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THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 7

Lanchester, January 2007

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LIGHTS ON FOR CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Lights were switched on on Saturday December 2nd. As the crowd gathered for the 6pm switch-on, the display on the Front Street lamp-posts was already lit, and the Lanchester Brass Band was heard playing its

Christmas repertoire. Two children from each primary school had been invited to carry out the switching duty, and Amber Swift and Christopher Turner from All Saints primary joined David Smith and Shannon Pinner-Smith from Lanchester EP primary for

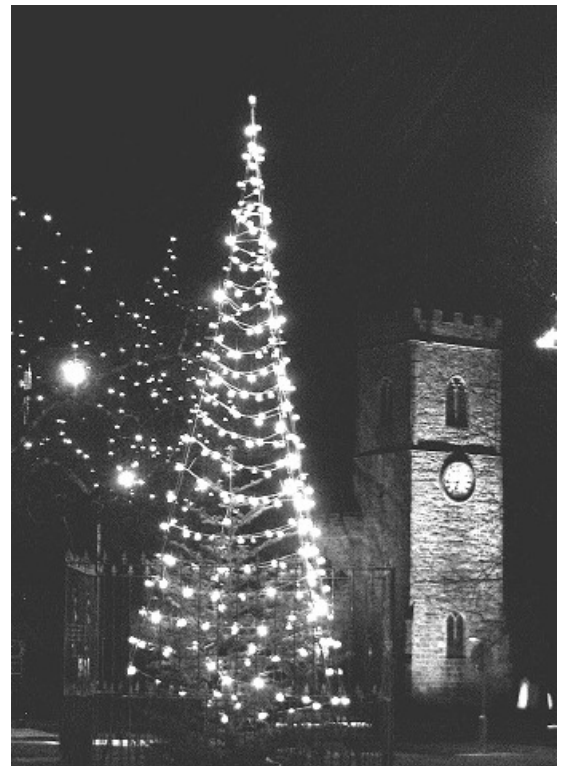
the big moment. The lights on the Christmas tree and the trees on the village green came on to show that Christmas is coming, and after a few carols from the Band the assembly moved to somewhere warmer. Members of the Parish

Council and guests went on to the Parish Church Chapter House, where an excellent buffet, prepared by the church ladies, was laid on to thank those people who have worked on the Locality Map, with an honourable mention to Cllr Keith Harrison and

Steve Scoffin of the Great North Forest team. Mr Scoffin had given an interim report on the Locality Map at the previous Parish Council meeting. There were special prizes for the young people who carried out the switching on ceremony.



At 6pm on Saturday 2nd December, Amber Swift and Christopher Turner, from All Saints Primary School, together with David Smith and Shannon Pinner Smith from Lanchester EP School, jointly pressed the switch which turned on the Christmas Lights on the village green



Lanchester Brass Band play appropriate music for the occasion of the Christmas Lights being switched on

*A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our Readers*



Dear Village....

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

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

Dear Sir,

I refer to your article in the last edition of The Village Voice headed "Swings, Roundabouts and Libraries" in which you suggested that proposed cuts in Durham County Council's budget for 2007-8 might result in the closure of "part-time" libraries including possibly, Lanchester. As you pointed out, the survey conducted by DCC has highlighted a potential saving of £22,000 for the closure of one part-time library or £44,000 for the closure of two. I also have an e-mail from the Director of

Culture and Leisure in which he states that "in the budget considerations for 2007/08, the Authority will have to consider a further 2 library closures". However, he also goes on to state that "any reductions in service levels would be a consequence of financial, rather than service considerations". I have now obtained performance figures for all of the libraries in County Durham. In terms of the annual expenditure on the operation of the libraries, Lanchester is the 4th most expensive. However, by dividing the net expenditure by the number of visits Lanchester is seen to be the second cheapest library to manage and by other criteria also comes out very well in comparison.

In short, should the County Council decide to close one or perhaps two part-time libraries there are several others which, taking The Director's statement that "closure would be a consequence of financial considerations", should be considered for closure ahead of Lanchester.

We should not, however, be too complacent about our library's safety. After all, a Council which can consider closing two libraries to save a possible £44,000 at the same time as taking on 18 new staff at a cost in excess of £58,000 solely to open the Durham Clayport Library on Sundays can hardly be accused of rational thought.

Yours faithfully,
John Ingham
Independent Councillor for Lanchester
Derwentside District Council

Help!
The roof blew off our aviary this afternoon and released a small green and yellow parrot and a canary. We hope that someone might find them sheltering in a garden somewhere in the village. We would be grateful to have news of either of them; please ring 521887 or contact fionamgreen@hotmail.com.

Greetings
Fred and Pat Heppell wish all our friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Dear Editor,
I am writing on behalf of the group who put the DIAL directory together. All residents of Lanchester Parish should by now have received a copy of this document and we hope it will be found to be useful.

We need, however, to draw attention to an omission. The name of Ruth Wilson should appear on the list of Parish Councillors; apologies to her for this oversight. She is actively involved in work with young people and the life of the community. Her address is:

Ruth Wilson, 58 Deneside, Lanchester DH7 0RX
Tel: 529 329.
If any resident of the Parish has not received a copy of DIAL please feel free to contact me.
Yours sincerely,
Carolyn Wardle (Tel: 521 622)

Dear Sir,
On behalf of Willowburn Hospice I would like to thank everyone who helped to raise a record £4560 from the Bank Holiday Monday sponsored walk. In particular I must thank my back-up team of Linda, Julie and Angela, the sponsors from the Hospice Shop at Stanley who did exceedingly well raising £935, and Hillary McKay from Barclay's Bank who raised £379, which the bank will double. Perhaps more companies will follow their lead next year. Grateful thanks to all who took part.
Paul Smith

Dear Village Voice
Following our "Open House" charity event on Friday 24th November, Peter and Julie Richardson would like to thank family, friends and all supporters for their help, preparation and donations.

Special thanks to Lanchester Pharmacy, Northumbria Water, Wynyard Golf Club, Kevin Finley from Fellview Flooring and Lanchester Dairies. The event was in aid of Willowburn Hospice and 'Lifespan' who provide complementary therapy to patients who have serious illness and their carers. The event raised £1660.

Yours faithfully
J E Richardson

Dear Sir,
Once again I have to report that the PHANTOMPAVEMENT FOULER is operating in the Foxhills Crescent, Broadoak Drive area.

In recent weeks we have again experienced the unpleasant site of piles of dog-dirt left on the corner of No. 1 Broadoak Drive and the corner of No. 67 Foxhills Crescent. Somebody is either letting their dog out on its own to do the dirty work or takes the dog out so late at night that nobody sees the perpetrator of the foul deed.

It is a very neighbourly thing to do, because it doesn't take much effort, to take a plastic bag or a poop-scoop with you when walking a dog.
Yours sincerely
(name and address supplied)

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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The third year of this festival in the Methodist church expanded to fill the weekend with a constant fest of hospitality and music.

The central feature was the Christmas trees decorated by church groups and other groups and businesses in the village. They included Christian Endeavour, Lanchester News, the Craft Group, an Angel Tree bearing angels made by the church family, A Jesse Tree showing the ancestry of Jesus in cards, the WI tree in silver and green derived from the emblem, Crinnions tree with a chain of chef's hats and bags of peppercorns, a Charity Tree for the Aids Haven in South Africa, Amigos Peace on Earth tree, the Thursday Club's gold tree, the Wives and Friends reminder of climate change, the Boys Brigade's origami decorations, Alice Guthrie's Sew What tree decorated with bobbins

of thread and sewing gear, The Monday Bible Study group's tree with teaspoons and garlands of bible quotations, and Talking Heads' special offer tree.

