

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 9

Lanchester, December 2008

For contact information, see page 2



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCHED ON



Arthur Maughan MBE, Chairman of the Community Centre, switches on the Village Green Christmas lights, ably assisted by: left: Kate Gerry and Cameron Hume, both from Lanchester EP School with Bethany Winter and Joe Butler from All Saints Primary School

A Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2009 to all of our Readers

THREE, FOUR, FIVE! NATIVITY PLAY AT EP SCHOOL

On 9th December a large audience were witnesses to a wonderful Nativity Play in the EP School. It was performed by the Nursery and Reception class children, which in schools is known as the Foundation Stage. These three, four and five year olds were amazing. They sang beautifully, they spoke very clearly and they acted out their parts with great aplomb!

All the children in these classes were on stage and they behaved beautifully, and each one knew what they had to do. The main characters of this well known Biblical Story were all there: shepherds and sheep; angels; and three wise men, plus all the farmyard animals. The costumes of the animals were ingenious, and all made by the

teachers and some parents. The key characters of Mary and Joseph were played by Max Densmore and Georgia Kate Brunton and the latter sang a song for us absolutely beautifully. (Watch this space!). Whichever part the children played of course they were equally important in the eyes of their beholders and there were many very justly proud parents and families in the large audience.

The name given to the play was 'The Wiggly Nativity' and so at times they were allowed to wriggle as it was in the songs, but otherwise the children sat still perfectly, all very involved and interested in what was happening. They are a credit to their head teacher and staff. Mrs

Davis as head of the school thanked all the children for their wonderful performance and the staff for their hard work and dedication to make this play so wonderful for us to see. Mrs Davis also said that for her Christmas had begun, as it does every

year with this special group of children. This nativity is the first of seven nativity plays being held in the school this week, involving the whole school. I am not quite sure if any could surpass the threes, fours and fives children. They have that unique quality

of innocence and the beholders catch sight again of a world where goodness truth and peace prevail, and where evil definitely has no place.

Well done, threes, fours and fives. I am already looking forward to next year.

Brenda Craddock



Some of the 3, 4 and 5 year-olds enjoying their nativity play



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 would like to report an incident which occurred on the 8th of December. I was standing on the pavement in front of the Red Cross shop waiting to cross the road when a car mounted the pavement, the driver gestured to me to move out of the way. When I pointed out that he should not be parking on the footpath he was quite abusive and said that he was entitled because he had a disability badge. I then crossed the road but he was still very unpleasant and shouting at me.

After coming out of a shop on the opposite side of the road he was still parked on the pavement. I went into Spar and when I came out he was gone and another car with young people inside was parked in the same place. While talking to a lady I pointed out to her the car parked there: the driver then gave me a V sign. At the same time a police car came out of the car park. I waved him down and asked if it was OK to park on the path with or without a disability badge. He told me that it was illegal to do so. The car with the young people then drove off. The police said they would report the matter when they got to Consett.

I am a pensioner and was very upset. Nobody should have to put up with this sort of abusive behaviour, but the main point is that parking on pavements should not be allowed in what is already an overcrowded village street due to increasing traffic volumes.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address withheld.

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:
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To advertise:
Contact John Hurran, Advertising Manager, by post at the above address.
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BAPTISM OF JAMES THOMAS LEARY

Chris and Clare would like to thank those who attended James's Christening on Saturday 8th November at Lanchester All Saints' R C Church and for all the kind gifts he received on his special day.

Thanks also should be given to Lanchester cricket club for their help at the reception afterwards.

Chris and Clare would also like to show their appreciation to Canon



Bob Spence and friends after the sudden death of Clare's mam, Eva. for their support and help

PETER BROWN AND RACHEL LEE

Peter and Rachel were married earlier in the year at Christ Church, Pitsmoor, Sheffield. Peter, elder son of Judith and Keith Brown, grew up in Lanchester and attended the EP and Greencroft schools. After a year out spent overseas he went on to study Chemistry at Sheffield University, and settled in the city. Currently he is training as a Probation Officer with the South Yorkshire Consortium.

Rachel is no stranger to the Northeast, as she was at university in Newcastle. She grew up in Sheffield, younger daughter of Steve and Di Lee, and returned there to work in a secondary school.

Their wedding day was a lovely occasion. Friends of theirs formed a small



band to lead the singing, and a friend of Rachel's family performed the ceremony. Afterwards all the congregation was invited to drinks and cakes in the church, and the speeches were held there so that the message from

Peter's Best man, Matt in Tanzania, could be played over the a/v system. Peter had five "Men of Honour", including his brother James, who was responsible for sound on the day. Rachel had 3 bridesmaids, plus her 2 small nieces as attendants. The reception was held at the Wood Lane Countryside centre, Sheffield. The couple spent their honeymoon in Cornwall and are making their home in Sheffield.

EARRING FOUND

A silver hoop earring has been found at the bus-stop near the library and can be retrieved by contacting Lanchester library on 521021.

Merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy 2009
to everyone
from members of
Lanchester Lions Club

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number for November is 88. The draw was made by Thelma Lovett of the Art Club.

THE VILLAGE VOICE AND THE CREDIT CRUNCH

The Village Voice is a non profit making company run by unpaid volunteers and funded by advertising revenue. The editorial team are very grateful to our advertisers who have supported the paper over the years. Now the credit crunch is very much upon

us it is perfectly understandable that some of these valued advertisers need to reduce some of their advertising spending. As contracts are being finalised for next year many advertisers are reducing the size of their advertisements or reducing their

frequency. We ask our readers to continue to support all of our advertisers through these difficult times. Inevitably, the reduced advertising revenue has an effect upon the make-up of the Village Voice. We pay for printing on a page by page basis. This means

that it will be necessary to reduce the size of the paper by a few pages each issue in order to break even. We therefore ask all contributors to keep their contributions to a minimum getting to the key facts as quickly as possible. If your contribution is

edited or your picture is not included, we hope you will be understanding. We very much want to continue producing the paper for the good of the village but like everyone these days we have to cut our coat according to the cloth.

