

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 9

Lanchester, April 2008

For contact information, see page 2

## CENTENARY EDITION

The first edition of the Village Voice was published in November 1999. This is our 100th. See page 6 for a copy of the front page of the first paper which, amongst other things, introduces a new Village Policeman and looks forward to the Millennium.

## CLEAN UP LANCHESTER SPRING LITTER PICK DAY

On Saturday 29th March the Lanchester Partnership held its third annual litter pick. About a hundred volunteers picked up about two hundred black bags of rubbish and filled the skip.

Those coming in for refreshments had lots of stories:

- the grandfather and his two grandchildren who hadn't been able to stop - having cleared one area had then gone on to clear another and then another;
- a picker who filled more than 5 bags telling herself "just one more bag then I really will stop";
- two young lads who asked to help and did so until the heavens opened, by which time they had a massive haul of rubbish;

- two people who, in the rain, cleared the bed of Alderdene Burn of a fire extinguisher and goodness knows what else;
- and then there was the rugby club - over a dozen of them collected 17 bags of rubbish from Kitswell Park alone.

The next day a smaller group of helpers cleared up around Malton, making a big difference there too. A big thank you to all of those who found the time to help, both regulars and newcomers, to CSV Action Earth for sponsorship, and to Derwentside District Council for providing the skip and lending litter-picking equipment. The village looks very much better - let us hope that each year more and more people see the difference and learn not to drop litter.



A smiling trio in the sun.

Rosemary Naylor, Brian Naylor and Pat Hepple work their socks off picking the litter



Good to see some of the Rugby Club and other youngsters joining in the litter pick



On the Sunday morning after the litter pick, Jill Gladstone, from the Partnership, is with some willing youngsters, Andrew Paton, Dale Walker and Anthony Sivils, who gave up their time with Jill, to paint the shelter on the green.



# 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.

## APOLOGY

We apologise for our 'Supermarket for Lanchester' article in the March issue of the Village Voice. It was, of course, an April Fool spoof in its entirety and was meant to be completely harmless. We apologise to all those readers who believed the article to be true and to all those parties mentioned in the article. Some were, of course, well known retail trade names, others were fictitious.

## TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE VOICE

### By email:

lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line)

### By post:

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

Telephone enquiries: (01207) 520559

### To advertise:

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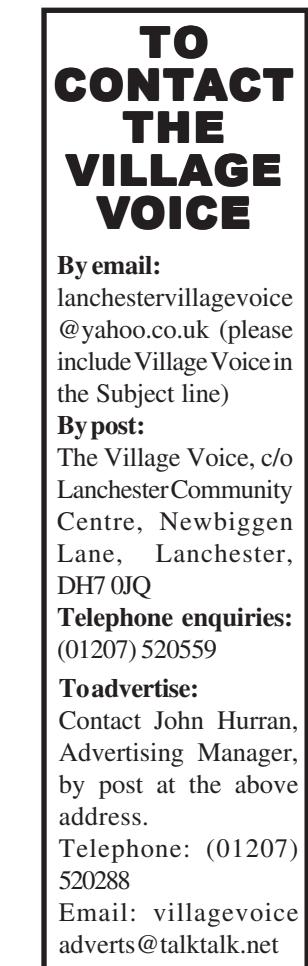
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## THE VILLAGE VOICE

**IT'S ALL  
ABOUT PEOPLE**

## THE VILLAGE BUS

During the last year fundraisers for the Village Bus raised a total of approximately £3855. This extraordinary sum was due to the fine efforts of the users' monthly donations, local shops and businesses, Lynn Cassidy with her raffles and, of course, Margaret Doyle, who contributed a magnificent £800 mainly in running sponsorship. Karen Bravington, who looks after fund raising, would like to thank everyone concerned, especially Fred the driver, who works well beyond the call of duty. Karen would like the fund raising to continue as usual, as the need will always be there.



Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to learn that the Parish Council is taking up the issue of NHS dentistry in Lanchester with the Durham Primary Care Trust. Before the Derwentside Primary Care Trust closed, I and other non-Executive Directors understood at the last meeting of the Board that the allocation of NHS funds would be conserved for Lanchester, pending the appointment of the new dentists.

As stated, the practice is willing to offer the service and their practice manager has spoken of their particular concern for services to children and the elderly. It is now urgent that people in the village should follow up the request made by the Parish Council for support and information to convince the Primary Care Trust of the need. Numbers and individual circumstances count - names are not needed. Please contact the Parish Council or the opportunity is in danger of disappearing.

Judith Lund, Brook Villa, Lanchester

Dear Sir

May I through the media of The Village Voice say 'Thank You' to the residents of Lanchester for the friendliness and general kindness which has been shown to me during my time as the Village handyman.

I have had nearly eleven very happy years serving the community and I have always had respect and kind words from everyone who has taken the time to speak to me, especially last year when I so sadly lost my wife, Avril.

More especially may I say a very public 'Thank You' to Jim Owens for being the best 'boss' anyone could hope to work for. Nothing but respect and trust and, above all, friendship during all of those years. At nearly 70 years I felt the time was right to hand over to someone younger. Once again, 'Thanks' to all.

Yours faithfully  
Cliff Hudspith

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank family, friends and the three churches in the village of Lanchester, for the tremendous support received since my dear wife Doris was admitted to North West Durham University Hospital with a stroke, several weeks ago. She is now recovering, albeit slowly at the Chester-le-Street Community Hospital. Laurence McDermott

## REWARD

A reward is offered for further information leading to the recovery of a quantity of jewellery stolen from a house in Lanchester on 10th April. Also if anyone has seen or is aware of a large Bells whisky bottle containing a large amount of small change (our grandchildren's savings) please contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Name and address withheld by request

## WESTLAND DENTAL CARE, Front Street

This is a notice for registered patients. The practice is operating as normal during building

works and there is a sign directing patients for temporary alternative access to the surgery.

## COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for March is 75. The draw was made by Mrs C Wardle of the Fitness Centre.

## Lanchester Community Centre



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# THE WEDDING OF KATE STODDART AND STUART KELLY

Stuart and Kate's wonderful wedding took place at the Methodist Chapel on Friday 11th April, and was conducted by Rev Gavin Hume. The bride looked absolutely stunning in her pale gold dress, from Victoria Bridals, of Chester-le-Street.

The bridesmaids, Amy Bell, sister of the bride, Claire Myers and Rebecca Haydock carried similar bouquets and wore mocha satin dresses trimmed with gold band and sash. The dresses made a perfect contrasting blend with the wedding dress.

Paul Kelly, brother of the groom, flew in from Perth, Australia, with his wife and young family much to the delight of everyone, especially his mother and father, Alan and Lestrine Kelly, and the parents of Paul's wife, Wendy. Other guests arrived from all over the UK and from as far away as Australia,

New Zealand, Dubai and Canada.

The reception was held at Derwent Manor for just over 100 guests who enjoyed a superb meal. Extremely amusing speeches were made by the father of the bride, Mike Stoddart, the best man, and the groom, who also produced some emotional moments for the gathering.

Beautiful flowers were displayed in the church, which blended with the newly made 'hangings' made for the occasion. The hall at Derwent Manor was quite exceptional. Andrea Stoddart, mother of the bride, had organised her many friends to help with a magnificent display of roses, calla lilies, eustomas and freesias in tall lily glasses. There were ivory chair covers and gold sashes adorning the tables.

The wedding breakfast was followed by an

evening celebration of a buffet, music and dancing, to which many other guests arrived.

The honeymoon was spent in New York and the couple will continue to live in Lanchester.

Andrea Stoddart would like to thank all her many friends who contributed to the wedding in so many ways to make it such a happy, memorable day.



