

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 10

Lanchester, December 2009

For contact information, see page 2

**A Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2010
to All our Readers**



The Village Green adorned in its splendid Christmas decorations. Photo by Eric Burns

THANK YOU TO ADVERTISERS

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On the front page of our 10th anniversary issue last month we attempted to particularly thank seven of our advertisers who had been advertising with us regularly since the first edition in the year 1999. Unfortunately for some reason (either an electronic glitch or a manmade error) not all of them, and certainly not complete, were printed. For this we express our sincere apologies and hope that this month's reproduction of what was intended last month will go some way to make amends for this error. Our printers have apologised to us and provided compensation.

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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

If you fancy a game of Badminton without travelling out of the village, you can join a group of us who play each Monday from 10.00 to 12.00 at Croft View. It's friendly, it's sociable, it's a great way to work off the Christmas pudding and it's on your doorstep. The cost is only £1.50 per session. For more details ring me on 520087.

Rosemary Naylor

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for November is 18. The draw was made by Pat Wright of the Art Group.

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

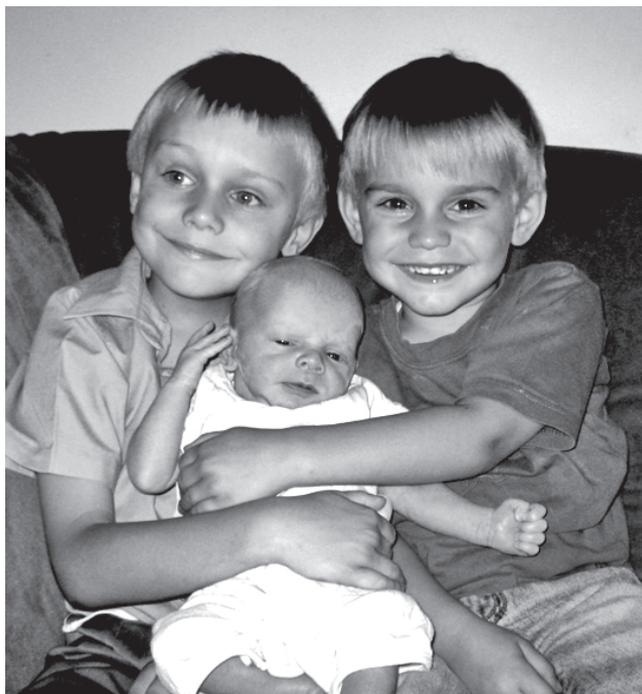
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COOPER GATES

Congratulations to Paul and Cassie Gates in Australia on the birth of their baby son Cooper born on November the 19th weighing 6lb 7 oz, a brother for Max and Ashton. Paul formerly lived at Briardene, Lanchester.

Cooper with his two brothers, Max and Ashton



BOXING DAY DIP

I am taking part in the Seaburn Boxing Day Dip for charity, organised by Sunderland Lions Club. 20% of the money I raise will go to the Sunderland Lions for their work in the local community and the remaining 80% will go to my chosen charity, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

I will be running into the icy cold North Sea in a Christmas themed bikini so I'm going to freeze! I am hoping to get lots of sponsors to make it all worthwhile. I already have £98 worth of sponsorship so I can't back out now but would be very grateful of more.

Please email me vejackson1982@aol.co.uk or call me on 01207 521250 if you would like to sponsor me and I will add you to my list.

I will be collecting the money in January and will have photos as proof, which I will put in The Village Voice.

Thank you
Vicki Jackson

THANK YOU PAM BYGATE

Pam Bygate's 'Theatre Group' were once again very happy to join her for a party in the Community Centre on Monday November the 23rd, to celebrate another successful year of theatre outings. Pam puts so much time and work into this once a month outing to the 'Little Theatre' at

Gateshead and the group like to show their appreciation. There was a lovely supper followed by games and Pam was given a thank you present from everyone in the group. Pam of course always says that she loves doing the work for the Theatre Group and making it the very

happy occasion that it is. The coach is almost always full showing the popularity of the outings. We know that nothing is too much trouble for her and we are so appreciative of that! Thank you Pam and we look forward to another happy year of going to the Theatre.
Brenda Craddock



Liz Smith presenting Pam with her gift

LANCHESTER MAN IN CUMBRIA FLOOD RESCUE

Local resident, David Bartles-Smith, a member and Team Leader of the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue was involved the recent crisis in Keswick, Cockermouth and Workington, including the search for the missing policeman. Prince Charles visited the area at the time and thanked everyone, asked how they managed, and wished the team all the luck and support in the future. There are approximately 45 fully-trained Team members - all volunteers on call 24 hours a day every day, and in addition have to train, raise funds and manage a growing organisation. David has been in the Team since 1994 and has been Team leader since 2003. They train one weekday

evening and also one weekend per month though many pursue specialist skills such as search management, technical rescue, swift water rescue, medic, search dog handlers etc., and have to give more time. They train at the purpose built base in the grounds of Barnard Castle Police Station on weekdays and on the fells at weekends. Team members travel nationally to the specialist skill training events, and occasionally overseas to visit our mountain rescue colleagues in Iceland. Each winter they train in the Cairngorms and also have strong links with some of the Lakeland Teams. They attend to approximately 40-50 call outs per year. Many of these are lowland SAR calls - searches of missing vulnerable people and of

course to major multi-agency incidents such as the Cumbria floods. Balancing work and home commitments is at times very difficult but they all have very supportive employers and of course the whole service of Mountain Rescue is entirely reliant upon the support they get from their homes and families - which in David's case is immense and outstanding, thanks to Catherine and the boys!

Anyone who would like to know more about the organisation and its work in County Durham should visit www.twsmrt.org.uk There will shortly be a 170 page book published about the 40 year history of the Team. Keep checking the website for launch details in the New Year.



Prince Charles talking to members of the rescue teams. David Bartles-Smith is second on the right.

MASTER'S SUCCESS

On 8th December at Northumbria University Fiona Johnson received her Master's Degree in Sports Management. Fiona is an ex pupil of Lanchester EP School and the Greencroft Comprehensive School and now works for England Netball. Fiona keeps in shape by playing netball and regularly attending, with her mother Linda, Lanchester Community Centre Gymnasium.



Fiona with her mother at the graduation

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DELIVERERS

Last month we paid tribute to some of the personnel who deliver your Village Voice and who were, for various reasons unable to continue. This, of course, was not to detract from the tremendous job that is done by all of our deliverers. Our readers may not realise that approximately 2,700 copies of the paper are delivered by a total of just over 50 volunteers. This means that, on average, each deliverer carries and pushes 54 papers through the various doors in Lanchester and its environs. May we take this opportunity of thanking each and every one of them for the tremendous job that they do each month and in all weathers. Without them we would not be able to produce your paper.

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and a happy and healthy 2010
to everyone
from members of
Lanchester Lions Club

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

'Five, four, three, two, one' chanted the crowd around the Christmas tree and at the flick of a switch the village green was transformed into a Christmas fairyland. Carols played by the Lanchester Brass Band, and the cold, crisp weather were reminders that Christmas day is not far away. The beautiful white lights sprinkled amongst the bare trees and the colourful triangle of lights on the Christmas tree will bring cheer to residents, visitors and passers-by and welcome those arriving for Christmas.