AWARDS FOR RED CROSS

A very pleasant evening was held at The Alma Resource Centre on the 25th of November, 2008 when awards were presented to members of the Red Cross for number of years served. There was a fine buffet with four speakers afterwards before presentations were made by the President, of Co Durham and Teesside Red Cross, Geoffrey Berriman.

Recipients of these prestigious long service awards from Lanchester Branch were as follows:
5 Year Badge - Ann Allen and Tracy Whitton-Hart.



Left to right: Dorothy Cox, Ann Allen, Marjorie Gray, Ian Gibson and Ann Horner. Some members were not available for the photograph.

10 Year Badge - Marjorie Gray, Ann Horner, Margaret Tweddle and Marian Williams.	20 Year Badge - Dorothy Cox and Alan Williams.	25 Year Badge - Ian Gibson.
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DAVE MADDOX, OUR NEW VILLAGE HANDYMAN

Dave Maddox, 47, from Ushaw Moor, took over as Village Handyman during the summer. Dave has driven through Lanchester for as long as he can remember and has always admired the village, especially when the Christmas lights are on. He did work for almost a year at the All Saints Primary School as a relief caretaker, and is now pleased to be working full time around and about the village where he is able to chat to the locals, some of whom he says are 'real characters'!



Dave smiling for his photograph

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ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS FAIR

In spite of the cold and treacherous conditions underfoot, the All Saints fair that was held on Saturday the 6th of December in All Saints primary school attracted a goodly number of children, parents and grandparents. As usual the event was officially opened by Canon Bob Spence, and though early arrivals were few, people poured in throughout the morning to snap up a few bargains and try their luck on the tombolas, with the bottle stall a popular attraction.

Among the goodies on view were hand made cards, Christmas goodies, home made cakes, bric a brac, plant stall and children's toys, and you could try your luck on the guessing competitions and lucky dip, as well as a roll a ball game. After doing the rounds of these, some good refreshments were available in the Parish Centre where Santa Claus, together with his elf, awaited and a barbecue in the yard



The tombola at All Saints Fair



Santa meets Rebecca

supplied warming hot dogs and burgers. The Fair raised £1500 for the school Parent Teacher Association to be used in future projects.



The barbecue at the Fair with their warming hot dogs and burgers

THE WILLOW BURN FAIR

A large group of people met at St Bede's School to support Willow Burn Hospice on a cold and snowy November day. It was the first time the Willow Burn fair had been held at St Bede's School as Lanchester EP or the All Saints schools usually hosted the event. Money was raised in a number of ways, through stalls, tombolas, a raffle, cakes, sweets, jewellery and bric-a-brac. There was also a display of old black and white photos of Lanchester and the surrounding area for everyone to view. The event was organised by Helen Mills, the main co-

ordinator of the day, with invaluable help of the nursing staff of Willow Burn Hospice and volunteers from the community. But what makes Willow Burn such a worthy cause? "It is local and needs all the support and help it can get. They do such excellent work," said Doreen Welch, who baked cakes to raise funds for the hospice. Willow Burn is such a vital part of the village community, the nurses support families through difficult times and help people cope with terminal illnesses and make them as comfortable as possible. Kim Goulay holds a

special regard for Willow Burn because it cared for her grandfather during his illness. Kim works at Barclays Bank in Lanchester and said "Barclays are matching pound for pound what the tombola makes so it is my small way of beginning to say thank you to the people who work at Willow Burn." The event was a great success with over £1,700 being raised in support of the hospice. I am sure everyone involved with Willow Burn would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who came along and supported the event. *Claire Hogarth*

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Julia Brown the events fundraiser giving the announcement at the opening of the fair



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**LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL
 MEETING 9TH DECEMBER 2008**

**Police Report for
 November:**

Rowdy Nuisance 6, Theft 0, Vehicle Nuisance 2, Burglary 1 (attempted burglary), Vehicle Crime 2, Criminal Damage 2.

Street lighting to the rear of The Garths has now been fixed to discourage youths from gathering there. An alcohol seizure took place by a uniformed officer in front of The Garths from an underage youth known to police who was dealt with accordingly.

Regular police patrols are taking place in locations where youths are known to gather and these will continue.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 9th November, the Planning Meeting on 26th November and of the Finance, Development and General Purposes on 26th November were approved. The latter included a decision to increase the Precept by approximately the same amount as inflation.

Handyman - Progress Report. Members were pleased to welcome David Maddox (See article on page 3), the recently appointed Handyman and thank him for his hard work. This quarter he has had additional maintenance work, such as repairs to play areas, painting, weeding, etc. as well as weekly inspections of the Roman statue. Mr Maddox stated there is less litter during school holidays. He also stated that he had been asked by one of the Lollipop Ladies to do some gritting on the path on the village green. The question of gritting on Parish Council owned land was discussed and it was decided to put this on the Agenda for debate

at the next meeting. It was also agreed that Mr Maddox should attend a training course in January to obtain a G39 Certificate, the Council to pay the fee.

Kitswell Road Play Area. Cllr Mrs Glass reported that Derwentside District Council had approved the planning application and had, indeed, considered it a really good example of a community project. Work will start as soon as possible with G & B Civil Engineering Ltd having been appointed to do the work, and ordering of equipment will go ahead.

Correspondence. Letters had been received from Lanchester Partnership requesting that they be consulted in the matters of traffic speed and pedestrian safety, as well as the review of the village green, when they go to Committees; this was agreed.