*Stuart and Kate Kelly, just after the marriage ceremony, pose for photographs*

## ELAINE HOLMAN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Elaine Holman (née King) lived in Lanchester from 1968. She attended Greencroft School until 1971 then went on to Dryburn Hospital to gain her State Registered Nursing certificate. She moved to Forth Worth, America, in 1975 where she worked first as a Registered Nurse, but in 1981 joined Alcon, a major eye-care company, looking for a new career. She stayed with the company for 27 years in a wide variety of managerial roles, most recently as Manufacturing Training Manager.

The main focus of her retirement will be her daughters Amy and Emily and grand daughters Kayley and Kamryn, but she also plans to travel more and visit England more often. If you would like to contact Elaine, you could do so via bellmabell@aol.com.



*Elaine Holman*

## WELCOME HOME TO SIMON BELL

Sergeant Simon Bell, of the 4th Regiment Royal Artillery, received a special welcome home by his wife, Amy and six months old daughter Catherine.

He returned just in time for his sister in law, Kate Stoddart, and Stuart Kelly's wedding on 11th April. Simon has just completed a tour of duty on the front line in Afghanistan. After a few weeks' break he will rejoin the regiment which will be based in Germany.

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## VALERIE BURNETT

Born in 1930, she lived in Lanchester all her life and was educated at Durham High School. Every available spare minute in her early years were spent helping her father, Auctioneer, Estate agent and Farmer, Harry Nicholson. Later she did a lot of clerking for the family firm especially at Newcastle Auction Mart. Thus she gained a unique knowledge over a wide area of the district and its inhabitants.

Valerie joined the Butsfield Young Farmers Club where she had great success in stock judging and public speaking, both at County and National level. She and Leslie Steel represented the county at the Dairy Show in London. But her crowning glory was the trip she won to Canada and the United States of America, one of the first six

members to travel abroad as ambassadors. At the Butsfield club, she had the distinct honour of being the first lady Chair, later becoming President and then Life Vice president, supporting the club right to her death. She and her father founded the Deanery herd of pedigree British Friesian cattle. She won many prizes, leading on to her becoming a Judge as a young woman at the pedigree Friesian sales in York. In 1947 she was member of the winning livestock team at the Royal Show at York when they won the Gold Cup presented by the King. At 19 she won the County public speaking competition her subject - the Friesian cow. She was the youngest cattle judge in Great Britain and the first woman to be chosen to judge.

An active bridge player she was the last remaining founder member of the Lanchester Bridge club, supporting their twice-yearly charitable efforts raising several thousands of pounds for Willow Burn and the NSPCC.

After her marriage to George Burnett in 1957, she travelled widely supporting her husband in his naval career. Sadly he died in 1982. Thereafter she took an ever-increasing interest in her family Charles, Miriam and Susan together with her grand children, whilst still leading an active rural life.

All through her life Valerie retained her interest in agriculture, she was never happier than when attending an auction mart or a farm sale. She was a child of the countryside and a true countrywoman.

Jack Gibson

## FIRST ATTEMPTED PEAL OF NEW BELLS



*An attempt to ring the first peal of the new bells at the Parish Church lasted for about an hour, on Easter Monday morning. Further attempts will be made in the near future to perfect the ringing of eight bells instead of six.*

*Left to Right: Christine Richardson, Kris King, Sandy Jackson, Ron Warford, Janet Jackson, Billy Crozier, Olga Walker and Richard Noble*

## DURHAM UNITARY AUTHORITY ELECTION CANDIDATES

The number of candidates for the County Council elections has increased this time round, probably because it is the only 'game in town'. Margaret Mary Gray of Foxhills Crescent, Lanchester (Labour);

Ossie Johnson of Durham Road, Lanchester (Labour); and

Richard Young of Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester (Derwentside Independents).

The winning two candidates will serve on the new unitary authority and will decide upon our future with respect to local issues. Why not go and vote on Thursday 1st of May between 7 am and 10 pm at your local polling station?

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# BENNY HARRISON

Benny Harrison, whose funeral was conducted on Saturday 12th April in Lanchester Methodist Church by the Rev Kenneth Mankin, was born on the 1st November 1937 when his parents lived at Hedley Hall Farm. They then moved to Colepike Mill in 1941 and in 1954 they moved to Bells House Cornsay. He married Ros Suddes, who just happened to be a publican's daughter, in November 1966. The couple moved to Marleys Houses, where they were blessed with 2 sons, Malcolm and Tony.

Benny had started his muck shifting career by then working as a dozer driver, then site foreman a few years later. Moving his young family to Alderside Crescent, he started having a go at growing show leeks and doing very well at it. He won various shows about the area.

Benny worked as site foreman on the opencast sites for many years until 1982 when he decided to try a business idea and moved the family to a house at Broompark. Unfortunately the idea was not his finest, and after 3 years he was back on the opencast sites. After a brief time with Banks he got an amazing chance to work in West Virginia, USA, which he took, and spent 3 years there. We blame this time spent out there for the love he had for stetsons and dodgy belt buckles.

When he returned to the UK he also returned the family to Lanchester, this time Kitswell Road, and he returned to muck shifting, he seemed happiest working in muck. Unfortunately Benny lost his wife Ros in 1997, and with both his son's families and the

grandchildren living away from home was left with a big gap in his life now retirement had arrived for him. This is where his restoring vintage vehicles came along. Everything from motor cycles, minivans and even a tram got the treatment and filled his time. Then two good things happened in his life, the first charabanc and then later meeting Jean, both giving him great happiness, and found them both moving into Ragpathside Farm with Jean.

Various projects followed filling not only his time but his and Jean's social life. Sometimes in summer no-one knew where they were. The vintage circuit not only was his and Jean's life but got them to meet lots of new and sometimes very interesting friends. His last project is still in the shed, and was supposed to be for his last ride out, but time beat him to it, and it remains in the shed and I think still in his heart.

Tony Harrison

*Benny the Tram was a mate of mine  
Salt of the earth you could say  
He were up for a laugh, and always a beer  
Especially when I'd say I'll pay.*



A photograph of Benny wearing one of his stetsons and standing beside his charabanc

*He started off with a tram  
Now that was a piece of weird kit  
He'd be off like hell, with us in the back  
Strap hangers cos frightened to sit.*

*He then learnt his lesson,  
and moved on to a bus  
Which suited him down to the ground  
"Any more for a ride,  
come on love"  
I'm only charging a pound.*

*The Chara was famous throughout the land  
And Benny the Bus was born.*

*He looked the part in his uniform  
And loved playing with his horn.*

*He'll be driving a Chara in Heaven  
With St Peter by his side  
Despairing at all our antics  
Cos there's nowhere we can hide.*

*It was a pleasure in knowing you, Benny  
A memory for ever with me*

*The angels have now got the problem  
Of looking after a bugger like thee.*

*You'll be missed, old mate, on the rally scene.*

Peter Collins, 'The Antique Vehicle Association'



The coffin arrives in the village on the back of one of the vintage open-backed lorries



Friends and colleagues help to take the coffin off the back of the lorry and into the Methodist Church for the funeral service

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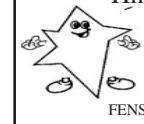
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# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 1. Volume 1.

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Lanchester, Friday 26th November 1999.

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30p

## Village Wedding

On Tuesday October 26th Miss Pat Matthews married Mr John Goodacre in the All Saints Kitswell Road Roman Catholic church, Lanchester. The Nuptial Mass was celebrated by Canon Robert Spence.

The bride looked stunning in a two-piece cream outfit bought and brought over from Spain. It was a bodice and long skirt with train enhanced by matching cream hat with tulle crown. She carried a bouquet of lilies.

The bride was given away by her brother Mr Martin Matthews and her bridesmaid was her niece, Kate Matthews, who wore an autumnal coloured tapestry bodice with gold skirt and a coronet of beautiful flowers.

The mother of the bride wore a black hat, grey suit and, draped over her shoulder, a silk stole. She had every reason to be proud of her daughter on her special day as she watched her son give his sister away.

