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THE VILLAGE VOICE

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THE SMALLEST ANGEL



Nativity at the EP primary school

A large cast of infant children in the most beautiful costumes from all around the world performed a lovely version of the Christmas

Story at the EP School. They sang very harmoniously, said their parts faultlessly, and the narrators read very confidently.

There was movement and dancing from groups representing: China; Spain; Scotland; America (Indians); Switzerland;

and Hawaii. It was a fun performance for both the performers and the audience which eventually ended with the smallest

Angel awaking at the stable, the best place to be in the world, having missed out on all the other wonderful places represented.



The children performing in front of parents and friends



The children in Chinese costume



Children dressed as American Indians



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.

PIGEON PROBLEM

A couple of days before Christmas, a pigeon with white tail feathers arrived in our kitchen and perched happily on the light fitting. We only noticed when droppings on the table prompted us to look up!! It must have flown through the open door unnoticed. We were able to tempt it onto our hands, using seed, and carried it into the garden. It has now taken up residence on our back windowsills, despite efforts to encourage it to leave! I am sure that someone

CYCLE FOUND

A small child's cycle was found in the grounds of the Parish Church before Christmas and put in the church for safe keeping. Contact 529155 with identification details to claim it.

must be wondering why their homing pigeon hasn't come home. We are very flattered that this little chap wants to spend time with us, but our sills are now inches deep in guano and something needs to be done!! I hope we may find this fellow's owner but if not, can anyone who keeps pigeons either advise a plan of action or give him a good home!

Pauline Gill
27 Front Street
Lanchester

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

GET HELP TO STOP SMOKING

From Saturday 20th of January 2007 Lanchester Pharmacy will be able to give Stop Smoking advice on Saturday mornings from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

In 2006 the NHS stop smoking service in Derwentside trained some more health professionals to make their services more accessible and help local people stop smoking. This has gone hand-in-hand with the development of a range of community based services, available at various different times throughout the area. The latest addition to these services is the Saturday morning service.

The much-enlarged Derwentside National Health Service stop smoking advice service helped six hundred and eight people to stop smoking last year, and statistics show that you are four times more likely to be successful if you access one of these services rather than trying to go it on your own. Now you can have free support and advice around how to quit, with regular follow up Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT), if appropriate. Patients who want to use Zyban or Champix to aid their attempt will have to access support through their General Practice

doctors as these are only available, if appropriate, on prescription.

In addition to support through General Practices and community pharmacies there are also group sessions available in Consett and Stanley. All you need to do is phone the NHS stop smoking service on 01207 523 628 or 01207 523 627 to book your place.

If you stop smoking:

- within 20 minutes your blood pressure and pulse would return to normal;
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 - and after 6 months the risk of getting heart disease, cancer and other smoking related diseases begins to fall.
- It doesn't matter how old you are or how long you have been smoking for, quitting can still make a difference to your health and quality of life.
- If you need help giving up smoking then contact your local GP surgery or Lanchester Pharmacy, or call the Derwentside NHS stop smoking service on 01207 523 628 or 01207 523 627. Or of course, you can use willpower and save time.

THE VILLAGE CALENDAR

Once again the Village Calendar will be displayed in the Community Centre, near the entrance to the Dining Room. Organisations are asked if they will enter their events, to which the public are invited, on the new 2007 calendar. It is hoped that this will avoid clashes where several events happen on the same date.

The Village Calendar has been in existence for many years now. It was devised in order to give organisations within the village the opportunity to inform others when a function was to be held. By entering the date and venue on the calendar it is then possible for other organizations to see what is planned and gives the chance to avoid holding an event at the same time. During the last year or two, the calendar has not been well used and this has resulted in an occasional clash of events.

IMBOIC

Bridie or Bridget, who had used a white rod to freeze the seeds in Winter, uses a green willow rod to quicken seeds on Imboic, the 1st of February. Look out for her as you go round the village; she takes the form of a white bird, cow, snake, swan, or wolf.

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DLI 68 MUSTER

The DLI 68 group celebrated another successful year by mustering in the Community Centre during the week-end of 6th and 7th of January. The main event was on the Saturday evening, when a buffet meal was enjoyed and those officers and men who had served the regiment well received appropriate rewards from their commanding officer, Captain Robert Yuill. The evening ended with a ceilidh to music provided by the group 'Twiddling Thumbs'.



Young members of DLI 68 gently roistering at their annual dinner. One is pointing to the pile of shakos, or military headgear, piled in the middle of the table.



The group "Twiddling Thumbs" played for the DLI 68 party

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 May your purse always hold a coin or two;
 May the sun always shine on your window pane;
 May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
 May the hand of a friend always be near you;
 May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

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PUB CRAWL

Lanchester Lions' annual Pub Crawl to raise money for the Welfare Fund at Christmas was a smaller event this year but nevertheless very successful. Just four members went out on a mild Friday night and visited the village watering holes with their collection boxes. Santa Claus joined in and was constantly inundated by ladies wishing to hug and kiss him. This was a duty which seemed to please him greatly! A grand total of £187 was raised and thanks go to all those who supported the event by giving so generously and, of course, the proprietors of the Kings Head, the Queens Head, The Social Club and the Black Bull who gave the Lions permission to collect on the night and received them so warmly.