A letter had been received from a resident regarding storm damage to a larch tree on Parish Council land near the old Blacksmith's Forge; Cllr Harrison stated he would make a further inspection in daylight.

Regional Conference. It was agreed that the Lead Officer would attend this one-day event, the Council to pay the fees. Cllr Burton also said he would attend and any other Members wishing to do so were to inform the Lead Officer.

Area Action Plan - consultation document. After discussion it was agreed that a response to this document would be made to the effect that all areas could not be represented in the same way because of their

different sizes and types - eg rural/urban; if no response was made it would imply approval of the document.

Roman Statue on Valley Walk. Invitations have been sent to various people concerned to attend the unveiling ceremony at 1pm on Wednesday, 10th December.

Financial Information and Accounts for Payment were explained by the Lead Officer and approved.

Date of next meeting. Tuesday, 13th January, 2009 at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester.

A SURGERY, WHERE RESIDENTS CAN TALK TO COUNCILLORS, WILL BE HELD FROM 6.30pm TO 7pm BEFORE THIS MEETING.

PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER

Planning Applications:- Proposed removal of condition 3 of previous planning permission to enable the roof to be constructed of tiles and not slate at Oakwood Stable, Durham Road, Lanchester. RESOLVED.

That the Clerk writes to the Council to object to the application and ask that the existing conditions should remain.

Decisions of District Council

Proposed erection of two-storey and single side extension at The Granary, Ragpath Farm, Lanchester. Permission granted subject to conditions.

Tree Preservation Order 204, Deanery Cottages. Order confirmed without any modification.

NOTES FROM THE PARTNERSHIP'S DECEMBER MEETING

Nothing fantastic, but lots of good news and generous donations this month!

Friends of the Fort

The Friends have had another good month for finding things. They have also had a good month for raising funding, having been given £200 by Cllr Bill Gray and £500 by Cllr Richard Young from their Members' Local Initiative funds.

They have tracked down a number of objects from Longovicium, including a special little solid gold plaque, and they were surprised and delighted to find a well preserved altar which they had never seen or read about before.

So far they have not discovered evidence on

the ground of a Roman road leading out from the Fort to Chester-le-Street or the Tyne, but they are in communication with several landowners with a view to extending their investigations.

Kitswell Road Recreation Area

Great news! The proposed bike track and play equipment have been given their planning permission, and tenders for their construction have been received by the Parish Council. It is about to award a contract.

Youth Club

Not such good news about the Youth Club. The aim is to re-open the youth club in the New Year, but at present there are not enough volunteer supervisors.

Dangerous Roads

Over the years the Partnership and Parish Council have tried, with mixed success, to persuade County Hall to make our roads safer. They are going to try again, but to succeed will need proof that things really are dangerous. Please will you tell Mike Gladstone on 528114 about danger spots, and give him evidence - eg details of any accidents or photographs of dangerous incidents.

Village Bus

There is going to be a new contract, so now is a good time to make any changes. If you would like to suggest any changes - for example a change of route - please contact Maureen Loy on

529780 or Mike Gladstone. The Parochial Church Council and an anonymous lady have generously given the bus £200 and £150, and the bus passengers themselves contribute over £200 every month. Without support like this the bus would not be running.

Partnership Costs

It is usually difficult for the Partnership to get funding for its core costs (insurance, room hire, etc) and for the early stages of projects. Cllr Gray has given £850 for these, which will make up the typical overspend on them both for a year.

Cheerful news as we approach Christmas!

January Meetings

The next meetings will be in the Community Centre on January 12th; the 'Working with Young People' meeting at 6:00pm and the 'Combined Working Groups' at 7.30. Members and non-members are always welcome at these.

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CONFIRMATION CONDUCTED BY BISHOP MARK



At a recent service held at St Margaret's Church, Tanfield, conducted by Bishop Mark, of Jarrow, the under mentioned from All Saints Parish Church, Lanchester were confirmed: Left to right: Adele Biggs; William Tatham and Ellie Allport. Neil Benzie was also confirmed but was unavailable for the photograph.

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The ladies who prepared the lovely buffet: left to right, Sara Allison, Ann Kerr, Judith Jobling, Ann Sirs, Jean Densham and Angela Lee.

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The Parish Council honoured the Lancaster Community Centre at the ceremony to switch on the village Christmas lights. Arthur Maughan, MBE, who is the Chairman of the Community Centre along with children representing the local primary schools performed the switch on of the lights and we have featured this as

our lead photograph on the front page this month. Afterwards, at a reception in the Parish Centre, Councillor Ossie Johnson thanked invited members of the Community Centre staff and officials for their good work on behalf of the people of the village and the guests enjoyed a splendid buffet provided by the ladies of the church.

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CHRISTMAS HOUSE LIGHTS



Deanery View once again scores highly for the display of Christmas decorative lights showing lots of colour and lots of different scenes outside the house for all of their neighbours and passers-by to admire

LANCHESTER PARISH CHURCH FAIR

On the cold 29th November, the Parish Church Fair took place at the Community Centre. There was a good turn out with lots of things to buy and win. The introduction to the fair was given by Canon Waterhouse, with the opening by Councillor Ossie Johnson.

The Centre was packed, with everyone trying to find Christmas gifts on the stalls and by entering competitions to win some great hampers. There were some lovely looking cakes and some fantastic photographs on sale. The atmosphere was very friendly, and it felt very Christmassy. A big thank you to everyone who organised a stall, bought a raffle ticket, gift or a cup of coffee; your contribution helped raise a fantastic £2217.30 for church funds!



From left to right, Sheila Waterhouse, Chloe, Ossie Johnson, Canon Peter Waterhouse, Linda Johnson and Sophie

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LIONS SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

Organisers, Alan Kelly and Peter Richardson, must have been very pleased that just over 90 attended the Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch at the Community Centre, especially in view of the atrocious weather. The kitchen was extremely busy as a lovely meal, of roast pork etc, with gateaux for pudding, was prepared by Lady Lions and friends, whilst the Lions were in good form as waiters.