Councillor Ossia Johnson switched on the lights ably assisted by four children (Callum Suddes and Ellie Jenkins from the EP school and David Satchwell and Katie Turnbull from All Saints) to whom Cllr Johnson gave his thanks and selection boxes. After this Cllr Johnson also thanked those whose efforts and co-operation

had enabled Lanchester to win the Calor Gas Village of the Year award and presented cheques from money given by Calor Gas to Margaret Loy who accepted it on behalf of the Lanchester Partnership, Arthur Maughan for the Community Centre, Sarah Hume for the EP School and Karen McKenna for All Saints School.

The evening was also a celebration of the success of the Parish Council in achieving Quality Council Status and Cllr Jackson thanked all those groups and individuals who had helped the council with their hard work and dedication. He then presented plaques to a number of organisations with the hope that the plaque might be displayed on the walls of these key community buildings. The plaques include a replica of the Rural District Council Chain of Office which Councillor Johnson was wearing. Recipients of these plaques were the EP School (Sarah Hume), All Saints School (Karen McKenna), St Bede's Comprehensive School (Cllr Margaret Gray, governor), Community Centre (Arthur Maughan), Durham County Council (Cllr Richard Young), the Parish Councils and also Sally Laverick, present Clerk to the Council and two former Clerks, John Richards and Jim Owens. Finally Cllr Johnson rounded off a very pleasant occasion by thanking Canon Waterhouse for allowing the use of the Chapter House and to the ladies from the church who had provided such a splendid buffet.



Lanchester Brass Band play some lovely carols in wintry weather, while the crowd awaits the traditional switch on of the Christmas lights on the Village Green



The children who switched on the lights receive a gift from Ossia Johnson, Chairman of the Parish Council. Left to right: Ellie Jenkins, Ossia Johnson; Katie Turnbull; Sally Laverick (Parish Lead Officer/Clerk); David Satchwell; Calum Suddes.



Ossia Johnson, Chairman of the Parish Council, presents cheques to: left to right: Arthur Maughan MBE, Chairman of the Community Centre; Sarah Hume, Teacher, EP School; Karen McKenna, Head Teacher, All Saints School; Maureen Loy, Partnership.

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WELCOME TO THE WORLD



Left to right: Amy cuddling Alice and Kate nursing Evie, while Stuart, Kate's husband, enjoying paternity leave, looks on. Unfortunately Simon, Amy's husband, is away on military duty.

Two sisters Kate Kelly and Amy Bell, recently gave birth to lovely little girls just about 10 weeks apart.

Alice Bell was born on September the 13th weighing 9lbs 5ozs, a

sister for Catherine, and Evie Grace was born on the 25th of November, with a weight of 7lbs 11ozs. Both babies were born in Room 5 at the Maternity Ward at North West Durham University Hospital.

Proud Grandparents of Alice, are Mike and Andrea Stoddart and Kevin and Irene Bell. Equally proud Grandparents of Evie Grace are Alan and Lestrine Kelly whom they share with Mike and Andrea Stoddart.

DOUBLE CELEBRATION



Congratulations to Fred and Freda Clarke who have spent the last 18 years enjoying their life in Lanchester. They have just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary and the birth of baby Jack, their first great, great grandchild.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Reception children at All Saints R C Primary School celebrate Children in Need day by turning up for school in their pyjamas.



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PARTNERSHIP 10 YEAR CELEBRATION

On Saturday the 21st of November, the Partnership celebrated ten years of hard work in grand style with a birthday party at the Lanchester Social Club. There was certainly a birthday atmosphere with a balloon enhanced crowded hall, and well over 100 attending the party, and this number included many children.

Glenn Coxon provided the entertainment and soon had the children up on the floor and stage, dancing away and enjoying games

and sweets, distributed enthusiastically by Glenn's son, 5 year old Jamie. One of the stars of the evening was, in fact, Jamie, who sang a great duet with his Dad. The buffet was magnificent and the display of works achieved by the Partnership, during the ten very active years, was superb. The quiz was based on the Partnership's achievements in the village.

Mike Gladstone, Chairman, made a succinct but very

informative speech, thanking those members of the organisation past and present who had given their time and support to the many projects undertaken. Special mention was made of the formation of a new committee set up to look into improving the carbon footprint of the village. Mike and his colleagues would like to encourage new people to join the Partnership, which has been and will be, so important to the village of Lanchester in the future.

The bespoke birthday cake made by 'Sugarfun' was excellent, and depicted the various relevant items on it for example The Link Bus. Children crowded around excitedly as Jill Gladstone, with help from some of her little friends, cut the cake.

It really was a fine way to celebrate such an occasion with many members past and present from the Partnership attending, some of whom brought along friends. The entrance fee was exceptionally low, which made it easier for families to afford.

Mike and Jill Gladstone deserve some special recognition for a fantastic night of celebration, for leadership, and all the hard work that they have personally put in during the last 10 years.



Families, an important aspect of the event, enjoying socialising



Much concentration as children work at the quiz which was based on the Partnership's achievements in the Village.



Glenn Coxon soon had the children mount the stage to exhibit their dancing prowess

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PARTNERSHIP 10th BIRTHDAY PARTY WORD GAME

Will the young man called 'Simon' who filled in the word game at the Party please contact Jill Gladstone on 528114. Simon found 178 words

out of the single word "Partnership" - all on his own and certainly deserves a prize.

The winners of this game were Stephen and Jill

Ramsey who found 251 words which, amidst the noise and activity of the Party, showed an extraordinary degree of skill and concentration!

CLIMATE CHANGE ... IS IT SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT?

It seems that whenever we open the newspaper, turn on the radio or listen to the news, there is yet another report about the effects of climate change. We hear about droughts in Australia and Kenya, rising sea levels threatening island nations, melting polar ice caps endangering the polar bear, shrinking alpine glaciers and hear severe weather warnings around the globe. Maybe all these events are windows into our changing world, a preview of things to come as our planet continues to warm. But how is the UK likely to be effected by global warming and should we be concerned? Will it mean a few more barbecue days or are our lives and livelihoods

going to be fundamentally changed? Those questions are not easy to answer but many of the scientific papers seem to point to major climatic changes worldwide and sooner than was previously predicted. Predictions that the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) were once making for the end of the century now seem to be just 30-40 years away... within the life time of the children growing up in Lanchester. It's difficult to say what might happen to life in the village in that time but strong indications are that both food and energy supplies will be under threat as

countries struggle to provide for their own populations. So what should we do? We can continue as we are and hope the problems will not come knocking on our door or we can begin to make provisions for the future. The Environmental Group, part of the Lanchester Partnership, is trying to do just that. This newly established group is already engaged in projects to help reduce the carbon footprint of Lanchester. Are you keen to be part of the solution and join this lively group? Come to our next meeting 7.30 pm Sunday 17th January 2010 Small Hall Community Centre. ALL WELCOME. For more details contact Sonny or Paul Shepherd 520759.