The church was filled with the sound of Kathleen Gardener as she sang with the Consett Citizens Choir, and the choir sang the astounding hymn "Majesty" as the bride and groom signed the register.

The reception was held at the Royal Derwent Hotel, Allensford before the honeymoon in Cyprus.



*The Happy Couple, Miss Pat Matthews  
and Mr John Goodacre*

## New Sergeant for Village

Lanchester's new police supremo is Sergeant Tony Mole, who took up his post on 11th October. Sgt Mole has served in the police force for 12 years, stationed at Sacriston before detective duties in Durham, then promoted to uniformed sergeant at Stanley.

As well as Lanchester, his area includes Langley Park and Burnside. He reports that Lanchester has a low rate of crime, with 13 crimes in a 6 week period. However this is no consolation to those who have suffered theft. He would like to see

crime at zero.

Sgt Mole emphasised that people needing police help can ring his number,

521290, but when he is not available they should ring Consett police on 504204.

A crowd of 2000 people is estimated to have attended the bonfire at Kitswell Road park on

Saturday night (6th November). This annual event organised by the Lanchester Lions is becoming deservedly more popular as folks move more towards the large organised Guy Fawkes celebration as opposed to the bonfire at the bottom of the garden. You would certainly have had no problem roasting your potatoes on this fire and the fireworks were as spectacular as anyone could have wished for. The 'ordnance' was heard for miles around. We understand that about £2800 was raised for the Lions good causes.

## Bonfire Spectacular



*About 2000 people at Lanchester Cricket Club grounds, Kitswell Road on 6 November watched a spectacular bonfire and firework display*

## MAUREEN BARKER CELEBRATES HER 70th BIRTHDAY

Maureen Barker celebrated her 70th birthday recently with a surprise party at the 'Pavilion', Iveston, organised by four of her dear friends. Three are pictured in the photograph, namely: Phyllis Reed; Joan Osborne; and Barbara

Sproat. Thirty ladies including Maureen's two daughters-in-law and granddaughter were there and had a wonderful afternoon of friendship. The birthday cake was made and decorated by another dear friend, Betty Reed, again unknown to Maureen, until the

surprise party. Maureen's family celebrated with her at home for two days previous to the party, so all in all she enjoyed a wonderful birthday, one she says that she will never forget. Maureen would like to thank everyone who made her 70th birthday so special.



Maureen Barker second left celebrates her 70th birthday with dear friends, left, Phyllis Reed, right, Joan Osborne and Barbara Sproat

## JANET JACKSON CELEBRATES HER 50th BIRTHDAY

Janet Jackson certainly celebrated her special birthday in some style. The actual day was Thursday the 27th of March, which began with champagne, and friends around in the evening for a meal. Friday was similar with a different group, and Saturday was the big day with over one hundred friends and family attending a disco at the Social Club. Some

had travelled from as far as Colchester and Scotland. However, it wasn't just a disco. Craig Davies on the keyboard sang songs from the shows and Janet's younger daughter, Sarah, did a fine impression of 'Cher' along with her star backing group. The disco was lively and loud. A superb buffet was prepared by friend,

Julie Jones, and Margaret Brown made the lovely birthday cake which was iced by Judy Lowther. It was still not the end. On Sunday about 20 more people consisting of family and friends, some of whom could not make the main event, spent most of the day 'at home' with Janet, and husband Paul, for a final celebration, for a birthday she will always remember.



Janet Jackson celebrates her 50th birthday

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## FUND RAISING FOR CHILDREN IN NEPAL

Students at Derwentside College's Sixth Form Centre in Lanchester held a 'Uniform' Day on 2nd April in order to raise funds for children in a school in Kathmandu, Nepal. Jeewan Kendra Special School in Nepal has 50 pupils with varying disabilities including autism, Downs Syndrome and cerebral palsy.

The school relies on charitable donations as the Nepalese government does not make provision for children with special needs.

The fund-raising was initiated by Caroline Irwin, a former member of staff at the College, after a recent study visit to Nepal.

Caroline now teaches at King Edward VI School in Morpeth and has raised £1500 at her current school. A total of nearly £2000 will be sent to the special school - many thanks to all involved!



*The photographs above and below show both  
the staff and the students from Derwentside  
College, Lanchester, in 'Uniform'*



*Caroline Irwin with a  
photograph from her  
recent visit to Nepal  
with two of the  
children at the special  
school in Nepal*

## YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club runs on Monday evenings at Croft View Hall from 7.30 to 9.00 pm.

It is for all of the village youngsters who attend secondary school and it has been going well. But we need more regular helpers. If you

could help with general supervision (even for one evening a month) or if you could help in a specialised way, for example with music or games or any other of the activities, we would be very grateful for your assistance.

We can provide the necessary CRB checks and, if you like, NCSE level 1 Youth Work training.

Please have a good think about it, and if you might be able to provide assistance please ring Jill Gladstone on 528 114.

## PARISH CLERK HONOURED

Lanchester Parish Council marked the retirement of Parish Clerk Jim Owens with a party held in All Saints RC Parish Centre on 18th April.

Parish Chairman Neil Fleming described Mr Owens as helpful, supportive and always available at the end of a phone to give advice, and added that without him the Council's achievements would not have happened.

After the presentation of a photograph of Lanchester church and a cheque to Mr Owens and a bouquet to his wife, Mr Owens praised the councillors for their unpaid work in the sole interests of the community.

Mr Owens came to his post as Clerk in 1992 with a wealth of experience in hospital administration, including Assistant Hospital Secretary at

Shotley Bridge hospital and the key post of Services Manager at Chester le Street hospital, where he was responsible among other things for staff recruitment, training of non-medical staff and commissioning new hospital buildings.

The clerk's job is to action the decisions of the Council, but Mr Owens played a much more active role than that. He had to advise the Council on the law affecting procedure and Council decisions, and between Council meetings he was often able, with the agreement of the Chairman, to sort out urgent problems.

He is proud of the way the village has developed. When the Community Centre was renovated, the purchase of materials through the Parish Council made a large saving on VAT, and in

the construction of the Park House play area, 'Park Life' was helped in the same way. The installation of the Christmas lights was a large project, involving a lot of administrative work for the clerk, with the very practical help of Mr Cliff Hudspith. While putting in more hours as clerk than his contract stated, Mr Owens also served as executive member of the Primary Care Trust until the local Trusts were amalgamated, served on the board of governors of St Bede's School and plays an active role in the life of All Saints RC church.

He has witnessed many physical changes in the last 16 years. The Parish Council once met in an oak-panelled room in Park House with a raised podium for the Chairman, surrounded by reminders of the Rural District

Council. When the building was sold off, they moved to Lee Hill Court, and when that too was sold they returned to the same room in Park House, now owned/occupied by Durham Community Council. The clerk's office, which was once in the Community Centre

(formerly Dr Fox's surgery), is now in Park House. However the duty of the clerk has continued to be to help the council members to carry out their work more effectively, and Jim Owens has done this wisely, patiently and authoritatively for the last 16 years.



*Neil Fleming, Mrs Mary Owens and Jim Owens after the presentation*

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# LANCESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

## ANNUAL VILLAGE CONFERENCE 8th April 2008

**Annual Minutes** of the last annual conference on 10th April 2007 were approved, as were the Audited Accounts of the Parish Council for the financial year ended 31st March 2008.

### Play Area

Simon Green gave an up-to-date analysis of the whole site of the proposed new play area at Kitswell Road, including access and the possibility of a cycle park. It also included the acquisition of more land and the planting of trees.

### Change in staff personnel:

Thanks were given to the retiring Clerk of the Council, Jim Owen, and to Cliff Hudspith, the Parish Council 'handyman' for their hard work and service over the past years. The new Parish Clerk is not due to start until 28th April.