President, Ian Murray, made a welcome address. Entertainment was provided by some very young people this year, all from St Bede's School. Catherine Richardson, soprano, sang two wonderful renditions - Cesar Franck's, Panis Angelicus, and the more familiar Pie Jesu, by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Catherine was

accompanied on the piano by renowned village music teacher, Marie Harrison. The entertainment continued with the more extrovert Philip Richardson, Catherine's brother, on guitar and saxophone, with Ben Sterling on piano. They began with some popular seasonal music which the audience joined in, then continued with the 'Gotcha Theme' from Starsky and Hutch, a David Bowie number, then Breaking Sunrise, a song written by Philip. In between songs, Philip told some amusing stories and jokes which amused everyone.

The whole atmosphere of the occasion was lovely. There was a buzz of conversation around the hall as old friends met up with each other again, all wearing their hats from the crackers provided. The

afternoon was rounded off by the free raffle of the beautiful table decorations made by Andrea Stoddart, followed by President Ian Murray, who gave an account of the 'Credit Crunch' in Japan, which was highly amusing. He also thanked everyone for coming to the party. Finally Santa Claus arrived and with help from the Lions distributed a gift to everyone. The Lions would like to give their thanks to Andrea, wife of Lion Mike for making the table decorations, to Lynwood House for peeling the potatoes, to H & J Brown Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers for providing the vegetables and, of course, the young entertainers who did so well. At the very end Mike Gladstone made an appreciative speech to the Lions on behalf of all those who attended.



Seniors enjoying their meal

LION PRESIDENT VISITS AUSTRALIA

Lion President, Ian Murray, presents a bannerette from Lanchester Lions to Lion President Bob of South Marooch Lions, near the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, during a recent visit by Ian and his wife, Heather. They came across the Australian Lions on a visit to Eumundi markets where they have a



weekly slot rather like our good weather allows own bookstall, the main almost all year round difference is that their opening.

BLUE PETER



Children from the EP school raised £154 for the current Blue Peter Appeal with a Bring and Buy Sale. They are seen here happily looking for Christmas presents.

RED CROSS WEEK

Red Cross Week was busy and successful for the volunteer workers. Having already raised £600 on the Book Sale, the Coffee Morning raised another £150, including the sale of jewellery, making a total of £750 for the week. Brenda Gibson and her team would like to thank all those who helped and supported the cause.



Pam Bygate and friends enjoying their coffee at the Red Cross Sale

KNITSLEY FARM SHOP OPENS

Two years of dedication and hard work for Edward and Rachel Jewson culminated on November 4th in the opening to customers of Knitsley Farm Shop, based on East Knitsley Grange Farm, which has been in Edward's family for six generations.

The farm shop offers the farm's own-raised beef, lamb and mutton, together with a selection of home-cured bacon and hams. Poultry will be sourced locally and a start has been made to raising pigs. Game will be available in season. A wide range of additional products, sausages, cheese, vegetables, pickles and dairy products, provide the customer with a

pleasant alternative to the local supermarket or High Street. (Indeed, M&S have purchased lamb from the farm for their meats' range.)

The shop is conveniently located adjacent to the Lanchester Valley Walk

and allows access by car (spacious parking), bicycle (cycle racks provided) or foot.

A short walk through the shop ends in the warm Granary Café where Rachel and her staff make you welcome.



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MEL'S FAMILY DISCO



Children dancing the night away

The Disco night was a real fun night especially for the many children who came along with parents and grandparents. The music was loud and the entertainment terrific, with Glen Coxon managing the Disco, fabulous singing, games and competitions. He also persuaded the adults on to the floor and included them in the children's activities. Star turn was little 4 year old Jamie Coxon, who belted out a Michael Duble number, in a great duet with his dad.

The function raised £560 (including donations), with all the pies, sausage rolls and cakes kindly donated by David South at Hobson Food. That was a huge help! Thanks also go to Trish, Richard and staff of the Social Club who were very helpful and kind.

Mel and Sue would like to thank everyone who came to 'Dance for Liberia' as well as all the helpers and others who gave donations. Thanks also to Glenn for his wonderful Disco and entertainment. The money will be used to do the finishing off work on the boy's new dormitory at the Orphanage in Liberia, plus internal doors, paint, mosquito screens etc. The latest update on the Orphanage is as follows. At the end of the civil war most of the buildings had been damaged or destroyed. The wonderful support of Lanchester has resulted in a re-build at the Orphanage of many of the original buildings, including the construction of a completely new school paid for by All Saints RC Primary, Lanchester. Last

year a new girls dormitory was built and this year there followed a new boys dormitory, all paid for by people who have supported various functions in the village and personal donations! Truly amazing! The first project, "Lanchester House" started in May 2005 so over a 4 year period there has been such a change to the lives of these children (many of whom were Child Soldiers forced to fight in the Civil war). The children have also been able to join Apprenticeship Schemes in Building skills, (so much of the building work is done by them), and they are beginning to grow their own food as well as keeping chickens!!

Mel and Sue are off to Liberia towards the end of November. The first week will be spent going out to the Orphanage each day, which will include attending lots of meetings as well as proper work! The second week they will be working on the Mercy Ship, Sue in her usual job in Hospitality and Mel having a change of job this time, going into Housekeeping ie cleaning all the public areas of the ship!!



As you see some of the children have now got their new football tops. On the way back to the ship we go through a really crowded market and we managed to buy (at great expense!!) 2 decent footballs. The school were delighted with the strips and have great plans now that they have team colours AND a ball!! Thank you All.

