

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 10 Volume 10

Lanchester, October 2009

For contact information, see page 2

## COUNTY COUNCIL LOOKS AT LANCHESTER LAND

Durham County Council has produced a draft plan for 7 sites around Lanchester which might become suitable for building a total of over 1000 houses. Full story and map on page 3.

## A QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL

Lanchester Parish Council has successfully attained Quality Council Status. The award which was approved by the County Accreditation Panel in September requires a Council to demonstrate that it is representative of the community, communicates with its residents, is managed well and is responsible. The Parish Council heard that they had been successful in achieving Quality Council Status in September following 15 months of work to produce the portfolio of evidence.

To successfully achieve the award, the Parish Council had to satisfy the panel that they fulfilled 10 criteria including: communication and community engagement, citizenship, training and accountability. In addition the Clerk/Lead Officer needed to pass the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification to satisfy the criteria for a qualified Clerk.

Sally Laverick the Clerk/Lead Officer for the Council said 'In achieving Quality Status, the Council has had to look carefully at how it

operates. It has meant introducing new policies and proving that the Council operates in a clear and transparent manner'.

Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council, said 'This is a great achievement for Lanchester Parish Council and demonstrates that the Council is effective and in touch with its community.' Lanchester Parish Council will be officially presented with the Quality Council Status certificate at the County Durham Association of Local Councils AGM on Saturday 31st October.

## VILLAGE OF THE YEAR



Those who attended the presentation of the Calor Village of the Year Plaque. Left to right: Sally Laverick, Parish Council; Councillor Colin Burton; Chairman of the Parish Council, Ossie Johnson; Councillor Kevin Leary; Partnership Chairman, Mike Gladstone; and Judith Lund, MBE.

The plaque was awarded on 15th October during the Annual General Meeting of Durham Rural Community Council at Pelton Fell. The Clerk of Parish Council, Sally Laverick, had just given a presentation on 'Community Engagement & Partnership Working' which was accompanied by displays of the development of the bike track and other aspects of the village working in partnership. This talk was very well received. Members of the Parish Council and the Partnership were present and after a break for coffee, Ken Hazelwood who organised the County Calor Gas Competition explained that the competition has been running for 11 years, its aim being to encourage community values and working together. Unfortunately, Calor has decided not to run the

competition next year but to channel the money into 'Fuel Poverty'.

Cllr Joe Armstrong, Chair of the Scrutiny Committees, congratulated the Parish Council on what it had done in relation to the Parish Plan, activities for all ages and involvement with charities, and then presented a plaque and cheque for £800 to Cllr Ossie Johnson, Chairman of the Parish Council. In his reply, Cllr Johnson stressed how much the success had been due to the equal effort of all those taking part and working together.

As next year is the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Rural Communities Council, it was announced that a celebration of this would involve a showcase of work done in communities. This enjoyable occasion ended with a very pleasant buffet lunch.

## CENTURIONS MAKE HUGE CHARITY DONATIONS



The Centurions gave a massive £9,000 to charity on their Presentation Night. Left to right: Wayne Tilley, Chairman; Alan Seymour (Centurion); Sandra White, John White (Prison Service) Roy Bennington (Centurion) Janet Howarth (Integrated Children); Lion President Ian Murray; Pat Nelson (Integrated Children); Neil Graham (Cricket club); front: Helene (Centurion) and a young girl associated with 'Integrated Children'.

Photo: Angus Pearson. Full story on Page 6.



# 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 Village Voice,  
Will you please publish my heartfelt thanks to the kind gentleman who, not only returned to me the purse I had lost on the night of 30th September, but took the time and trouble to bring it to me at my home the following day. I was particularly anxious about my loss as my purse contained both my driving licence and bus pass. Although I thanked him at the time, it was only after he had left and I didn't hear a car that I realised he must have walked the half mile up the hill from the village. I do not know your name, but thank you for your kindness and the trouble you took.  
June Wallis

## 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.

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## THE VILLAGE VOICE

## IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Sir  
On 13th September, while walking home, I fell flat on my face, cutting my nose. I was bleeding quite a lot. My neighbours came out and helped me, ringing for an ambulance.

I would like to thank them all very much and I have completely recovered apart from a nasty scar on my nose. Thank you all again most sincerely.

Paul Smith Snr.

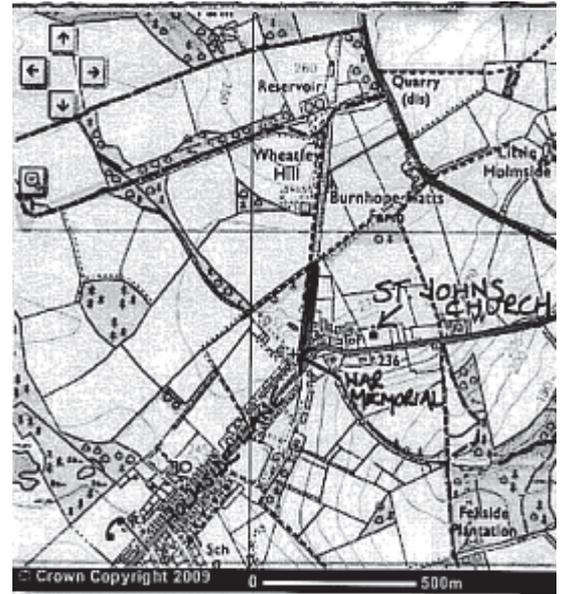
## COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for September 2009 is 79. The draw was made by Jean Forster of Durham Centre for Education.

Dear Sirs  
Re: Saving Burnhope Mineral Line Right of Way  
Can you help us?

