

## LOCAL SWIMMING SUCCESS



Nick Laverick aged 12

On 20th October 2008 Lanchester St Bede's Swimming Team won the Derwentside Comprehensive Schools Swimming Galaheld at The Louisa Centre, Stanley. This was followed on 11th December by a competition held at The Dolphin Centre, Darlington against other Catholic Partnership Schools. Lanchester was represented in both competitions by Laura Gillingham, John Dawson and Nick Laverick. In the event at Darlington, the year 8 boys succeeded in winning their age group with Nick Laverick winning 3 gold medals. Since then, swimming with Derwentside A.S.C., Nick won three Gold Medals at a Gala held at Peterlee on 6th January. On 24th January at the John Charles Aquatic Centre, Leeds he won One Bronze and One Place Medal and achieved four personal best times. Nick has qualified to swim in three events in the Northumberland and Durham Counties Age Group Swimming Championships to be held at Middlesbrough in February/March.

## GOOD NEWS FOR BOWLS CLUB

Lanchester Bowling Club has received a grant of £3,400 from the National Lottery Awards For All Scheme to instal new upvc windows and doors to its pavilion. Pictured, holding the Award Certificate, are the chairman, Mike Stoddart, the contractor who carried out the work, Damien Forster from Castleside, and the secretary, Ken Raper. The secretary has expressed his thanks to the staff of Derwentside District Council for their advice and assistance with the preparation of the successful grant application.



Left to right: Mike Stoddart, Damien Forster and Ken Raper

## THE CLASS OF 1968



Are you on this photograph? The First Year Junior class at Lanchester EP School in 1968-69, sent by Claire Lownds, née Gibson, who is on the right of the teacher, Mrs Hanson.

### NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by Tuesday 17th March. The deadline for adverts is 15th March.

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The views expressed in this periodical are not necessarily those of the publishers. Whilst all efforts are made to check the authenticity and accuracy of all articles submitted for publication, occasionally something is bound to be printed incorrectly. Please let us know and we will endeavour to correct the mistake.

## Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 7 March, **Samantha Taylor**, Super Young Girl Singer

Saturday 14 March, **Keith Birkett**, Fantastic Male Vocalist

Saturday 21 March, **Karaoke**

Saturday 28 March, **Jim Clarke**, Great Country Vocalist

## Lanchester Partnership

The next meeting of the Partnership will be on Monday March 9th at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre. This group, which exists to improve the life of Lanchester people, is open to everyone.

## Wildlife Group

At the meeting of the group on March 10th in the Community Centre, Dr Phil Gates of Durham University will give a talk about liverworts and mosses. The meeting starts at 7.30 pm, and everyone is welcome.

## The Magic of Hollywood

This is the show to be presented by Lanchester Choral and Amateur Operatic Society in St Bede's School on March 11th, 12th and 13th at 7.15 pm. David Hughes the MD writes "We all love the cinema and this selection of popular tunes over the last 70 years from Judy Garland to Madonna by way of Disney, Elvis and many more will set your feet tapping".

This year the society is pleased to welcome the Karen Stewart Dancing & Performing Arts Academy as guest artists. Tickets are £7.50 and £4.00 for children and can be obtained from any member of the society or ring 521458.

## Short Walks

Acorn Amblers meet at 1.30 pm on Sunday 15th March at Burnhope picnic area for a walk including Chapman's Well and Holmside Hall. For further details ring 218871.

The 'Short Circuits' RA group meet on Saturday 21st March at 10.30 am in the cul de sac at New Shincliffe, map reference NZ 295402. For further details ring 521427.

## Film Club

The film to be shown on Sunday March 15th 7.30 pm at the Community Centre is 'The Diving Bell and the Butterfly'.

A biopic about a writer who suffers a paralysing stroke. The film has breathtaking visual and dynamic performances. The Director has found illuminating ways of portraying the protagonist's 'locked in syndrome' and explores with poetic visuals the personal triumphs of this man limited by his hospital bed.

Anyone welcome, £2 for members, £3.50 non-members.

## Community Centre AGM

The Community Association, which runs the Community Centre, has its AGM on Wednesday 18th March, starting at 7 pm. Interested parties welcome.

## Sunday Bridge

A bridge session will be held in the Community Centre on Sunday 22nd March, starting at 2 pm. Entrance is £3, with profits going to Community Association funds. All welcome.

## Flower Club

At the meeting on Wednesday 25th March at 2 pm Judith Clancy of Whickham will give a demonstration entitled 'Different Views'.

## Litter-Pick

The annual litter pick, organised by the Partnership, with the support of the Parish Council, will take place on Saturday 28th March. It will be much the same as in previous years, with an 'HQ' tent on the green from which you will be able to get bin-bags, high-visibility jackets and litter-pickers. Please come along and join in.

If anyone would like to organise an associated activity, eg a local litter-pick around where they live, please ring Jill Gladstone on 528 114.

## Messiah

The Reduced Handel Company, directed by Andrew Fowler, will present Parts 2 and 3 of Handel's Messiah at Lanchester Methodist Church on Tuesday 31st March at 8.00 pm. Tickets including refreshments, are £8.00 and are available from Mel Somersall on 01207-529153. Proceeds in aid of Mel & Sue's Mercy Ships.

## Durham Art Group

Are you interested in painting or drawing? Come along to Durham Art Group at the Newton Hall Community Centre (behind the Arnison Sports Centre) on Sunday afternoons, 1 - 4 pm. For further information, ring Joe on 0191 3861759 or Thelma on 01207 521370.

## Coming Shortly

The 2009 Lions' Carnival will be on Saturday 20th June.

North Country Theatre from Richmond, scripted and produced by Nobby Dimon, will be at the Community Centre on 31st October.

Planning ahead? Please try to avoid published dates above. Let us know about future events. Ring 520559.