### Any other business:

It was decided that residents should be given some more information about the position of the Parish Plan. It was also proposed that the council should move towards becoming a Quality Parish Council.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8th April 2008

**Police Report** given by PCSO Daniel Mullen. There were more total calls (74) this month than last (67) but the increase in number was due more to general

enquiries and alarms than to crime. There was only one house burglary and only 2 lead thefts (7 last month) although there were also 5 other thefts. 6 incidents of vehicle nuisance included 2 parking problems and there was a slight drop in anti-social behaviour. Criminal damage was about the same but there were 5 traffic accidents, which were no doubt due to the bad weather.

PCSO Mullen reported that CCTV had helped to convict someone for the lead thefts; lead thefts had quadrupled over the last few years due to the increase in the price of lead, but scrap yards were checked. He added that this is the time of year when gardening items from sheds are stolen and also that car keys are being stolen from inside houses through the letterbox and that keys should be kept well away from the front door.

Last month's start of the parking initiative seemed to be working well and parking tickets had been given out, mainly in Front Street, so that the parking situation is in the process of improving in the Village.

He also reported that older people in Deneside had been intimidated and also there were problems in Deanery View and that anyone who is worried should not hesitate to report their worries to the Police. In fact he stressed that any incidents that residents have been subject to or witnessed be reported, as reporting of recent incidents has resulted

in some good intelligence being received; this enables the Police to target the relevant areas in the village. PCSO Mullen also requested the Parish Council to liaise with the registered owners of vacant buildings to ensure their upkeep, security and general appearance to an acceptable standard and to deter the attention of acts of antisocial behaviour and vandalism. The police themselves are increasing their patrols and presence in Front Street and nearby. Cllr Johnson thanked PCSO Mullen for his positive report.

**Minutes** of last month's meeting were approved.

### Matters Arising:

#### Replacement of Clerk to the Lanchester Parish Council.

Mrs S Laverick will take up this appointment on 28th April 2008.

#### Replacement of the Maintenance Operative

It was agreed that the 3 applicants be notified that they would not be interviewed until after the new Clerk took up her post so that she could be involved. It was also agreed that Mr Hudspith be asked to clear up the glass in the play area and to do a weekly check until an appointment is made.

#### Public Toilets in Lanchester

A report has been received from Derwentside which refer to agreements made with licencees of £640 per annum revenue payments but no capital investment.

It was agreed that the Council was prepared to make a yearly contribution but not to

make any capital payment because of the risks and prohibitive legal costs involved.

### Parish Plan Working Group

It was agreed that this becomes an official committee of the Parish Council and that the formation of this would await the new Clerk.

### Highways

The yellow lines at the corner of Newbiggen Lane and Front Street and the Traffic Speed Warning Sign at the entrance to the village. These items would be looked into with the County Council Highways Department.

### Letters

Letters of thanks from the recipients of the donations made last month were read out.

### Chairperson's Announcements

EU request that records be kept until 2015 re the Play Park. There is to be a meeting at Lumley Castle with regard to the involvement of Parish Council when the Unitary Government takes over.

### Date and Time of next Meeting

Due to a clash with the District Council Meeting, the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on TUESDAY 20th MAY at 7 pm in the Conference Room at Park House, Lanchester, to be immediately followed

by the MONTHLY BUSINESSMEETING.

### Planning

Lanchester Arms. Demolition of public house and shop and erection of 4 dwellings with 6 parking lots. RESOLVED The Chairman to ascertain if this is instead of or in

addition to previous planning permission. Proposed erection of agricultural building in Ragpathside Lane. The Parish Council feels that this is an inappropriate development and disputes that the building is agricultural. Knitsley Lane, Forest Lodge, Consett. Proposed erection of stable block. No objections.

Proposed erection of cycle shelter and parent waiting shelter at Lanchester EP School. No objections.

## PLANNING MATTERS

At the April Partnership meeting the planning applications were discussed. At EP school a mesh fence is to be erected on the north side and a Parent Waiting Shelter, a cycle storage shelter and further storage near the swimming pool may be built.

There are plans to repair the garage showroom at the Russell Close/Witbank site and provide a petrol service station with new underground tanks and an MOT workshop.

The owners of the Lanchester Arms would like to demolish the building and erect a row of houses the same height, and the Partnership were opposed to demolition. There was considerable discussion about the need to impose conditions on developers to screen unsightly buildings or extensions, with particular reference to one obtrusive example on Peth Bank. It was hoped to influence future decisions via our elected representatives.

## PASSIONATE ABOUT HEALTH

Several members of the staff of Willow Burn Hospice came to Lanchester library on 10th April to explain the work they do and to answer questions.

Deputy Nurse Manager Janet Ridley explained that the Hospice was founded in 1989 with a grant from Macmillan. It has developed to do a range of work in Derwentside connected with palliative care, including symptom control, respite and end of life care. They offer a Hospice at Home service, outpatients clinics including one for lymphoedema patients and bereavement service for families, and four inpatient beds.

The Hospice is not just there for cancer patients but supports individuals with motor neurone disease, end stage heart failure, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. 40% of its patients are discharged from the Hospice services. The Hospice costs £860,000 pa to run and the Primary Care Trust (NHS) provides £252,000, so help is needed from grants, bursaries and organised events, like a Hospice Ball,

B-B-Q (a hoe-down this year!), fairs, cycle rides and a sponsored walk, but also from individuals in the community.

MPhil Hilary Armstrong said that she had always supported hospices and would welcome greater support by the NHS. On the other hand hospices have freedom to lead the way and develop to meet public needs.

Chief Executive Helen Mills praised the contribution by Elddis Managing Director Nigel Cook, who is not only donating 15p for every mile covered by one of his trucks but offered to make further donations for every one of his employees who beat him in the Great North Run! She was also grateful for volunteers who transported or visited the Hospice's patients.

In answer to questions about the Hospice's future, she said that several options are being considered for its future development. Librarian Monica Murfin announced that the hospice will benefit from a raffle and book sale in the library which has raised £288. Books are still available for sale.

### QUEEN'S AUCTION FOR WILLOW BURN



On Easter Saturday during the Beer Festival at the Queen's Head, a spontaneous auction of goods provided by suppliers, raised £292.00 for Willow Burn Hospice. Eleanor Windmill, wife of Manager Richard (centre), presents a cheque to Angela Lowes, Fund Raiser, from Willow Burn.



Members of the hospice team in Lanchester library; Back row: Fund Raiser Angela Lowes and Nurse Manager Margaret Webb, front row: Chief Executive Helen Mills, Events Fund Raiser Julia Brown and Deputy Nurse Manager Janice Ridley

### MEGA SMOOTHIE ROADSHOW



Paul, from ZooLab, Library, how to make fruit smoothies, explaining the children, a full goodness and vitamins in complement for the the ingredients. This event was part of the 'Passionate about Health' campaign promoted by the Library Service.

### CHURCH COFFEE MORNING



A coffee morning was held at the Chapter House on Wednesday 9th April to raise funds for the Parish Church of St John, Holmside. This was well supported and the church will benefit by a total of £203.70. In our photo: Isabel Appleton, with Pam Young and Elva Hockaday from Burnhope.

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The glitziest ladies of the Thursday Club, left to right, Sylvia Hocking,

Dulcie Welsh, Betty Reed (winner) and Connie Moore

On March 20th, the Thursday Club celebrated 28 years of fun and companionship at their birthday party held in the Community Centre. There were actually 2 celebrations - we had decided to be a little more cultural a week earlier when a few of us had been to see the Birmingham Royal Ballet at Sunderland Empire

performing 'All That Jazz' - a wonderful evening out! The party on the 20th was a fun and games night with birthday cake and nibbles. Amy Bell came along and provided a super 'live' musical quiz, we had the usual table quiz, we played a few light-hearted games of bingo with different quirky callers, and we held 'the glitziest lady contest'. As Angela's posters had stipulated 'dress to impress', we certainly did and members voted Betty Reed our most impressive lady.