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ENVIRONMENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH

Follow these easy steps to reduce your household carbon emissions by 10% in a year. You can find more advice on the government website "Act on CO2" at <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/>

actonco2/home.htm

Wise up about water:

1. Don't set the thermostat too high - 60 °C/140 °F is fine for a hot bath or wash.
2. Take a shower - it's faster, cheaper and

more efficient than your bath.
 3. Put the plug in - running the hot tap costs money and wastes water.
 4. Fix that drip - leaks waste a lot more water than you think.

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NHS PRESS RELEASES

Stroke victims to benefit from new information guide

A new patient information guide has been launched for stroke victims in the North of England. The stroke information booklet has been produced by NHS County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services in partnership with health professionals from across the North East and Yorkshire. The

booklet has been designed to help newly diagnosed stroke patients and their families understand more about the condition. It includes information about the types of stroke, the physical and emotional effects, and what lifestyle changes may need to be considered.

Hands on approach for new pilot scheme

Doctors in the North East will literally have their fingers on the pulse as

part of a national Heart Improvement Programme to be piloted here.

GPs in County Durham will be asked to take pulses manually to check for an irregular pulse in patients who may be at risk of a stroke, and to then prescribe treatment to reduce the risk.

For more information on both of these initiatives, telephone: 0191 3333386 or e-mail christinashaw1@nhs.net

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COMMUNITY DAY IN THE EP SCHOOL

“School days are the happiest days, The happiest days of your life.”

These are the words of a song with which I am sure many of us will be familiar and to which there will be varied reactions and opinions. I am sure however that these words will be true for all the children attending our village EP School. On Friday November 20th the school invited all the people of Lanchester Community to come into the school and see for themselves the wealth of experience and the worth of the learning which the children enjoy every day. All the children have the school motto imprinted onto their blue jerseys which is part of their uniform. The motto is One Team, One Aim, Many Goals. The key word of this motto is one because everyone from head-teacher, Mrs Davis, teaching staff, teacher assistants, cooks and dinner ladies and dinner nannies, secretaries, caretaker and cleaners work as a team and are all valued as having an important part to play in the education of the children.

Education of course is not just about intellectual development. There are other aspects to nourish and enhance the development of the ‘whole’ child, namely, Social Development; Physical Development; Emotional Development, and the Spiritual Development. It is obvious as you go round the school that all of these stages in development are being taken care of in this school.

A steady stream of people visited the school throughout the day on

20th November and could not fail to see the richness of the learning there. The walls are alive with children’s art work and captions which promote reading and numeracy. All the children in each classroom are happily engaged with varied but meaningful activities all of which are linked to the curriculum. Every activity has a purpose and in each classroom a very happy atmosphere pervades. As one older pupil said to me ‘Learning is such fun at this school and we love it’.

The school is very well resourced and the technology resources are excellent. The opportunities for developing computer skills are there in a fully equipped classroom

which has been set aside for this purpose. Each class uses this classroom on a regular basis and everything that is needed for progression into secondary education is in place.

The school also benefits from excellent outdoor facilities and both in and out of the classroom the pupils are looked after efficiently and carefully. The school is focused on bringing out the full potential in each child and it is great to see the confidence and good manners of each child, from nursery to Year 6.

Children are all unique and each has different needs and talents all of which are taken care of in the various event weeks which are part of the imaginative curriculum,

drawn up by Mrs Davis and her staff. The latter are all very well respected by the children and this is reflected in the excellent behaviour throughout the school. The two boys, Callum and Elliot, who took me for a tour of the school were so polite, as well as being efficient in their task. At the end of the tour I was taken to a table and the pupils brought me a cup of coffee and a delicious home-made scone. All the pupils I met were loud in their praises of their school as were a number of pupils throughout my ‘tour’.

While having coffee I noticed a table where a group of pupils were fundraising for ‘Charlie Bear’. The school supports many charities

and because it was ‘Children In Need’ Friday, their efforts were very appropriate. They were so enthusiastic and persuasive and I came away with a sheaf of photo-copied colouring sheets, mainly of Charlie Bear, and various Charlie Bear word searches and puzzles.

It was a lovely afternoon and I found myself reflecting on and comparing my school days with those of today. I think I must have loved my school days because I have always retained an interest in schools and education. I look forward to attending and reporting on future events in this very happy, very well organised school.

Brenda Craddock



Nursery children enjoying the day, some even with their eyes closed!



Home made goodies in the kitchen

LANCHESTER BOY TO GIVE SISTER THE GIFT OF LIFE

Kieran Bell, aged 8, is to be a bone marrow donor for his 4 year old sister Emma. Emma was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in March 2008 and was in remission until October this year when the family were given the devastating news that the cancer had returned. Emma is currently receiving a gruelling course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy at The RVI in Newcastle before she will undergo the transplant in late February/ March. Doctors are hoping that the bone marrow transplant will cure the leukaemia and are thrilled that a sibling donor has been found in Kieran. Kieran and Emma are pupils at Lanchester All Saints RC School and will both be hospitalised for the procedure.

The family would like to thank everyone in the village for the cards, messages, support and prayers which they have received over the last very difficult 19 months.



Kieran and sister Emma

LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The main hall was completely full as the Fayre opened at 2.00 pm and remained extremely busy for most of the afternoon. 'Friends of the School', teachers, helpers and the older children did a great job in manning the many stalls crammed in.

Santa's Grotto was lovely and Santa must have been worn out with the number of children that he received and spent time with. The face painting was similar with large numbers continuously queuing.

There were so many stalls available for buying Christmas gifts or accessories for presents as well as several Tombolas which are always good money raisers.

The children had made cakes and fudge all decorated beautifully during 'Enterprise' week where they were trying to make a profit from their efforts.

As well as sales stalls there was a craft making area and badge making which the children really enjoyed.

Refreshments including hot dogs seemed to be busy all afternoon and Bill & Geoff's Ice cream was a popular buy at special prices.

What more can one say. It was a tremendously well supported Christmas Fayre with a great atmosphere which realised a total of £2691.00. Everyone at the school is very grateful that so many attended and spent so freely and generously.



Judith Brown busy explaining the Leukaemia Fundraising stall

The massive amount of money raised will fund the construction of a Tree house already at the foundation stage. The school will fund a second Tree House afterwards.



The badge making stall created lots of interest and these children proudly display what they have made.



Craig Nicholson and Steven Austin of Bill & Geoff's Ice cream, man a busy stall while this little girl can't wait to eat her delicious ice cream

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8th DECEMBER 2009

The Meeting was opened by Chairman Cllr Johnson who began by passing on thanks he had received from the Lanchester Partnership and the Village Voice for the enjoyable evening spent at the switching on of the Christmas Lights. He then presented the heraldic shields to those Members who had been unable to attend the Ceremony. Cllr Mrs Gray, Governor of St Bede's school, said that the shield had been well received and it is now in the display cabinet. Cllr Johnson also told Members that, together with fellow County Councillor Richard

Young, using money from the County Council Members' Funding scheme, he had purchased a speed visor for Ford Road which is now in use. Traffic police are enforcing this and explaining its use to drivers. A dog bin which has been burnt is to be replaced by a metal one. Residents of The Paddock were 100% in favour of having a No Cold Callers Zone, this to be a pilot scheme.