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## All Saints Concert

All Saints primary school PTA has organised a concert to be held on Saturday 28th February in Lanchester Community Centre. On the evidence of previous events, school staff and governors will recruit some truly professional musical friends to entertain.

The evening lasts from 7.30 pm till 11 pm and tickets, price £5 for adults, £2.50 for children, including a buffet and prize quiz, are available from Colm Doyle on 528568 or the school on 520435. If you need alcohol bring your own.

## Story And Rhyme Time

This fun activity for small children is held on most Thursday mornings in Lanchester library, starting at 10.30 am. For further information ring 521021.

## WI

The March meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March in the Small Hall of the Community Centre at 7 pm. Visitors are very welcome, admission £1. The speaker will be Ian Wilkinson talking about the work of a Scene of Crime Officer.

The competition is what you feel is the most important quality needed by a Scene of Crime Officer.

## Women's World Day of Prayer

This annual service for WWDP will be held on March 6th in All Saints Parish Church. Women of any denomination are welcome to join us from 2pm to 3pm with refreshments after the service in our Chapter House. Please try to come as it is a lovely service and we would love to see you. Brenda Craddock

## Poetry Evening

Everyone is invited to a reading of poetry written by contributors to The North East Poetry Journal on Wednesday March 4th. The evening event is from 7 to 9 pm in the Community Centre dining room. Visitors are invited to listen or participate.

## Churches Together

Lenten Lunches will be held at Lanchester Methodist Church every Tuesday throughout March. The dates are March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 22nd, 31st - time, 12.00 - 1.00 pm. Soup and drinks will be provided. Please bring a contribution for lunch. All are welcome.

## Mothers' Union

The next meeting is on Wednesday 11th March, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, when the Vicar, Canon Peter Waterhouse, will give a devotional address.

# WHAT'S ON?

## History Society

### Exploring Border Reiver History

From the 13th century to the beginning of the 17th, the lands between England and Scotland were home to the Border Reivers, lawless gangs who lived on the proceeds of cattle rustling, stealing, kidnapping and racketeering etc. Although they were popularised in the Border Ballads, there is no doubt they were ruthless and often cruel gangs of outlaws.

An insight into how they and the inhabitants of the Border Country lived, will be given by Mr Philip Nixon, a keen local historian, on Friday March 6th, at the usual time of 7.30 pm in the Community Centre.

## Table Top Sale

The Community Centre has organised a table top sale on Saturday March 7th from 10 am to 12 noon. It is hoped that organisations which are finding it hard to raise funds will take a table, cost £10. The sale coincides with the Country Market, which will offer refreshments throughout the morning. The Community Association, which arranges and advertises this event and plans three more in June, September and December, hopes to make this a regular fundraiser for all. Ring 521275 to book a table.

## MP Surgery

Our Member of Parliament, Hilary Armstrong, will be available to speak to constituents on Friday 13th March in the Civic Centre, Consett from 6 pm.



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***Bunions*** are a deformity of the big toe joint, producing a painful and enlarged joint that can make walking difficult. Wearing shoes that fit correctly can help to ease the discomfort, but you should seek a chiropodist's advice on how to treat this condition in the long term.

***Ingrowing toenails*** can be very painful and are normally caused by ill-fitting shoes or by cutting the toe nails too short. Treatment from a chiropodist is often required for this condition.

***Verrucas*** are warts on the feet caused by a virus, and most frequently occur on the sole of the foot. Left untreated, they can get bigger and spread. Talk to our chiropodist about the different methods of treating a verruca.

***Athletes' Foot*** is a fungal infection and is very contagious. Symptoms can include itchy rash, splitting of the skin between the toes, or blisters under the toes. It can be treated by regular use of an anti-fungal powder, spray, or cream.

***Chilblains*** are caused by poor circulation in cold and damp weather, and can cause redness, tingling and an itching sensation as well as inflammation and swelling. In cold weather, avoid heating your feet up too quickly. Wear long woolly socks and make sure that footwear is not too tight. Regular foot exercises and bathing your feet alternately in warm and cold water can help, but you should consult your doctor if you have serious problems with chilblains or cold feet.

***If you suffer from any of the above you might need professional help. Westlands can provide the help you need. Just call us and ask for a consultation from our highly trained staff.***

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

Not a good start for the Gourmets' first outing of the New Year back to a favourite eatery and we were less than impressed. The 7 Stars at Shincliffe seems to have had a complete change of staff. The place itself is just as lovely with warm glowing fires looking good for this time of year. Having said that we were not overly warm and

some coats stayed put. What was once a fantastic menu has been sadly reduced to either 2/3 course with tea/coffee for £9.95/(we can't remember the exact price) and no alternative - light bites can now only be eaten in the bar.

We sampled one starter, a smoked haddock, leek and cheese bread and butter pudding which I have to say was luscious but it

was followed by venison sausage and mash, fish pie and a goats cheese risotto which were ok, the puds of ice cream and Eton mess were not amazing.

So now the 7 Stars is quite definitely off our list. The company, as ever, was good and we look forward to a more satisfying lunchtime next month.

**The Gourmet Girls**

## WI NEWS

For the first time in many years the WI meeting was cancelled. The decision to cancel was not taken lightly as we all enjoy our meetings and pride ourselves on attending regardless but, in this case, the weather along with the forecast for the evening was so bad and so

many members would not have been able to attend due to the condition of the roads and paths, the weather won!

Members were very disappointed to miss their evening with Margaret Walters but we hope we will be able to rearrange a date for her to come.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday March 2nd when our summer trip will be discussed, something we all look forward to. Our speaker is Ian Wilkinson and our social time with tea and biscuits will give everyone the chance to catch up with news.

## LANCHESTER BRIDGE CLUB

The club has a friendly atmosphere with a few club rules. We have enjoyable meetings while playing the best card game ever. If you are not a Bridge player already it might seem to be a confusing game with many twists and nuances, but once you learn the basics, you can spend a

lifetime improving your game.