On Friday evening Leadgate Salvation Army Band entertained, charity stalls were set up in the church and bratwurst German sausage was barbecued on the lawn. On Saturday coffee, lunches and teas were on offer, and music was provided by Lanchester Operatic Society, the Worship Band and the children of EP School, with a junior talent spot. Sunday afternoon saw a concert by All Saints RC school, Stanley Circuit Choir and Lanchester Brass Band, and on Monday coffee, lunches and teas were again available.

All this was only possible with the help of an army of helpers who shifted, cleaned, baked, served refreshments and slept in



Some of the team who helped to make the Tree Festival work

the church overnight to protect the Christmas lights. Oh, and Santa came to reward the younger singers with gifts.

The result has been hundreds of people coming in to enjoy the trees, music, refreshments and friendship, and a good deal of money for the Aids Haven in South Africa – it's still being counted!



Leadgate Salvation Army band play on the Friday night of the Christmas Tree Festival



Some of the beautifully decorated Christmas trees in the Methodist Church



Stanley Circuit Choir perform in the Saturday afternoon concert

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EP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR

An amazing number of people crammed into the junior hall for the annual Christmas Fair organised by 'Friends of the School'. Children were allowed to leave the classroom early to join in with parents in the hall. Refreshments were available, as well as a room put aside for art and craft activities, which the children really enjoyed. There was a great variety of stalls including: Fresh Meat; Name the Teddy; Jewellery; Gifts; Toys; Toiletries; Tombolas; Biscuits and Cakes; Books, and a Christmas Stall. In addition there were School Calendars on sale in which every child in the school had drawn a picture of themselves. Santa arrived at 2.30 pm and was besieged immediately, by an enormous queue. Face painting proved equally popular. The total taken at the event was a massive £1931.19 and the net profit was an exceptional £1251.72. It was a busy afternoon with a great atmosphere, and thanks are given to all those parents, grandparents, childminders and friends who attended and contributed to this excellent event.



Popular tombola at the EP fair



Arts and crafts at the EP fair



Santa meets Jake and Nathan Elsebury

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PLAYGROUP NOT CLOSING

There is a rumour going around the village that the Playgroup at the Community Centre is closing. This is not true.

The staff at the Playgroup would like to assure all parents that they remain open for business as usual.

RED CROSS HOUSEHOLD SALE

The Household Sale held in the Red Cross Shop in mid-November made £1160. Volunteer shop manager Brenda Gibson would like to thank all those who supported the sale, and wishes a Happy New Year to all customers.

RETIREMENT PARTY



Ann and Michael Carr

A vast throng gathered in the Community Centre on Saturday 2nd December to mark the retirement of Ann Carr from her post of Estate Manager for Croft Court, Lanchester and Meadow Rise, Consett after seven and a half years. The party, which also celebrated a 60th birthday, was organised by husband Michael and catered for by Crinnions. The Moorcock Band, which provided music for dancing, persuaded all able-bodied party-goers to take the floor. As well as residents of the two buildings Ann was responsible for, family members arrived from the Isles of Arran and Man, Glasgow and

Southampton, bringing the number of those attending up to 110. Though a birthday was celebrated, no presents were given, and a collection was made instead to be divided between Willowburn Hospice and All Saints C of E church. This raised £400.

SPACE DIARY

The winner of the "Space Diary" was drawn at the Christmas Community Lunch: the lucky winner was Harold Dixon, who will receive a cheque for £150. The winning date was 18th May and the diary made a profit of £136, which brings the total so far raised to £25251.

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Roofing contractor John Aken, with a little help from his brother Brian, has spent a week erecting Christmas lights at their home at Boggle Hole, Iveston. Part of the display is a huge helicopter which depicts the Air Ambulance. A donation box for the charity is nearby, and any money donated will be doubled by Barclay's Bank.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Police Report

There was concern that there was again no report. There was discussion of threatened police redundancies and the lack of senior officers at a Liaison Committee meeting, and the Council decided to consult the Inspector on the matter.

Public Participation

Whereas previously the public had been able to ask questions after each item on the agenda and before a vote was taken, all questions will now be asked at or near the beginning of the meeting.

At this point councillors were asked for help with finance for the bus, and also to form a sub-committee on Ford Road.

Chairman's

Announcements

Following a Government White Paper, Durham County Council believed that a unitary authority (ie Durham CC) should replace the current two-

tier system, and that there should be an election for this new authority in 2008.

Village Bus

Mike Gladstone reported that the Partnership had obtained grants of £5000 to run the bus in the mornings for six months, and asked for representatives of the Council for the new Transport Working Group. Paul Jackson volunteered.

Locality Map

This would be discussed at a special Parish Plan meeting on January 16th.

Public Seats

Parish Clerk Jim Owens reported on his negotiations with Magma, who were now quoting £1115 to install 10 seats. An offer by Mrs Shirley Rogan to provide a seat in memory of her late husband was warmly welcomed.

Damage to Play Surface

A long saga regarding a problem about the surface

below the roundabout in the over 12's play area was related by Jim Owens. The surface had been unsatisfactory from the start, and a District Council inspector had needed to be involved to have it repaired. However the repair was also unsatisfactory, and another repair had been carried out, but not very well. It was decided that it was difficult to proceed because the inspector now considered the surface to be adequate. Councillors will now do their own inspection before further action.

Draft Estimates

There was discussion as to next year's financial outlay. An inflation increase of 2.5% extra would be needed, and funds might be needed to replace some of the Christmas decorations and to fund election expenses. It was agreed to increase the money set aside for donations.

Members' Questions

It was asked when Shepherd Homes would be digging a mains drain across the football and cricket pitches: this was important for the restoration of the pitches for next season. There was also a question as to why the cricket pitch was to be turfled, but the football pitch only seeded. No-one knew, but the matter was shelved till the Spring.

It was agreed that Ossie Johnson would attend the joint public meeting with the Partnership on

January 11th concerning the Russell Close garage site, and councillors were urged to attend.

Next Meeting

The next PC meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January at 7pm. All voters are, of course, welcome.

Planning Matters

The Planning Committee looked at the third alteration to plans to convert agricultural buildings at Biggen Farm. They proposed that the changes need to be clarified in the light of the original application.

The proposed siting of a Mobile Home for a rural worker at Lizards Farm was found to be outside the development limit and contrary to design guidelines and aspirations in the Village Design Statement. It would also devalue the neighbouring property, while there is plenty of alternative accommodation available nearby in the village.

Plans for a replacement balcony, with steps and alteration of windows and doors in Sunnybanks was approved subject to full compliance with District regulations, especially the new ones on windows.

Revised plans for extensions in Alderside Crescent were found to be acceptable, but after receiving details of plans for an agricultural building at Lizards Farm it was decided to repeat previous negative comments

Final decisions will be taken up at Consett.

FORD ROAD

Six residents from the Ford Road area attended the December Partnership meeting to discuss the lack of action to make Ford Road safe.

They were told that after a letter from the Partnership detailing the problems of this narrow road, a site meeting had taken place, with no progress. In reply to a further letter, the Partnership were told that it would cost £60,000 to move electricity poles to make the pavement safe, and that it would be impossible to move the garden walls on the East side.