We are looking to secure the path from Holmside Lane to Green Lane as a Public Right of Way. The route along the Burnhope old mineral line has been used and enjoyed by many and we want to ensure it is preserved for years to come. The current owners dispute the route as a Right of Way even though it has been used for around 60 years since the mineral line was closed. The attached map shows the route concerned.

We already have supporters but we are seeking older users to



help support the claims and build a body of evidence.

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like to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

David and Tracy Reid

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Email:

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## THOMAS ROBERT JARMAN

'TOT'  
Tot died in the St Cuthbert's Hospice on Saturday September the 5th. He was aged 71.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to all of the staff at the St Cuthbert's Hospice,

as well as the many Doctors, the Nurses and the Carers at Crescent Home Care, who helped both Tot and myself so well during his long illness at home.

My grateful thanks also go to Canon Spence and Canon

Waterhouse who were very supportive in their regular visits to Tot and to me.

I have been really overwhelmed by the many cards and the many kind messages of condolence and support that I received from

everyone who knew Tot and me. Finally, the donations in lieu of flowers which totalled an impressive £540 were divided between the St Cuthbert's Hospice in Durham and Marie Curie nurses.  
Irene Jarman

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# COUNTY COUNCIL LOOKS AT LANCHESTER LAND

The latest draft of the County Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) shows a ring of sites around Lanchester that the County Council considers might become suitable for house building. Nearly all are outside the Village Development Limit but tight against it.

Seven of the sites are coloured amber, meaning "Unsuitable - Could be revised". The report states that the amber sites have "constraints to be taken into account" however "Where constraints are identified this will not rule out development on a site. Constraints will be identified at an early stage and will be worked through with key partners." All seven sites are "Not Presently Developable", but these are to be reviewed annually.

The amber sites, shown hatched on the map, are:

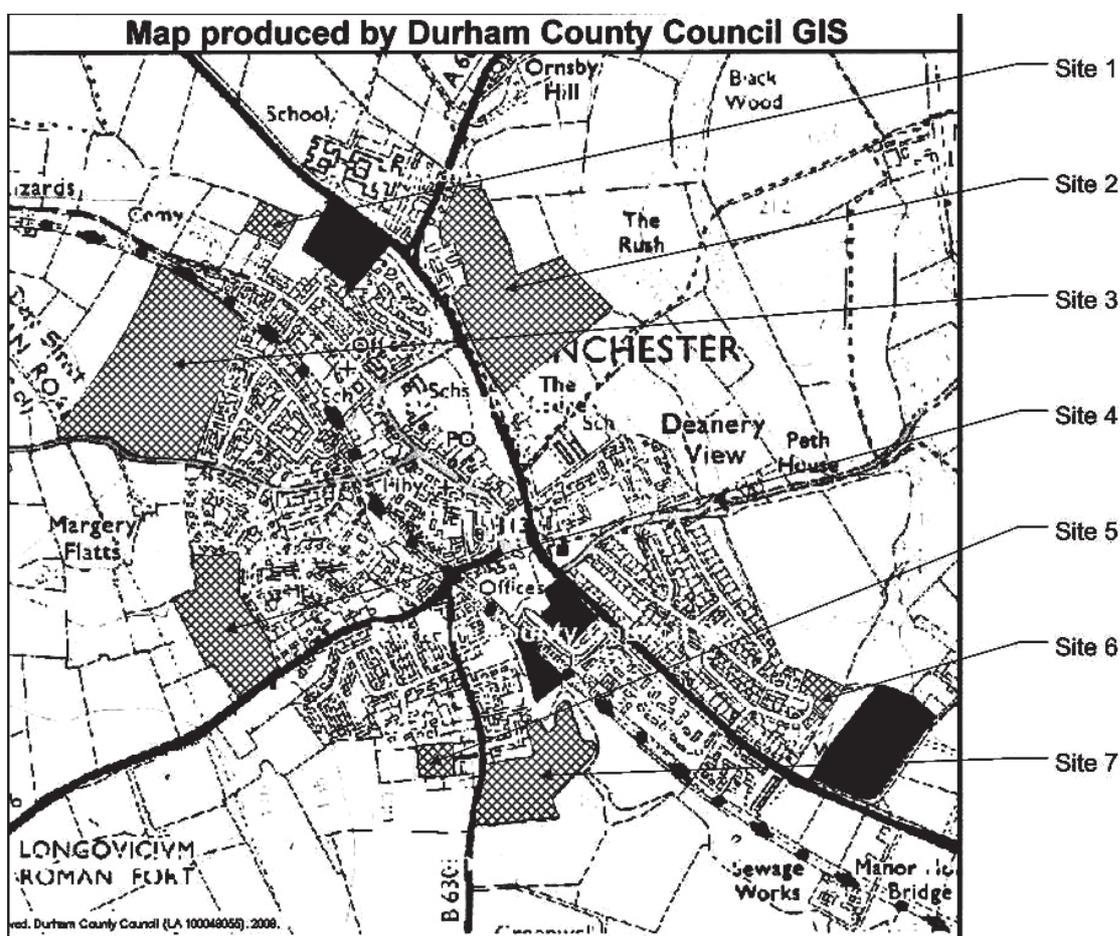
**Site 1** The rugby pitch at Kitswell Park, which the Parish Council leases from the County Council. Estimated capacity 24 houses. (The County Council can't be thinking of building on the rugby pitch one day - can it?)

**Site 2** The hillside above and beside the old 'Witbank Garage'. Estimated capacity 235 houses. (This has in the past been the subject of battles between the residents of Lanchester and developers, which the residents won - so far.)