If you can play bridge, however rusty or sharp you might be, we can accommodate you, or if you are ready to learn the basics, contact Peter Curnow on 520751 to find out more about classes. Contact may also be via

the secretary Jan Vasey on 521948 or mobile 07802721003 or e-mail [janvasey@aol.com](mailto:janvasey@aol.com).

It isn't just for silver tops, it does help to keep your brain active and it doesn't cost very much to have some good clean fun. Go on, what are you waiting for?

## MUSIC FOR GHANA

A concert on Saturday 7th February was held in All Saints Parish Centre in support of a project to help people in Ghana.

Luke Facey has already spent four months in Africa helping to develop vegetable gardens, and he

hopes to follow up this pilot project by buying land where the people can grow their own food. To raise money, he organised his friends to join

him in a musical evening.

Luke (drums) was joined by Jonathan Yates (guitar) and Stu Burlison (bass guitar) to form a group, with Luke moving to keyboards for some boogie-woogie. Guitarist Ael Robinson included

some of his own songs in his spots, as of course did Chris Kelly, who introduced his songs with good-natured chat.

Altogether an enjoyable evening of varied styles of music and song, which raised £260 for Ghana.



*Luke's group*

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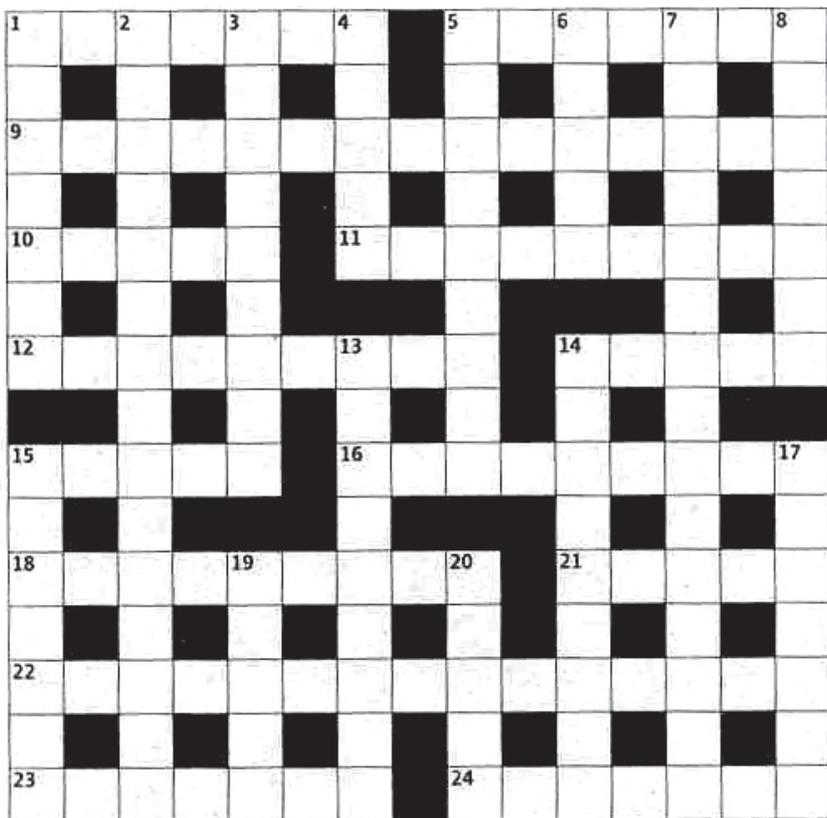
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## ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

# CROSSWORD 34



## ACROSS

1. Meet (7)
5. Pretence from RAC head (7)
9. Not beneficial (15)
10. Tuscan ticket for caper (5)
11. Narrow escape (4,5)
12. Begging men and Detective Inspector can't (9)
14. Teams for friends (5)
15. Pallid (5)
16. Cosmetic change for Mecca fare (4,5)
18. Temporary barrier (9)
21. Outline (5)
22. Court award intended to hurt financially (8,7)
23. Past includes half record made before use (7)
24. Provides essential oil for a brew? (3,4)

## DOWN

1. Mad sire produces weapon (7)
2. Have neutral attitude (2,3,2,3,5)
3. Removal of innocence from stoic nude (9)
4. Pine (5)
5. Change of Royal Horse Artillery tactic is cleansing (9)
6. Vernacular tossed groat (5)
7. Mean-spirited person (1,3,2,3,6)
8. Points to front to back sign for flags (7)
13. If fat diva makes statement (9)
14. Road surface laid on rising tiptop nut (9)
15. Drink in informal cop operations (7)
17. Is steam good for French painter? (7)
19. Surplus found in sex trade (5)
20. Amongst (5)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 33

### ACROSS

- 9,11. eclipse of the moon
10. Yalta
11. see 9
12. airmail
13. spat
14. underlyng
16. feelers
17. pigment
19. enthusiast
22. veto
24. peevish
25. ewe lamb
26. inept
27. cub leader

### DOWN

1. depths of despair
2. alienate
3. spoor
4. Pennines
5. efface
6. hydrology
7. alkali
8. daylight robbery
15. repudiate
17. passer-by
18. emeralds
20. teeter
21. in hock
23. fever

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 33

There were 12 entries in our last competition. The winner, with the first all-correct entry in the draw, was Mr Mason of Durham Road who will receive the £10 prize. Have a go at John Wilson's challenge this month.



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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.

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

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# CHEQUE FOR WILLOW BURN

On 20th January Councillor Ossi Johnson presented a cheque for £300 to Helen Mills the Chief Executive of Willow Burn Hospice. This cheque was the proceeds of a

Musical Evening entitled 'Songs from the Shows' held at the Lanchester Social Club promoted by the Lanchester, Burnhope and Castleside Branch of the Labour Party on 29th

November 2008. The evening was enjoyed by all involved, and the officials of the Branch would like to thank all those contributing for their generosity.