Police Report:

Rowdy Nuisance 5, Vehicle Nuisance 1, Theft 2, Burglary 1, Criminal Damage 5, Vehicle Damage 0.

PACT Meeting:

Speed visors - one has recently been erected on Cadger Bank, the existing one on Durham Road is to be moved eastwards to be nearer the 30mph limit (the Lead Officer to write and ask when) and Durham County Council are considering the erection of one in Ford Road. A No Through Road sign in Lee Hill Court was considered unsuitable.

Correspondence. It was agreed that the Parish Council become a full member of LINK. Details of the County Council's Winter Salting Routes were handed out and then

Members looked at the consultation documents on the proposed outline plans for the Stanley and Consett Academies. Some of the Members had attended the previous evening's Meeting re the Consett Academy, where issues such as wildlife, traffic, green spaces and the rugby and football clubs had been discussed. Members of the public are invited to say what facilities they would like in the proposed Leisure Centre. Proposals by Durham County Council to improve the junction of the A691 and Front Street (near the EP School) to facilitate the left turn of buses and right turn of cars were considered, as was a request by the EP School to extend the Christmas Lights further up Front Street to brighten the village. This matter will be put on a future Agenda. Copies of the Autumn/Winter News of the North Pennines AONB Partnership were distributed and Members considered a request to support the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund, a local charity which provides shoes and clothing. However this charity does not meet the Parish Council's criteria (ie in the Parish itself) and was turned down. An invitation to attend the Prince's Rural Action programme Resilient Rural Communities Event was read out and Cllrs Wardle and Jackson said they would consider attending.

Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board and Parish Council Committee (PCC) An update of the meetings was given by Cllr Burton and the Lead Officer, with particular reference to the joint

purchase by the Parish Councils of 2 mobile speed units, both in regard to the monitoring of their use by police and volunteers and how the cost should be divided between the parishes. Members agreed that payment should be made according to the 'banding' method, ie the electorate, which would mean Lanchester will contribute £400.

As from next week the AAP Coordinator and assistant will have their office on the first floor of Park House and will be available to answer any queries.

Park House. Lanchester Partnership had held a meeting attended by several children when some of the 10 to 13 year olds had suggested they would like something "more exciting" than the existing zip slide but had not really decided what they want. It was suggested that they look at catalogues and visit other sites before putting suggestions to the Recreation Committee.

Lanchester Arms It appears that danger areas have been secured but that as long as there are no health and safety issues, the developers are under no obligations to proceed with building; their Planning Permission still has some time to run. Cllr Leary expressed concern about the bulging front wall adjacent to the Black Bull.

Seats, bins and bus shelters. The County Council has been contacted and they have promised to clean the bus shelters but there are no plans to replace them. Seats and bins are to be repaired by them or by the village handyman according to whose responsibility they are.

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PARISH MEETING CONTINUED

Permanent Speed Visor. Durham County Council will not provide a permanent visor as they claim they are only effective for two weeks. However, they suggest the Parish should buy one. Members agreed that an Area Traffic Engineer be asked to attend to explain how to slow traffic on a permanent basis.

Budgets 2009/10 and 2010/11 These had been prepared by the Lead Officer and show that an increase of 2.8% in

spending. It was suggested that the Lead Officer writes a letter to the County Council asking if they will continue to pay the discretionary payment of £6,001.00.

Financial Information and Accounts for Payment were approved. They included a donation of £8,000 to Lanchester Cricket Club for practice nets and it was agreed that there should be a notice saying 'Supported by Lanchester Parish Council' next to the nets.

Before the Meeting was closed, the subject of drains on the road sloping down into the village was discussed, as these are blocked with leaves and causing problems in heavy rain. The Lead Officer is to write to the County Council to ask for them to be checked and cleared.

Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday 12th January, at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester.

Gardening in January

After the rigours and excesses of Christmas and Hogmanay the garden is an ideal retreat which will help with waistlines and fitness. It is also a start of the new year and planning can be put into full swing.

Borders

Pick a bright, dry day for preparing your borders. Working outside with the sun on your back will not only make you feel good but will assist with the excesses of the past few weeks. To prepare your borders you might (i) cut down the dead tops of perennials, (ii) remove any weeds and put any perennial ones in a bin and not on the compost; and (iii) fork over any compacted areas of soil, break it up and mix in plenty of home made compost. Self-sown plants can be a real bonus at this time of the year. Foxgloves pop-up all over and a tour of the garden to gather these up and you can plant them in a group in your borders. At this time of the year you can perk-up your borders with a bit of colour from cheerful primulas and pansy/viola from your local garden centre.

There is still time to take hardwood cuttings and

prunings make good cuttings. Roses fall into this category but you need to take plenty as they will not all root. Just prune your roses as normal and cut off the soft tip just above a bud. Put a spade in a piece of open but sheltered ground and make a deep vertical slit. Fill the base of the slit with grit and insert the cuttings into the grit. Backfill with soil and firm in with your boots. The same can also be done with Buddleia, Dogwood, Forsythia, Honeysuckle and Weigela.

Vegetables
If there is space and time available growing some of your own vegetables makes a lot of sense. They are not cheap to buy any more and are not likely to get any cheaper. Also they are better tasting when picked straight from the garden. In terms of planning and if you are limited for space, then you might consider some proper crop rotation. The table below might give you food for thought about the rotation of your principal crops.

Bulbs and Indoor Plants
You need to check on any tubers (dahlia and begonia) that you are overwintering to ensure that they are not rotting. They should feel firm and plump, not soft and withered. Cut off any rot with a sharp knife back to healthy tissue. Pot up hyacinth bulbs that have started to grow.

General Tasks
Unless you have bought a potted Christmas tree, recycle your old tree by using local shredding facilities. It is also a good time to get your lawnmower serviced while the centres are less busy. If you are like me, you will also still have fallen leaves in your garden so sweep them up so that slugs do not have a hiding place and continue their composting. January is a good time to give apple trees their winter prune while they are dormant. Cut out any damaged, crossing or congested growth to improve their shape.

Year 1: Peas, beans, onions, leeks, spinach

Year 2: Cabbage, broccoli, sprouts, turnip

Year 3: Potatoes, carrots, beet, parsnip.

Once the vegetable plot has been planned, continue to dig over any vacant ground in January and work in manure and compost.

Year 1: Peas, beans, onions, leeks, spinach
Year 2: Cabbage, broccoli, sprouts, turnip
Year 3: Potatoes, carrots, beet, parsnip.

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PARISH CHURCH AUTUMN FAIR

The Community Centre Hall was filled to capacity on November 28th. There were many different stalls to choose from and they all reported that business was brisk. The cake stall as usual sold out very quickly, Tombola made the most they have ever made, Bottle stall very busy, Christmas gifts had loads of bargains, Church Wives 'Everythingapound' almost sold out. 'Hand sewn Articles Stall' displayed some beautiful hand sewn articles and the cake stall and delicatessen stall, also the work of Mothers' Union members sold out very quickly. A cup of tea or coffee with a scone or mince pie offered a welcome sit down for all who attended the fair. The Fair was opened by Sally Laverick, who is the Clerk/Lead Officer of Lanchester Parish Council.