**Site 3** The field west of Ridgeway, between Newbiggen Lane and the Valley Walk. Estimated capacity 410 houses. (A joke, surely?)

**Site 4** The field above Briardene, north of Cadger Bank. Estimated capacity 162 houses. (Never mind the Roman remains or the steep bank.)

**Site 5** The small plot



south of The Paddock, accessed from Ford Road by a track between two neo-Georgian houses. Estimated capacity 24 houses.

**Site 6** The play area on Deneside. Estimated capacity 21 houses. (Where else is there for youngsters at this end of the village?)

**Site 7** Land south of Ford Crescent between Ford Road and Smallhope Burn. Estimated capacity 155 houses. (What about the additional pedestrians and cars on Ford Road?) If built on, the ring of sites around the village would spoil the village as we know it.

Lanchester Partnership has written to the Parish Council about the SHLAA and has been assured that: (i) the Parish Council has not been informed of the sites that have been designated;

(ii) no consultations have taken place between the Parish Council and the County Council over the

decisions to designate the sites;

(iii) Lanchester Parish Council will defend the conservation area and the Village Development Limit and seek to ensure that the Village Design Statement is retained as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The Partnership and Cllr Ossie Johnson have both written to the County Council about the SHLAA. Neither has received a reply.

The Partnership will try to keep an eye on the situation but will be grateful if residents also

will do so, and will tell a Partnership member if they think changes are being planned.

If there is a real possibility of building on any of the suggested sites then the Partnership will arrange a public meeting.

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# VILLAGE PUTS ON A FINE DISPLAY, SADLY TO NO AVAIL

The Village Voice has sadly heard that Lanchester will not be progressing to the later stages of the Calor Gas Village of the Year Competition despite putting on a superb show for the judges on their visit on 30th September. We are sure when readers read Mavis Datta's report of the presentations made to the judges they will feel that all involved did their very best to show off our village in the best possible light. We can be proud of our village's achievements which were recognised when we won the best village in County Durham award but sadly the judges decided other villages in the northern area were more worthy in the Regional Competition. The Parish Council would like to express their gratitude to all those who attended the meeting, the people who contributed by answering questions or making statements of support, those who provided displays and Lanchester EP School for providing the venue.

The weather was kind on the day of judging; windy but fine. The judges, a gentleman from Yorkshire and a lady from Warwickshire, arrived promptly at 9.30 am at Park House. Introductions were made and then everyone set off on foot to look round the village, which was represented at this point by Judith Lund who did a wonderful job as spokeswoman throughout, Mike Gladstone from the Partnership, Sally Laverick, Clerk to the Parish Council and two Village Voice representatives.

First stop was the play park behind Park House, which was in use at the time, and the judges were told about

its inception, design, funding and maintenance. They were also interested in the proximity of the Valley Walk. Next the group moved to the Village Green, where its many uses as a focal point for village activities, particularly Churches Together were discussed.

Then everyone went into the village 'Aladdin's Cave', that is the Hardware Shop. "You name it, Ged has it, or will get it by tomorrow" the judges were told and they then talked to Ged and Andrew, smiling as usual. Ged explained how he also tries to be helpful to newcomers to the village, not only in providing the articles they might need but also giving information about handymen, etc.

Across the road to the Red Cross shop, where Manageress Brenda Gibson and volunteer Marjorie Gray, who dresses the window so beautifully, told us about the shop's history and its large band of volunteer staff. She also explained how it is a meeting place for many villagers, not just when their regular coffee mornings are held but when people come in to browse and chat.

Next stop was the Community Centre, where we were met by John Wilson, the Manager, who showed us the new fitness centre, in very active use at the time, and the two halls where there was quieter activity - play group and pre play group. They took interest in the Computer Centre, Christine Monaghan explaining that services such as internet and email were free, with volunteers on hand to help.

On coming out of the Centre, we were picked up by Fred in the shining

Village Bus and taken to the bike track, where we were met by Jill Gladstone and Alex and Doug, two of the young people who had been instrumental in designing the track and obtaining the grants. A lot of questions were asked, including that of maintenance, and of course the judges were extremely interested in the Village Bus and its use and funding. Fred took us to the EP School, as the next part of the procedure took place in the Infant Hall.

We were met at the door and shown to the hall by smiling, polite pupils. The Hall looked lovely, decorated with school charts and pictures and displays set up on stands by various societies in the village. Refreshments had been provided - hot or cold drinks plus locally sourced produce in the form of luscious raspberries, delicious scones as well as cream and ice cream.

Then the presentations began. These included Dr Brunt on the Early Music Festival, John Wills, Chairman of the Male Voice Choir, spoke of the importance of music in the village including the Operatic Society and the Brass Band, as a source of pleasure, entertainment and money-raising for

charity. The generosity of the village was also mentioned by Mel Somersall when talking about the work the 'Mercy Ships' charity carried out in Liberia, the village having helped to re-roof an orphanage (Lanchester House) and build a school (called All Saints). The money-raising efforts of the Lion's Club were mentioned too. The Rev Gavin Hume talked more about the services held by Churches Together. PCSO John Hutchinson spoke of his work in the village and John Ballentine said how necessary the village bus is to those who cannot get up and down the hills of Lanchester to do their shopping and business. Sport in the village was mentioned too; Dick Parry spoke of the enthusiasm of the youngsters in the various rugby club teams, the help given by the cricket club and Sally mentioned the number of children in the tennis club. However, the 'stars of the show' were the eight children, five boys and three girls, from the EP and the RC Primary schools, who stood up and read out what they had written about their village.