Councillors Colin Burton and Ossi Johnson, Helen Mills, Chief Executive of Willow Burn and Alan Gibson, an official of the Lanchester, Burnhope and Castleside Branch of the Labour Party, who took a large part in the organisation of this event. He is a senior officer in the Fire Service and has a community consultation role.

## WILLOW BURN DEVELOPS NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Supporters of Willow Burn Hospice can now both support the Hospice and benefit from lower utility bills by using the new form of charity support through Utility Warehouse, which provides the full range of domestic and small business utilities from gas and electricity to mobiles, home phone and broadband.

Susan Jones of Willow Burn Hospice said "We're pleased to be using this innovative service and to be able to increase our

funding without our supporters having to contribute more - in fact they could save money too! We're in the process of converting the hospice to Utility Warehouse and would like as many of our staff and supporters as possible to use these services to increase our monthly income."

"Supporters simply ring the freephone number 0800 131 3000 and quote Willow Burn reference C74203" said Glen Collins, "The helpful staff will

discuss with you the options available and what suits you best. Once you've signed up Willow Burn will earn a commission every month for each service that you take. It's a really simple process and everything comes through on one bill and one direct debit payment so making your finances easier too!"

For additional information and assistance contact Glen on: 0844 209 0560 or Susan Jones at Willow Burn Hospice, 01207 523296.



Pictured are a freezing Susan Jones, Fundraising Campaigns and Marketing Manager, and Nurse Jen Jones, with local Utility Warehouse distributor Glen Collins, with the branded Mini of Utility Warehouse Executive Director, Mark Paveley, who kindly took the photograph in very gusty weather.

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## THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS

The massive book we call the Lindisfarne Gospels is, in fact, in London, along with other treasures pillaged from the North in times past. Two pages of it are on view in the British Library. However, copies of it have been made, and one of them was brought by Anne Heywood to the February meeting of Lanchester History Society.

Anne gave an enthusiastic talk, illustrated by beautiful detailed photos, on the history of the Gospels. They were written and gorgeously illustrated on vellum between AD 715 and 721 in the monastery of Lindisfarne. The skins of 800 young cattle were used. The lines and patterns were traced on the back of the vellum, then drawn with goose quills in many colours, including blue made from woad and gold leaf. Each gospel began with a 'carpet page', which looks like an elaborately patterned, multicoloured carpet, and a title page with a large, ornate first letter and designs often

featuring the heads of birds with teeth! The gospels were written in Latin, but at some point a person called Aldred wrote a rough Anglo-Saxon translation between the neat lines of the original text. The pages were originally kept in a box, but it was bound by Ethelwald, a disciple of Saint Cuthbert. At the dissolution of the

monasteries the book was sold, and in 1613 was left to the nation by Sir Robert Cotton. In 1853 Edward Maltby rebound the gospels in calf-skin and studded it with precious stones.

The copy which Anne brought cost £12,000 and weighs 2 stones. At the end of the talk members were able to inspect the book and turn the pages.



Anne Heywood displays the Gospels

## GOLD PLAQUE TRACED

One of the tasks the Friends of Longovicium have set themselves is to track down all pieces of stone, pottery, metal and other materials found in the Fort which have finished up in museums all over the country and in private hands. The object

is to record them for posterity. One of the objects found in the ruins of Longovicium was a small gold plate owned by Dr Hunter, an 18th century antiquary in Durham. His collection was bought by the Dean and Chapter of

Durham Cathedral, and much of it is in the Old Fulling Museum in Durham, but the plaque wasn't there.

Rodney Hawkins, one of the group, with help from his wife Elizabeth traced the plaque to Durham Cathedral, and on 20th January the Friends were invited to see it. It may have been given to a soldier on his discharge from the Roman army after 25 years of service. It is dedicated to Mars and has holes pierced so that it could be hung around someone's neck or on an altar. It weighs 20 grams. The Friends are grateful to Assistant Librarian Miss Joan Williams for her help.



Friends displaying the plaque

## QUEST FOR FUNDING CONTINUES

It was reported at the Community Centre Management Meeting on 21st January that income exceeded expenditure by £2,000 in 2008 and that this would be used to start redecorating the building in the summer months. It was also announced that the stairlift had been installed in November last year, thanks to donations received from Help the Aged, Durham County Foundation and our three District Councillors.

It was decided to arrange a series of Table Top events on the first Saturday of March, June September and December to help Sections and Affiliated

Groups to raise funds for their organisations and the Community Centre volunteers will arrange the events and look after advertising. There will be a maximum of 10 tables and one large and one small table will be provided at a cost of £10. The first event is to be held on 7th March and application forms for tables were given to those Groups who expressed an interest. Application Forms will be available in the Conservatory and any unwanted tables will be taken up by the Community Centre volunteers.

It was also reported that the bid to Derwentside District Council for £914 for a photocopier was

successful and this is to replace the existing model in the next few weeks. It was confirmed that these facilities are available to Groups and the public at a small charge.

A report was produced on the problems being experienced with drainage at the rear of the building and the deteriorating condition of the footpath leading to Front Street, the surface of the main Car Park and the difficulty of parking in the overflow Car Park. Details of the projected costs were provided and it was decided to proceed with the project and endeavour to raise the £25,000 necessary to carry out this work.

## LANCHESTER HOSTS RAMBLERS

As it was the turn of Derwentside Group of the Ramblers' Association to host the Northumbria annual meeting, it was held in Lanchester Community Centre. Most participants enjoyed a morning walk along the railway path and up into the woods, returning down Pace Egg Hill. A bit muddy in Winter, but good exercise none the less.