Of course, the walls to be moved would be on the West side, and one Ford Road resident pointed out that residents on the West side had been told they might have to lose part of their gardens. It was said that a weight restriction was needed on the road, as well as widening, or that chicanes (as in Burnhope) should be added at the narrowest part, that the road markings had not been replaced after resurfacing, that 4000 vehicles a day come along Ford Road and that three garden walls had been knocked over in Ford Road by vehicles.

Lanchester Partnership has already written to the County Council to press the need for improvements on Ford Road. Residents were advised to take the matter up with their Councillor and MP.

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RUSSELL CLOSE GARAGE SITE

There is a new proposal for this site. In the past the village has strongly opposed any development here because residents have thought that it would open up the whole

hillside (which is owned by a developer) to housing. However, before we speak again to the Development Control Committee we want to be sure that we are accurately

representing the views of the residents of Lanchester. We will hold a public meeting on Thursday 11th January at 7:30 in the Community Centre. Please put it in your diaries.

GOODBYE TO REV HELEN

Members of the Parish church said goodbye to Rev Helen Barton on Sunday 3rd December after the morning Eucharist Service. Ladies from the Church Catering Group had prepared a lovely buffet and there was a wine bar organised by Brian Masterman. Most of the congregation attended.



Steven Bailey presents Rev Helen with a large cheque donated by parishioners of both churches

Helen is taking up the post of Associate Vicar at Hexham Abbey and will also be in charge of education in the Hexham Deanery. Helen has spent two years, three months, at the Parish Church as Curate, and during her stay has put in a lot of hard work and has made very many friends. Her

lively character and excellent sense of humour will be missed by those who came to know her. Canon Peter spoke highly of Helen in an emotional, but witty speech. Then there

followed a series of presentations. Helen was given a painting by Harry Carr of the Parish Church, presented by Sandy Jackson, Secretary of the P.C.C. Next, there was a painting of St John's

Church, Burnhope, given by Margaret Ledger, member of that church, followed by the gift of a black cloak which is essential for her next preferment, from Myra Williams, Warden of St John's, Burnhope, which Helen immediately tried on. Then, the Treasurer and Church Warden, Steven Bailey, shocked Helen with a cheque for over £300 in addition to the cloak, both donated by church goers from All Saints Parish Church and St John's,

Burnhope. Finally a bouquet of flowers was given to her by one of the younger members of the church, Rebecca Scoins. Helen was completely overwhelmed by all the gifts. She thanked everyone profusely in her sincere and eloquent response to Canon Peter's speech, and for the generosity of the parishioners and everyone had shown her during her time at Burnhope and Lanchester.

LANCHESTER COUNTRY MARKETS



One of the several busy, attractive stalls at Lanchester Country Market

This organisation is now divorced from WI and run as an independent body. They meet at the Community Centre on the 1st Saturday of each month with the exception of January, when they have a break. There is always a good selection of home produce,

including: Sweet and Savoury pies; Cakes and Scones; Biscuits; Free Range Eggs; Fresh Vegetables; Fruit; Plants; Jams and Marmalades; Lemon Curds; and Chutneys. Also on sale are Cards; Jewellery; China and Pottery; Woollens;

Crochet; and Wooden Goods. For further information, contact may be made with the current Chairperson, Mrs Joan Hetherington on 0191 3843495 or if you would like to have an appropriate stall contact the Controller at the market.



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ALL SAINTS R C CHRISTMAS FAIR

Opening the fair on Saturday 2nd December, Canon Spence congratulated the Parent-Teacher organisation for their work in putting on the fair and enjoined those present to enjoy themselves and spend freely to support the school fund. The fair opened to the vigorous

ringing of the school hand-bell. Stalls in the hall included tombolas, comprising the ever-popular bottle-stall and toy bonanza. There was a chance to invest in the parish raffle, and there were

cakes and jams, gifts of all sorts and card-making, while elsewhere was the enormous toy stall with its team of young salesmen, a sweet-stall, a roll-a-ball game and of course, Santa Claus was officiating in

the church hall, where exhausted shoppers could also restore themselves with the cup that cheers and chocolate biscuits no less. A total of £1500 was made for school funds. Excellent.



Santa hard at work at All Saints fair



The popular bottle stall at All Saints fair

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Keen young salesmen on the toy stall at All Saints fair

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End this call immediately without pressing any numbers.

There is a fraud company using a device that once you press #90 or #09 they can access your "SIM" card and make calls at your expense. Forward this message to as many colleagues, relatives and friends as you can, to stop it.

VILLAGE BUS

It was revealed at the December Partnership meeting that grants had been obtained totalling £5000, which is sufficient to run the bus on weekday mornings only for six months.

Grants came from MIS Environmental (£2000), the Tom Cowie Foundation (£2000) and District Councillor John Ingham (£1000).

Efforts are being made to get more funding.

LITTLE RED... YOU KNOW WHO



Simon Hatfield helps Little Red Riding Hood to swing as Ted in his bed looks on

Freehand Theatre came to Lanchester on Sunday 3rd December in the shape of Simon Hatfield, who told the story of Little Red Riding Hood in the words of Lizzie Allen with recorded music on a wide variety of instruments composed by Hugh Nankivell.

The story was told with the aid of an ingenious frame from which dolls, trees, a swing and so forth were produced, and from a magic red box came a teddy bear, a red chair, a bed and a jewelled box

containing the red book of the story. With great panache Simon narrated the story with the aid of teddy and Red Riding dolls of various sizes, to the apparent satisfaction of the large number of small people sitting at the front, though granny getting

eaten was too much for one moppet. Apparently nobody reads Grimm's fairy tales nowadays.

It's good to see entertainment in the Community Centre, and nearly a hundred tickets were sold for this event, which is encouraging.

'LADIES IN LAVENDER' COMING NEXT!



The committee who started the Film Club - Jill Gladstone, Fiona Green, Judith Lund and Carolyn Wardle

On Sunday December 3rd 40 people of all ages enjoyed a showing of the film "March of the Penguins". The Community Centre proved to be a comfortable cinema, and it is planned to show films regularly, probably monthly, in 2007. The films will include a variety of genres: classic, comedy, whodunit, newer ones, etc. Please look out for notices around the village for information and come along. The cinema will be accessibly priced, but of

course it will be necessary for the Partnership, (which is arranging the evenings) to recover the costs of hiring the hall and the film. On Sunday January 21st 'Ladies in Lavender' will be showing at 7pm at the Community Centre. In the meantime the group will be meeting to discuss a future programme etc. and would welcome anyone who is interested in becoming involved. Please ring 521887 for further details.

new image

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DURHAM SCRATCH CHOIR BREATHE EASY FOR "BREATHE EASY"



"Durham Scratch Choir, Conductor (far left) and Musical Ensemble relax at the end of the Concert"

The Lanchester Community Centre was the venue for a Musical Evening organised by the Durham/Derwentside Breathe Easy Group on Saturday, November 18th, 2006, at 7.30 pm. The programme was presented by the Durham Scratch Choir under their Musical Director, Andy Jackson, to a packed Main Hall. In a light-hearted first half of the programme, the choir delivered a well-received variety of "a capella", spirituals, African Lullabies, comic songs and a well-supported four-part Community Singing, where the divided audience warmed enthusiastically to their parts ("Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "When the Saints").