OPENING OF WESTLANDS

After a long wait, Westlands Dental studio had its grand opening on 29th November. The dentist offers specialist cosmetic dentistry such as implants, crowns and veneers as well as having more, unusual facilities such as a therapy room and an on site Podiatrist. I spoke to Akash Ghai about the opening of Westlands and what it's taken to get there. "When we first took over there was a lot of work to be done and we wanted something that the village could be proud of, something without a clinical feel, a place to relax before treatment." I was curious to find out more about the purpose of the relaxation room. "The relaxation therapies are for people who are nervous before a long treatment. We will also use relaxation

therapies after treatment to ensure that our patients leave the surgery as relaxed as possible." The surgery certainly did have a nice feel to it. The moment I walked in I started doubting myself, checking I had walked into the right place. The patients looking around were all happy with the changes that have been made with the surgery, I heard a few people saying "This is superb" and "What a transformation". All of the staff seem very pleased with the new surgery. They are delighted to prelaunch the practice and open their doors to the people of Lanchester who have been waiting a while. They all hope that patients are proud of the quality and the services that they offer.

Francesca Dent



The staff at Westlands

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Last month saw us heading up Newbiggen Lane and along the A68 to the Manor House at Carterway Heads. There were a few snowflakes falling on the way - would we get snowed in, we wondered? Did we really care? With a good chef cooking super food for every meal - what more could we ask? The Manor House is in a super spot with views to die for from practically every window.

They have a super menu and we sampled local wild partridge, venison and pheasant hot pot with a potato crust, slow roasted belly pork stuffed with leeks on a bed of creamed Savoy cabbage, Cumberland sausage and mash accompanied by roast lemon and garlic potatoes with some luscious seasonal vegs,

followed by almond and blueberry tart, vodka and lemon cheesecake, Baileys crème brûlée, jam suet sponge with real custard, raspberry and yoghurt ice-cream, quite the nicest one of our number has ever tasted. Puds at the Manor House are all home-made and utterly delicious. We were all most impressed with the exceptional quality of the food and good service.

Then of course, you get the additional requisite of ladies who are out and about, especially just before Christmas, retail therapy - the Manor House has the Farm Shop tagged on to the end of the building - no need even to go outside.

All in all a very pleasant afternoon out.

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WESTLANDS
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We are pleased to welcome Mark Warner to the team



Mark has extensive experience in oral and maxillofacial surgery through his time spent working as a Senior House Officer throughout four general hospitals. Since then he has worked to advance his skills in aesthetic dentistry and implantology. He keeps up to date with all the latest advances in dentistry for the benefit of his patients. He enjoys putting an artistic eye to his skills as a dentist to produce some fantastic results. Above all Mark excels with patients of a nervous disposition.

The team at Westlands Dental Studio wishes all their patients a very merry Christmas and a happy new year

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TAIZÉ SERVICE



Margaret Walters

For a number of years the parish church has held a Taizé service under the direction of Miss Margaret Walters. It is a beautiful, moving service, very much enjoyed by the participants and the congregation. It could be described as a spiritual experience. This year the service was held on the evening of Sunday 26th November. People from all three of our village churches attended to make a sizeable congregation, which was very pleasing. There was a small choir of 20 who had been meeting with Margaret to practise the chants. The singing was accompanied by Margaret on the piano, Wendy Hughes playing her flute beautifully as she always does, Pam Bygate playing her violin very melodiously and Ray Hill playing most competently on his guitar.

The candlelit church made a beautiful setting for this special service and everyone left with a sense of calm and peace in their heart.

The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order, with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. The 100-strong community of Roman Catholic and Protestant monks is drawn from 30 countries

across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Robert Lois Schutz Marsauche (known as Brother Roger) who was born in Switzerland in 1915, the youngest of nine children. He died aged 90 in 2005.

Today Taizé is one of the world's most important sites of Christian Pilgrimage. Each year tens of thousands of young pilgrims flock to the small village of Taizé in central France to share in the community's way of life. Prayer and silence are at the heart of the Taizé experience and a unique style of worship has evolved. The singing of distinctive and much-repeated prayer chants during candlelit prayer services is one of its trademarks.

Thank you Margaret for giving us this lovely form of worship.

Brenda Craddock

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'ONE FINE DAY'

This was the title of a musical evening arranged by Dr Ian Brunt, in the Community Centre on Saturday 22nd November, and it was certainly 'one fine night'. The good sized and very appreciative audience marvelled at the excellent musicianship of Calum Stewart (flute) Nicolaj Busk (piano/harmonium) and Hal Parfitt-Murray (fiddle/viola). Dr Brunt played the Northumberland small pipes, with his usual 'masters' touch. We are used to the brilliance of Dr Brunt's musical talents and it is typical of him that he encourages new young talented musicians and likes to introduce them to a wider audience. The three young men were very entertaining and engaging as they introduced their different pieces and without a sheet

of music in sight they played some amazing pieces, several of which they themselves had composed. The audience were totally absorbed in the programme. The three young gifted men are obviously destined for a brilliant future.

The proceeds of the evening were for Community Centre Funds. This evening of Contemporary and Traditional Folk Music was a great success and we hope these concerts arranged by Dr Brunt will continue for a very long time.

Brenda Craddock



Dr Ian Brunt

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40 YEARS SINCE THE FLOODS



Front Street looking more like a river than a road

It is forty years since Front Street in Lanchester was turned into a fast flowing river-December 18th 1968.

I was press photographer with the Journal and Evening Chronicle and assigned to photograph

Lanchester Lions club members delivering yule logs to senior citizens in the village.

water was halfway up the petrol pumps at the Witbank Garage. Donning my fisherman's waders I walked into the village to find cars, a bus and even an ambulance stuck in the floodwater

and took the picture of the Front Street looking like a river.