Following the presentations, the judges posed some serious

questions, such as environmental achievements and affordable housing. These were ably answered by Cllr Mike Wardle and Mike Gladstone and Councillors, making reference to the Locality Map, the Village Appraisal and the Parish Plan, public participation in planning and environmental concerns, etc as well as working with young people. In addition, Mrs Davis, Head teacher of the EP School, explained that environmental issues are on the school curriculum and that the children grow vegetables in the school garden which are used for school dinners.

Finally, Canon Spence spoke of the two institutions in the village which were important to the whole of Derwentside, namely the Willow Burn Hospice and St Bede's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School, the latter's outreach even being as far as Peru, having hosted a football match against a team of seemingly budding international players.

It was obvious that a great deal of dedication and hard work had gone in to the organisation of the morning. Everything ran smoothly and was very impressive. Mavis Datta



*Just some of the many villagers who made their presentations to the Judges in support of Lanchester*

# VISIT OF THE JUDGES TO LANCHESTER FOR THE CALOR GAS VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

## ALPHABET POEM BY PUPILS OF ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

A is for All Saints, school and churches.  
 B is for bike track, newly built.  
 C is for community, working together.  
 D is for Dairy, Lanchester's own.  
 E is for everyone knowing each other.  
 F is for fun that never stops.  
 G is for good schools, especially St Bede's.  
 H is for helpful people who'll give you a hand.  
 I is for interesting, such as books in the library.  
 J is for jobs, which are always available.  
 K is for the King's Head, just down the road.  
 L is for Lynwood House, an old people's home.  
 M is for Mel, a Mercy Ship cook.  
 N is for no-one getting left out.  
 O is for opticians, if you need glasses.  
 P is for the Partnership - they give us cool things.  
 Q is for Queen's Head, a stylish pub.  
 R is for Romans, lived here long ago.  
 S is for super service at all our shops.  
 T is for Tesco bus if you need a lift.  
 U is for utterly fantastic, our beautiful village.  
 V is for Valentino's, a truly great pizza.  
 W is for Willow Burn, a special hospice.  
 X is for exercise at the keep fit club.  
 Y is for youth clubs, there's lots of them.  
 Z is for Zulus who visit from abroad.

Lanchester is unique, who would want to live anywhere else?

*By Christopher Ross, Emily Conlin, James Soutar and Josh Dunn*



*Judith Lund leads the judges into the village 'Aladdin's Cave', that is the Hardware Shop*



*Children from EP Primary School who served the delicious refreshments*



*Children from both primary schools who described how Lanchester is special to them at the Village of the Year competition.*

*From the EP School: Hettie Moore, Jacob Lloyd, Casey Coxon and Elliot Dougal; and from All Saints' Primary School: Christopher Ross, Emily Conlin, James Soutar and Josh Dunn.*

## 'WHY LANCHESTER IS SPECIAL TO ME' BY PUPILS OF THE EP PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Our village - Lanchester

A Roman town  
 A little street  
 This is Lanchester, so let's repeat!  
 A Roman town  
 A little street  
 Hot chocolate on the village green.

A church  
 Of God,  
 Some shops,  
 A park,  
 Where children play until it's dark!

Our schools,  
 Our fairs,  
 Where children share,  
 Sometimes they play truth or dare.

A village walk  
 While you talk,  
 Along the railway line.  
 In Dora's Wood,  
 I bet you could,  
 Well anyway I think you should!

All the fields  
 Where farmers live,  
 Every harvest they are kind to give,  
 The corn and wheat,  
 A special treat,  
 Especially when it's nice and neat!

A Roman town,  
 A little street,  
 This is Lanchester so take a seat!

*By Hettie Moore*

The people in Lanchester are very friendly and that is one of the main reasons why I like living here. You feel part of the community no matter where you are. The churches help organise some events in the community, some of which I've been involved in. When I walk to school every morning with my Dad, people say hello to us. The Lanchester Lions organise quite a lot of events such as the carnival which the whole community gets involved in.

*By Jacob Lloyd*

Lanchester is a special place to me because I like living in the countryside rather than living in a big city. There are lots of things to do and places to go. There's the bike track, the carnival and the park for anybody to use. It's

great when we get to sing carols on the green as a school at Christmas time and lots of people come and join in. There is a Roman fort just outside of Lanchester to remind us about the Romans who took over Lanchester as well as the Norman church. In Kitswell Road there is a cricket ground for the cricketers to use.

*By Elliot Dougal*

The village offers many things to do which is why I like living here. There are lots of clubs and activities for people of all ages. The community centre has lots to offer, something to suit everyone. There is bonfire night which is a highlight event every year in the village as is the carnival because there are lots of games and tombolas. Lanchester has lots of history too including the Roman fort. The village is surrounded by fields, trees and countryside and it has lots of nature as well.

*By Casey Coxon*

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## CENTURIONS' PRESENTATION NIGHT

Local bikers, the Centurions, are a fearsome looking group to many people, but what lovely, kind, hard working, compassionate, emotional, generous men and women they really are beneath those leathers. They are probably the best fund raisers for charity in the village and take great delight in distributing their hard earned money to worthy causes.

The Cricket Club is where they meet and Wednesday evening was their Presentation Night to their chosen charities for 2009.