Prizes for the competition were single roses, the spare one I thought to

send to Alma Taylor, one of our members who has recently undergone major heart surgery. It was extremely heartwarming to have practically all the roses returned as members preferred to send them to Alma to wish her a speedy recovery - she's our raffle lady and we miss her.

The Thursday Club meets every 3rd Thursday in the Small Hall of the Community Centre and coming up at our May meeting is 'Ready Steady Cook'.

We do have a few places left this year - why not come along and join the fun.

## BURGLARIES IN OAKWOOD

Two bungalows in Oakwood were broken into at some time in the two weeks before 15th April.

Mr Ramshaw told the Village Voice that on return from a ten day holiday he found that someone had attempted

to remove the double glazed kitchen window, then had smashed their way into the house. The adjoining house, which was also unoccupied at the time, had also been broken into. Police officers and the CID are making enquiries.

# EASTER SERVICE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

On a bitterly cold Good Friday morning between 40 and 50 people from various denominations gathered on the village

green to worship. Canon Peter Waterhouse led the service, Stephen Burt read the lesson, and Ordinand Darryll Hall said

the prayers. The service was organised by 'Churches Together' and repeated on Easter Sunday.



Left to right: Darryl Hall, Stephen Burt, Canon Peter Waterhouse



The Good Friday service on the Green

## BOGUS BAG COLLECTORS

Beware of bogus bag collectors! A very alert resident of Broadoak Drive spotted a van with four men, who collected a bag with goods for 'The Blind', from her doorstep. They behaved furtively, which aroused her suspicions. She took the registration of the van and sure enough, the real collectors arrived a few hours later. The lady passed on details of the vehicle to them, which they said they would pass on to the police.

## MANOR GRANGE STABBING UPDATE

David Constantine, of Manor Grange who is alleged to have stabbed himself and blamed a neighbour appeared in court on 1st April. He is accused of intending to pervert the course of justice and harassment of a neighbour with whom he is said to have been in dispute. At the plea hearing at Durham Crown Court he was bailed to a hostel away from Lanchester, pending medical reports. On 11th April Mr Constantine made a further court appearance, he pleaded not guilty to both charges and is now awaiting a trial date.



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## EASTER EGGERY



Bubble, Bubble, Burt Hunter gives the eggs a stir



Noel Jackson and Andy Liddiact rattle those buttons  
while the eggs boil

Easter Monday brought sunshine and a freezing cold wind, but a large number of children from Lanchester and round about assembled with their keepers behind the Green School for the traditional egg rolling down Pace (Paste) Egg Hill.

This event has been growing in popularity, and 32 children wrapped the eggs which they had brought in leaves, flowers and the onion skins provided before wrapping them in cloth and presenting them to Burt Hunter in the Eggmobile to be boiled.

During this process, music was provided on English concertinas by Noel Jackson and Andy Liddiact, their fingers turning a delicate shade of purple in sub-zero temperatures, and Burt led a scratch choir in the Pace Egging Song. The children went off for

a treasure hunt during the boiling process and returned to unwrap their eggs. These were then assessed by three judges for the quality and intricacy of their coloration; Burt Hunter and Noel Jackson were joined this year by Dr Ian Brunt, owner and guardian of the fields behind his home, The Lodge, and a man with a discerning eye for a good egg.

Finally the eggs were taken up the hill to be rolled down it by their owners, with more prizes for the longest distance thrown. Lanchester Wildlife Group are the organisers of this popular event, and ought to be awarded a Fabergé egg each for their trouble. Well over two hours of entertainment without electronic aids. Fabulous.

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The winners of the competition proudly display their eggs

# EASTER EGG DECORATING COMPETITION

On the last day of term before Easter, the EP School held an Easter Egg Decorating Competition across for all junior children, and also included sections for parents and grandparents.

The winning parent was Mrs Hodgson, whilst Mrs Goodwin took the grandparent's title. Year group winners among the children were as follows: Reception, Luke Crowe and Jessica Hudsberth; Year 1, Emily-Rose O' Neil; Year 2, Libby Wright; Year 3 Jessica Redshaw; Year 4, Dominic Scott; Year 5, Eve Harkin; and Year 6, Sadie Densham. The nursery children made Easter bonnets.



Luke Crowe and Jessica Hudsberth,  
Reception winners



Eggs decorated by Year 2 children

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

In March we decided to try pastures new and took ourselves off to Wolsingham - we had been recommended to try the Mill Race - a restaurant set in an old village pub and not long opened. The venue itself is very minimalistic, possibly more alluring in the evening when tables are set with lovely white cloths, etc. Seating was a little hard for posteriors past their prime - do ask for a cushion from the bar area if you go, which is what we should have done! The welcome and attention we received was warm and friendly. At lunch time there is the à la carte plus a not very exciting set menu, £12 for 2 courses, although you could mix both menus, which some of us did. We opted for minute steak with gorgeous chips and salad, sausage mash and red onion jam, pork with apple pickled cabbage and mash, salmon and risotto. Puds were blackcurrant sorbet, jam roly poly and custard, vanilla pannacotta and blackberry jelly and crème brûlée with shortbread biscuits. The food, we were all agreed, was truly delicious and that's a big plus. But, as we are ladies of a certain age, we do like our creature comforts and the Mill Race definitely needs to up its ideas in that direction.

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## **DANIEL SMITH BLUES BAND**

'Absolutely brilliant, a boogie-woogie maestro' was Paul Jones' opinion on the poster for the concert on March 29th in the Community Centre. Cynical punters who thought they would be the judge of that were treated to a mind-blowing helping of Chicago blues, boogie-woogie, barrelhouse and sheer digital dexterity by keyboard king Daniel Smith, supported by a talented team of musicians.

Guitarist John 'T-Bone' Taylor, a picker of the first rank, roamed the stage as if to commune with the master. Bass guitarist Mark Olbrich and percussionist Pete Mills kept the rhythm going and showed what they were capable of in solo spots. But it was Daniel Smith, laconic in his introductions, almost still as his fingers did the talking, who led the musical journey through the highlands of blues, New Orleans, John T

Hooker, Big Bill Broonzy, a laid-back version of Billy Holliday's 'Ain't nobody's business if I do' and 'Shake, Rattle and Roll' on his other piano, the Community Centre's upright which was demolished and thoroughly barrel-housed. Truly Lanchester has never seen anything like it, but they liked the noise it made.

The evening was sponsored and part of Durham County Council's 'Elements' series.



*Daniel Smith gives the resident piano a boogying it won't forget*



*Daniel Smith Blues Band*

# LMVC ENTERTAINS PATRONS

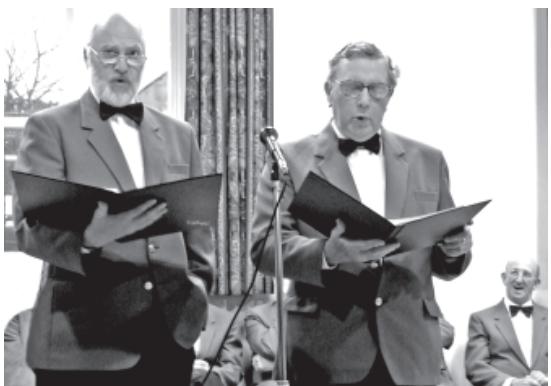


*The Lantones entertain their Patrons*

On Saturday, April 12th, meet their patrons and also the Lanchester Male Voice Choir held its annual Patrons' Evening in the main hall of the Community Centre. It was attended by 117 choir patrons who came from as far afield as Stanhope, Gateshead and Shotley Bridge.