At the afternoon meeting, the outgoing Chairman commented unfavourably on the administrative burden placed by Central Office on local groups and drew attention to the waste of volunteers' time in taking part in the RA's exercise in 'walking a square' of their particular area, the results of which were never used.

Guest speaker Andrew Bibby, gave a very lucid and articulate address. He spoke of The Ramblers' 75th anniversary next year, and this would be a good year to map the future direction of the RA. He congratulated Northumbria on its new groups for families with children, under 40's and people who prefer shorter walks.



Members prepare for the morning walk

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## A BEAUTIFUL WINDOW

'This is our school, let peace dwell here' 'Let love abide here' 'This is our school where our minds may grow' These phrases are found in the EP's very own school song which the choir sang beautifully at a special occasion on January 28th. Reverend Waterhouse was present in school to lead a short but meaningful service, to dedicate the beautiful Stained Glass Window which has been installed in the EP School. It marks a special place in the school, where children can sit quietly and in the calm and stillness feel the peace of God's presence. The window is the work

of Mrs Maralyn O'Keefe, who worked closely with the school children to design this work of art. It depicts the beauty of God's creation of the world and the words of Peace and Love are incorporated into the design, on either side of a Cross. There are other very clever details, symbolising the various dimensions of growing and living and learning in our world today. All the children and staff in the school were present at the service of dedication and several pupils read prayers, each of which, at the end, were endorsed by all the pupils with a

collective Amen. The School Choir then sang the school's special song, which fitted in so well with the Stained Glass Window's theme of Peace and Love. Mrs Davis closed the service with thanks for all the people who had contributed in many ways to making the stained glass window possible, and gave special thanks to Mrs O'Keefe who attended the service. Mrs Davis also included in her thanks All Saints' Parish Church who had given a considerable amount of money to the project. Brenda Craddock



*The School Choir, conducted by Mrs Startup, sang the school's special song which fitted in well with the Window's theme.*



*Canon Peter Waterhouse blesses the Stained Glass Window. The children led the prayers, watched by the rest of the pupils, staff, and church members*

## Gardening in March

There may not be any green shoots of recovery yet visible from the credit crunch, but March brings the green shoots of recovery from the depths of winter into your garden. Perennial plants in your herbaceous borders begin to shoot, spring bulbs start to flower and it is time to sow some of your hardy and half-hardy seeds.

### Lawns

This winter has probably left your lawn looking as unkempt as mine. Stay off the lawn if it is wet but once the surface is dry give it a trim with your mower on its highest cut.

### Borders

This month you should finish pruning your roses

by cutting back weak shoots harder than the strong growing ones.

Protect young tender shoots of plants such as hostas and delphiniums from slug and snail damage by placing a physical barrier around the individual plants. Coarse grit is a good deterrent.

Sweet peas sown in October can be planted out if the weather is not too cold or wet. However, you should acclimatise them to outdoors by placing the pots outside on warmer days and taking them in during the night.

You should dead-head spent daffodil flowers but do not remove the leaves as these help the bulbs to store energy.

### Vegetables

Use cloches or plastic sheets to warm your soil for early sowings outside but keep a large sheet of fleece handy as protection for both young shoots and blossom. Vegetable crops that you can sow directly outside in March include broad beans, peas, cauliflower, cabbage, Swiss chard, beetroot and turnip.

### General

Flowers from winter heathers may now be fading so trim them off to keep the shapes of the bushes.

Happy gardening and let's hope for some fine weather and warm days.

## 'TW3' CONTINUED



*The mysterious debris produced from the landing of a spaceship including a huge silver exhaust pipe and some yellow jelly-like substance*

*The 'Non-Uniform' dress-up day produced some interesting costumes. What characters do you think these five represent?*



footprints were found on it! Children have vivid imaginations and all sorts of ideas were being suggested. In fact one boy said he was sure that he had heard the sound of a space ship in the night and something had knocked at his bedroom window! (at 3.00am)

None of the children knew anything about this 'spoo' situation. Only the adults were 'in the know' and acting out their parts. Some super written work and pictures were produced through the day. No one found it difficult to find words to write and all the new vocabulary of the day was bound to be beneficial.

The nursery had its own excitement all about Dinosaurs. This was because a very big fluorescent egg had been found in the grounds that morning and it was so big that it had to belong to a dinosaur. Lots of talk and conversation about that!! The television crew were very impressed by some very articulate children, giving very good answers when questioned and also with the good behaviour throughout the school, on

such an exciting day. They are actually going to do some follow up work with the children so it is worth listening to North East Tonight where they were featured on Wednesday night (February 11th) and are likely to be again.

At the end of that very exciting day Mrs Davis explained what had been happening and it was smiles all round. It had been a worthwhile exercise.

Stop Press: Ben Moore and Natalie Allaker were interviewed on North East tonight, in the studio, on Friday 13th and very well they did too.

**Thursday morning**  
A PLAY-IN-A-DAY What a difference a day makes! When Year 4 came to school in the morning they could not know that by the end of that school day they would learn lines for a play and be able to give a performance of it to the school but this is what they did. Liz Lynx was the lady responsible for this and she works for a Theatre Production company. In the course of the day, she worked with a Year 4 class introducing the story, 'Boy King and the Wise elephants'. She then

helped the children to make the story into a play in which every member of the class had a part, even the shy and less confident ones. The play was performed in the school hall in the afternoon with an audience of pupils and some parents. It was very good indeed, and once again provided good material for writing and reading and art skills.

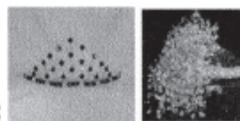
**Friday**  
This was a non-uniform, dress up day. At best you could dress up as a character from a book or fancy dress, and there were some interesting costumes which included; a sparkly fairy, Snow-white, a pop star, a Lord Mayor, a Cowboy, Dennis the Menace, a Witch, a Princess and Captain Hook. Another day to record with writing and reading skills.