Later Tynemouth Rescue service arrived with a boat and ferried people returning from work through the foods, helped by police firemen and the Lions club.

The next morning the floods had receded and there was mud everywhere. Council workmen were mopping up and clearing a manhole outside Westlands of a mattress and the RAF were using huge hot air blowers to dry out houses.

Lots of pictures were used in the Journal and Evening Chronicle but I never did get a picture of the Lions delivering logs. If anyone is interested in more old photographs of the village, go to www.oldphotoforum.com and search Lanchester. *Eric Burns*



The aftermath - RAF with hot air blowers dry out homes

'NOT ENOUGH ROOM TO SWING A CAT'

The above happens to be the title of a new book written by former Lancastrian, Martin Robson, 34, who was brought up in the village, went to Lanchester EP School and on to Greencroft Comprehensive. Martin's parents have lived in the village in the same house all their lives. After school, Martin attended Derwentside College, then Kings College, London, gaining a BA (Hons) and a PhD.

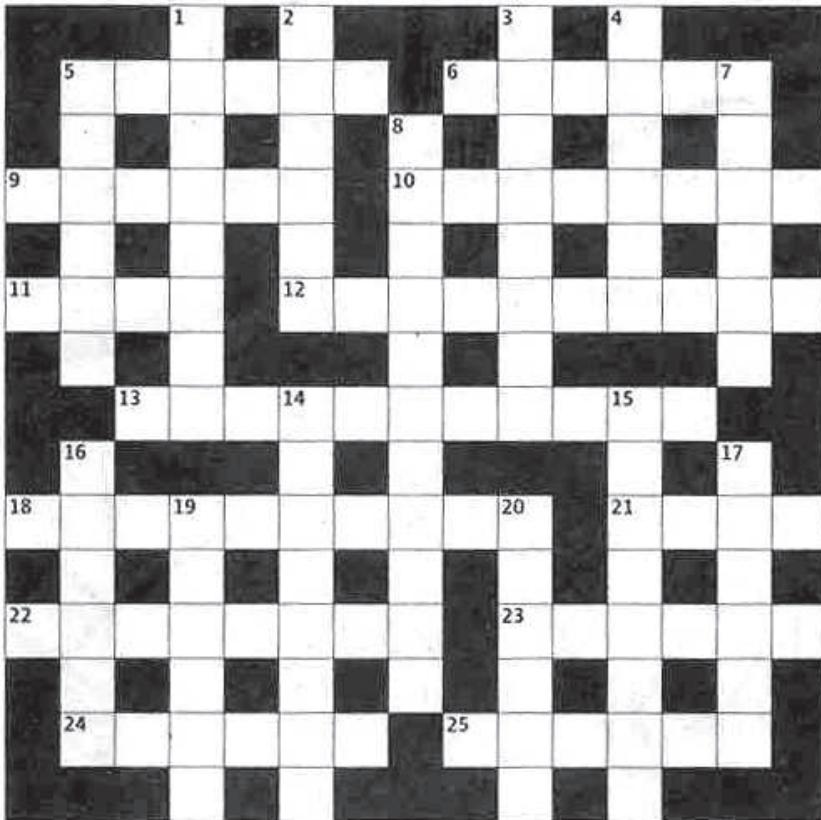
He is now a Naval Historian, who divides his time between lecturing, editing and writing. This is his third book to be published. Martin and his partner have been living in Gosforth but have recently moved to Exeter where his partner, a surgeon, has taken up a new appointment. Martin's current book is a light easy read about naval slang and is available from 'Amazon' or any bookshop.

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CROSSWORD 32



ACROSS

5. Spirited and fit? Yes (6)
6. Hole (6)
9. Busy? In fact I've retired (6)
10. MIT takes in confused Latin activist (8)
11. Level (4)
12. Confused DJ is on diet (10)
13. Fortune teller's guide (7,4)
18. Pastime nag is pet subject (5-5)
21. Pointed remark (4)
22. Weapon looks like angry genuflection (8)
23. Vulgar term for supporter (6)
24. Dull red ray (6)
25. Show off (6)

DOWN

1. Nits sire evil (8)
2. Be at a tee-total conclusion (6)
3. Terrorist weapon (4-4)
4. Author of Paradise Lost (6)
5. Unstable in terrific Kleenex (6)
7. Over there (6)
8. WC aroma used to entertain public (5,1,5)
14. Composer whose 8th symphony is unfinished (8)
15. Tree with poisonous yellow flowers (8)
16. Hot from visitor ridicule --- (6)
17. --- and mustard entree (6)
19. President Bush eludes cover for 8 gallons (6)
20. Communist manifesto co-author (6)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 31

ACROSS

7. kerchief
9. edible
10. prim
11. good as gold
12. eke out
14. dearie me
15. nature
17. hectic
20. inveigle
22. second
23. Red Admiral
24. loom
25. gluten
26. trombone

DOWN

1. bearskin
- 2,13. scum of the earth
3. fidget
4. separate
5. jingoistic
6. slalom
8. floods
13. see 2
16. regiment
18. confound
19. ferret
21. needle
22. swallow
24. lobe

Name _____

Address _____

Please send your entries (by deadline date on back page) to The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0JQ.

CROSSWORD 31

There were only 11 entries in our competition last month.

The winner in the draw was Fred Heppell of Lee Hill Court who will receive the £10 prize.

Have a go at this one - there's plenty of time before the next issue.



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SUDOKU

There is just one simple rule in Sudoku. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. See next month for answers.