Jennifer, of Serendipity, Wolsingham making the most of Christmas

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TRAVELLING GROTTO



Children meet Santa at Hollinside

The Lions Club organised a travelling Grotto for children in the surrounding areas of Lanchester. They called at: Hollinside; Satley; Cornsay Colliery; Hamsteels; and Wilk's Hill. About 40 children turned out to meet Santa and collect their free sweets. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon for all: children; their parents; and for the team who organised the trip so well. Special thanks go to the Lanchester Services who very kindly provided the transit van free of charge.



Santa visits Cornsay Colliery

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ROCK AROUND THE FLOCK



EP children in Rock Around The Flock

An extremely lively, amusing and very talented performance of the Christmas Story was presented by a massive cast of 150 children at the EP School near the end of term. As the title indicates there was some fun singing, lots of choreographic movement including dancing, singing, hand jiving, waving and swaying. It was really a musical and a play with some very good confident narrators. The soloist, Mary, was exceptional. Much thought had gone into the costumes, which all the children seemed to enjoy wearing. At the end of the show the complete cast sang a carol with superb harmony followed by a rousing 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Police Report

Inspector McConnell apologised for lack of report at the previous two meetings due to rest days and said he thought that this was unacceptable. There were 100 reported incidents in the parish, mostly rowdiness and nuisance behaviour in Front Street and Newbiggen Lane. He said that youths interviewed in Lanchester regarding illegal possession of alcohol had come to the village from South Stanley, New Kyo and Burnhope, probably because police activity at those places had caused them to migrate. There were five incidents of theft (3 from Spar), three of criminal damage, three burglaries (from garages) and two motorbikes on the mineral line, as well as

car obstruction and alcohol seizure. There are monthly meetings with the village licensees who are working together, and people who caused problems were banned from all the pubs in the village.

There were reports that a woman in her 40's had been seen collecting with a Red Cross box, stolen from the Front Street shop, in the Woodlands/Valley Grove area. (Subsequently on Thursday 11th a 45 year old woman from Kimblesworth was arrested for the offences in Lanchester. She was charged with several offences before appearing before Peterlee Magistrates Court on Saturday 13th January where she was remanded in custody. Also two youths were stopped whilst riding an

off-road motor cycle on Lanchester Front Street on the 10th of January. This was the second occasion that it had been used in an anti-social manner. The motor bike was seized and the rider will be going to court for road traffic offences. We are grateful to Inspector McConnell for this information.)

Councillor Jackson commented that larger numbers of youths were collecting outside Spar; Inspector McConnell stated that there was an increase in calls and that resources were limited, but police would respond to any cases of bad behaviour, including theft from Spar. Names would be taken and the parents informed as appropriate.

It was reported that there is noise at 1.30 am near the cricket club and the Inspector was asked if this area was visited. He said that no complaints had been received but action would be taken if needed. It was also reported that there was no senior police presence at the Forum Meetings; the inspector stated that the sergeant present was more than capable of providing answers to questions.

It was reported to the inspector that since September there had been 12 accidents on the A691 near the Delves Lane turning and the inspector was asked when speed measurement was going to take place. He replied that there had been a large increase in RTA's in Derwentside and that they were looking for funding from the Home Office. It was suggested that the Council should purchase a flashing Speed Monitor.

Lanchester Lions Club

A request was made and approved for use of the village green for the next Carnival, to be held on the 16th of June. Request was also made for financial and any other possible support towards the increasing costs of the Carnival, especially one which used to cost nothing, £250 to close the road. The Lions also had a 27-page form to fill to obtain permission from Derwentside Council. The Lions members present were asked to send a letter to the Council stating their request and that this would be considered at the end of the Financial Year.

Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

Ford Road

A request by local residents to the County Council that the land adjoining the narrow section in Ford Road should be acquired by a Compulsory Purchase Order in order to widen it and make a footpath had been turned down on the grounds that the cost of £500,000 was not cost effective and that the money could be better spent elsewhere but that this was not a refusal.

Lanchester Parish Council agreed to write to Durham County Council recording their concern relating to potential hazards to users of Ford Road and its footpath arising from their narrowness. They were responding to concern expressed by the Trustees of Lanchester Partnership following representations made to them by local residents. The council

asked the County Council to keep them informed of measures taken to meet their duty of care for that situation.

The Partnership has suggested that the residents form their own group to take this matter forward and a first meeting of that group is proposed on January 29th at the Community Centre at 7.30 pm.

Draft Estimates

There were still blank sections in next year's budget and these amounts were agreed; these included maintenance of the football field, bus shelters, replacement of Christmas lights, the Parish Plan, Capital Development and donations.

Finances would be finalised at the next Finance Meeting on 23rd January in line with the Council's determination not to raise the precept by more than 2.5%, and it was suggested that all Council members should attend.

Kitswell Road

The District Council have granted the Parish a new lease on the Kitswell Road playing area, which now includes extra land behind the far goal of the football field. Parish Clerk Jim Owens is liaising with Shepherd Homes, who have agreed to remove a hedge and level the new area.

Conflicting dates have been given as to when the football field will be ready and a site meeting with the District Council, Shepherd Homes and a representative of the District would be sought.