An interval for the consumption of tea, coffee and mince pies was followed by a presentation of the conductor's own work, "A Gospel Requiem". In this, the choir was supported by an ensemble of piano, saxophone, flute and guitar. This "humanist" work was premiered in 2005 at the Lamplight, Stanley, in the "Voices for Hospices" programme, and later performed at the Sage and Durham Cathedral, and provides both singers and audience with a pleasing variety of style and content, within the traditional religious "requiem" format. "Breathe Easy" is a group providing

support and information for people living with a lung condition (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease - COPD), for their friends, relatives and carers. The money raised during the evening will be divided between The British

Lung Foundation and Local Hospice Care. "Breathe Easy" meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month, between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm, in Lanchester Community Centre. The group is to be congratulated on a

successful evening, both musically and financially, raising £410, which continues the excellent work which has recently provided £1,200 of breathing-related equipment, to support Willowburn and St. Cuthbert's Hospice.



Left to right, Betty Welsh (Treasurer), Jean Beard (Chair), Andy Jackson (Conductor) and Jill Gladstone (Secretary) celebrate a successful evening

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GET YOUR FLU JAB

County Durham Primary Care Trust is calling on residents of Derwentside aged 65 and over or those most 'at risk' from flu to remember to get their free flu jab if they don't want to miss out on the Christmas and New Year festivities this year. Nobody wants to come down with flu over Christmas but, to some

people, a bout of flu can result in even more serious conditions, hospitalisation or even death. Flu is not just a cold. It gives you fevers, chills, extreme fatigue and aching muscles, as well as the more cold-like symptoms of sore throats and runny noses, and tends to last for up to two

weeks. Flu is particularly dangerous for anyone with asthma, diabetes, a chronic heart, chest, liver or kidney condition or problems with the immune system, as well as for all people aged 65 or over. In 2005 national figures reveal that last year more than half (52%) of those at risk did not take advantage of the jab.

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CHILDREN IN NEED

The Children in Need coffee evening filled out Croft View Hall and the lively girls created an enthusiastic atmosphere. Lanchester 1st and 2nd Brownies organised bookstalls, cake stalls and even Pudsey bear face painting done by the very skilful Jane and Annabel Knowles - everything was charged by donation only. Shannon, Charlotte and Sophie had a real enthusiasm for raising money with their second-hand books by shouting 'Roll up, roll up' throughout the evening in order to attempt sell their huge collection. The fundraising evening has become so successful over the years that it has become an annual event and resulted in the phenomenal amount of £144 being raised. Kate Startup



The salespersons at the book stall at the Children in Need evening



An outbreak of Pudseys at the brownies' Children in Need evening

RING FOUND

A ring was found in the Community Centre during the evening of Saturday 2nd December. Anyone who may have lost a wedding ring or similar should contact the Warden on 521275.

HEDGE-LAYING COMPETITION

In addition to our listing mentioned that Burt Hunter from Knitsley, County Council's Conssett, won the best local competitor, and Hedgerow Partnership received a trophy which had been kindly donated by Peter Facey from North East Community Forests. Competition held on November 4th near Colepike Farm on Humberhill Lane, Lanchester, it should be

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LANCHESTER VALLEY RAILWAY PATH

If you walk from Northumbrian Water's contractors, Lumsden and Carroll Construction, have started works on the Railway Path on the north side of Newbiggin Lane near Hurbuck. This has been done by members of the Durham Voluntary Countryside Ranger Service to improve the County Wildlife Site. By removing the scrub we have allowed more light to reach the grassland below which will help ensure the Lesser Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*) and Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*) can be seen on these banks for many years to come.

Northumbrian Water's contractors, Lumsden and Carroll Construction, have started works on the Railway Path on the north side of Newbiggin Lane near Mount Pleasant. For safety reasons, the Newbiggin Lane car park will be closed and access to the Railway Path will be narrower than usual but will remain open for the duration of the works. The contractors will complete their work and reinstate the site as soon as possible. If you experience any difficulties during this time, please contact Coralie Dickinson, Durham County Council Countryside Ranger on 0191 383 5509.

WILLOWBURN FAIR



A festive stall at the Hospice Fair



The catering corps at work at the Hospice Fair

Fund Raiser Angela opened the Fair, amidst a flurry of activity from an eager crowd looking for Christmas bargains. The EP hall was busy as people worked their way between the various stalls which included; Plants/Flowers; Toys; Sweets and Chocolates; Books; Bric a Brac; Jewellery; Refreshments were also provided. The total raised for Willow Burn was a magnificent £2900.

MAGICAL CHRISTMAS

David Ryland of Armthwaite, Cumbria, a National Flower Demonstrator certainly brought a magical atmosphere to Lanchester Community Centre at the end of November with his own inimitable style of floral arranging. The evening began with an introduction by Chairperson Ishbel Eggleston who introduced David Ryland to a very large gathering of flower enthusiasts. There followed two surprise presentations of beautiful plants, to Ishbel Eggleston, retiring Chairperson, and Joan Barnes, who was also retiring from her position as head of Catering. These presentations were carried out by Helen Tomlinson, Programme Organiser who thanked them for their past work and dedication to office. David Ryland began his enthralling evening by recalling a visit by the club to his wonderful garden at Armthwaite. He then proceeded to captivate his audience with whom he had an excellent rapport, with seven of the most beautiful designs imaginable. His use of materials such as Dick Whittington boots, a black cat, a golden bucket, a wizard, a huge cocktail glass, spheres of feathers, coupled with lots of foliage and superb lighting, exemplified a magnificent creative mind and added to the enthusiastic atmosphere in the hall. Not only did David arrange his flowers, but his commentary was interspersed with really funny, witty humour, culminating at the end by singing a Christmas song and carol, encouraging his audience to join in. Ishbel gave a lovely vote of thanks and the gathering retired for mince pies and coffee. This was truly an evening to remember, presented by a highly skilled professional who has demonstrated his skills not only nationwide, but internationally as far as Barbados.



David Ryland with retiring catering manager Joan Barnes and retiring Chairperson Ishbel Eggleston.



The spellbound crowd watch David Ryland and his creations

RICHMOND FELLOWSHIP

A small Christmas Fair was held in the dining room of the Community Centre on Saturday December 2nd. Stalls included Bric-a-Brac, gifts, handbags and CD's.

The organisation meets at the Community Centre twice a week and looks after the elderly with mental health who usually have a meal at the centre. Other activities which take place are bus trips, crafts and workshops.



People interested in handbags at the Richmond Fellowship Fair

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE LADS

Stan Ashton of the Lions Club recently made his Christmas visit to the four care homes in the village and gave presents to the 'Lads' which were very enthusiastically received.

Left to Right: Eddie; Lion, Stan Ashton; John ; Richard; Gary; Tom; Derek; Brendan (Care Worker)



KEEPING WARM AND SAFE

Age Concern visited Lanchester library on Thursday 30th November to dispense good advice as well as an energy-saving light-bulb, a room thermometer and a carbon monoxide detector. The packs handed out advised how to keep warm and healthy (exercises, immunisation and country walking), how to claim the benefits you're entitled to and fire and gas safety.

If you missed the event fear not, Age Concern has an office in East Stanley (280119, www.ageconcern-durham.org.uk) and are willing to help with anything from housing issues to filling in forms and finding help at home.

Mandy Humes and Carol Macanurtrie of Age Concern hand out goodie-bags to two visitors to Lanchester Library



WI NEWS

There was not a hint of “Jam and Jerusalem” at the WI Christmas party! The President’s Health and Safety warning about opening carefully the Bucks Fizz came just in time. As the bottles warmed up a couple decided to explode of their own accord, livening up the business part of the meeting.