Mrs Davis and all her staff had worked very hard to make this such a successful, meaningful and enriching teaching week, for all the children. Congratulations! 'That Was A Week That Was!'  
Brenda Craddock

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### DAY TRIPS

Our first day trip this year is in aid of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation with all proceeds going to this worthwhile charity that raises money for the early detection and treatment of cancer.

We have chosen Seahouses for this trip as the Northumberland coast is one of Sir Bobby's favourite places for a local day out.

The date is 28th March and the cost is £10 per person with the full amount going to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

We hope that as many people as possible will help us to support this worthy cause and have an enjoyable day out at the same time.

Sat 28th March Seahouses & Heighleygate Garden Centre  
Sir Bobby Robson Foundation fund-raising trip £10

Wed 22nd April Skipton Market £10

Sat 16th May Gretna Green & Gateway Outlet Village £10

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# 'THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS'

'School days are the happiest days, The happiest days of your life' These words from the well-known song could certainly be true for the pupils of the E P School week beginning Monday February 9th. The week had been designated as Writing Week and all staff had put in tremendous efforts to make it a thoroughly stimulating and exciting week for the children, so that their writing would be imaginative and very creative. Certainly it was a week that the children will remember and talk about for some time.

### Monday afternoon

Where was the fire in Lanchester? Answer, There was none but a big red fire engine was approaching the school. It backed into the grounds and children from years 2 and 3 soon surrounded it, eager to find out more about this unusual visitor to the school. A very nice fireman showed the children everything that a fire engine has on board and this stimulated the children's curiosity to ask some very pertinent questions, including the most important one, 'Where is the water kept?' and following on from that

'Where are the hoses?' This led to the highlight of the demonstration, when, with the guiding hand of the fireman, each pupil in turn was allowed to hold a hose and squirt water over the playing field! (not over themselves or each other, I hasten to add). It was great fun, as well as a learning experience and inevitably made for good descriptive writing.

### Tuesday morning

A pantomime? Yes a pantomime in February, about Robin Hood. The M & M Theatre Company perform plays and pantomimes mainly in schools and to a very high standard. It had everything a pantomime should. 'Oh no he isn't' 'Oh yes he is' Humour that the children could understand. A goody (Robin Hood) A baddy (The sheriff of Nottingham) A beautiful lady (Maid Marion) A comic character. (Little John dressed in a bear costume) A special kind magical person (a wizard), some very good lively singing and background music and most importantly where children are concerned some excellent audience participation. The pupils were totally attentive and involved in

the performance and some excellent written and art work was a direct result of a most enjoyable hour of entertainment. Writing week was well and truly launched.

### Wednesday

Something very strange had landed on the school playing field overnight. It was obviously debris from something and Mrs Davis told the children that various people would be visiting the school in order to find out what had caused the debris. The most popular theory was that it was a space ship and that meant there could be aliens lurking in Lanchester. Did you meet anyone strange that day? The excitement and speculation grew as 3 Policemen and two Forensic Scientists arrived in school, followed closely by three witnesses, a newspaper reporter and finally a Tyne Tees camera crew. Mrs Davis emphatically told all the children that they were in no danger whatsoever. Each class in turn was taken out to see the mysterious debris, most of which consisted of a huge silver exhaust pipe and some yellow jelly like substance, which really puzzled the children, especially when



*A big red fire engine visited the school. The highlight of the demonstration, when, with the guiding hand of the fireman, each pupil in turn was allowed to hold a hose and squirt water over the playing field! (not over themselves or each other, I hasten to add)*

*The Nursery had its own excitement all about Dinosaurs. A very big egg had been found that morning. There was lots of talk and conversation about that.*



# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED

**DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS.** It was agreed that the 2 Primary Schools in the village would be asked to distribute these to pupils' families in return for a donation, each school to be given £75 on 1st April. Permission would be sought to put the newsletter in the 3 churches and they would also be available in shops, etc. in the village.

**VILLAGE GREEN.** The development of the Green has been discussed with the Partnership. Members were given forms to fill in, also the Partnership, in order to gather information regarding the use, events, users, etc. The Churches and the Lions will also be consulted. At this point the possible re-introduction of May Day Celebrations was raised.

The Annual Litter Pick organised by the Partnership and centred on

the Green will take place on Saturday, 28th March.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** were considered and approved.

Accounts included two bins which have been erected and a seat on Cadger Bank.

**CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Durham C C Lighting Engineer has advised that an extra section should be inserted in the fence around the Christmas tree on the Green as it has grown and more space is needed for the lights; Drover Forge will be contacted about this before their busy season.

A Wind Farm Liaison Committee has now been formed to organise the grant funding for the local villages. More information of this will be available as details are confirmed.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** Tuesday, 10th March 2009 in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester at 7.15pm.

**PLANNING MEETING ON TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2009**

As there were only three Members who were present, due to various reasons including the illness of two members and the inclement weather, there was not a quorum. However, in the light of the need to respond to one application due to timescales, Members considered it prudent to take the view of those present and, with the consent of the Chair, authorise the Clerk to respond accordingly and seek confirmation of action at the next meeting.

## NOTES FROM THE PARTNERSHIP'S FEBRUARY MEETINGS

### Litter Pick

The annual litter-pick will be held on Saturday 28th March 2009, from 10.00 am until 1.30 pm. Look out for posters nearer the time.

### Village Bus

Our District Councillors have been very helpful with gifts from their member's initiative funds. Following donations from Bill Gray in December, Richard Young has given £5,000 and Ossie Johnson £400 for the bus. These will all make an enormous difference to the operation of the Bus and the Partnership is very grateful for all of the donations. The Partnership has taken over from Durham County Council as the "Commissioner" for the bus service, but Durham will continue to provide help with administration and the Partnership will continue to pay as before.