The Patrons' Evening was established shortly after the formation of the choir in the autumn of 1967 and has continued without a break since then. It has the same aim with which it began and that is to acknowledge the support that the choir receives, both financial and in encouragement, from our patrons. The evening still has the same atmosphere of friendly relaxation where the choir members can

with a quiz that tested the patrons and choirmen alike when he sang excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan operas wearing appropriate headgear. This was followed by an item from The Lantones, The Barbershop Quartet that has been part of the choir for many years. Peter Beckwith and Bill Leadbeater, accompanied by our pianist, sang a duet of humorous lyrics set to a hymn tune. In the second part, the stage was taken by Heraldo Biasi, John Gray and Richard Harvey who sang folk songs accompanied by two guitars. This was followed by a piano solo, played brilliantly by Noreen, and the last solo item came from Ian Tute who sang two songs with guitar in the style of Jake Thackray.



*Bill Leadbeater and Peter Beckwith sing a humorous song*



*Gordon Knighton sings the part of Coco from The Mikado*

The entertainment was followed by the supper that again this year was provided by Fiona of Crinnions. This had to be seen to be believed as it was magnificent. The evening concluded with a fun quiz and time for chatting.

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# THE POTENTIAL OF STEM CELLS

It was standing room only on the 3rd April in the Parish Centre of All Saints Catholic church to hear Dr Nico Forraz speak about his work in stem cell research. When the talk was arranged its topicality was quite unexpected, but recent developments and their press coverage had fanned interest.

Dr Forraz, originally from Lyons, came to this country after obtaining his first degree. In London he met Prof. Colin McGuffin, with whom he has continued to work ever since, concentrating on Cord Blood and Adult stem cell research. He has recently been appointed as Senior Research Associate with Prof. McGuffin's team at the Centre for Life in Newcastle. Dr Forraz gave a detailed presentation on their work developing human tissue from these

stem cells and researching possible therapeutic uses.

Press publicity is usually focused on embryonic stem cells production and the associated ethical arguments but Prof. McGuffin and Dr Forraz are able to produce embryonic-like stem cells more easily and cheaply than those from artificially produced embryos. Cord blood stem cells can be collected and saved after most births. There are now several banks of cord blood stem cells in the UK including Newcastle. They have found several medical conditions which respond well to stem cell therapy including type 1 diabetes and cerebral palsy. Dr Forraz pointed out that they do not have a cure but trials of treatment with cord blood stem cells produce significant improvements.



Dr Nico Forraz with Pat Dixon and Canon Spence

As the majority of funding for stem cell research in this country is attracted by embryological research the team have had to set about increasing their own funds. In 2006 Prof. McGuffin and Dr. Forraz set up a biotechnology company ConoStem developing 3-dimensional human tissue constructs from cord blood cells to advance

drug discovery and clinical applications. ConoStem won the North East Universities Science and Technology Blueprint Business Plan Award for that year. Now, together with the Fondation Jerome Lejeune a French organisation researching genetic diseases, including Downs Syndrome, they have set up an international research consortium Novussanguis to research biotechnological, pharmaceutical and medical research applications of cord blood and adult stem cells.

## WILDLIFE GROUP

Lanchester Wildlife Group were visited by Jim Corkhill, Director of Durham Wildlife Trust, to give an update on the Trust's work, illustrated by slides.

He announced two new reserves. Ragpath Heath, south of Five Lane Ends, comprises 6 or 7 acres on two sides of the road, some woodland and the rest to be restored to heathland. Stanley Moss is a piece of raised bog east of Sunniside (beyond Tow Law) which is donated as the result of a wind-farm being created on the adjacent woodland, and comes with a management grant.

Boxes are being placed in Hamsterley Forest to provide homes for pine martens, as these rare creatures have been seen in the area. Interestingly a show of hands revealed that many of those present were not members of Durham Wildlife Trust!

cattle, and pictures were shown of an engine house discovered on the fell, part of a former coal mine. Details were given of the Living Landscapes project, by which nature reserves, SSSI's and other wildlife habitat are mapped with a view to linking them together. River valleys were the most favoured links.

Marketing Manager Adam Eagle told the group that Durham has 8000 individual members, plus corporate supporters, and that 700 new members had been recruited in the last year. He stressed the importance of fund-raising and increasing membership and welcomed suggestions for doing this.

Hedleyhope Fell has been fenced so that it can be grazed by longhorn



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# LONGOVICIUM SURVEY



## ST MARY THE LESS

Lanchester Local History Society had a return visit from Resident Architect Norman Emery on April 4th. He described his work on the church of St Mary the Less, chapel of St John's College, whose congregation are soon to enjoy a level floor and underfloor heating.

The church was built in the 13th century, and as it served a small parish, mainly the garrison of the castle, with a congregation of poor servants and no rich patrons, was ill maintained. Though it acquired a tiled floor in the 19th century and an organ in 1924, improvement was overdue.

Norman was able to put in four test pits and discovered 58 bodies. Of these 15% were infants and 40% teenagers, reflecting the high child mortality. Tuberculosis

was rife and most infants had rickets, with osteoarthritic problems in the older ones. A brick vault was discovered containing several coffins of wood lined with lead.



Norman Emery

The talk was illustrated with slides, some rather gruesome, and Norman had also brought an excellent drawing of the skull of St Cuthbert, made in 1899.

The Friends of Longovicium spent the 14th to the 16th of April in a chilly and at times extremely damp field near our Roman Fort carrying out a geophysical survey, with a view to establishing the extent of the vicus, or civilian suburb of the Fort. At the time of writing the vicus seems to extend some way along the Roman highway Dere Street.

Our photo shows Natalie Swann of Durham University Archaeological Services (2nd left) giving training in the use of a magnetometer to 'Friends' Martin Hutchinson, Brian Page and Louisa Ferguson.

## BOWLING CLUB REOPENS

Lanchester Bowling Club held its Spring meeting on 17th April and welcomed new members. The Green will open on Saturday 26th April and the first match will be on 3rd May, though the pavilion and green will be out of action on 1st May because of the election. Several friendly matches have been arranged during the season. Subscriptions for the year are £35. If you would like to join, ring Ken Raper on 01207 521673 or just come to the green any afternoon at 2 pm.

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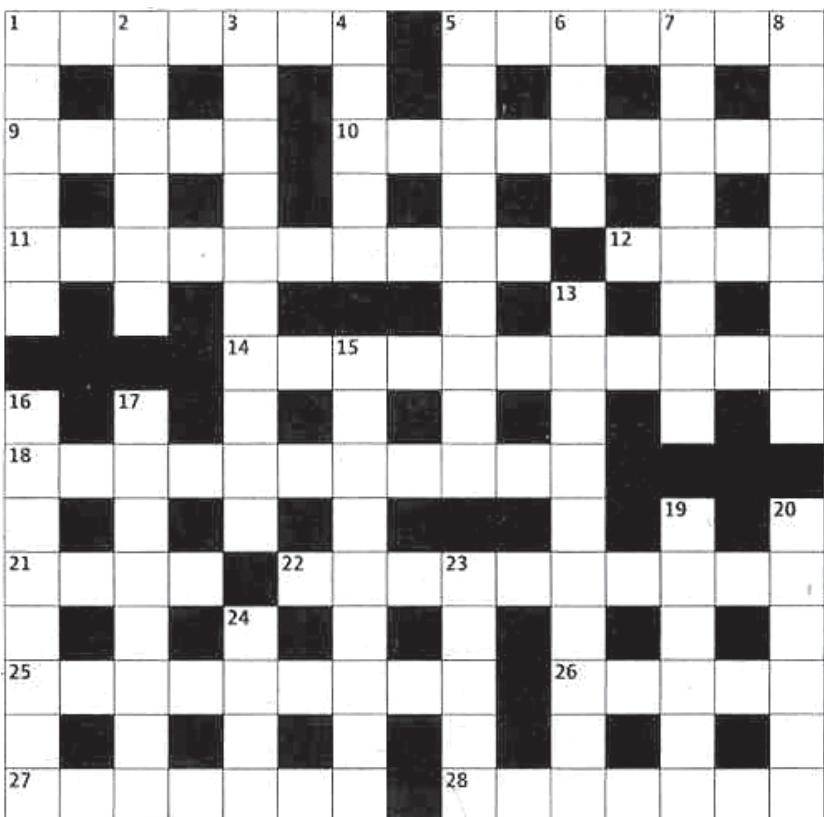
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# CROSSWORD 24