The Lanchester Male Voice choir, which was rehearsing next door, must have entered with some trepidation to give us a performance. Lanchester members and 10 visiting Annfield Plain members enjoyed a delightful selection of songs, and then the choir devoured the remains of an excellent Faith Supper.

Ann Carr having decided to grow old disgracefully gave us a recital “When I am an Old Woman I shall Wear Purple” which continued the “purple theme” from her

retirement party. Her props included purple feathered and bejewelled black rubber gloves, purple slippers to wear in the rain and a mismatched red hat. The audience was relieved she only mimed spitting!

A “Chinese Raffle” was held when everyone is given a ticket and tries to win (but rarely does!) their hoped-for prize.

Jennifer Macdonald read a poem “My Knicker Drawer” and produced an untidy drawer full of knickers which included a home-made sparkling black leather thong which caused great hilarity. There was fierce competition in the “Handbag Treasure Hunt” as members searched for items and handed them to a “runner”.

The living tree represents the emblem of the WI and will be the

theme for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in the Methodist Church. It symbolises the WI commitment to the environment. Since 1990 Yorkshire Tea has planted over two million trees. 136 trees have been planted both at home and abroad as a result of Lanchester WI collecting Yorkshire tea tokens. Thank you to the unknown person who has been posting tokens at 17 Woodham Court. If you would like to help us collect tokens please deliver them to this address.

The next meeting is 7pm on the 8th of January in the Small Hall of the Community Centre when Jean Ord will talk about Estate Planning. The competition will be “An interesting tip to save money”. New members and visitors are very welcome.

Happy New Year!



The Male Voice Choir sing for their supper at the WI party



Ann Carr entertains with the poem “Warning” and wearing purple to illustrate it

TAIZE WORSHIP



Wendy Hughes (Flute), Sue Hill (violin), and Colin Wilkinson (guitar) play at the Taize service

Peace and tranquillity enveloped the Parish Church on Thursday evening 16th November. The ecumenical service was emotional and uplifting. The church was dimmed for the occasion and adorned with many beautiful illuminated candles.

The Taize Service which is held traditionally at this time each year is an opportunity for praise and worship through singing chants in unison, interspersed with appropriate readings and prayers. These were delivered softly and with the utmost sincerity.

The legacy of Brother Roger lives on, and there are still over 100 members of the organisation in situ at Taize in France.

The service was prepared, led and conducted, by Margaret Walters, who played the piano along with Wendy Hughes (Flute), Sue Hill (violin), and Colin Wilkinson (guitar). The music was beautifully executed along with the singing of gentle harmonious chants, some of which were sung as a two-part canon.

At the end of the service there were prayers of thanksgiving followed by John Brown who gave a vote of thanks to everyone who had put in such a lot of hard work. Margaret Walters was presented with a bouquet by Elizabeth Wharton in recognition of her hard work and dedication in preparation of the service..



The choir assemble for the Taize service

LIONS' CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Christmas came early to the village this year with the tremendous atmosphere of the Lions Christmas Concert. All Saints School opened the evening with an excellent rendition of carols and Christmas songs accompanied by Head Teacher, Tony Reather on guitar. There was some singing and plenty of bouncy familiar Christmas songs in their lively finale. They were then joined by the EP School and together sang very beautifully a song called the 'Gift'. This was sung so well one would have thought that they had been practising for a year not the short time which the curriculum allowed. Mrs Startup bashfully received the praise for her teaching the two choirs from Mrs Davis, Head Teacher of the EP School. The latter school then carried on the performance, opening with 'Bright Star', 'Christmas Lullaby' and 'No room at the Inn', finishing with something a little different and away from the Christmas Story, 'Walking in the air'.

The Woods and Murray families dressed for the occasion, wrapped in winter clothing as they sang four carols in their own lovely, harmonious, inimitable style. They must have roasted in those heavy coats as the room was very hot due mainly to the numbers there. The Jane Robson Theatre Club were making their first appearance at the Lions' Concert and performed nine favourite Christmas songs with enthusiasm and joy, also with movement which had the audience swaying in time.

The next performer was not on the bill because there was some doubt about his availability to appear. However, luck was in, and Colm Doyle delighted the audience with two American flavoured, amusing Christmas songs, 'Fairy Tale of New York', and

'59th Street Feeling Groovy'. Lanchester Brass Band performed to the very high standard we have come to expect. They were led with panache and flourish by Conductor Jonathan Fenwick, who had a marvellous rapport with the audience and particularly the children. The evening was held together by the compere, Lion John 'glum' Richards whose own brand of dry, non-smiling humour kept the audience amused all evening. Lion President Mike Stoddart concluded this highly successful event with a 'thank you' speech which not only included the performers but also those essential people in the background, Elsie Cuthbertson and Norma Riley, who look after the chapel and put in so much extra work because of the amount of people there. The excellent total raised for the Lions Welfare fund was in the region of £630.



Sharon Murray, Margaret and Richard Woods and Stuart Murray entertain at the Lions' concert



Colm Doyle entertains at the Lions' concert



Jonathan Fenwick and Lanchester Brass Band at the Lions' concert



EP and All Saints primary schools join in song at the Lions' Christmas Concert



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SUCCESS FOR DANCERS

The Karen Stewart Dance & Performing Arts Academy recently held their annual UKA medal Test and topped the leader board with an impressive 49 Distinctions.

Speaking to Karen you can tell the love and admiration she has for her dancers and she told us, "They work hard and have really committed to their routines which paid off in both their exams and the competition they were in at FEEDS last month: 30 dancers and 80

trophies, can you imagine! 80 times a ksda tee shirt walked out to collect a trophy it's just mind blowing.

I'm blessed with a talent that I can pass on. You do hope that there will be one dancer who can beat your personal best but I seem to have quite a few including these two, Tull Connor & Keanan Proctor, both 5 years old and winning their first competitions. It seems they have got quite a fan club with little girls all over

the country; they're not just show-stoppers but heart stoppers. But their only love at the minute is their hip-hop and freestyle dancing. We are like a boot camp for talented dancers." We ask Karen, how long can you keep going? "Well, I'm the big four 0 in December, I don't know, ask my FEET!" she replies. Karen has danced for 37 years and been head of KSDA for 22, and it's hard to imagine her stopping now.



Karen Stewart pictured with two of her recruits

SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE

Men of the Church - waiters ready for action.

Left to right:
John Brown;
Dick Hunter;
Maving Taylor;
Eric Gaskell;
David Massey;
David James



The men of the church decided to dress and become waiters for the Christmas Open House at the Chapter House in December. For those who have not yet visited one of these lunchtime occasions, there is a wide

variety of home made sandwiches available, served with a small salad and crisps garnish, with tea or coffee. It is a great place to meet and chat with friends and have a really appetizing light lunch at 'donation' prices.

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CHRISTMAS WITH AMIGOS

On Friday morning December 8th, Amigos members decorated their tree ready for its inclusion in the Methodist Tree Festival; the theme this year was a wish for 'Peace on Earth at Christmas'.

Then it was time for carols, mince pies and sherry. As always at Christmas they were joined by the village clergy – Rev Mary Lloyd, Canon Spence and Canon Waterhouse all came with a Christmas message of good will to us all.

Finally, Tommy arrived to transport our members down to the King's Head for Christmas dinner. It was LOVELY. We would like to say a big thank you to the staff at the King's Head for looking after us so well - compliments to the chef. We had a really good meal and a super time.