Chairperson's Announcements

Referring to an article in the Village Voice

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

regarding Council expenditure, a proposal was made that a working committee should be formed to tell the public how money is spent. This was to be put on the Agenda for next month's meeting with the possibility that something would be published in the Village Voice.

It was stated that the money for the Bus Link for another year has been secured by the Partnership.

Village Map

Cllr Ann Cook confirmed that the location of the map board, as agreed by the Highways Dept., is to be outside Peters' Bakers. The County Council has offered to erect this, although it is not known when this will take place as the map is not yet finished, and various grants are being sought so there will be no input from the village. Art work on the map is to be done by Andy Taylor, who had done work for

Friends of the Fort, and a sample was shown.

Village Handyman's Work

Mention was made of the state of the glass in the bus stop and could it be cleaned? Mr Hudspith was praised for his work in keeping the village clean and it was suggested that he be asked for his work plan for the next 6 months.

CCTV

The camera behind Park View now has infra-red facility for night vision.

Planning Matters

An application for the use of land and agricultural buildings at Ragpathside Farm was refused on the grounds of adverse effect on the landscape.

The proposed erection of both kennel and cattery units at Fir Trees, Browney Bank was approved provided appropriate guidelines were followed. Final decisions, of course, will be taken by officers or Councillors at Derwentside.

Erection of first floor extension to number 9 The Close were deferred due to lack of relevant papers.

The proposed conversion to that of a dwelling at the Old Dairy, Holehouse Lane, had been withdrawn prior to the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 13th February at 7.00 pm. All voters are, of course, welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings.

CHILDMINDING GROUP



Children and Registered Childminders of Lanchester Childminding Group enjoyed their Christmas party, held in the Playgroup room in the Community Centre

ALL SAINTS' CAROL SERVICE

A packed congregation filled the Catholic Church on Tuesday 19th December for the eagerly awaited Carol Service of All Saints' RC Primary School.

Parents, relatives and parishioners were treated to an excellent and moving account of the Nativity story told in readings, prayers, songs and mime. The children all sang splendidly, while a small group of pupils dressed as the main Nativity characters echoed the story with a

series of tableaux at the foot of the altar steps. Particular highlights were two very emotive movement pieces called 'Love Comes Down' and 'For a King is Born' performed by the juniors from classes three and four respectively, and everyone joined the pupils as they sang two traditional carols, 'Away In A Manger,' and 'Silent Night'.

Canon Spence thanked the children wholeheartedly for helping the congregation to 'get in

the right frame of mind' in their preparation for the celebration of Christmas, before giving a final blessing. The service concluded with a lively 'Caribbean Medley' and a retiring collection raised a splendid £375 towards the Liberian Appeal organised by Mel Somersall through his 'Mercy Ship' project. Afterwards everyone was invited back to the school hall to partake in light refreshments, courtesy of the Parents' Association.



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*David Hughes
organises his young
choristers*

guidance as to who should be doing the singing. The theme this year was 'stranger in the manger'. Canon Spence read the lesson and Rev. Mary Lloyd closed the service with a prayer and blessing. The carols were sung enthusiastically by the large gathering including the children who sang 'Away in a Manger'. Lanchester Brass Band, conducted by the charismatic Jonathan Fenwick, braved the cold and played to their usual high standard.

It was a very cold Christmas Eve on the Village Green at 6 pm as several hundred people from the Village gathered together for the traditional Carol Service organised by 'Churches Together'. As usual, the service was led by David Hughes, who introduced each carol with appropriate comments and

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HOT CHOCOLATE



Carols on the Green by EP Schoolchildren and parents, followed by Hot Chocolate, Marshmallows and Fresh Cream at school afterwards

TRAFFIC JAM



There was a difficult moment when a delivery van tried to get past Spar's gargantuan delivery train. It failed.

WATER DRAINAGE



The Lumsden and Carroll team

The team from Lumsden and Carroll Construction are hard at work on behalf of Northumbria Water improving the drainage from Alderside Crescent and adjacent streets. At present all the sewage and surface water drainage from the estate passes under the Cut from the Close to Newbiggen Lane, and in times of heavy rain get thoroughly mixed. A large chamber will be built into the system including a filter which will trap solids but allow liquid to pass through an overflow pipe. The lads have also taken a kink out of the system. Though the bramble thicket will not be mourned it's a pity about the tree that had to be uprooted. Maybe they'll plant another one when they've finished. Or several.