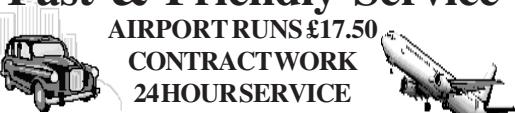


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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## ACROSS

- 1. Leaked (7)
- 5. Hostage (7)
- 9. Furious (5)
- 10. Establish position or I change a tenet (9)
- 11. Conscript (10)
- 12. See 26
- 14. Improve on (2,3,6)
- 18. Instrumentalist (5,6)
- 21. Destroy (4)
- 22. Refrain from arrogant conviction (5,5)
- 25. Triangular chocolate (9)
- 26,12. Putsch (4,1,4)
- 27. Instrument for delivery (7)
- 28. Meeting (7)

## DOWN

- 1. Join up (6)
- 2. Frolic (6)
- 3. Bear station? (10)
- 4. Worker bee sound? (5)
- 5. Sharp practice in each cry (9)
- 6. Irish pound (4)
- 7. Upset tea stain (2,1,5)
- 8. Voters (8)
- 13. Breeds (10)
- 15. Unaware (9)
- 16. If pirate changes drink (8)
- 17. African island (8)
- 19. Rodent from a gout infection (6)
- 20. Guard retreat after conflict (6)
- 23. Views from seaside aspect (5)
- 24. Nothing more than (4)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 23

### ACROSS

- 1. party politics
- 10. Nicosia
- 11. October
- 12. enemy
- 13. Hottentot
- 14. neigh
- 16. commandos
- 18. totaliser
- 19. ensue
- 20. overreach
- 23. sheep
- 24. alveoli
- 25. negator
- 26. uses insurance

### DOWN

- 2. alchemist
- 3. testy
- 4. poach
- 5. lion-tamer
- 6. titlerace
- 7. Cabot
- 8. international
- 9. British Empire
- 15. hilarious
- 16. cessation
- 17. dyspeptic
- 21. Elvis
- 22. Hindu
- 23. sigma

## EASY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

### ACROSS

- 1 Children's character
- 2 A magazine
- 3 To hit someone
- 4 A summer drink
- 5 Boxer's weapon

### DOWN

- 1 Vegetables
- 2 Female sheep
- 3 Farmyard fowl
- 4 There are said to be 7 of them
- 5 Dropped by Cockneys

Think carefully, but if you need a clue, please see bottom of page 22.

## WI NEWS

The April meeting started with president Jennifer Macdonald welcoming members and going through the business which included the annual resolutions on which members of all WIs vote with the results passed on to delegates who represent members at the AGM. This is where WI members can and have made a difference to policies. The two resolutions this year are (1) looking at a ban on bottom trawling where huge nets scoop and destroy everything in their way (2) imprisonment of people with mental health problems where prison may not only be the wrong place but people may even be made worse by being imprisoned. These will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

The bus trip to Yarm on the 2nd of July is full but we do have a waiting list. Maureen Barker gave two readings, one about simple pleasures of being young many years ago and the other (which I am sure many of us can relate to) of feeling 21 inside but having our parent looking at us when we look in the mirror.

Miss Mary Moralee won the raffle and the competition "An old

cooking utensil" was won by Eileen Curnow with a wooden potato masher with Maureen Barker 2nd with a mincer.

We would like to thank the people who are collecting and putting Yorkshire Tea Tokens through the door of 17

Woodham Court as we are still collecting them.

Secretary June Wallis read the minutes and reminded members of our coffee morning on Wednesday 9th of April, the group meeting at Satley on Monday 9th of June and that the balance of the trip money would be collected at the May meeting.

Our speaker was Jennifer Gill on Food in the Archives. Jennifer has just retired from County Hall where she researched the documents in the archives and the talk she gave on menus over the centuries was fascinating. She started with a 1413 (posh nosh) coronation dinner for Henry VI where the 1st course of 10 items included venison, pike, boar's head, mutton, chicken, swan, heron, custard, fritters and a sugar figure of the king.

This was followed by a 14 item 2nd course and a 18 item 3rd course. It was definitely a meal fit for a King. We then moved on to the 17th century when all the food was placed on the table (the first buffet?). We moved through the years finishing in 1973. This talk was a fascinating glimpse of "keeping up or even one better than the Jones" over the centuries. Anyone can look at the archives, just phone County Hall for details. Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks and the meeting finished with tea and biscuits.

The coffee morning on the 9th of April was well supported with a wonderful raffle and cake, jam and gift stall. Thank you to everyone who helped, came and gave and spent so generously.



*Speaker Jennifer Gill with the competition entries*

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## LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU ANSWER

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



*Coffee Morning. Jennifer Macdonald, Barbara Sproat, Breda Branscombe, Nancy Walker and Lilian Downs spoilt for choice at the cake stall*

## **Country Market**

The next country market in the Community Centre will be on Saturday 26th April at 10 am. The usual array of cakes, pies, eggs, jam and other delights will be on sale. In June the market reverts to the 1st Saturday, which is the 7th.

## **Library Story and Craft Sessions**

Starting on Thursday May 1st there will be fortnightly story and craft sessions for children aged 3 years to starting school. Places are limited and tickets, price 50p per session, can be booked by ringing 521021.

## **Table Top Sale**

There will a Table Top Sale in the Conservatory of the Community Centre from Tuesday 6th May to Friday 9th May. If anyone has unwanted, saleable items, please hand them in to the Community Centre office or the Fitness Centre. They will be gratefully received.

## **Wildlife Group**

Visit to the Greenhouse at Greencroft on Tuesday 13th May, 6.30 pm or 6.15 pm in the Community Centre car park.

## **Happy Jack**

A John Godber play comes to the Community Centre on May 3rd, played by the Library Theatre Touring Company.

'Happy Jack', the main character, who looks a lot like John Godber's granddad, is a miner, a brawler, a conman, a lover, a thug and a comedian, a Northern mixture of tenderness, truculence, humour, pride and pig-headedness.

The life of Jack and his 'otherhalf', Liz, is revealed through a series of vignettes, full of drama and wry humour.

Tickets cost £5 and may be had from the Post Office or the Community Centre, phone 521275.

## **MP Surgery**

Our MP, Hilary Armstrong, will hold her monthly surgery, when she helps constituents with their problems and grumbles, on Friday May 9th at 6 pm in the Civic Centre, Consett.

## **Junior Wildlife**

The next meeting will be on Saturday 3rd May, 10 am - 12 noon. Meet at Malton Picnic Site carpark at 10 am. Children aged 8 upward welcome.

## **Presents**

# **A Northumbrian Night**

This excellent evening's entertainment includes Pipe Music, traditional singing and humorous readings from the works of some well known and not so well known, local authors.

**Saturday May 31st at 7.30pm Tickets £5.00 each available from Community Centre or Lanchester Newsagents**

**Ring John Wilson for more information 01207 521275**

*This concert has been organised by Dr. Brunt (President of the Community Centre) and all proceeds are for the running of the Centre.*

## **Red Cross Appeal Week 4th-10th May**

We have a small group of volunteers who will be collecting or delivering envelopes. If your envelope is not collected, please (if you are able) post it through the Red Cross Shop door.

Thank you for your support. M Williams

## **Mothers' Union**

The meeting on Wednesday 14th May is our Musical Evening with The Lantones. We will meet in the Chapter House before going into church for 7.30 pm.

## **Family Nature Walk**

On Sunday 18th May, 10 am - 12 noon. Meet at Malton Picnic Site carpark at 10 am.