Canon Peter Waterhouse wishing the Amigos a Happy Christmas



Some of the Amigos members at the King's Head enjoying their Christmas dinner

LIONS' SHOPPING TRIP TO YORK



Ladies on their way to York for Christmas shopping organised by Lions' Ladies

FUND RAISER FOR BLUE PETER

Lanchester EP School recently held two Bring and Buy sales for the current Blue Peter Appeal. Children

really enjoyed rooting through their old toys, books, and so on, and paying a small amount for something else

belonging to their friends. The result was a great fun time and the amount going to the appeal will be £335.71.



Infant children looking for bargains at the EP School Blue Peter Appeal

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ALL SAINTS C OF E AUTUMN FAIR

The annual Autumn Fair, organised by All Saints C of E church, came around once again and appeared to be another great success. It was held at the Community Centre on the 24th of November.

The fair was opened by Jane Davis, head-mistress of the EP Primary school, who gave a brief speech thanking people for attending the event and encouraging people to 'give generously for a worthy cause'. A bouquet of flowers was presented to her by Sophie and Chloe Taylor.

A very wide variety of different stalls were available to the enthusiastic buyers who attended the fair, these stalls included the selling of cards, second hand books, home made jams, tombola, a bric-a-brac stall, plants and a selection of Fairtrade products.

The Church Wives had a dazzling display of a 'Gold Stall' which was only selling gold objects with the wives themselves dressed from head to toe in gold.

The event managed to raise a fabulous total of £2365.73.



Stocking up with reading matter at the Autumn Fair

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Sophie and Chloe Taylor present EP School Head Teacher, Jane Davis who opened the fair, with a basket of flowers



The glittering Gold Stall, only selling gold objects, at the Autumn Fair where there was much interest shown

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THURSDAY CLUB SUPPORT FOR AIR AMBULANCE



The customers for coffee and pumpkin pie in aid of the Air Ambulance last month

BRUNO

Sadly we have to report the death of 12 year old Bruno, a white German shepherd dog who was well known and liked in the village. With his owner, Paul Smith, he took part every Bank Holiday Monday in a sponsored walk for Willowburn Hospice, helping to raise a lot of money. He is sadly missed by the Smith family.



Bruno with owner Paul Smith

GARDENING TIPS FOR JANUARY

The days in January are short but you might relish the thought of escaping from the house to get some fresh air. This is the month to catch up on things.

Flowers

Cut down any perennials that you have not yet done. Clip autumn flowering heather.

Plant new roses.

Order your summer seeds and bulbs if you haven't already done so.

Greenhouse

Clean glazing inside and out.

Open vents on warm days.

Check stored bulbs and tubers for signs of rot. Check any half-hardy plants like Fuchsia that you have overwintering and covered in fleece in the cold greenhouse for signs of rot and pick off any leaves that have been left on.

Water sparingly any plants that you have overwintering in the greenhouse.

Fruit and Veg

Prune the stems of Autumn fruiting raspberries at soil level. Plant new fruit trees, bushes and cane fruit.

Continue winter digging if the earth is relatively dry, adding compost and manure to improve the soil.

Take hardwood cuttings for next year.

Other jobs

Repair and paint fences and other timber while the climbers are dormant.

Insulate your outside taps against frost.

Sharpen and wipe your tools with a light oil to stop them from rusting.

Continue to sweep up any fallen and wind-blown leaves and add them to your compost bin.

Empty patio pots and store them in a shed or garage to prevent them from damage from frost.

Don't forget to both feed and water your birds.

ELLIE THE BUS

Ellie the SPICE bus, organised by Derwentside District Council, has been directed to schools in the area to carry out a survey with children on 'What they think of the place they live'. Features on the bus are: laptops; play stations; televisions; board games; which children can enjoy and learn at the same time. On its latest visit of the bus to

the EP School, as well as enjoying these activities, all the children were asked to fill in a questionnaire about the village and tick the box with the smiley or glum face, wherever the answer seemed most appropriate. The information collected will then be acted upon by the Council. Some of the questions asked were as follows: my area is safe; there is somewhere to play

within walking distance; there is lots of green space and trees; the buildings are smart; there are shops within walking distance; there are plenty of buses; there's a park; the roads are busy and too difficult to cross. This would appear to be a good way of involving children in their own environment. Perhaps the council will issue the results and then act accordingly.



Children making full use of the Ellie bus



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LADIES WHO LUNCH

Ladies Who Lunch have not been starving over the past few months, it's just that we like to visit old favourites. This month was no exception and we've been back to our all-time favourite the Blue Bell at Kip Hill, Stanley.

The welcome, as with the food, continues to be outstanding, with nothing too much trouble to ensure our complete and utter satisfaction. The menu, with the specials board, is quite extensive - we sampled the minted lamb jenny and schewan chicken on saffron rice with stir-fry vegetables.

The mouth-watering sweets were profiteroles, raspberry pavlova, hot chocolate pud or forest fruit cheesecake followed by coffee and mints. All in all, a delightful occasion sitting at our usual table in the window with a truly rural view.

The Gourmet Girls

SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH



The Lions' guests enjoying lunch

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DELICATESSEN Tel: 01207 520269

Lanchester Lions Club, now in its 40th year, decided to change this annual event from a meal in the evening to lunchtime. It seemed to be an unqualified success according to feedback received from those who attended, and those Ladies and Lions who helped.

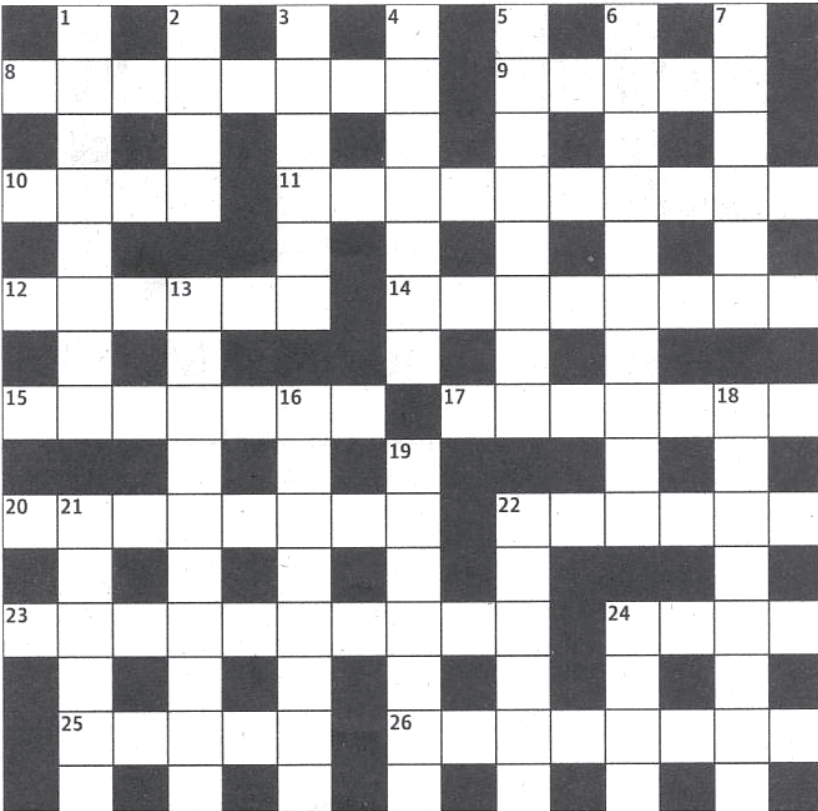
Almost a hundred Senior Citizens came along and the atmosphere was lovely. The Community Centre hall and tables were very attractive with some tasteful Christmas decorations. There was an aperitif of

sherry to begin, followed by fruit cocktail, then a main course of roast pork etc, and afterwards, sherry trifle. Fine entertainment this year was provided by Lanchester Brass Band, conducted by Jonathan Fenwick, who built up an excellent rapport with his audience. Free raffle tickets were issued for the 19 beautiful floral table decorations made by some of the Lady Lions, and after President Mike Stoddart gave his closing address, Santa Claus arrived to distribute a small gift to everyone.