WHOOPS A DAISY ANGEL



Nursery children really enjoying performing 'Whoops a Daisy Angel'

There have certainly been many different kinds of Angels this Christmas - let us hope that 'Whoops' the clumsy one is looking after us all. The Nursery children as little as they are, sang beautifully with a little help from a disc, and created a superb Christmas atmosphere in their Christmas Nativity this year. All the narrators knew their parts perfectly, and even if the Snowflakes and the Angels were

becoming somewhat tired or bored by the end, they kept everyone amused with their various antics. There were lots of doting parents and grandparents in the audience, as usual, flashing away with their cameras and standing precariously on small chairs with their camcorders. It was yet again a lovely occasion for the little ones, who did everything asked of them with enthusiasm and pleasure.

new image

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CHRISTINGLE AT CHURCH



Children slow marching around each aisle of the dimmed church with their Christingles

On the last day of term a large number of pupils from the EP School descended on the church along with many parents. By the time the service began there was standing

room only at the back of the church. A moving service was completely led by the children who made the introductions, read from the bible faultlessly, and with the utmost clarity and confidence. Some of these readers were as young as six, ranging to eleven years old. The readings based on the Christmas story were interspersed by the choir singing carols, sometimes with the congregation enthusiastically joining in. At the appropriate point the church was

dimmed and about twenty children with their candle-lit Christingles slow marched around each aisle of the church. It was a very moving few moments as this was completed. In the absence of Canon Peter who missed this service for the first time in twenty-four years due to a family bereavement, Jane Davis, Head Teacher, thanked parents for their support, staff and pupils for their hard work, and also concluded the service with the final prayer and blessing.

PETERS' PEOPLE



Even at 7.00 am waiting for the Christmas rush, having been there since 4.00 am, happy and smiling are the staff (or reindeers) of Peters - Left to right: Sarah; Lisa; Michelle; Elaine and Rachel

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PARTNERSHIP REPORT

At the January meeting it was announced that a Friends of the Village Bus would be formed comprising bus passengers and representatives of the Partnership. This followed the very welcome announcement that an anonymous donor had contributed £5000, the sum needed, along with donations from MIS Environmental (£2000), the Tom Cowie Foundation (£2000) and District Councillors John Ingham and Richard Young (£1000 each), to ensure the bus's future throughout 2007. This

great news for bus users means that after being under threat for months, the village bus has at last been relieved, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of village residents. However the Partnership was very disappointed by the failure of the County Council to make any financial contribution to this vital bus service. It seemed quite wrong that the service had only been saved by one resident taking £5,000 out of his/her personal savings. It was noted that the Journal for that day carried an article about the

success in keeping the bus running. A sub-committee would also be formed to address the problem of Ford Road, including Maureen Loy of the Partnership, Cllr Paul Jackson representing the Parish Council, and local residents, which provisionally would meet on Monday 29th January. On learning that the Parish Council would like the Tidy Village event to be annual, it was decided to set up a small group to consider whether the Partnership had the resources to tackle this project again.

RETIREMENT SURPRISE

Lanchester businessman Paul Jackson expected to mark his retirement with a small celebration. Instead he was taken to Lumley Castle for a mediaeval banquet in the company of a total of 110 staff and their partners. A good time was had by all, and he was presented with the traditional leaving present, a 'very nice' watch.

Mr Jackson started a metal testing business when the Consett Iron Company closed. The business, MIS, has grown to its present size, with branches in Norwich, York and Manchester under his guidance and employs 15 family members.

Mr Jackson is a Parish Councillor, and will probably extend his concern for local matters through Lanchester Partnership.



Paul Jackson on the Baronial seat at Lumley Castle - celebrating his retirement

CHOCOLATE

Chocolate is a vegetable: Chocolate is derived from cocoa beans. Bean = vegetable. Sugar is derived from either sugar CANE or sugar BEETS. Both are plants, which

places them in the vegetable category. Thus, chocolate is a vegetable. To go one step further, chocolate candy bars also contain milk, which is

dairy. So candy bars are a health food. Chocolate-covered raisins, cherries, orange slices and strawberries all count as fruit, so eat as many as you want.

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“RUSSELL CLOSE” DEVELOPMENT

A meeting convened in the Community Centre on January 11th by Lanchester Partnership and Parish Council drew a large attendance.

Partnership Chairman Mike Gladstone chaired the meeting and first stated the facts - that in 2002 Philip Wilks applied to build 12 houses on the site of the former Witbank garage. The application was rejected by the District

Council after a large representation of Lanchester residents attended the meeting, an appeal was lodged but later withdrawn.

Now a plan to build 10 houses had been submitted, then temporarily withdrawn pending a flood risk assessment and bat survey. A letter from the architect was read which said that there would be

five “affordable” terraced houses along the front of the development with five larger houses behind, built with traditional materials. A stone wall would front the area, and it was proposed to create a ‘cordon sanitaire’ of trees around the South and East sides of the development to eliminate the possibility of further development.

For the Partnership, Brian Masterman said that it was opposed to development on the site, partly on an open hillside. The District Council Local Plan and the Village Design Statement both showed a Development Limit and the proposal was outside it. The Local Plan showed no sites available for a major development. The hillside is part of a Conservation Area, is an Area of High Landscape Value, and is also part of a Strategic Wildlife Corridor linking the Smallhope Burn and Derwent valleys.

The Parish Council spokesman was Ossie Johnson, Chair of the Parish Council Planning Committee and also a District Councillor. He said that the Council had asked Mr Wilks to brief Councillors on his plans, but that no negotiation had taken place as had been stated by the architect. He said that the open country beyond the by-pass was one of the features that made Lanchester a unique

village. The proposed houses were not truly affordable. People in the village told him that they would like to see the garage site tidied but also wanted to protect the open land. The Council had debated the merits of the development and were unanimous in protecting the development limit. He revealed that the Regional Spatial Strategy stated that Derwentside had used up its housing allocation, so very few houses should be built in the District, and none in Lanchester.