In asking us to enjoy all the fun of the fair and spend our money of course, she said something with which we all agree, that 'Lanchester is a lovely place to live and bring up a family. It is such a generous community' and this was certainly reflected in the amount raised, which was £2263.25, a total of which to be proud! Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to this marvellous total!

A special touch to the day, was when Mrs Laverick opened the fair. She was given a basket of beautiful flowers by a special, very courageous boy, belonging to a special family, and whose church family love and admire so much. He is of course David Dawson. We are all so pleased that he is progressing so well in his illness and wish him very well in 2010.

Brenda Craddock



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David Dawson and Mrs Sally Laverick who opened the Fair

LIONS SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY

A mild day brought about 100 hundred Senior Citizens out of their homes to the Community Centre for the Lions Annual Christmas Lunch/Party. There was a great festive atmosphere as the men greeted their guests with a pre sherry Christmas drink. Lion President Ian Murray made a short but amusing speech in his welcome to the guests. He talked about our current eco world and could not resist a few

topical jokes about Tiger Woods. This was followed by a superb lunch prepared by the Lions' Ladies who worked extremely hard in the kitchen throughout the afternoon. As usual the men dressed as waiters for the occasion and did an excellent job waiting and clearing the tables in a most professional, cheerful manner.

After the meal renowned local singer, Jane

Westwater, who now lives in Lanchester, provided some fabulous entertainment to a spellbound audience as she sang and played songs from the shows. She introduced her repertoire and talked to the audience with the consummate ease of a true professional singer and musician. She began with her favourite song, 'On my Own' from Les Miserables, then a medley from 'Sound of Music', followed by a number from '42nd Street', and finishing with appropriate songs, from the 'The Snowman'.

The lunch must have passed very quickly for the guests. Ian Murray gave his closing speech, presented Jane Westwater with a beautiful bouquet, then the lovely table

decorations, made by Andrea Stoddart, were given away in a free raffle. At the very end Santa Claus arrived and with the help of the Lions gave each Senior Citizen a Christmas gift.



Jane Westwater at the piano



Lion President Ian Murray and wife Heather draw the raffle



Santa Claus putting a smile on faces, giving out Christmas gifts

WILLOW BURN FAIR

Willow Burn's Christmas Fair was held on Saturday November 21st. Many eager shoppers waited outside the hall of St Bede's School for its opening and visited the many stalls selling toys, books, bric-a-brac, flowers, Christmas cards and home made jams, marmalade, cakes and pies.

Margaret Toberty, fund raising manager for Willow Burn Hospice, was delighted by the excellent attendance, and for the amount of support from volunteers, both in the planning of the fair, and for the help given on the day of the event. She thanked everyone involved, as well as local businesses which were

present, Julie Webb of Tiger Lily Florists with her beautiful flower display and demonstration and Bill and Geoff's Ice Cream stall.

A wide range of other activities were also offered. Dean Lowther and Stephen Davis presented 'Hands on History', showing weapons and artefacts from Roman,

Saxon and Viking times, and giving children the opportunity to dress as a Roman soldier and have their photograph taken.

A raffle was held on behalf of the Hospice, a tombola stall proved very popular and the talented young ladies of Pauline Cook's dancing troupe in festive costume entertained the shoppers. Chris Lewis,

chef at Willow Burn, provided a cake making demonstration, Santa made his appearance and Mrs Santa held a session for youngsters in her 'story corner'.

Willow Burn's work is well respected among the local community and the public interest and support shown today is a clear mark of that esteem.



Festive shoppers go from stall to stall and dig deep into their pockets and purses



Julie Webb from Tiger Lily Florists with many busy stalls in the background

ALL SAINTS' CHRISTMAS FAIR

With Christmas rapidly approaching, All Saints' annual Festive Fair was welcomed by crowds of shoppers. The Fair, on Saturday 5th December, was opened by Canon Spence, who welcomed everyone, and thanked the PTA, the school staff, parents and children involved in the planning of the event. Canon Spence explained that although All Saints School was very well resourced, such fund raising is important in the enhancement of the school's social and educational provision for all its students. The Christmas Fair is the latest event in the year long programme of fundraising by the PTA. Recently, pupils and their

parents were consulted about a "wish list" and children overwhelmingly decided they would love a pirate ship to be located in the social area outside school, where it would provide fun and enjoyment for all students. The children played an important part in planning the fair, deciding to include traidcraft stalls, and organising rotas so that stalls were always manned. Staff, parents and pupils have all been important in organising their festive event, and members of the PTA wished to publicly thank the Bell brothers, ex pupils of the school, but still enjoying being involved in ventures such as this.



Fair Trade chocolate tombola

Festive shoppers enjoyed the many stalls, which included bric a brac, books, toys, crafts, home baking and fair trade products. Nail painting proved popular

with fashion conscious girls, and Santa met with children in his grotto. Refreshments were available, and a festive BBQ outside the school tempted many people,

with delicious smells from cooking sausages and burgers. The fair was well attended, and provided a nice taste of the coming Christmas!

JESUS' CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE EP SCHOOL

Why not have a party for a birthday - the most famous birthday of all. Young children from Year 1/2 gave a most delightful performance in their portrayal of the Nativity. The costumes were lovely and bright and the cast played their parts so well. The innkeeper was certainly kept in check by his forthright wife and the pair of them were well cast for the humorous parts they played. The brightly coloured soldiers opened the Nativity as they marched onto the stage. Mary, Joseph, the Kings, the Shepherds, the Angels and the sheep, all contributed to this amusing interpretation of the birth of Jesus. There was some lively dancing, Mary sang a wonderful solo whilst nursing baby Jesus, and all the children sang joyously from their hearts. One could tell that they enjoyed very minute, as did the audience, flashing their cameras and swivelling their camcorders to film their own little ones for posterity. This performance would not have been possible but for the teachers and assistants at Lanchester EP Primary School, who put it all together, costumes, music, dance, preparation of the parts, and coaching this very large cast of young pupils.



Mary sings a superb solo whilst nursing baby Jesus



The full cast sing 'Away in a Manger' with great feeling

FRIENDS OF LONGOVICIUM

The Friends of Longovicium (or some of them) visited Dr Clemence Schultze of Durham University as part of their Heritage Lottery Funded Project researching life in Roman Lanchester. Dr Schultze gave a talk on the life of Roman women and showed examples of textiles and items of clothing from the Roman period. She also showed reconstructions of different looms from the ancient world and methods of weaving. Some of her students demonstrated some typical clothing.



Pictured right are Durham University students in Roman costume with a loom in the background.

Below, the group of Friends with Dr Schultze who is in the front row on the right.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Open House at the Chapter House certainly had a seasonal feel about it in December. The men worked for a change and dressed for the occasion as waiters. The atmosphere was great and the men were a great help to the women who normally do this job themselves



Above, the waiters: left to right: David Baggott; Alan James; Eric Gaskill; Dick Hunter; John Brown and David Massey.