## **Lions Abba Tribute Night**

Calling all ABBA fans and those who enjoy a good night out at reasonable cost. Come and join Lanchester Lions in Tribute Night to Abba and other great sounds to be held on Saturday 17th May at Lanchester Social Club. Disco-Supper-£5. For tickets phone 01207 520372.

# **WHAT'S ON?**

## **Short Walks**

The 'Byways and Bridleways' group offer two Tuesday evening walks in May. The first starts at the Black Horse, Waterhouses on 13th May at 7 pm (for info, ring 238639) and the second at The Charlaw, Blackhouse Lane on 27th May (for info ring 0191 3718854).

The 'Short Circuits' RA group meet at the Newburn Visitor Centre (map ref NZ 159656) on 10th May at 10.30 am for a 6-mile walk along both banks of the Tyne, and near the Post Office, Cassop (NZ 347384) on 24th May at 10.30 am for a 5-mile walk. Bring a picnic for these walks. For info ring 521427.

Acorn Amblers have a walk on Sunday 18th May, starting at 1.30 pm. The meeting place is the car park on the B6310 and the walk explores woodlands between Dilton and Hamsterley Mill. For details ring 218872.

## **Macmillan Afternoon Tea**

On Sunday 18th May from 2.30 pm, Lanchester and District Macmillan Committee will run the afternoon teas at Snods Church Hall, Shotley Bridge. There will be a selection of home-made savoury and sweet items together with tea and coffee, all at reasonable prices. There will also be a tombola and a nearly-new book stall. Please come along and enjoy an event from a Local Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support.

## **Weardale Railway**

On 25th May, there will be a Teddy Bear's Picnic. See [www.weardale-railway.org.uk](http://www.weardale-railway.org.uk) for information.

## **WI**

The next WI meeting will take place in the small hall of the Community Centre on Monday 12th May (second Monday of the month).

The speaker will be Sharon Harrison on doorstep crime with the competition a security tip. Visitors are welcome, admission £1.

Could the balance for the Yarm trip please be paid at this meeting.

Names are still being taken for the Group Meeting at Satley which takes place at 7.15 pm on 9th June. Entrance of £2.50 which includes supper and entertainment to be paid at the door on the night.

## **Lanchester Social Club**

As well as the entertainment on Saturday evenings, the Social Club offers regular events throughout the week. On Monday evening at 8 pm there is line dancing, and on Tuesday dancing for the younger element with Karen Stewart starting at 6 pm.

On Thursday evening there is bingo at 8 pm, and on Friday the popular 50/50 (old-fashioned and formation) dancing starting at 8 pm. Sunday evenings are games nights, with card games and dominoes. There are ladies' darts and dominoes too, and all these can be enjoyed for a nominal membership fee.

## **Easy Crossword Clue**

Concentrate on the clues across. You will find that the answers to all the across clues are the same. Then it really is easy.

## Organ Recital

Dr Ian Brunt will be giving a recital at Rowley Baptist Church, near Castleside on the A68, on Saturday 10th May at 7.00 pm. The organ at Rowley is a remarkable survival, built by Henry Bevington c. 1820, and thanks to the funds raised by Dr Brunt's recitals over the past few years has had the crimson Regency silk front restored. There are plans to complete the restoration, with the original blowing mechanism (also intact) and a little cabinet work on the mahogany case.

The programme to be presented is entitled "Letters from Bath", featuring organ music by Handel, John Stanley, William Boyce, Henry Heron et al, readings taken from the letters of the Reverend John Penrose (1766-1767), Jane Austen and Sidney Smith, illuminating the music and the lively social scene of life in Georgian Bath.

Entry to the concert is unreserved, with a retiring collection for chapel funds and a home-made tea, provided by the ladies of the congregation.

## Coming Shortly

The C of E Parish Church holds its Summer Fayre, with sunshine and strawberries in mind, on Saturday 14th June from 9.30 to 11.30 am.

Lanchester Lions Village Carnival will take place on 21st June 2008. The theme will be Pirates and Princesses.

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

## Bowes Exhibition by Local Artist

Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, is currently featuring 'A selling exhibition of intricate illustrative works on vellum and ceramics, many inspired by objects from the museum's collections'. The artist is Judy Hurst who is a long standing resident of Lanchester, but spends much of her time in Limoges, France. When not involved in art she runs marathons! The exhibition is from 19th April to 20th July.

## LANCHESTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

The 40th (Ruby) Annual General Meeting of the Lanchester Community Association took place in the Community Centre on the 19th March.

Those present heard the Chairman Mr Arthur Maughan MBE report on the progress of the Association over the last twelve months. Of particular satisfaction was the commissioning of the new gym and the fact that, having been forced to budget for a deficit of £6000 in 2007 by the withdrawal of the funding for the Education in the Community Programme and the spiralling costs of utilities, the actual loss for the year was only £1000. This was attributed mainly to the increase in the number of hours that there are members of staff in the centre which in turn has led to an increase in room rental revenue of 50% in 2007. The Chairman paid tribute to the staff and all those people who give their time and expertise freely,

## LANCHESTER CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season is now very close and we are looking forward to what could be an excellent season. The First Team's first home game will be Saturday 19th April against Cowgate starting at 1.30 pm. The 2nd Team entertain Consett on May 3rd whilst the 3rd Team's home fixtures begin with Newcastle City on 27th April. The bar will be open and hopefully the cricket (and sunhats) will be on - come on sunshine, we missed you last year - so if you fancy a relaxing Saturday afternoon

please feel free to come through fund raising down and support your events and little bits of village club. The Third sponsorship we get. If Team play on Sunday you would like to sponsor afternoons and again the bar will be manned and Setanta sports is available. 520 198 for details.

Junior Team cricket begins on 20th April with fixtures for many age groups. Juniors can confirm their itineraries with Andy Allen on 07786918021 or Bob Gardener on 07980238187. We are very pleased to announce that we have been able to provide our junior cricketers with shirts and kit bags

Finally, the winter months have, as usual, been hard on our finances so if members are able to come down for a beer or a coffee, please do so. We are always looking for new members and our Treasurer is usually to be found in the club on Friday evenings ready to welcome anyone who wishes to join. David Rafferty

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# TOUR OF BIKE TRACKS



*Jill Gladstone and Margaret Gray watch as the bikes are loaded on the trailer*



*Our research party*

On a squally, cold afternoon 11 youngsters and 7 adults (including 2 parish councillors) set off to look at bike tracks in the area.

The first place we visited was Whickham Thorns - a great place for all sorts of activities - which is close to the MetroCentre. We all enjoyed this track for its openness and the variety of possible routes to take.

Next, on to Coxhoe, with the added adventure of a blown trailer tyre on the A1(M). Luckily our men-folk proved to be very resourceful in finding and repairing the fault and replacing the tyre. A huge amount of money has been invested in the play facilities in Coxhoe where there is a massive area of hard jumps and bumps. Our young people felt that it was 'OK, but

not what we want in Lanchester' and 'dangerous in the wet'. The last stop was at Belmont, where there is an open track with a good surface in a fairly compact area. The verdict on this was that the surface was great but the track was a bit too restricting - not enough scope or variety of routes.

A local youngster from Sherburn demonstrated

amazing skills and showed us 'the bowl'. The play equipment here was also tested and the zip wire declared to be mint.

Then it was time for home - tired and muddy.

The trip was arranged in response to a request for biking facilities in the village (a priority request for over 10 years) and was organised by Alex Harrison and Shannon Glendenning with the Lanchester Partnership. Cllr Johnson paid for the bus from his Members' Initiative Fund.

The trip gathered a lot of very useful information as the young people all recorded their thoughts on each of the places visited. Their record sheets will provide the basis for a report to the Parish Council and funding bodies.



*Whickham Thorns*



*The Bowl at Belmont*

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## NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 20th May. The deadline for **adverts** is 18th May.

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