Giving money was a bit like confetti at a wedding. Wayne Tilley, Chairman, spoke eloquently and passionately about the difficulties of the various local Air Ambulance organisations in the region and about how the government was ignoring the issue. According to John White,

Administrator of the Prison Officers Charity, it was the same situation throughout the country. The Centurions chose two new charities this year to donate to from their funds. 'Integrating Children' is a charity providing support for children and young people with a disability, to access mainstream activities after school. This charity is relatively new, having been started about 10 years ago. Janet Howarth received a cheque for £500 and she and her colleague, Pat Nelson spoke enthusiastically on behalf of the organisation. The other new Charity 'Help for War Heroes' was awarded £1000 and President of Lions, Ian Murray accepted a cheque on their behalf.

Lion President, Ian, also accepted a cheque for £1000 for Lanchester

Lions Club, to distribute to worthy causes in the village. He gave a comprehensive, but brief resume of Lions' activities during the last few years. Neil Graham, Chairman of the Cricket Club, received £500 which he gratefully received on behalf of the club, which would be used for various necessary equipment. Great North Air Ambulance received £4000 plus £2000 from the Prison Officers Charity Fund and another £335.54 raised by club member, Caroline, in memory of her late husband Michael, who sadly died recently. Sandra White accepted the cheque on behalf of Great North Air Ambulance. The grand total donated to G.N.A.A.S was £6335.54! The total given by the Centurions on a wonderful, convivial evening was a massive £9000.

## CONUNDRUM



*Our Village Voice photographer took this photograph. What do you think it is? Answer on page 14.*

## DELIVERER WANTED

Do you fancy being a part of a dynamic organisation centred in the village of Lanchester? - then join the Village Voice as a deliverer where the pay is non-existent but you have the inner satisfaction of knowing

that you are doing your bit in society.

We currently need a permanent deliverer for the Ford Road/Smallhope Drive district with a round of approx 40 papers once a month plus we need more people to volunteer as an

emergency stand in for when a deliverer goes on holiday or is unavailable. This will entail delivering somewhere in the village maybe once or twice a year. Contact Mike Stoddart 520291 if you are interested.

## 95th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs H Minto of Alderdene Lanchester who recently celebrated her 95th Birthday from all her family and friends. Mrs Minto would like to thank everyone for the lovely gifts and flowers she received and everyone at Yvonne's the hairdressers for the lovely day.



## WEDDING OF KAREN STOKER AND STEVEN DICKENS

Lanchester born and bred Karen Stoker, from Deanery View, was married on the 3rd of October 2009, to Steven Dickens at Whittlebury Park, near Northampton.

Karen was a pupil at Lanchester EP school before going to Greencroft Comprehensive School and to Derwentside College in Consett. She then went to Nene University, in Northampton and settled there, where she met Steven three years ago.

Her Bridesmaids were Claire Lewins, friend since nursery school and Caroline Dickens, the Groom's sibling. They are now honeymooning in the Maldives.



*Karen and Steven signing the register at their wedding*

## MARRIAGE OF CATHERINE CARRICK AND IAN HARKNESS

The marriage of Catherine to Ian took place on the 26th of September 2009 at Lanchester Parish Church.

Whatever the weather did for the rest of the year it was forgiven on that Saturday.

Catherine and Ian were blessed with glorious sunshine and clear blue skies to begin their married life in the beautiful and ancient Lanchester Parish Church. Thanks go to Canon Waterhouse who perfectly balanced both the commitment and joyfulness of the occasion.

Catherine's sister Sara, Ian's sister Amy and Catherine's school friend Hazel were the lovely bridesmaids and

Ian was most ably supported by his friends whom he met at the EP school and at St Bede's School in Lanchester.

Catherine is from Weardale and Ian has spent most of his life in Lanchester since moving from Scotland

where he was born, as was his twin brother and best man Mike.

Ian and Catherine completed their degrees in Newcastle where they met. The couple both work at Newcastle College and live in Gosforth.



*Catherine and Ian on a beautiful day for their marriage*

## WEDDING OF STUART MURRAY AND IMOGEN LAMBOURN



*Stuart and Imogen on their wedding day*

Stuart, the son of Ian and Sharon Murray, married Imogen, who hails from Guide Post, on the 19th of September, at St Mary the Virgin, Whickham, where Stuart was an organ scholar during 2007/8.

The reception was held at Alnwick Gardens. The couple will live in Edinburgh, where Stuart is completing a PhD in Geophysical Fluid Dynamics. Imogen completed a Law Degree in July and has just embarked on a graduate medicine course.

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## PLANNING AUTHORITY DECISIONS

The following planning applications have been approved by Durham County Council:

- (i) Creation of permanent outdoor riding arena of sand and rubber surface and erection of floodlighting at West Newbiggen Farm, Lanchester.
- (ii) Felling of a sycamore and reshape by 50% of one variegated holly at All Saints Catholic Presbytery, Kitswell Road, Lanchester.
- (iii) Erection of first floor extension above existing garage and widening of existing drive at 15 Greenwell Park.
- (iv) Extension of dining room and study extension to front (resubmission)

- at 4 Broadoak Drive.
- (v) Erection of single storey rear extension at 23 Oakwood.
- (vi) Felling of one Lawson cypress tree at 2 Station Cottages.
- (vii) Crown lifting and pruning of six lime trees at land to the front of 1 - 8 Church View.
- (viii) Crown reduce and prune two apple trees at Brook Villa.
- (ix) Conversion of existing garage into workshop, hobby room and storage space. Removal of existing garage door and replace with window, installation of one further window and two velux rooflights at land to the east of West Grange, Cadger Bank.
- (x) Siting of replacement portable

building to be used for office accommodation at Willow Burn Hospice, Maiden Law.

The following planning applications have been refused by Durham County Council. (a) Demolition of existing stable building and workshop, erection of four holiday cottages and creation of six parking spaces at Forest Lodge, Knitsley Lane. (b) Erection of dormer bungalow with garage at 1 and 2 Deanery Cottages.