This change will make it much easier to provide the service that the passengers want and may make it easier to get funding for its future operation.

### Locality Map

This superb document will "provide a framework for the actions to help safeguard farming, the environment and wildlife". It is unique and has been developed over a period of two and a half years by a working group consisting of members of the Parish Council and the Partnership and other various experts. It is now nearly ready to be printed.

### Kitswell Recreation Area

The play equipment has been delivered, and by the time you read this it most likely will have been erected. Construction of the bike track has been delayed by the bad weather but the contractor, who is G & B Civil

Engineering, still hopes to have it finished by mid March.

The young designers are to visit the site and test ride the track soon, as has been reported previously.

The official opening will probably be on 25th April from 1.00 until 3.00pm.

### Help Needed

Some of the members of the Partnership are not as young as they once were, so would be very grateful if some Lanchester residents were to offer some help.

### March Meetings

The next meetings will be in the Community Centre small hall on 9th March; the 'Working with Young People' meeting at 6.00pm and the 'Combined Working Groups' at 7.30. Members and non-members are always welcome to attend at these meetings.

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10th FEBRUARY 2009

## POLICE REPORT:

Rowdy Nuisance 4, Vehicle Nuisance 1, Theft 3, Burglary 0, Vehicle Crime 1, Criminal Damage 3.

Vehicle nuisance refers to vehicles parked on zigzag lines outside school; vehicles are moved on by PCSOs when seen and drivers advised regarding potential visibility problems for lollipop persons. Fixed penalty tickets are issued to regular offenders. Theft includes that of lead by an employee on a building site but it has been recovered. Enquiries are being made by the police.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

Cllr Johnson stated that he would be taking a table at the Charity Ball given by the Chairman of Derwentside District Council if any members wished to join him.

Town & Parish Council Draft Charter. As this had to be returned by 11th February but had been received after the last Parish Council Meeting, it was decided that the Lead Officer should reply stating that the time frame was too short in the Council's order of business and a response would be made later. Members were asked to telephone the Lead Officer within the next week with comments as this will be important when the new Unitary Structure comes into operation.

Durham County Council Area Action Partnerships - Report. Cllr Burton stated that he was worried at the lack of progress in our area as there are only about 6 weeks before they come into operation. It was decided that a reminder should be sent to the County Council, Cllr Burton would ring the Chairman and the Lead Officer should liaise with neighbouring Parish Councils.

CDALC - Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 14th July - 4 vacancies if any members were interested.

Lanchester Lions request for use of the Village Green for the Carnival - outline planning permission was agreed.

Letter from Durham C C regarding controlled pedestrian crossings. A

traffic count had shown that the amount of traffic was lower than that needed for the provision of such crossings.

Bollards have been ordered for erection in the village to prevent parking on pavements and the logistics for power for speed visors for Ford Lane and Cadger Bank are to be investigated.

## KITSWELL PARK PROJECT.

Although work began on 12th January as scheduled, inclement weather had meant 13 days off site. However, it was still hoped that the project would be completed by early/mid-March. Extra crushed concrete is to be brought in to improve the drainage, due to the large amount of top soil which had to be removed. It is hoped that a meeting with youngsters will take place later so that the opening on 25th April can still take place. Various activities (1 pm to 3 pm), a celebrity for the opening ceremony, promotion, refreshments, invitations, organisations involved as well as the safety aspects of the launch event were given to members in a report prepared by the Lead Officer. **GRANT AWARDING POLICY.** Members considered and adopted the proposed Policy which is a requirement for Quality Status.

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## 65th BIRTHDAY

Mrs Pauline Evans of Humberhill Drive Lanchester celebrated her 65th birthday at Lanchester Social Club in January. Over 150 family and friends attended and a great night was enjoyed with disco/karaoke provided by Bobby B. In lieu of gifts donations were requested for Willowburn Hospice and the magnificent sum of £360 was raised. Pauline would like to thank all who attended and those who contributed.

## LANCHESTER VILLAGE GREEN

The Parish Council have begun the process of looking at the Village Green with a view to enhancing and improving it. The Village Green is very special and provides a focal point for the village. The Parish Council would like to consider ways in which it can tidy up and enhance the Village Green to improve the village for everyone. If anyone has any suggestions for some improvements to it or developments for it the

Parish Council would love to hear them. If you currently use the Village Green for any activity or event whether individually or with an organisation, then please let us know the details. We look forward to receiving your comments. Please forward any comments to: Sally Laverick, Park House, Station Road, Lanchester DH7 0EX. 01207521957 lanchesterparish@btopenworld.com

## LANCHESTER AND GOA

It was a fascinating experience sitting in a temperature in the 30's watching all the snowstorm pictures from England on Indian TV. Eighteen of us were in Goa which has close links with Lanchester through the three priests Fathers Alex, Caetano and Andrew who have spent summer months with us over recent years. We visited Father Caetano in his parish in Vasco da Gama, where we celebrated a Mass for Maureen Redfearn, who with Frank had intended to be with us. After some Goan food, Caetano took us out into the Arabian

Sea in a boat which was licensed to carry no more than 45 persons in good season, 34 persons in foul season! We sailed to good Geordie and Goan music. A highlight of our visit was taking part in the First Communion celebration of Father Alex's niece, Magris. It was a joyful day with 93 children receiving the Bread of Life for the first time. The party afterwards was sumptuous. Alex's brothers have a superb restaurant which they have built up from a beach-shack. We all went up north to Arambol to see Father

Andrew. We had Mass in his lovely Portuguese style Church and he entertained us to drinks in his home afterwards, before taking us down to "Twenty One Coconuts" a beach shack owned by parishioners. One Sunday evening a group of us (both black and white together with red and white!) watched the derby game on a large screen refreshed by ice-cold Kingfisher. The 1-1 draw kept everyone at peace! We felt completely at home in Goa just as Alex, Caetano and Andrew tell us they do in Lanchester.