Some of the guests waiting for their meal

CROSSWORD 8



ANSWERS to Crossword 7

Across

1. God save the Queen
9. ocelot cub
10. along
11. insider
12. tattier
13. pea
14. uptight
17. Titanic
19. terpene
22. angelic
24. mod
25. egg flip
26. drove up
28. freer
29. rock shift
30. Hansel and Gretel

Down

1. Glorious Twelfth
2. dregs
3. a hot dog
4. excerpt
5. habitat
6. quartet
7. emotional
8. Nigerian capital
15. turn green
16. hen
18. ion
20. enlarge
21. emporia
22. adduced
23. grouser
27. evict

There were eleven entries for John Wilson's seventh crossword, the winner from the Scrabble-bag being Barbara Irvine of Deanery View.

We look forward to a massive entry - as it is the holiday season, for No. 8, and we wish a Merry Crossword to you all.

Name: _____

Address: _____

ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8. To demean parasitic worm (8) | 1. It's doomed to failure! (4,4) |
| 9. Informer (5,6)
& 22 across. | 2. Flatter in buff awning (4) |
| 10. Paradise garden (4) | 3. Boss (3,3) |
| 11. Bimbos (5,5) | 4. About 150 employ hermit (7) |
| 12. Rubbish! (6) | 5. My page is used for amusement (1,3,4) |
| 14. Last act (4,4) | 6. Tribe's logo produces politicians
Internet rant (6,4) |
| 15. Fool about (7) | 7. Keep going slowly (4,2) |
| 17. Shortest distance between
two points (7) | 13. Slug cavity could be cause of
death! (6,4) |
| 20. Lazy (4,4) | 16. Pravda, Izvestia etc. (3,5) |
| 22. See 9 | 18. No sample produces tumour (8) |
| 23. Attention diverter (3,7) | 19. Leave alone (3,2,2) |
| 24. Mulberry leaf eating
worm (4) | 21. Beastly look (2,4) |
| 25. Ruth last woman hanged
in UK (5) | 22. Fruit of the hickory tree (6) |
| 26. Bush life for snapper (8) | 24. Secure (4) |

FUND RAISER FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

'Friends of the EPSchool' organised a Coffee Afternoon on Friday 17th November to raise money for 'Children in Need'. Pupils played the role of waiters and waitresses with great enthusiasm as they took orders at each table. The excellent sum of £186.35 was raised for this worthy cause.



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FLOWER CLUB

The meeting on 24th January 2007 starting at 2pm will be the Annual General Meeting, which will be followed by a talk from Fiona Wood, Head Teacher of Harelaw School, called "My Presentation at the Palace".

GET WRITING

You are invited to join the Lanchester Creative Writers in Lanchester library when they restart on Tuesday the 9th of January at 2.00 pm. Coffee and chocolate biscuits are not out of the question.

LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP

The relatively small group of people who strive to improve life for Lancastrians will be happy to see reinforcements at their January 8th meetings – the Youth Meeting at 6.30pm and the Environment and everything else meeting at 7.30pm.

LANCHESTER SOCIAL CLUB

A feast of evening entertainment has been arranged over the festive season at Lanchester Social Club, with the following: Caroline Shaw on Saturday 23rd December; the ever-popular Tony Sheridan on Tuesday 26th; Holly Wood on New Year's Eve and Tony Washington on New Year's Day. Tony does a convincing version of Bobby Thompson's act and should not be missed.

Members and their associates welcome.

LIBRARY CLOSURE

Our hard-working librarians will be having a break over the Christmas holiday, so the library will close on Saturday the 23rd of December 2006 at 1pm and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January 2007 at 2pm. Do not forget to stock up with books to tide you over the holiday. They wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

MAIDEN LAW MUSIC

The Three Horse Shoes music evenings are still going well and 'on song'. The format is still as a singaround, and there are no restrictions on type or standard of performance. Anyone who wants to strut their stuff, whether musical or poetical is most welcome, if you have a joke to tell the same applies.

There is usually an opportunity for some brave soul to do a little 'spot' and be a star for the week. Jo, the landlady also provides singers to entertain her customers on a Friday evening. Local singer/songwriter Chris Kelly, Pete Thompson and Steve Summers are regulars who have also performed on Fridays.

The new year begins on Sunday 7th January 2007. We start around 8.15pm. Ian Tute

WILDLIFE GROUP

At the meeting on January 9th in the Community Centre, members will hear about Geltsdale Nature Reserve from its Warden, David O'Hara. Starting time 7.30pm, new members welcome.

WHAT'S ON?

MOTHERS' UNION

Our meeting on the 10th of January at 7.30pm in Church is the Wave of Prayer Service with Eucharist and the enrolment of new members.

NEW YEAR CEILIDH

Lanchester Wildlife Group offer a new year Ceilidh on the 31st of December, of course. Doors will be open at 7.30pm and the first dance to the "Angels of the North" starts at 8.00. There will be a Faith Supper (that means you bring your own food, Emmeline) and you bring your own drinks too. Tea and coffee and music and a roof over your head (the Community Centre) will be supplied and tickets are a mere £5, concessions £4. Tickets from Elaine 520063 or Noel 560864.

WALL STREET CRASH

Wall Street Crash takes place at the Community Centre, 19th January 2007, at 7.30pm prompt, organised by Lanchester Lions. Come and enjoy speculating on the stock market with monopoly money, of course, and see if you can be skilful enough to build up enough cash to be a winner at the auction at the end of the evening where excellent prizes will be available to bid for. You will be told the changing financial and business incidents that happen to several fictional companies, mainly from the village, by successful businessman and tax expert, 'deadpan' John Richards. He will enlighten and amuse you all night! Do come along and enjoy the very real atmosphere of a genuine Wall Street Crash. Tickets, which include Pie and Peas, are £6 and, of course, there is the usual bar which may encourage you to take chances with your investments. Tickets may be obtained from Lion John Richards on 521590 or any Lion member.

COMPUTER CLASS

Anyone who is interested in attending an Introduction to Computers course in the New Year should contact John Wilson at the Community Centre. Phone 521 275

THURSDAY CLUB

On November 15th the Thursday Club members welcomed back a very old friend in the form of Norman Kelly who was talking on the topic of 'Painting your house with powdered milk.' We were regaled with songs, recipes and tips for every ailment, cleaning method and beauty tip which is known to mankind, this, amid much gaiety and laughter. Finally, arrangements were made for the outing to Castle Howard in North Yorkshire, where we are to enjoy our usual Christmas meal together.