Current planning applications and Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday, 6th October are available in the Library or at the Council Office.

## IS LANCHESTER GOING GREEN?

An urgency to tackle Climate Change hit the 80 plus audience of "The Age of Stupid", a film about global warming, at its double billing in Lanchester Community Centre in October. Ideas came thick and fast during the follow-on discussion about how we as individuals and as a community can cut our carbon footprint.

The feeling was strong that we need to start taking action now to help reduce some of the catastrophic consequences of climate change. Recent forecasts

from the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) indicate that life for the young people of today will be very different in 30-40 year time. Now is the time to move towards a carbon free future. The question is - what can Lanchester do to ease that transition? The Environmental group have already started to focus on ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Ideas included: making Lanchester 'a plastic bag free' village, encouraging more local food production through

extending the allotment scheme and running gardening courses, energy saving tips in the Village Voice, loaning out energy monitors to Lanchester households and working with schools and groups on issues of climate change.

Do you want to be part of the action? Find out how you can be involved either through making your own home and business more energy efficient or through taking action with the environmental group; contact Paul or Sonny on 520759.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE TIP OF THE MONTH

"I'm worried about climate change but I can't do anything about it!" The good news is that you can and it's easy to make a difference. Every household in Lanchester is responsible for about 12 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year. If you can save just ten percent of that, you can reduce your emissions by over a tonne. Now, what if every

household in the village does the same? That's a saving of well over a thousand tonnes a year. Each month in the Village Voice we plan to give you an easy way to make a change. By the end of next year, you should have cut your carbon footprint by 10%. As a bonus, it should save you hundreds of pounds a year from your heating,

fuel and transport costs. Why not start today?

You can find more advice from the government website "Act On CO<sup>2</sup>" at <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html>.

**TIP OF THE MONTH:**  
"Turn down your central heating thermostat by 1°C. You won't notice the difference and you could cut your fuel bill by 10%."

# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 13th OCTOBER

## POLICEREPORT

There were no incidences of vehicle nuisance, vehicle crime or theft, but there were 3 burglaries, 2 cases of criminal damage and 11 of rowdy nuisance for the period 1st to 30th September. The Police Report stated that the Police are doing as much as they can to solve residents' parking problems in Newbiggen Lane and Victoria Terrace. Mrs M Clarkson of Burnside spoke of the problems she has had for over 23 years with cricket balls landing on her property and causing damage; she showed recent photographs of a broken window. In spite of many requests to the cricket club, protective nets have not been erected. It was agreed that this problem would be put on next month's Agenda as the lease of the cricket club is due for renewal.

**Gully cleaning.** Blocked areas would be cleaned to minimise flooding.

**Highways.** There were no defects on the junction of Kitswell Road.

**Lanchester Partnership** - Strategic housing land availability and assessment - see separate article on page 3.

**Durham C C Annual Report - Overview and Scrutiny.** This was received by Members.

**Boundary Committee** - Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Durham CC. Fortunately there are no changes proposed to the Lanchester boundary. A letter was read out from Lanchester Partnership to the Parish Council congratulating them on achieving Quality Parish Council Status.

**County Durham Young Offenders Scheme.** Suggestions were invited as to how people serving

Community Serving Orders could be involved in work in the village. Work on the Valley Walk, litter picking, work on the village green and clearing paths such as Ornsby Hill were suggested.

**EDF wind farm.** It appears that a proposed steering group from the Parish Councils of Esh, Lanchester and Burnhope may not have a role in deciding on the use of funding but that this will be decided by the County Council instead.

A booklet entitled 'It takes All Sorts' about Local Councils was looked at and it was decided that a few copies should be ordered and placed in the Library.

## Area Action Partnership Board and Parish Council Committee Meetings

It has been agreed that the cost of buying a portable speed monitor for use in their respective villages would be shared.

**Quality Status** The formal presentation of the Certificate will take place on 31st October at County Hall.

**Bus shelters and seats on Durham Road** The standard of these and others in the village and also litter bins were discussed. Some are the responsibility of the County Council whose attention is to be drawn to the problem and the village handyman is to check the condition of the bins.

## Christmas lights switch on

Although not all the motifs are working, it was decided that no replacements would be made at the moment because of new regulations coming into

force in the near future and that this subject would be put on the Agenda early in the New Year. This year the theme of the occasion will be the celebration of Quality Status and will involve many groups in the village - the Lead Officer to produce an outline of the event and specimen posters, etc.

A working group is being set up to decide where the money, won in the Calor Gas County

Village of the Year Competition (£800) will go.

**NALC Local Council Awards 2009** As NALC has re-launched these awards, it was agreed that the Council would enter the categories of Clerk of the Year (sponsored by AON) and Much Improved Council of the Year (sponsored by Standards Board for England).

## North Rural Summit -

**National Housing Federation** Cllr Wardle agreed to attend this event.

The Annual Return, Financial Information and Accounts for Payment were all approved.

**Date of Next Meeting** Tuesday 10th November 2009 in Park House at 7.15 pm.

This will be preceded by a PACT (Police and Community Together) meeting at 7 pm.

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## BLUE PETER AWARD

Sophie Taylor, aged 12, a pupil at St Bede's Catholic School, has received a Silver Blue Peter Badge in recognition of her submission of her poem, poster and brochure on racism. Sophie received a letter signed by Blue Peter Editor, Tim Levell and congratulations from Presenters, Andy, Helen and Joel.