Right, three smiling young ladies in the kitchen preparing the food: left to right: Joan Osborne; Barbara Sproat and Maureen Barker.



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CINDERELLA AT THE EP SCHOOL

It seems a good idea not to have each loads of children travelling to theatres but to bring the theatre to the school. Even before the



And, of course, the slipper did fit!

Pantomime began the children were excited with anticipation of what was to come.

This performance was excellent. Just four characters in the Pantomime, no adult humour, completely geared to young children and something that they could understand.

The actors immediately gained a rapid rapport with the children by introducing Buster the puppet mouse. How they loved him, how they pointed and waved, how they roared with laughter, how they cheered and how they showed their hate for the villain and support for the heroine.

The music and songs were up to date and the children were quick to join in and clap to the rhythm - the jokes were topical and at the right level.

Children love magic! They certainly loved the magic that the Fairy Godmother's wand produced. It produced a talented exciting performance which was typecast brilliantly. Cinderella was so pretty, her mother and sister were made to be really ugly and did perform as horrible people, while Frederick the butler was very silly, and looked it. And, of course, the Prince was the man for the part, tall and charming. Like the others



The cast of Cinderella

in the cast he played his part very well. Let us go

back to that little puppet mouse. He probably stole

the show, especially with the little ones.

TOY FAIR FOR CHARLIE BEAR



Lanchester EP School held a Toy Fair for the Charlie Bear Cancer Care Charity. Older girls, Ellie Jenkins and Helen James, help the younger children with their purchases. The amount raised at the Fair was £207.65 which goes to this very worthwhile cause.

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CHILDREN MEET CREATIVE WRITERS

On Tuesday December 1st a group of 30 children from All Saints' Roman Catholic School attended the Library to meet the members of the Lanchester Creative Writing Group, which meets weekly in the library. The group are planning a book entitled 'The Land of Childhood' which will be published towards the end of 2010. As a taster for their book, an afternoon was planned when each writer would read out their account

or story which they had written about their childhood. The children were very well behaved and listened intently. This was shown in the intelligent questions which were asked after each writer had read out their work. The pupils were making notes about the afternoon and hopefully they had enjoyed the afternoon as much as we had, sharing our work with them.
Brenda Craddock



Children from All Saints' Primary School listening intently to stories of childhood written by members of the Creative Writing Group. The group meets every Tuesday afternoon in the Library.

LANCHESTER FLOWER CLUB

On Friday 27th November, Lanchester Flower Club held a second open meeting demonstration evening at the Community Centre. Over one hundred ladies attended. The Demonstrator, David Ryland, is a renowned N.F.A.S. National Demonstrator who opens his beautiful gardens at Armathwaite to the general public in

the summer months. It was a wonderful enjoyable and entertaining evening - the theme being 'Lights Holly Action'. The raffle of all David's superbly created arrangements proved to be very popular. Connie Moore and her helpers provided some light refreshments. Thanks once again for all those who supported the evening.



David Ryland among his creations with Helen Tomlinson from the Flower Club

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CHARLIE BEAR IN LANCHESTER

At the Eucharist Service on 29th November, at All Saints Parish Church, Charlie Bear was a welcome visitor when he appeared immediately after the last hymn, dancing down the aisle onto the Chancel Steps. The congregation, especially the children, were delighted. David Dawson who has been receiving treatment at the Cancer Care Centre at Freeman Hospital, presented Charlie Bear with a cheque for £1768.68 which was raised by the church at a recent Coffee Morning, held on 10th October at the Chapter House, and reported in our October issue. If you would like to raise funds or make a donation to the Charlie Bear Cancer Care Charity contact angie.taylor@nuth.nhs.uk or telephone 0191 2138615.



Children who helped at the Coffee Morning are delighted to be photographed with Charlie Bear

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A cheque for £1768.68 was presented by David Dawson to Charlie Bear. Left to right: John Dawson; Canon Peter Waterhouse; David Dawson; Charlie Bear; Angela (CB Co-ordinator) Alan Dawson and Marjery Dawson.

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Saturday 2nd 9 – 5
Sunday 3rd Closed



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LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Stables, at Beamish is quite lovely, some of us actually sitting in what were the original stalls, which practically give you your own private dining room. We were very taken with the place - warm open fires, friendly staff and most importantly, good food. We sampled for starters, 2 soups in a bowl (sounds odd but

yes, they did manage it and it was delicious), twice baked leek and smoked cheese soufflé, black pudding and caramelized red onion tart tatin with a smoked bacon and red wine sauce + a side order of chips, main course was pan seared tuna with a niçoise salad and herbed dressing, lamb rump with a parsnip mash

and root veg. sauce, puds were steamed treacle sponge with real custard, Baileys and orange scented crème brûlée with home baked shortbread biscuits. We found all the food to be superb - we really enjoyed it. Go for a meal sometime soon - you'll be on to a winner!

The Gourmet Girls

REVIEW OF HENRY PURCELL: THE ENGLISH MONTEVERDI?



Palatinate Voices and Durham Baroque

The concert saw the first time the Palatinate voices and Durham Baroque perform together in Lanchester and highlighted the music of Henry Purcell and Claudio Monteverdi.

Keith Wright, sub organist at Durham Cathedral directed both ensembles from the Harpsichord.

The first half of the concert began with a setting of Psalm 110. This clearly showed Monteverdi's operatic leanings, as the music was full of word painting and free flowing counterpoint.

This was then followed by a piece for the men only, and took the form of a folk like melody with a gently rocking rhythm. This rocking motif was sharply contrasted by an abrupt chromatic twist in the harmonies at the end of each verse.

Next followed the more familiar setting of Beatus Vir, (Blessed is) with its recurring theme set against an ever changing background of harmony and tempo.

As a contrast the heartfelt "Christe, adoramus te" taken from the Good Friday liturgy followed, the chromatic setting and sparse texture underlying Christ's suffering on the cross.

However the first half ended on a secular "drinking song" with a recorder obligato provided by Andrew Fowler bringing the music to a lively close.

The second half of the concert began with a somber Purcell anthem "Remember not, lord our offences" full of Purcell's rich and static harmonies. This set the scene for the next piece a Latin setting "O Dive custos" for two Soprano solos written as an Elegy on the death of Queen Mary. The music moved from the bright and expansive optimism at the beginning to a beautiful deeply felt lament for his Queen at the end.

The famous Chaconne from Dioclesian followed with two violins, harpsichord and Andrew Fowler providing the bass line on the Viola da Gamba.

The music was full of Purcell's melancholic sighing motifs as the two violin lines fell and rose against the insistent chromatic Viola da Gamba bass reinforced by the harpsichord.

Another Latin setting of Psalm 3 followed. The music was punctuated by extended solos, rich harmonies which sometimes gave the impression of times standing still.

The music of first part of the second half displayed Purcell's characteristic melancholy and introverted nature, but the last two showed a more extroverted side to the composer.

A lively section of an Ode celebrating Saint Cecilia "Mark how readily each pliant string" followed, the Ode itself celebrating the very act of making music.

The concert finished on Purcell's "O God. Thou art my God" with the familiar joyful Alleluias bring the concert to a satisfying and upbeat conclusion.

