 2 years ago. The Ray Clish outstanding contribution trophy was presented by Tess Clish and it was great to have her at the club as part of our night. The trophy was won by Jonathon Hames for his first class attitude towards the club on and off the field. There is better to come from Hamesy and we look forward to seeing him in the senior sides in 2008.

The evening also included a disco and karaoke, with A J Karaoke from Lanchester providing the entertainment. Anybody who is interested in bringing their son or daughter to play cricket at Lanchester, but wants to know more please give me a call on 07786918021, we have ongoing winter nets which are taking place on a Sunday morning at present. Thank you, Andy Allen.



Under 11's Bowling Trophy, David Selby, presented by Mandy Allison of City Sports

SOLUTION TO NOVEMBER'S SUDOKU

3	4	9	1	5	8	2	6	7
5	8	7	6	2	3	1	9	4
2	6	1	9	4	7	3	5	8
7	5	6	2	9	4	8	3	1
1	2	8	7	3	6	9	4	5
4	9	3	8	1	5	6	7	2
8	3	5	4	6	1	7	2	9
6	1	2	5	7	9	4	8	3
9	7	4	3	8	2	5	1	6

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Lions' Christmas Events

SANTABOX

Santa's Post box will be available for children to post their Christmas letters from Monday 3rd December - Friday 14th December outside the Red Cross Shop.

TRAVELLINGSANTA

This will take place on Sunday afternoon 16th December, leaving the village about 1.00 pm, for Hollinside, Satley, Cornsay Village, Cornsay Colliery, Hamsteels and Wilks Hill.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A change of venue for the concert this year, to Lanchester EP School on Friday 7th December at 7.00 pm. An evening of pure talent, with local choirs, musicians and dancers. What a way to spend a wonderful evening! Tickets are available from any Lions member or contact Mark Draper on 529775

Christmas Fair

All Saints' Christmas Fair is on Saturday December 1st, in the school from 10 am till 12. There will be lots to buy, including toys and sweeties, and this year we are promised a chocolate fountain and an Australian barbecue too!

THE GLASS SLIPPER IS COMING TO LANCHESTER

We are having a pre-Christmas sale! Excellent opportunity to buy your Christmas presents for fashion conscious ladies. We sell replica fashion handbags (Chloe, Chanel, Versace, Gucci etc.)

CRYSTAL DESIGNER FASHION JEWELLERY and DESIGNER SHAWLS, PASHMINAS AND SCARVES.

Do you like *SPARKLE*? Then come along to the **LANCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRE** on **9th DECEMBER 2007** **BETWEEN 11.00 am AND 4.00 pm.**

Shop to your heart's content, you will not be disappointed. For more details contact:-

NAZ on 0191 2738552 between 11.30 am and 6.30 pm Mon. to Sat.

Red Cross Special Sale

From 26th November to 8th December Lanchester Red Cross will hold a sale of antiques, jewellery and cameras etc. This will be during normal shop hours, which are 9.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday and 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on Saturday, with a late night till 6 pm on both Tuesdays of the sale.

On 29th November a coffee morning will offer home made cakes, tombola, raffle and jewellery on sale. All are welcome.

Brenda Gibson, Volunteer Shop Manager

WI Party

There will be a members' Christmas party on 3rd December. Eve Gamblin will be describing 'Christmas in Germany' and will be bringing various items and spicy biscuits to sample. Members please bring a generous contribution for the Faith supper as Lanchester Male Voice Choir (increased membership) are 'singing for their supper'. Wine and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. There may even be time to play one or two Party Games! WI calendars are ready for collection.

Short Walks

The Ramblers' Association Short Circuits group walk on Saturday 1st December from Broompark picnic area at 10.30 am, map reference NZ251416. This is an easy 5 miles mostly on farm tracks and railway paths. For details phone 521427.

On the 15th, they meet at the Nose's Point car park, Seaham, map reference NZ435483 for a 5.6 mile walk starting at 10 am. Details from 0191 4164911. Bring a picnic lunch for both walks.

Acom Amblers offer a walk from Muggleswick village on Friday 28th December starting at 1.30 pm. For details ring 524803.

Art Exhibition

Lanchester Art Group are holding an exhibition of work in Lanchester library during the month of December. Some will be for sale.