Discussion was then open to all. It was asked if the District Council had powers to oblige the owner to tidy the site - the reply was that they did, but as long as planning permission existed, as it does, to rebuild the garage, the process was more difficult.

Supporting development, it was said that there was no accommodation in the village and cheap houses were especially needed, and a resident of Bishops Meadow said that development on the garage site only was acceptable. Opposing development, it was said that access to the site (and Bishops Meadow) was dangerous that the development was only partly on a ‘brownfield’ (previously built) site, that a cordon sanitaire was useless when there was access to the hillside via Bishops Meadow or from the A691,

that the village has developed enough and the infrastructure was under strain already.

Martin Smith wondered why the developer had not proposed a cul de sac, as this would eliminate the possibility of an extension. The last application was rejected for obvious reasons, why was this one not rejected out of hand? One speaker was worried that Council officers might favour development as they did previously, but Mr Masterman said that the reasons for rejection were the same as for the previous proposal, and there was no reason for Derwentside to change its decision of 2003.

Two polls were taken by show of hands, and all but two of approximately 60 people present opposed the development, while all but 4 wished to protect the whole hillside.

Finally Cllr Johnson summed up the arguments heard for and against development. Mr Gladstone thanked the meeting for attending, and said that if and when the development application was resubmitted, posters would be put up to inform the public, and if feasible the Village Voice would print the information. Would Lancastrians please write to The Development Control Department, Derwentside District Council, commenting for or against at that time.



Councillor Ossie Johnson, Mike Gladstone and Brian Masterman, main speakers at the meeting about the Witbank garage



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Local people who met to discuss the future of the former Witbank garage

AWARD WINNER SOPHIE TAYLOR

Earlier this year Derwentside District Council asked all schools in the area to take part in a poster competition in order to raise interest in recycling before the bins with blue lids were delivered to residents. The competition brief was for the children to design a poster that would show an understanding of the impact that waste has on the environment, and why we should recycle as much of our waste as possible. Many posters were returned which showed

that children had thought about the problem. Lots of the posters offered some innovative ideas on how to resolve the problems of waste disposal. All entrants received a pencil case made from recycled material, but the poster judged to be the best was the one created in school by Sophie Taylor age 9 from Lanchester EP School, who was presented with a very expensive pink Ipod. Sophie was treated really well by Eric Bell, Waste Minimisation and Recycling Officer, who

greeted her on arrival at Consett Civic Centre, and also by Chairman of the Council Jack Fothergill, who showed her his office, and gave her a selection box and a Christmas card. Sophie was then ushered into the crowded Council Chamber and the meeting opened with a speech outlined above by Councillor Ossie Johnson to all the other councillors, and the presentation was made by Chairman, Jack Fothergill. For Sophie it was like Christmas came early and it was a day she will always remember.



Sophie Taylor receiving her award from Chair of Derwentside D.C. Jim Fothergill with Councillor Ossie Johnson

THURSDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT CASTLE HOWARD

Instead of the usual Christmas party, we decided on something a little different this year. A day out – with lunch – at Castle Howard – which opened its doors to visitors over Christmas for the first time this year. The day itself presented us with the most atrocious weather, but that did little

to dampen our spirits and we were rewarded with a super day out. Castle Howard decked out for a family Christmas both inside and out was a glorious sight to behold and our Christmas meal, superb. Topped off with some unusual Christmas shopping it made for a day to remember.

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NEW YEAR CEILIDH



Guests at the New Year Ceilidh enjoying the Gay Gordons

The decision of Lanchester Wildlife Group to organise a ceilidh on December 31st was greeted with great enthusiasm by the denizens of Lanchester and district. Such was the demand for tables that the dancing area

was filled to overflowing, but the dancers rose to the challenge in the spirit of Hogmanay. As the catering was on the Faith Supper or 'bring some food' basis there was a wide and copious variety of

choice at supper-time, and as the dancers brought their own preferred drinks they had exactly what they wanted. Music was provided by the "Angels of the North", the dancers being guided

through the sometimes intricate movements of a varied dance programme by caller Noel Jackson, and the music was so infectious that even those who were not dancing were tapping their feet. The evening ended in

traditional manner with 'Auld Acquaintance'. The organisers would like to thank all those who participated. If anyone wants to contact the band ring Noe1 01207 560684 or email noelbats@onetel.com

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CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS



Lanchester Male Voice Choir and Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society combine, under the direction of David Hughes, to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus"

Those present in a packed Lanchester Methodist Church were welcomed by Rev. Mary Lloyd to Lanchester Male Voice Choir's 39th "Celebration of Christmas" Concert on Monday 18th December, 2006 at 7.15 pm.

Conducted by Musical Director Harry Carr, and accompanied by Noreen Bridgewater, the Male Voice choir delighted the audience with their repertoire - "When a Child is Born", "Hush, Hush, Jesus is Sleeping", "Mistletoe and Wine", "See Amid the Winter's Snow".

The Male Voice Choir had again invited the support of Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society, under Musical Director David Hughes. Their programme - "Shepherds in the Fields Abiding", "Mary's Lullaby", "He Smiles Within His Cradle", "Star Carol" - was accompanied by Lillian Dixon, and was also well appreciated by the audience.