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WHAT TO DO NEXT YEAR

Activities at the Community Centre include the following:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Watercolours 10-12, Ladies' Step Class 2-3pm, Tae Kwando 6-7.15pm, Male Voice Choir 7.30-9.30pm, WI 1st Monday 7.30-9.30pm, Lanchester Partnership 2nd Monday 6-9pm, Lace Group 7-9pm, Computers for All 9.30-11.30am, Poetry Group 1st Monday 7.30-8.30pm.	Yoga 11-12.30, Bridge 6.45-9.30pm, Reading Group 1.45-3.15pm, Bums & Tums 6-7pm, Wildlife 2nd Tuesday 7.30-9.30pm, Model Boat Club last Tuesday 7.30-9.30pm, Computers For All 3.30-4.30pm	Tiny Tots 9.15-11.15am, Flower Club 4th Wed 1-4pm, Aerobics 6-7pm, KeepFit 7.30-9pm, Bridge Class 1.30-3.30pm, Karen Stewart Dance Academy 4-5.30pm, Benfieldside Folk Dance Group 8.00-10.00 pm, Wednesday Whist 2-4pm, Needlecraft 1-3pm, German Back to Basics 2.30-3.30pm	Over 50's Exercise 8.45-9.45am, Art Group 10-12, Karen Stewart Dance Academy 4-5.30pm, Weightwatchers 6-8pm, Thursday Club 3rd Thurs 7.45-9.45pm, Tae Kwando 6-7.15pm, Yoga 7.30-9pm, Computers For All 9.30-11.30am	Tiny Tots 9.15-11.15am, Musical Minis 2-4pm, Scottish Dance Tuition 7-8pm, Scottish Dance 8-10pm, Amigos (over 80's) 9am-1pm, History Society 7.30-9.30 1st Friday (not January), German Survival 2-3pm

EVERYWEEKDAY

Playgroup 9.15-11.15am

The Exercise Centre is open from 9.15-11.15 am every day plus Monday and Thursday evenings 5.30-7.30

CONCERT FOR GOA

All Saints RC church continued its links with the churches in Goa, India, with a fund-raising concert on Saturday the 9th of December in the Parish Centre.

The evening started with a slide-show of photos taken during a visit to Goa by Bill Gray and some other parishioners, then Colm Doyle compered a concert including Michael Kelly, Chris Kelly, Sarah Symonds, David Conlin and Tony Reather, ending with the singers forming a choir to sing Christmas carols and a John Lennon song. Approximately seventy people attended, raising the sum of £913.

A message of thanks from Father Alex and Father Caetano in Goa indicated that the money would help children and young people in the two parishes.

HOME INDEPENDENCE SERVICE

Do you have difficulty with some day-to-day tasks?

Do you want advice and choice when buying your own equipment?

The Home Independence Service provides choice, competitive prices and free professional advice from Occupational Therapy staff.

The service is funded through Durham County Council and across County Durham and there are 5 shops and 2 Demonstration Centres.

The shops sell a range of mobility/household/bathing/toileting and personal care products. Products can also be ordered to meet your individual need and/or choice.

The Equipment Demonstration Centres have a larger range of display equipment which you can see and try. This includes a stairlift, chairs, large range of toileting/

bathing/showering/ mobility and moving/ handling equipment.

The aim of the service is to provide advice and information to people who wish to purchase their own equipment whether it is a jar opener, long shoe horn or advice on a bath lift or stairlift.

Shop locations:

Stanley Day Centre, Wear Road, Stanley, DH9 6LT

Tel 01207-290581
Abbey Day Centre, Abbey Road, Pity Me, Durham DH1 5DQ

Tel 0191-3846726
Demonstration Centre, Abbey Day Centre

Tel 0191-3860742
Opening hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 10.00am to 12.30pm and 1.00pm to 3.30pm

CLOSED WEDNESDAYS
 Links to Sensory Resource Centres for hearing and visual loss. Contact 0191-3860742 for more information.

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CRICKET CLUB SPORTSMAN NIGHT

There was nearly a last minute hitch when the day before the event it was learned that John Beresford and Alan Oliver were not available. However, the organisers turned up trumps with more than able deputies in ex-boxer/actor/comedian, Paul Tucker, and former Chelsea star Ron 'Chopper' Harris. They joined legendary Century FM performer Bernie Lamb with his comedy folk/pop songs. Paul Tucker held the evening together as compere with non-stop quips and jokes in a lively amusing style. Bernie Lamb featured first, adapting well-known songs to his own lyrics, mainly slating Sunderland - the place, the Makems, and the team. Ron 'Chopper' Harris took the stage and proved very popular amongst the crowded room with anecdotes and quite a bit of his life story in football. On his return to the stage there was a lively question and answer session which at times got quite rowdy. There was even a major bet struck between a member of the audience and Ron

Harris on the result of the forthcoming Ashes Test matches. Paul Tucker brought the evening to a close with a magnificent auction of sporting memorabilia which included framed famous football and cricket shirts and photographs, also boxing gloves signed by Henry Cooper and Frank Bruno. Prices for the auction were quite amazing, with the least paid being £55 for a pair of Steve Harper's goalkeeping gloves, and the most for a framed Pele Brazil shirt which went for £540. The total raised for the cricket club on this thoroughly entertaining evening was in the region of £2000 which was quite extraordinary. The money will be used to provide nets and extra facilities for the cricket club. Further money-raising events to be held in the spring will be a sponsored Coast to Coast Bike Ride with at least 20 participants, a prestigious Dinner, and another Sporting Evening. Watch the 'What's On' Page in the Village Voice for further news of these forthcoming attractions.

THE PRECEPT

Last week we reported on the appeal of the Village Bus users' appeal to the Parish Council for help. The Village Bus was started by Lanchester Partnership and maintained by them thanks to donations from various charities. The donations have dried up, the County Council is too broke to help and the Parish Council would have to add lots of money to the precept if they decided to pay for the bus, which they cannot do.

The precept is the amount of money the Parish Council adds to the District Council's Council Tax

demand. Attempts have been made to understand how it works: wise men have tried to explain it, to no avail. However it appears certain that last year the Parish Council spent £46,000, which cost the average household £26.89 each. To support the Village Bus would cost £15,000 extra. Logically this should raise each household's bill by one third, but logic has little to do with it, as something called the Council Tax Base comes into it (don't ask), plus a regular donation of about £5000 from the District. Hope this clarifies the situation.



Legendary Bernie Lamb of Century FM, former Chelsea football star Ron 'Chopper' Harris and ex boxer/comedian/actor, Paul Tucker

LANCHESTER SLIP UP IN LEAGUE

Only two games have been played since my last report, which is mainly due to the inclement weather conditions. A "home" derby against Consett had centre half Matty Bradford who was again deputising in goal, and he did really well until he sprained his wrist half way through the game with the score at 1-1. Andrew Riley scored a spectacular equaliser from 30 yards after Lanchester had defended the goal really well in a first half where the wind blew strongly into our faces, and only conceded one goal which was, according to all of our defenders but not the referee, "at least two

yards offside". Karl Hepplewhite (Centre forward) donned the keeper's gloves and Lanchester applied all of the second half pressure but were hit by two late Consett strikes, which resulted in a 3-1 the final score. A trip to Chester le Street St Cuthbert's YMT, the league leaders, showed us why they are table toppers. A weakened Lanchester cheekily took a 1-0 lead after two minutes when Mark Oliver struck, but this geed up the Chester-le-Street lads who gave Lanchester a footballing lesson, knocking five past a helpless Karl Hepplewhite in goal.

Top scorer Andy Sword struggled through the first half but had to be replaced at halftime. Then a further injury to Andrew Riley effectively had the lads down to ten men, as with no more substitutes available he bravely hobbled on until the end of the game. A further casualty was Mark Oliver, who had to leave the field with about 15 minutes remaining. All in all a bad day at the office, but I'm sure the lads can bounce back. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Lanchester Chapel FC. Yours in Football Jeff Parker

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by 16th January. The deadline for **adverts** is 14th January.

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