White Box Photography

The above company will be in the Community Centre on Saturday December 1st and Sunday 2nd to offer a unique photographic opportunity.

You can book a photo session at any time from 9am and 6pm on these days by making a £10 deposit and a professional photographer offers a photo shoot for your children or all the family which will produce about 50 photos. These will be put on a CD for you to print as many copies as you like, with no copyright fee. The total cost of the session is £30. Ring 07931 364165.

MP Surgery

MP Hilary Armstrong will be available to speak to constituents on Saturday 8th December at Citizens' House, Consett, from 11 am.

WHAT'S ON?

Social Club

Entertainment for members and associates:

1st Dec Gaynor Marie
8th Dec Paolo (male and very good)

15th Dec Karaoke Night
22nd Dec Zoe Best

29th Dec PA Wood (male)

This festive season we have top quality entertainment starting on Boxing Night 26th Dec with the hilarious singer-comedian BB Cole (this act carries a Government health warning).

New Year's Eve sees the return of the teenage sensation Cindy Gee on stage 9 pm till after midnight.

This is followed by our New Year's Day Extravaganza, 2 till 5.30 pm in the Concert Room (Doors open noon). We have a female-fronted live 5-piece band Central Park and the hilarious comedy impressionist Terry Joice who will be on stage for one hour. Tickets £4 now on sale in the bar. Karaoke starts at 5 pm in the Bar Lounge.

Junior Wildlife

Saturday, December 8th, 10.00 am - 12.00, Community Centre (upstairs) 'Wildlife around the village', and 'in your garden'.

Christmas Concert

The concert in the C of E Parish Church on Saturday 8th December at 7.15 pm features the Bowers Singers & Friends. The cost, including refreshments - mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas cake - is £5, with tickets available from John and Margaret Brown or by ringing 529714. Proceeds are for church funds, shared between All Saints, Lanchester and St John's, Holmside.

NSPCC Charity Tree

It's often said that Christmas is for children, yet not only all over the world, but also here in our own country there are children in all kinds of difficult and needy situations. A small group of volunteers work during the year to raise awareness of, and funds desperately needed for, the continuing work of the NSPCC.

At the Christmas Tree Festival in the Methodist Church, December 7th-10th, we are having a Charity tree. Please come and make a donation, hang a symbol of love on the tree and help us to make a difference in the lives of the children we seek to help. Alternately donations can be sent to our Treasurer Mrs M Cairns, The Pines, Mount View, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, or given to Pat Wills, Mary Charlton, Christine Wills, Colleen James or Jean Carr. Thank you, The NSPCC Committee.

Getting Ready For Christmas



You are invited to a Celebration of Christmas presented by Lanchester Male Voice Choir.

The choir will be joined, once again, by the Choral and Operatic Society. This annual event will take place in the Parish Church on 17th December 2007 at 7.30 pm.

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

Organ Recital

Dr Ian Brunt will be giving an organ recital in Rowley Baptist Church on Saturday 1st December at 7.00 pm. The chapel is home to a unique survivor of a very early 19th century chamber organ by the famous builder Henry Bevington. The recital "The Great Mr Handel" will feature organ concertos written by Handel himself and his English contemporaries as well as some 18th century music played on Northumbrian smallpipes, which will add to the seasonal feel of the programme. Places for the event are unreserved, with home-made interval refreshments offered by members of the congregation and all proceeds of a retiring collection will go towards Chapel funds.

Sunday Bridge

There was a very successful Bridge afternoon on Sunday 11th November when £179 was raised for the Community Centre.

The dates for the next Sunday afternoons are 9th December, 27th January, 24th February, 16th March and 13th April, all starting at 2.00pm.

So if you are a Bridge player and would like to spend a Sunday afternoon in the company of other players, at the same time helping to raise money for the Community Centre, please contact Brenda on 01207 520204 or Liz on 01207 521682, tickets £3.00 each.

Lanchester Partnership Meeting

The next meeting of the Partnership will be on December 10th in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to discuss projects to improve life in the village.

Wildlife Group

The December meeting on the 11th in the Community Centre is the AGM and Social.