These contributions were inter-leaved with Community Carol Singing, and bible readings from Isaiah, St. Luke and St. Matthew by, respectively, Canon R. Spence, Canon P.

Waterhouse and Rev. M. Lloyd.

The evening was brought to a fitting

climax with a fine performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" by the combined choirs,

conducted by David Hughes.

A retiring collection raised over £400, to be

shared between Willowburn Hospice and the People's Kitchen, Newcastle.



(l to r) LMVC Chairman John Wills, Conductor Harry Carr, LC+OS Conductor David Hughes and Chairman Richard Woods discuss the evening's programme



(l to r) Canon R. Spence, Rev M. Lloyd and Canon P. Waterhouse gave the Bible Readings at the MVC Carol Concert

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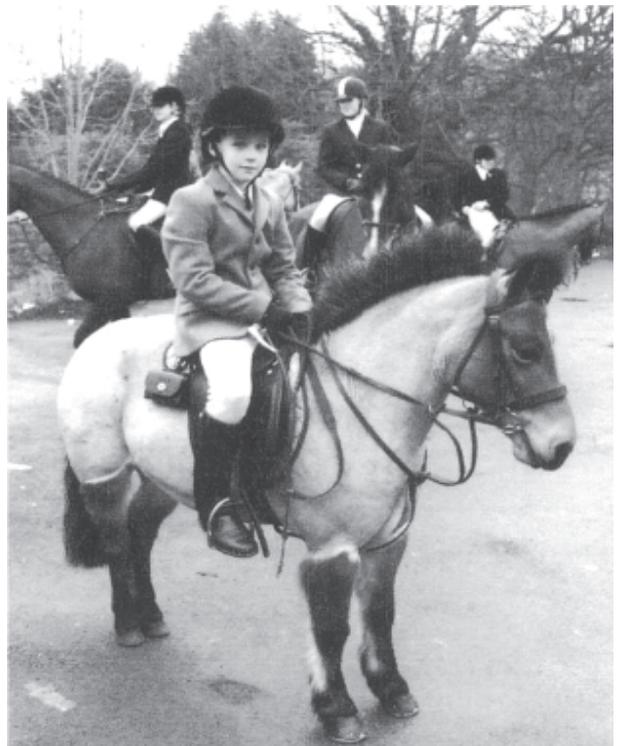
BOXING DAY HUNT



The Braes of Derwent hunt rides off from the Queen's Head on Boxing Day



Well turned out for the Boxing Day hunt is Lydia Bullivant on her horse Bailey. She is following in the tradition of her mum Denise and grandmother, the late Mrs Peggy Bullivant.



Young Ross Chapman from Rowley on his pony Norman ready for the Boxing Day hunt

Photos:
Eric Burns

STRICTLY COME DANCING?



Children thoroughly enjoying their dance routines

Not exactly 'Strictly Come Dancing' as luckily there are no eliminations. Dance is part of the PE curriculum at the moment and by chance it was revealed that Ann Malpass, Cook at the Lanchester EP School, is an experienced and enthusiastic ballroom dancer. In just six weeks 3rd and 4th year pupils have picked up the steps for the Tango and Waltz and recently gave a display for the

whole school. Since the lessons began after school, with Ann Malpass giving her own time, children who can now dance, are teaching other pupils in the yard at playtimes. No doubt this is all linked to the current craze of the current television programme. It is certainly an excellent way of keeping fit and continues the old fashioned way of 'getting to know you'.



Ann Malpass, cook, with her enthusiastic pupils: Kirsty Green & Harry Carson; Sarah Messenger & William Tatham; Hettie Moore & Finlay Dulson

OUT OF A CRACKER

- Q. How do you keep cool at a football match?
- A. Stand next to a fan.
- Q. What do you call a chicken at the North Pole?
- A. Lost

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PATRONS' CONCERT

Lanchester Brass Band's 'Patrons' Concert' will be held on Saturday 3rd February at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church on the Main Street. The programme will be some old favourites and some new material too. Tickets may be obtained on the door or from any band member in advance, price £2.50

100 YEARS OF BROADWAY

Lanchester & District Amateur Operatic & Choral Society are once again in the throes of rehearsing for their annual show which is to be held in the EP School, Lanchester on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 21st, 22nd and 23rd at 7.15 pm. Because of the success of their last show, which highlighted the popular music of Cole Porter, the society have decided to entertain you with a medley of songs entitled '100 Years of Broadway', featuring composers such as Rogers and Hammerstein, Irving Berlin, Lerner & Loewe, Lionel Bart and melodies from Les Miserables. Sharon Murray and Richard Woods will again delight you with their singing as well as other members of the Society. David Hughes has worked very hard in his combined role as Musical Director and Producer to set your feet tapping and make your visit a night to remember.

Tickets are £6.00 adults and children £4.00. If children bring an adult on Wednesday the child will get in free (an offer difficult to resist). To obtain a ticket contact any member of the society or ring 01207 521458. Moira Watson

The Village Voice Page 18

BURN & TONE

You can do the above in the small hall of the Community Centre on Tuesdays from 7pm at a cost of £2.50. It may involve exercise.