The concert ended with a word of thanks from Mel Somersall to the audience, the concert being in aid of the Mercy Ships charity supported by Mel and Sue Somersall.



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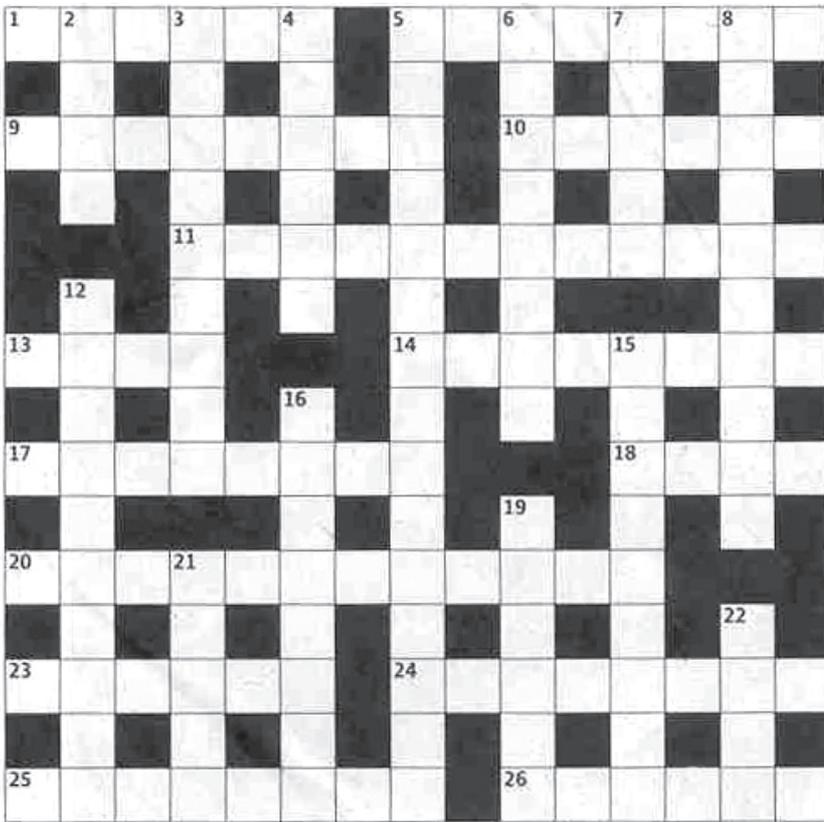
We are proud to announce Westlands Dental Studio has achieved the BDA Good Practice Award

The Good Practice Scheme demonstrates to our patients that Westlands Dental Studio is committed to working to the standards set by the profession's national association. This award has been devised by the BDA so that dentists and nurses can ensure they provide the best care to their patients and they in return know the service to expect from their dentists.



The Westlands Team

CROSSWORD 44



- ACROSS**
- 1,9. Slight (fig) (4,2,8)
 - 5. Nasal excretions (fig) (8)
 - 9. See 1
 - 10. Possibly found in coats, curtains and clouds (6)
 - 11. Stamina (7,5)
 - 13. Noun not used by aristos (3-1)
 - 14. Hired mob happiest on own turf (4,4)
 - 17. Ark twine used for sweaters (8)
 - 18. Principal in car chase (4)
 - 20. What bouncers do (7,5)
 - 23. Stupid (6)
 - 24. Leave slowly (4,4)
 - 25. Surreptitiously (2,3,3)
 - 26. Joint (6)
- DOWN**
- 2,6. Public school pastime (4,4,4)
 - 3. Stud sires' tails (5,4)
 - 4. Bandit (6)
 - 5. B l a t a n t overcharging (8,7)
 - 6. See 2
 - 7. Patron donation covers musical composition (5)
 - 8,22. Rotten face pack used in confection (10,4)
 - 12. Petition (fig) (5,5)
 - 15. Inspiration (5,4)
 - 16. Infertile (8)
 - 19. A scare for emperor (6)
 - 21. Give guarantee (5)
 - 22. See 8

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.

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CROSSWORD 43

There were just 7 entries in the November competition. The winner in the draw was D Dunn of Burnhope who will receive the £10 prize. Try your skill in this month's challenge by John Wilson. There is plenty of time before the next deadline date.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 43

- ACROSS**
- 1. rollmop herring
 - 8. see 22
 - 9. facility
 - 11. prosaic
 - 12. yardarm
 - 13. trait
 - 15,18. Dutch Head of State
 - 17. lemon sole
 - 20. tonic
 - 21. tussles
 - 23. arrival
 - 25. walk past
 - 26. cello
 - 27. shear each sheep
- DOWN**
- 1. recapitulate
 - 2. Lotto
 - 3. Manhattan
 - 4. po-faced
 - 5. encrypt
 - 6. ruler
 - 7,24. no trade-in value
 - 10. a medical soap
 - 4. arms stash
 - 16. see 22
 - 18. see 15
 - 19. elastic
 - 22,8,16. like a cat on hot bricks
 - 24. see 7

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.

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

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RED CROSS FUNDRAISING FORTNIGHT

Fundraising fortnight was a success for the Red Cross, with Jewellery and Household Sales, plus a Coffee Morning with large numbers of people shopping for Christmas quality bargains at excellent prices. The Coffee Morning was also a winner and the total profit of all events was a highly

satisfactory £560. Brenda Gibson, Shop Manager, would like to thank all those people who supported Red Cross during this special fundraising period.



At the Household Sale Brenda Gibson, (Shop Manager), with Jesse Goodall, shows Christine Gibson, a fine piece of pottery.

At the Jewellery Stall below are, left to right: Marian Williams (Red Cross), Noreen Rafferty, Vince Rafferty (from Australia) and Marjery Gray (Red Cross).



SHOPPING TRIP TO YORK



Yippee! We are off Christmas shopping to York - organised by Lions Ladies. Only that could make us happy at 8 o'clock in the morning.




and a Happy New Year to all our customers
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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

Lanchester Male Voice Choir Celebration of Christmas

This year it is the turn of the Methodist Church to stage this annual event starting at 7.30 pm on Monday 21st December. Entrance is free but a retiring collection is made for a local charity chosen by the minister.

The format follows a well established pattern with Christmas songs and carols from the Male Voice Choir and the Choral and Operatic Society along with popular carols from the congregation.

The highlight of the evening is usually when the two choirs combine in joint celebration. This year Harry Carr, LMVC Conductor, has chosen 'Bethlehem' from the musical Martin Guerre written by Boublil and Schonburg, famous for Les Misérables and Miss Saigon. David Hughes the Choral Society Conductor has selected 'Unto us is born a Son', arranged by David Willcocks.

It is worth getting there early for this very popular event.

Lanchester Library Christmas Closure Dates

Lanchester Library will close for Christmas at 4.00 pm on Christmas Eve. It will re-open on Saturday 2nd January at 9.00 am. Monica and staff would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Film Club

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS
The film will be shown on Sunday January 10th 7.30 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre.