New Year Ceilidh

Lanchester Wildlife Group offer a New Year's Eve Ceilidh - on 31st December, of course, in the Community Centre. Doors open at 7.30 pm and the first dance to the "Angels of the North" starts at 8. There will be a Faith Supper (that means you bring your own food, Doris) and you bring your own drinks too. Tea and coffee, music and a roof over your head will be supplied and tickets are a mere £6, concessions £5. Tickets from Elaine 520063 or Noel 560864.

Library Closure

Lanchester library will close on 24th December at 4 pm until Thursday 3rd January. Our librarians wish all their borrowers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2008, and invite them to stock up with lots of books for the holiday.

Coming Shortly

A Lions' Race night where you will be able to win great prizes, will be held at the Social Club, on Saturday 26th January 2008, beginning at 7.30 pm. Tickets are priced at £5.00, are available from any Lions member and will include supper, and a disco to finish. Contact: Brinley Jones on 520372.

Next year's Partnership Open Day will be held in the Community Centre on Saturday October 4th. Organisers, please try to avoid listed events dates. Planning ahead? Let me know when and where. Ring 520559.

Craft Sessions

There will be craft sessions in December at Lanchester library, with Christmas crafts for pre-school children on December 20th from 2.00 till 3.00 pm and for school age children on the 24th, also from 2.00 till 3.00 pm.

Film Club

The next film at the Community Centre on 16th December at 7.30 pm will be Ballets Russes. 'A dazzlingly entrancing ode to the revolutionary twentieth-century dance troupe known as the Ballets Russes. What began as a group of Russian refugees who never danced in Russia became not one but two rival dance troupes who fought the infamous "ballet battles" that consumed London society before World War II.' Sundance Film Festival, 2005'

Mothers' Union

The meeting on 12th December is an Advent Evening - a service of readings and hymns relating to Advent, followed by refreshments. We will begin by meeting in the Chapter House then proceeding into church for 7.30pm.

Country Market

Please note that Lanchester Country Market will be on Saturday December 15th. It will be open for business at 10 am for the sale of pies, cakes, jams, eggs, vegetables, crafts and of course, a cup of tea and a scone.

COUNTRY MARKET



The ladies who run Lanchester Country Market - the lull before the rush

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Lanchester Road, Maiden Law

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Sunday Lunch 13-3

Evening Menu Mon-Fri 6-9

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For reservations

Tel 01207 520900

GAME, SET AND MATCH FOR TENNIS CLUB

The 2007 tennis season finally drew to a close with the club AGM, Quiz and Trophy presentation held at the Cricket Club on Friday 16th November. Throughout the season four teams were entered in the Northumberland and Durham leagues, all sharing in some successes.

Coaching began in March and continued until the school holidays in July, with a noticeable improvement in all skill levels shown by the junior players.

Due to poor weather and some unfortunate injuries, not all the club's tournaments were

continued on page 21



Boys Doubles Trophy Winners - Kieron Day and Stuart Whitesmith

BOWLS CLUB CELEBRATION DINNER

Lanchester Bowling Club held their annual dinner and awards ceremony at the King's Head. After we had all been well fed and watered, new Chairman Mike Stoddart made a short speech thanking Alan Wharton and Eric

Westgarth for their many years service to the club as they are standing down as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Councillor Richard Young awarded the prizes to the competition winners listed in last

month's Village Voice. Two extra prizes were given on the night, one to Paul Monaghan for the most improved player of the year and one to Ken Raper for the best (some would say luckiest) shot of the year.



The trophy winners: left to right, Dick Ball, John Hurran, Trish Jose, Paul Monaghan, Mike Stoddart, Eric Westgarth, Roy Stewart, Stan Easten and Ken Raper

JUNIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT AT LANCHESTER CRICKET CLUB

October 27th 2007 brought together the four junior teams within Lanchester Cricket Club for the annual presentation evening.

This year's evening was particularly well supported and a big thank you from

continued on page 21



Lions' 40th Anniversary Trophy for Under 11's, 'Fairest & Best' - Joel Hall, presented by Lion President Mark Draper

PLEASE NOTE EARLY DEADLINE

In order to deliver the next edition of the Village Voice before Christmas, any **articles** must be

submitted by 11th December.

The deadline for **adverts** is 9th December.

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