COUNTRY MARKET

The market will set up shop in the Community Centre on Saturday 3rd February, with the usual range of cakes, pies, jams, vegetables, crafts, eggs and more. Opening time 10am.

DO YOU PLAY BRIDGE?

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 Space Project, please contact Brenda on 01207 520204 or Liz on 01207 521682. The date is Sunday 25th February from 2.00pm. So far the two previous Bridge afternoons have raised £373; Liz and Brenda would like to make it £500, so come along and have an enjoyable afternoon and at the same time help raise money for your local community centre. Everybody is welcome, so give Liz or Brenda a ring. Tickets £3.00 each.

JUNIOR WILDLIFE GROUP

The next meeting will be on Saturday 10th February in the small hall of the Community Centre. All young people from 8 upwards, or younger if they bring a parent or minder, are welcome to come from 10am till 12, when the subject will be "Hunters and Prey".

FLOWER CLUB

The talk on Wednesday 28th February will be on gardening by Michael Robbie of Cowell's Garden Centre, starting at 2pm in the Community Centre.

GET DANCING

Karen Stewart offers dance classes of every kind as follows:

At Lanchester Social Club Tuesday 6-8pm rock and roll, hip hop and slow, at the Community Centre Wednesday 4-5.30pm tap, ballet and theatre and on Thursday 4-5pm ballroom and latin.

LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Grave Thoughts - Part II

Robin Millerchip, local historian specialising in the history of North East churches, returns to venture into the general history of graveyards. Members may remember his excellent talk given in November 2004.

Despite being involved in a recent serious car crash which has resulted in ongoing surgery, he has obtained a degree from Durham University with the intention of becoming an Adult Education teacher.

His talk will cover the period from the 16th century and will outline the many changes in practices, procedures and principles from the time of the Reformation. He will also reflect on possible changes to come in the 21st century.

The talk will be given on Friday, 2nd February at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

WHAT'S ON?

MOTHERS' UNION

At our February meeting on the 14th, at 7.30pm in the Chapter House, we are having a display of members' wedding photographs and a wedding quiz.

PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th February in Croft View. The public can attend the meeting and may ask questions near the start of the meeting.

COMPUTER EVENING CLASS

The Community Centre is planning an Introduction to Computers course on Thursday evenings from 7.00-8.30pm for 6 weeks (priced at £1.50 per hour). Places are limited so if you are interested, please contact John Wilson, Community Centre Manager, on 521275.

WILDLIFE GROUP

The next group meeting is on Tuesday February 13th at 7pm in the Community Centre. Mark Wilks or Phillipa Mitchell of Northumberland Wildlife Trust will be talking about "Squirrels".

MP SURGERY

Our Member of Parliament, Hilary Armstrong, will be available to offer advice at her 'surgery' on Friday 9th February at 6pm in Consett Civic Centre.

THE MARC

INFORMATION VEHICLE

The travelling office will be parked on Lanchester Front Street on the second and fourth Tuesday morning of every month (13th and 27th February). Someone there can advise on claiming housing benefit or council tax benefit, filling in forms for pension credit, attendance allowance, general welfare rights advice, debt counselling, home security, housing applications, recycling information or any other matter to do with Derwentside District Council, which provides this service.

The MARC vehicle is in Front Street from 9.30am to 12 noon on the above dates.

SHORT WALK

Acorn Amblers offer a 5 mile walk on Sunday 18th February starting in Cornsay at 1.30pm. The Short Circuits group have a 6.5 mile walk starting at the riverside car park at Newburn (map reference 159656) and walking to Wylam and back.

THE VILLAGE CALENDAR

The Village Calendar, displayed in the Community Centre near the entrance to the Dining Room, has been updated for 2007.

Organisations are requested to enter their events, to which the public are invited, on the Calendar.

This will help to avoid several events taking place on the same date.

VILLAGE LITTER-PICK: 31/3/07

Remember last year's litter-pick when 130 people helped to spring-clean the village?

This year it will be on Saturday March 31st. Please make a note of the date.

Watch out for posters and for more information in next month's Village Voice, or ring Lanchester Partnership on 528 114 with ideas or offers of help.

COMING SHORTLY

A Sportsman Night at the Cricket Club on March 16th includes footballers Lee Clark and Eric Gates.

In April Brendan Healey and Neil Ruddock will be there in aid of Willowburn Hospice.

The Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes is from 3rd to 10th August.

The Walsingham Pilgrimage will be from 14th-16th September 2007. Planning ahead? Let me know when and where. Ring 521427.

After all the recent festivities, members started the New Year with more sobering thoughts. Mrs Jean Ord gave a talk on Estate Planning (not housing estates as some believed!) as she is the local agent for National Legal Services which provides advice on making Wills, Protective Property Trusts, Inheritance Tax Planning, Power of Attorney and

Document Storage. She is able to give an initial free home visit without obligation to discuss the benefits and may be contacted on 07962 071656. Much interest was shown at the thought of legally paying less to the tax-man.

Fortunately Mrs Ord remained unfazed after accidentally being offered a cold cup of coffee as the boiler had not been switched on correctly, and she

remained to judge the competition "tip to save" which was won by Ann Carr who suggested we make a shopping list and stick to it. Good in theory but difficult in practice!