A remarkable film about childhood which makes a poignant, harrowing and inspiring drama. Mark Herman's film reviews a world in conflict through the innocent eyes of 8 year old Bruno, son of a Nazi Officer. Bruno befriends a mysterious boy from what he assumes to be the local farm, passing him pastries through the electric fence. Both become caught up in a childhood adventure spiked by unspeakable adult truths.

New Year Ceilidh

Lanchester Wildlife Group presents its annual, very popular, ceilidh on Thursday 31st December in Lanchester Community Centre. Doors open at 7.30 pm and the first dance, led by the 'Angels of the North' ceilidh band begins at 8 pm. Please bring food for a faith supper and also your own drink and glass. Tea/coffee will be provided during supper. No admittance after 8.30 pm unless by prior arrangement. All tickets are £7. Contact 520063 or 560684 for tickets.

Family Wildlife

Sunday 17th January. Malton, 10.00 am.
A winter visit to our home patch for winter birds, a chance to find out how to identify trees from their buds and some creative wildlife games on the reserve. Meet at Malton car park.

Mothers' Union

The January meeting is on Wednesday 13th, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House when there will be an enrolment of new members and the Wave of Prayer conducted by the Vicar, Canon Peter Waterhouse.

Climate Change Group

The next meeting of the Climate Change Group will be on Sunday 17th January, 7.15 for 7.30 pm. in the Small Hall of the Community Centre. Everyone welcome.

Rhymetime & Storytime

Designed for pre-school children and babies, this will be held on Mondays at 2.00 pm in Lanchester Library. Ask at the Library for more details.

WHAT'S ON?

Thursday Club

Our next meeting on Thursday 17th at 7.45 pm in the Small Hall of the Community Centre is all about Thorntons chocolates with Tracey McClacklan. Please remember names + £7.50 need to be given to Liz by 31st December for the New Year Party in January.

Boys' Brigade Christmas Float

Father Christmas will tour the village again this year on the Boys' Brigade Christmas float from approximately 6-8 pm. Weather permitting the dates and routes will be as follows:-
Friday 18 December - Lee Hill Court, Alderdene and Foxhills estate
Saturday 19 December - Alderside, Kitswell Road

Monday 21 December - Ford Road, Humber Hill estate, Oakwood, Valley Grove
Tuesday 22 December - Deanery View, Deneside, Manor Grange, Burnhopside, St Bede's Court.
In the event of bad weather, the route could go back one day.



Last year's Boys' Brigade Christmas float

Short Circuits Walks

9th January - Beamish and Grange Villa circular. 4.4 miles, easy. Meet Edén Place car park NZ 219536 off Stanley to Chester-le-Street road.
22nd January - Craster. 5 miles, dramatic seascapes and woods. Meet NT car park (charge) NZ258201 in Craster near information centre.
New members are welcome. It is recommended that all participants wear stout footwear, preferably walking boots and carry a rucksack. You will need a waterproof jacket and a fleece or jumper. It can turn chilly even on a short walk. Don't wear jeans. If it rains, they soak up the water. Light, cotton trousers are better. Bring food and drink for a picnic lunch. Please allow yourself about 10 minutes to get your boots and jacket on and **lock your car!** Then make yourself known to the walks leader. You are allowed up to three 'tester' walks with us after which you are expected to take up membership of the Ramblers' Association. Sorry, it is not possible to accommodate dogs on our walks. I look forward to seeing you. Jonne Robinson, Group Secretary, Northumbria Short Circuits Group, Email: jonne.robinson@tiscali.co.uk, Tel: 01670713939.

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CELEBRATIONS AT BURNHOPE



Members of Burnhope Cricket Club at County Hall receiving the congratulations from Chair Brian Myers and councillor Ossie Johnson. The present Club is rewriting the history books by again winning the Roseberry North East Durham League and this year also winning the Vinton Cup and the SG Petch Eggleston Cup. A special thanks to Mr Alan Selway secretary and Mr Steve Coverly Treasurer who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

CHRISTMAS AT LANCHESTER CRICKET CLUB

We're done with the Presentation nights so now it's time to see out the old and bring in the new.

By the time you read this, there will have been trip to Kelso races where loads of money will have been won and lost and a few beers may have been consumed. There's a Xmas party on Friday 18th for the younger members, with a £2 entry charge followed the next night by the traditional Xmas Feast with music by Blue Mood. Entry is by ticket only and they are very limited. New Year's Eve has a disco booked and a bring your own buffet with a cover charge on the door.

There are many plans for the New Year, with talks planned with footballers and hopefully SAS author Chris Ryan. It is hoped to run a foreign feat night following last year's Chinese night.

There will be a cricketers' dinner with a comedian and cricket speaker and

of course Valentine's night is always a good opportunity for a party, so keep an eye on what's going on.

The club would like to apologise for neighbours who had to put up with lots of noise and disturbance back in October. The problem was caused by some invaders from another village whilst all our members were at the third team presentation night.

Our steward closed the premises quickly but unfortunately that didn't stop the problems being carried outside. The club will do everything it can to stop it happening again but it should be a one off.

On a cricket note, the junior nets will start at Greencroft in the New Year.

Starting Wednesday 6th January, all junior members will be welcome from 4.30 pm to 6pm.

So come and join us at the Cricket Club and have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GORGE WALK



Youth club members Nicholas, Adam, Jack, Brad and Craig, along with George Thompson, YMCA, leader, set off for a Gorge walk at Ashgill, Upper Tyne and Wear. Jill Gladstone, Partnership, also features in the photo. Jill, who arranged the trip was seeing members off.

THE SECRET DIET

Have you ever tried to diet and lose all your fat
But all the diets are boring, fussy and all of that.
But I've a secret diet which cannot fail, you see,
It's very simple and easy, well, it really worked for me.
Keep off chips, keep off cakes, keep off everything good,
But follow my new diet and eat any kind of food.
Just break your biscuits and your cake then put them in a tin,
Because broken cakes and biscuits have no calories in.
Then break your chips, break your cheese to let the calories out,
The total calories in broken food adds up to a whopping - nowt.

Alan Gray

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON



Chairman of the Parish Council, Ossie Johnson, switches on the Christmas lights on the village green, assisted by, left: Calum Suddes, Ellie Jenkins (EP School) and right: David Satchwell and Katie Turnbull (All Saints School)
Full story and more photos on page 4.

SANTA VISITS LANCHESTER EP SCHOOL



Thomas Leckenby and Verity Place tell Santa what they would like for Christmas in his Grotto at Lanchester EP School Christmas Fayre, which raised a tremendous amount of money to be used to build a tree house
See page 9 for more details.

LANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP 10 YEAR CELEBRATION



Jill Gladstone cuts the Partnership's 10th birthday cake with some help from Ellie
See page 6 for full story.

WILLOW BURN CHRISTMAS FAIR



Girls from Pauline Cook's Dance Troupe who entertained the shoppers at Willow Burn's successful Christmas Fair
Full details on page 13.

LIONS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Waiters, Brian Naylor, Graham Harkness and Tommy Robinson serving lunch for over 100 senior citizens at their annual party.

More, page 13.

SPORTS NEWS page 23

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next edition of the Village Voice by 19th January.
The deadline for **adverts** is 17th January.

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