*Right, Sophie proudly wears her Silver Blue Peter Badge and displays her letter of congratulations*



## TRACTOR RUN

The annual Charity Tractor Run for local farmers took place on Saturday 10th October, leaving The Old Mill at

Knitsley at about 11.45 am. Before setting off all drivers and spectators were treated to a hot bacon bun by the



*Organiser, Ian Suddes, leads the way*

pub. This was gratefully received on a morning that was sunny, but cool. Numbers were a bit down on last year but about a dozen vintage tractors gathered at the start before setting off for Buttsfield, Satley, on to Quebec then Hamsteels for a lunch stop. After a satisfying lunch they covered the remainder of the 26 or so miles by carrying on to Langley Park, Sacriston and Holmside. There, they joined forces with the Dexter Cattle Society, for a Hog Roast and disco. The money raised at the event will be donated to a charity to be decided on after the event.



*Following closely behind the leader are David and Lyn Hopps on 'his and hers' tractors*

## FAREWELL TO FATHER CAETANO

An enjoyable evening was had by young and old on Saturday 19th September in All Saints Parish Centre. The occasion was an opportunity for us all to say our fond farewells to Fr Caetano who has been with us in the Parish for three months. This was Fr Caetano's second visit to Lanchester so at least he knew what to expect. This time, as well as helping Canon Spence



*Fr Caetano with some of the youngsters*

in the parish and visiting the sick and housebound he has had the opportunity to do "The Grand Tour" visiting London, Paris, Rome and Lourdes as well as places in Scotland, Wales and elsewhere in England - not forgetting those meccas of the north east, St James' Park and the Stadium of Light! Once again, his warm and friendly personality and his great sense of humour have endeared him to everyone he has met and during his time here he has cemented old friendships and made many new ones.

The evening was hosted by Colm Doyle and there was entertainment by Chris Kelly, the Conlin brothers, Margaret Gray and Michael Quigley with accompaniment by Bill Gray. Everyone enjoyed an excellent buffet but the highlight of the evening was Fr Caetano who sang us some folksongs in his native language of konkani, followed by a Geordie sing-a-long led by Canon Spence.

Fr Caetano gave a short farewell speech thanking everyone for the overwhelming love and friendship he had been shown during his stay and said that he now regards Lanchester as

his second home and hoped it wouldn't be too long before he returns. He also invited everyone to visit him in Goa so that he could return some of the hospitality he has received. Fr Caetano returned home on Tuesday 22nd September via Dubai where he made a stop-

over to spend a few days with his brother before returning to his hectic parish in Vasco da Gama which has around 18000 parishioners. He has brought some sunshine into our lives over the summer and he will be missed by young and old alike. Margaret Gray



*Canon Spence and Fr Caetano exchanging the Namaste greeting, now used as the sign of peace*

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# CHARLIE BEAR FUND RAISER

Lanchester Parish Church put on a fund raising event for the Charlie Bear Cancer Care Charity on 10th October. This was instigated by young David Dawson aged 10, who attends the EP School. He was taken ill last Easter and regularly attends Newcastle General, and the RVI, but it was at the Freeman Hospital that David came into contact with the

Charlie Bear representative, Michelle, while he was receiving radiotherapy. David wanted to raise money for the charity as he has seen the effect it has first hand so Michelle and her husband came to the village to help. The coffee morning was crowded, and there were just four sales tables, Charlie Bear, Cakes, Cards and Books, plus a Raffle.

David's brother, John, and other school and Sunday School friends helped to run the cake stall. The atmosphere was really happy and friendly and people gave so generously that the massive total of £1093.96 was raised on the morning. Unfortunately, David could not attend the function as he was at the General hospital receiving chemotherapy

treatment accompanied by Mum. David is doing really well and now attends school full time. He has even been swimming, something he really enjoys, and has won lots of trophies in local galas. Footnote: The original Charlie Bear Appeal was established by the late Daisy Clark MBE in 1978. She raised more than £1m by making and selling teddy bears. In 1982 the first body scanner was

purchased, and installed at the Northern Centre for Cancer Treatment, Newcastle General hospital. This was transferred in 2009 to the Northern Centre for Cancer Care, state of the art facility at the Freeman Hospital. If you would like to raise funds or make a donation to Charlie Bear please visit the shop on level 2 NCCC, or contact [angie.taylor@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:angie.taylor@nuth.nhs.uk) or telephone 0191 2138615.



David's friends and brother, John, helping on the cake stall.  
Left to right: Amy, Matthew, John, Chloe and Erin.



Charlie Bear Stall: Michelle (Charlie Bear) and John Dawson with two eager customers

## COME TO A PARTY!

Lanchester Partnership's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
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## VILLAGE VETERANS RECEIVE MEDALS

Great friends Fred Westwater and Mel Somersall, joined forces at Fyndoune School where they met with other service men from the Green Howards to receive their veterans medals from Kevan Brown MP for North Durham and Under Secretary of State for Defence with special responsibility for veterans. Fred, a conscript who stayed on for an extra year, was a L/CPL in the Green Howards. Mel served in various regiments in the Army as a career soldier and finished up as a W011 in the Catering Corps. Both enjoyed a very pleasant time at the school reminiscing and chatting to the children.



*Fred Westwater and Mel Somersall having coffee and a chat with medals and pennant on show*

## SUMMER READING SCHEME PRIZE WINNERS

Lanchester Library children completed the challenge. The winner of the Dragonology Game was Robbie Williams. Other prize winners were Natalie Allaker, Louis Bell, Emily-Kate Tiplady and Daniel Vine. Congratulations to all! Well done!