Visitors are very welcome to all the meetings including Monday, 5th February for a craft display and demonstration at 7pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. The competition is a "Crafty Item".

SANTA'S VISIT TO THE PLAYGROUP



Another tiny person comes to get her present from Santa while his assistant Liz Smith delves into the sack

CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR PETER



Players at the regular Wednesday evening bridge sessions held in All Saints Parish Centre took time for a glass of sarsparilla and snacks during their pre-Christmas meeting. As a small measure of their appreciation of organiser Peter Curnow (right) they made a presentation to him.

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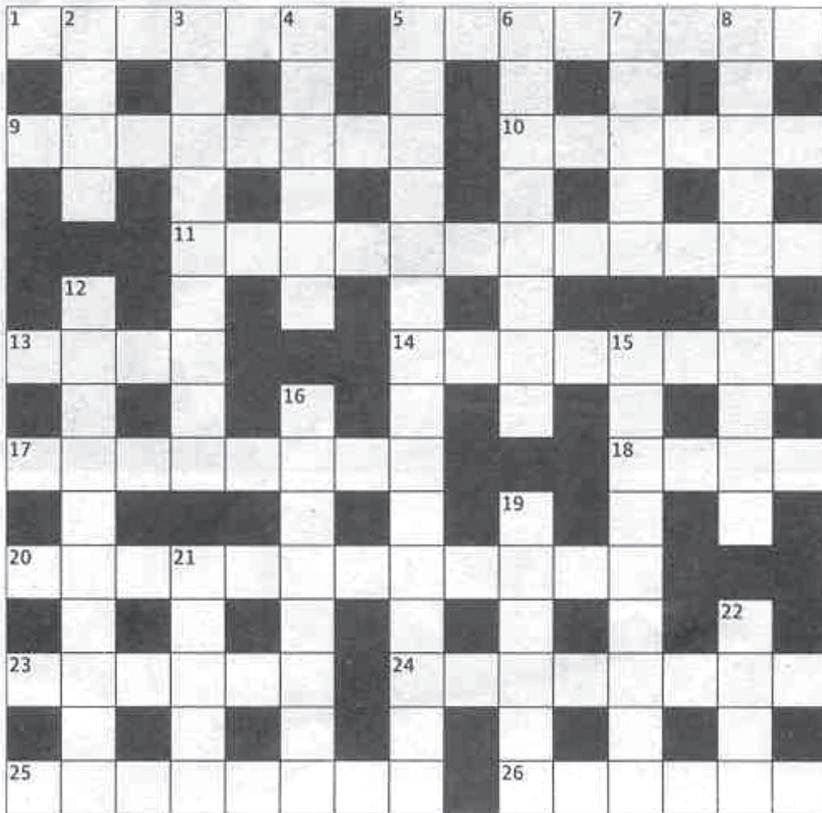
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CROSSWORD 9



Only six entries for crossword 8: either the Christmas festivities were too distracting, or this one was more fiendishly difficult than usual. All were correct, and the winner from the Scrabble-bag was Ann Lee of The Garths. Now to work, puzzle-pickers!

ACROSS

1. Graduates are in maul (6)
5. Humbly, Ministry of Defence change style (8)
9. Rowdy group from British Rail at mass together (8)
10. Winter transport (6)
11. Relic exit ban is very complicated (12)
13. Anagram of rail (4)
14. Cecil etc. are broadbased (8)
17. Until now (8)
18. Anagram of rail (4)
20. Put off (12)
23. Two-piece costume (6)
24. Frenzied (8)
25. Cat's gore is French delicacy (8)
26. Scuffle (6)

DOWN

2. Anagram of rail (4)
3. Dominant woman (9)
4. Representations (6)
5. Take advantage (4,3,4,2,2)
6. Follower (8)
7. Tuscan city (5)
8. 30 mph; 80 mg/100ml etc. (5,5)
12. Formal courtesies (10)
15. Used tea leaves for example (4,5)
16. A grim end causes fantasising (8)
19. Introduce (6)
21. Israeli port (5)
22. Anagram of rail (4)

LASTMONTH'S ANSWERS

ACROSS

8. nematode
- 9,22 across. stool pigeon
10. Eden
11. dolly birds
12. humbug
14. swan song
15. skylark
17. beeline
20. bone idle
22. see 9 across
23. red herring
24. silk
25. Ellis
26. bluefish

DOWN

1. dead duck
2. fawn
3. top dog
4. recluse
5. I-spy game
6. Tories blog
7. plod on
13. bullet hole
16. red press
18. neoplasm
19. let it be
21. ox-eyed
22. pignut
24. safe

Name: _____

Address: _____

COACH AT KNITSLEY

A novel way to arrive at Santa's Grotto this year was to go by 'coach and two' rather than by sleigh or on foot. The Old Mill at Knitsley provided a coach and horses to take families to their log cabin Grotto at the back of the pub. The service was busy for the two weekends that it was in operation and reports say it was really enjoyable and good value for money.



Families set off in the coach to visit the Log Cabin Grotto

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NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by 13th February.

The deadline for **adverts** is 11th February.

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