Some of the group pose for photographs during the visit to Goa. Note the clothes which provide a plain indication of the high temperatures which are reported to have been in the 30's

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# Dear Village....

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

Dear Sir

I would like to tell you about the outcome of applying for a grit box to be placed where I live. I phoned using the number you provided in your last Village Voice issue. I received a letter today from the Council and I have been refused. Reasons given are they restrict the provision of bins to streets with severe gradients where there are also special features to be taken into account and also the usual one, cost. I work shifts (6-2 & 2-10) and can't use public transport so I wonder if the Council will be

understanding if we get a really bad downfall of snow and I can't get out of the street to get to work, which means no pay and I can't pay Council Tax.

Angie White, Garden Avenue, Langley Park

Dear Sir,

With reference to your article 'To Grit or not to Grit' in last month's Village Voice, on Friday 6th of February I rang the number as the article suggested and, when I said what I was ringing for, was greeted with 'Oh, another one from Lanchester'. I was told that an Inspector would need to visit. I said that I hoped that the Inspector would call and talk to me as I have a son in a wheelchair. The next

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

## IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

I heard was a letter which said the allocation of bins could not be recommended to Thornley Grove as recommendations could only be made to roads with steep gradients or other troublesome situations. Those who are familiar with the area will know that the road is on a slope and that there are adverse cambers where the Grove meets Mount Park Drive and Alderside Crescent. I am disappointed both with the outcome and that I was not able to speak to anyone if, indeed, they did visit the area. Written from phone message from Kevin Ashburn, Lanchester.

Dear Sir or Madam

With reference to your article in January's Village Voice To Grit or Not to Grit, I put in a request to DCC in December 2008 for a grit bin for the Fenhall Park area of Lanchester, due to the snow and icy conditions we had at the beginning of December and the lack of gritting at the time.

I received a letter dated 22nd December 2008 from a Mr Graham Potts of DCC replying to my request and the letter stated no grit bin would be given. I do have the original letter from Mr Graham Potts and you are more than welcome to see this letter.

Yours Faithfully  
Mr Robert Nichol

## FOUND

Found outside the All Saints Parish Church on Friday 16th January were a pair of Brown Framed Spectacles with Leather Arms.

Anyone who thinks that they might belong to them will they please ring 521957 for collection.

## COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for January 2009 was 60. The draw was made by Irene Clark of the Pilates Class.

### 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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# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 2 Volume 10

Lanchester, February 2009

For contact information, see page 2

## HARBINGERS OF SPRING?



*Many of us will have snowdrops flowering in our gardens. This picture shows them poking out of the recent snow in one of the gardens in Lanchester and providing us with a promise of the types of blooms that we might expect in our gardens on the warmer and sunnier days later in the year.*

## ‘NO’ TO SALT BINS

After the recent cold spell several people in Lanchester have phoned or written (see letters to Editor on Page 2) to the Superintendent of the Highways to ask for a bin to be installed in their street with a mixture of salt and sand or grit to spread on the pavements when they are in ice-risk mode. Mr Graham Potts, the Superintendent, has written courteously to all those reported to the Village Voice in the same terms, pointing out that with a limited budget for winter maintenance he has to give priority to making sure that the roads are gritted, and that 1200 salt bins are serviced in 4 Districts. Presumably it will be all Districts next winter, or rather everywhere, as Districts have been scrapped. He says that approved criteria are

applied as laid down in the Council’s Winter Maintenance Plan, which effectively restricts the provision of bins to streets with severe gradients. ‘Special features’ are also mentioned but these are not explained.

Most of Lanchester has been built on severe gradients. Though residents don’t have to resort to roping themselves together before climbing to their eeries on the side of our hills, it’s a close thing for many, including some who have written to the County Council without satisfaction.

However it is unreasonable to expect officials to satisfy everyone without an adequate budget. This is where your County Councillors come in. They decide, with their colleagues, how much

money goes into the budget for road gritting and other provision. They might be persuaded to spend some of the millions we saved by getting rid of the Districts on actually gritting minor roads, or providing salt-bins. Ring either Councillor Ossie Johnson, phone 521937, or Richard Young, phone 528304, to make your plea. There is another way. If everyone shovelled the snow off the path in front of their house or premises and scattered a bit of salt, there would be no ice. But everyone would have to do it, except that some who are infirm or poorly might need help from neighbours. But then some say, ‘Oh Dear Me, somebody might slip and then sue me’.

If you believe that, do nothing and whinge about slippery paths. Maybe if a few of us started clearing paths, it might catch on.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATED

Children at the EP School enjoyed a Chinese week to coincide with the Chinese New Year of the Ox, on Monday 26th February. It also happens to be the sixtieth Anniversary of Communism in China. There were lots of activities and many decorations in school which included the construction of a castle and a kitchen for the children to use. There was an exchange of pupils and teachers with Delves Lane Primary for years 1, 3, and 5. All of the children worked together really

well. Had it not been for the difference in uniforms it would have been impossible to tell that there were visitors from another school in the classrooms.

Activities included Chinese Art and Dance as well as crafts, in which the children were able to make Money Bags, Lanterns, Dragons and Zodiac Cards. There was also a session with language and an opportunity to appreciate and to understand different tones of speaking as well as the children learning



*Children representing the animals in the cycle of Chinese years with both facemasks and Zodiac cards to explain the twelve year cycle*

some Chinese words and some numbers. At lunch a special Chinese menu was provided by the kitchen staff which the of the

children seemed to enjoy. Deputy Head, Mrs Murphy, is to visit China in March for a week, with a member of Delves Lane

School staff, to study types of Leadership and Culture. She will also provide photographs of the current project at the EP School.