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

PARTY TIME

A lovely party was arranged at the end of November, by Pam Bygate, for all her friends who accompany her, on a Monday, once a month, to the Little Theatre in Gateshead. These occasions are always very happy and well organised events and this is due to Pam's great patience and kindness. She does all the hard work, booking seats, ringing round everyone, to see if they want to go on that particular Monday, and organising the bus. The fact that this is such an enjoyable, popular occasion shows in the number of people on Pam's list. There are an awesome 89! Nothing is too much trouble for her and her theatre friends certainly appreciate all that she does for them. To show their appreciation

Pam was presented with a Flexi-E-Voucher, by Liz Smith on our behalf. This voucher can be used at The Metro Centre, and other big shopping complexes. We hope Pam is going to spend it, by buying herself something very special, as special as she is actually. The party was a great success, lovely food, entertaining games and excellent

fellowship. THANK YOU Pam for all that you do for us.

Always ready to help in the community and thinking of others, it is typical of Pam to suggest that whenever there is any money bound over each month is sent to the Village Link Bus, with the absolute agreement of everyone.

Brenda Craddock



Liz Smith presents Pam with her voucher

MARGARET CELEBRATES 70 IN STYLE

The ubiquitous, vivacious, Margaret Ballard, who has lived in the village since the early '70s has certainly made the most of her 70th birthday in typical style. It began several weeks prior to the due date with a three week, first ever trip to Australia with her sister Joan, to visit relatives and see the sights.

On their return, there was a family and friends celebration in Upton on Severn where Joan lives. This was followed by quick visit to see relatives in Cardiff, returning for a lovely relaxing weekend in the lakes with husband Ron, to re charge her batteries for what was to come - celebration time in Lanchester.

Her daughter Helga and family now living at Grantham, her son, Scott and family who live at Doncaster, joined Rachel

and family who live locally, for a super meal at Valentinos and a great family weekend. Are we finished yet? No chance, it goes on. Next was an evening spent with long standing friends at home, which was a lovely

occasion with fine food and copious amounts of liquor to consume, on that very special day. Finally it was out to lunch with a group of lady friends who meet on a regular basis. Her 80th will probably be even busier!



Margaret, in familiar pose, celebrates her 70th birthday

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

WHAT'S ON?

Boxing Day Charity Rugby

Consett Rugby Club is holding a Charity Boxing Day Rugby Match. The Over30's vs The Under30's at Consett Rugby Club (behind the Civic Centre). Kick off at 2.15 pm in aid of Willow Burn Hospice. Everybody is welcome and tickets are 50p, available from any member of Consett Rugby Club or on a Sunday morning at the club 10.30 am until 12.00 noon. So instead of paying a small fortune to watch your local football team or sit on your sofa watching The Wizard of Oz for the 100th time letting your arteries clog up with Christmas excesses, bring all the family along, get some fresh air and watch 'The Battle of the Ages' as well as supporting a very worthy cause. Refreshments available and raffle.

After the game there will be an Auction of Unwanted Christmas Presents in The Demi Rugby Club Bar. Come along and have some fun.

Library Holiday

Lanchester library will close at 7 pm on Tuesday 23rd December and will reopen at 9 am on Saturday 3rd January 2009. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2009 to all.

New Year's Eve Ceilidh

Once again the Wildlife Group are organising a Ceilidh in the Community Centre on Wednesday December 31st. Doors open at 7.30 pm, dancing kicks off at 8 and may end about 12 midnight. The band is the Angels of the North and tea and coffee are provided, but please bring food for a shared supper as well as whatever you want to drink and glasses to drink it from. Tickets are £6, £5 for concessions and these can be obtained by ringing 520063 or from members of the Wildlife Group.

Film Club

And When Did You Last See Your Father?

A writer seeks to bury the hatchet with his terminally ill dad in the powerful drama. Stars Colin Firth and Jim Broadbent enthral us with wonderfully vivid performances, as does Juliet Stevenson as the old man's long-suffering wife. This is the Film Club's offering on Sunday January 18th in the Community Centre, starting at 7.30 pm.

Friends of Longovicium

The next meeting of the Friends will be on Thursday January 22nd, at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre meeting room. All welcome.

Seated Exercise

The seated exercise class for over 50's, which meets in Lanchester library on Tuesdays, will recommence on Tuesday 6th January at 1 pm. The cost is only £1.50 per hour session and new members are always welcome.

Partnership

Lanchester's ginger group meets on the second Monday of each month, so on Monday 12th January the Partnership will meet in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm. Subjects for discussion are anything which will improve life for the citizens of Lanchester, which includes your ideas.

Holiday German

Last summer, in Bavaria, my husband broke a tooth. Luckily, I was with him. Could you have coped? A ten week course, designed to help you get the most out of time spent in a German speaking country, begins on Friday 16th January in the Computer room of the Community Centre, from 2 until 3 pm. No previous knowledge of German is necessary, honestly!

Theatre Exhibition

Durham Musical Theatre will mount an exhibition in Lanchester library in January.

Mothers' Union

Our meeting on 14th January is the annual Wave of Prayer with Eucharist and enrolment in church. Everyone to meet in the Chapter House, then we will go into church for 7.30 pm.

WI

The January meeting will be on Monday 5th when the subscriptions are due. Visitors are welcome, admission £1.

The speakers are Jennifer and Ann, their talk called "Fascinating Fascinators" is about the course they attended at Denman WI college to learn how to make fascinators, the fun they had and you will see the final results!!!

There is no competition but there will be a prize for the most original piece of head wear.

Social time will be an auction and items to auction will be welcomed.

Flower Club

The first meeting of 2009 is on Wednesday 28th January in the Community Centre, starting at 2 pm. A talk illustrated by slides of Chelsea Flower Show will be presented by Morris Robinson of Crawcrook.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Many foreign animal imports, mostly accidental, breed vigorously in our countryside, often eliminating the native British species. One example is the mink.

At the Wildlife Group meeting on Tuesday January 13th, Matt Bentley of Newcastle University will talk about Chinese mitten-crabs and signal crayfish, two recent invaders. The talk starts at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre.

Folk on the Move - Again!

Circumstances constantly change and therefore we are on the move, back to a previous venue, namely The Black Bull, where we will be well ensconced by the time you read this.

It is nice to be back in the village itself, as some of us can leave our cars on the drive, and consume a little more Guinness!

So please come along on Sunday nights to join in and have a listen, we start at 8.30. *Ian Tute*

Creative Writers

Lanchester's writers have gained a couple of new members this year but more will be extremely welcome. We meet in the library on Tuesday afternoons from 2 till 4 pm with a break for coffee and probably a chocolate biscuit. Sessions start on 6th January.

Watercolour Class

A popular watercolour group in the village is opening its membership. For some three years the group has met in the Community Centre on Monday mornings at 10.00 am. There has been a lot of interest in that time from people wishing to join but who found the membership full. The group is now making up a waiting list for potential new members: if you are interested either ring Dave Anderson on 0191 4104370 or email him (preferred) at davethetyke46@talktalk.net.

Social Club

Sat 3rd Jan, Andi Fox, Brilliant Female Vocalist
Sat 10th Jan, Johnny Reynolds, Male Vocalist not to be missed
Sat 17th Jan, Karaoke
Sat 24th Jan, Emily Reef Female Vocalist
Sat 31st Jan, Tommy Rayne, Male Vocalist

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AT HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

The guest at Lanchester Flower Club's November meeting was Derek Armstrong, who attracted a large and appreciative audience for his demonstration of flower arrangements suitable for Christmas.

As he worked on his creations, he chatted about his international adventures, but not before describing his tour de force at this year's NAFAS National Competition at Harrogate where he completed his arrangement by flying,

like a latter-day Peter Pan, supported by wires to place the final flowers on an arrangement. As a result, he had been asked to repeat the performance over the altar at a flower festival at Westminster Abbey next year.

As he made an arrangement of silver-sprayed willow branches, exotic grass and roses he recounted a week he had spent in Colombo, Sri Lanka as the guest of the 43 members of that country's one and only flower club. As well as

giving two demonstrations he had created bouquets for a bridal display, been treated to a birthday tea and presented with a gift of silk shirts. Later he learned that he had appeared in Vogue, Ceylon style.

As he erected some sparkly home-made candles, he shared his adventures in Memphis airport, where his plane had been cancelled twice and his case, containing a jacket and his car keys, failed to accompany him.

After the demonstration his arrangements were raffled, and members of the audience crowded

forward to collect details of his Carlisle shop (opposite M & S) and web-site.



Derek Armstrong and fans

WI NEWS

The December meeting was our Christmas party night, committee members set the tables with holly and sweets for members and guests arriving and everyone brought food for the faith supper.

President Jennifer McDonald welcomed members and guests from

Edmundbyers WI and then introduced Julie Webb from Tiger Lily Florist in the village who showed us how to make a Christmas Wreath. Julie also gave us lots of useful tips and made everything look simple as only an expert can.

If anyone wants to make their own floral decorations Julie stocks everything they would need in the shop. The wreath was donated by Julie and auctioned. It was a lovely start to Christmas and we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

bottle of wine. We then enjoyed our supper with the committee serving the drinks, the food was plentiful, delicious and enjoyed by all.

After supper the Male Voice Choir, very smart in their blue jackets and bow ties, entertained us with a selection of songs. Ann Carr gave the vote of thanks and Jennifer invited them to come and have the supper they had certainly sung for. We ended our meeting having fun with a Chinese raffle and pass the parcel. Edmundbyers WI thanked us for inviting them.



Julie from Tiger Lily Florist making a Christmas Wreath

THE THURSDAY CLUB

November found members up and off to Dobbies at Ponteland for Christmas shopping and a festive lunch - most enjoyable.

In December we are going to be enjoying a Christmas flower demonstration by Wendy Smith, all floral displays to be raffled.

In January we aim to start the New Year in a different way. Instead of a party we're going to indulge in just a few nibbles and fizz while watching that super feel good movie of 2008, Mamma Mia.

During 2009 we shall be off on an imaginary Orient Express journey, indulging in aromatherapy, looking

into tales of Cumbrian history, hearing all about pearls and being highly entertained by the one and only Philip Nixon along with his long standing accomplice Dennis Dunlop.

We look forward to another good year of Thursday Club friendship and fun.

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LEGIONARY UNVEILED



Left: Councillors Kevin Leary, David Lyndsey, Ossie Johnson, Margaret Gray, Mike Wardle and Colin Burton with Maureen Loy behind; Right: Malcolm McKenzie, Martin Hutchinson and Anne McKenzie and behind them Tony Devos of English Nature, Alan Williams, sculptor Phil Townsend and Christine Lever. Thanks to Rodney Hawkins for the photo.

Members of the Parish Council and Friends of Longovicium gathered on December 10th to see the official unveiling of a carved Roman legionary which has been installed

near the railway path beside Church Road. He is depicted in full marching gear, with his short sword, spear, dagger, shield and digging tools.

Sculptor Phil Townsend created the carving, accentuating its lines with red paint, and County, District and Parish Councillor Ossie Johnson carried out the unveiling.

The provision of mulled wine for the occasion was extremely welcome. The legionary is part of a project by Grace Wallace of the Groundwork Trust, with

funds from the Mineral Valleys Project. She has also produced a leaflet describing a tour of Lanchester, which will soon be distributed in the village.

THE FIRST SNOWS OF WINTER

A full morning of snow falling in the village on the morning of December 4th caused chaos for traffic on the high ground in the village and all the schools to close. However, the youngsters enjoyed every minute of it.



The Village Green looking beautiful in the snow



Two unashamed 'Snow Angels'!

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NEXT DEADLINE

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

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