*The proud prize winners in the Summer Reading Challenge*

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**BEAMISH TROPHY TRIAL**

The 37th Beamish Trophy Trial set out from New Board Inn, Hilltop, Esh on Sunday 20th September on a 100 mile route passing through Quebec and just south of Castleside before heading off for a lunch stop at Allenheads. The course is based on the Travers Trophy trial route used in the 1920's. The route had both road and off-road sections and awards were

decided on questions of road knowledge. This year the oldest machine was a 1930 Norton 500cc and the youngest a 1980 Can Am 250cc manufactured by the Canadian Bombardier Co. There were a few three wheelers and side car outfits entered but because of insurance restrictions no four wheel "cycle cars" were permitted to run this year.

Such is the popularity of this traditional event with vintage motorcyclists that entrants came from as far away as Dublin, Aberdeenshire, Surrey, Hampshire and Essex. It's good to see so many enthusiasts (a limit of 120 entrants had to be set) enjoying our fine local scenery and relatively empty minor roads in late September.



*Riders ready to go: left to right, R Howell, 1970 BSA Bantam; M Harrison, 1965 Triumph TRW; M Lemman, 1947 Matchless G3L; D Cooper, 1949 Matchless*



*R Cook and passenger on their 1969 BMW Wasp sidecar outfit answer questions at the start of the trial*

**CONUNDRUM ANSWER**

*The superb work of art is a tattoo on the back on a Lady Centurion - look out for twin dragons and the beautiful face of a woman.*

## KITCHEN FUNDRAISER AT SOCIAL CLUB

Another evening as a fundraiser for the Methodist Church kitchen refurbishment, organized by Mel Somersall, kicked off on Thursday 8th October.

Mel had extended invitations for the "Men wot meditate club" to around 80 getting a packed evening in the Lanchester Social Club for a four course meal, the function suite being laid out much as you would expect in an Officers' Mess.

The meal began after a visiting American Minister said grace, then all eagerly tucked into the food, starting with a large slice of melon and cocktail stick of orange, cherry, and a slightly spicy fruit that eluded me. Next came the Borscht (beetroot soup) with a dash of cream and herbs. To accompany this of course, knowing Mel, the Lanchester Brass Band, conducted by Jonathan Fenwick, had been summoned and were on hand to provide the music. During the four courses they played a variety of music ranging from show tunes to traditional hymns.

The main course was an excellently cooked Coq au Vin, new potatoes, baton carrots with sautéed green beans and peas all served by some familiar cheerful faces of some of the ladies from the Methodist church. The final course was lemon cheesecake and cream or raspberry sauce.

The food was exceedingly tasty and served very quickly. All the more impressive as it had travelled up from the Methodist church kitchen by car to the Club - a feat of culinary logistics if ever there were one!

If a four course meal, raffle and brass band were not enough, Mel had also arranged a talk by Mr

George Bramfitt on the Malton pit from 1856 to the present day. It is easy these days to forget that Malton was a pit village with only Official Terrace now remaining.

Mr Bramfitt certainly brought the history to life with the dashing figure of Basil Saddler who owned the mine naming the pits after his two daughters Amy and May.

Further episodes were brought to life with first hand experience and amusing anecdotes, ranging from a colliery inspector left dangling down a shaft during lunch break to the appearance of Charlie the Ghost on a coal board survey map.

In all a fine meal, great entertainment and good cheer all-round. A night for the discerning "Gentleman wot meditates".

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## LANCHESTER ART GROUP EXHIBITION

This exhibition is always something to look forward to. The pictures on view are always to a high standard and this year was no exception. The styles and varieties vary so much that there is

always something there for everyone to admire. There really is so much talent in and around the village. The added bonus is the excellent refreshments available, particularly at lunchtime.



*Mrs Jean Woodward and Dave and Joy Anderson admire the works of Harry Turnbull. Dave is tutor of the other Art Group which meets on Monday mornings at the Community Centre.*

The group was formed in May 1982 at the Green School, with a membership of 7 and subscriptions were 15p a week! On 20th July 1995, they moved to the Community Centre with subscriptions going up to 75p. Membership has now risen to 40 who pay £35 per annum. Sadly membership is now full and the waiting list is also closed because of numbers - such is the popularity of the organisation.

The fees cover such things as rent, refreshments and the cost of exhibitions as well as the maintenance of a small library of books, DVD's, demonstrations and outings.

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# PERUVIANS VISIT ALL SAINTS' CATHOLIC CHURCH

On Sunday 20th September we had a Mass to really remember. This was the last Sunday Mass celebrated by Father Caetano before he returned to Goa and coincided with the visit of Father Joe Plumb and a group of young people from Peru.

Fr Joe, from our diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, has been working with communities in the rainforests of north east Peru on the banks of the river Amazon for the last 9 years. He set up a football team, "Club Deportivo Juventud Bellavista", so that he could work with a group of 20 young men to help them to learn discipline, improve their self

esteem and to encourage them to care for others. If they showed commitment to this team, then they would receive support in their further education or training. (This club has already helped with funding for over 80 people so far). Ten of these young men, along with their coach, nutritionist and a Human Rights Lawyer were on a visit to the North East to help raise awareness of their culture, the problems that they face and to show their skills at football.

The success of this venture could be witnessed at All Saints Catholic Church where Fr Joe gave a presentation to highlight the

deforestation in their area and the damage caused by this to the environment. Large oil companies are taking over the land, reaping the rewards and destroying communities. The need for justice for these proud people was a strong message to us all.

The Mass ended with an excellent performance of a Tribal dance, something never witnessed before in our Church, and was greatly appreciated. They then joined us for coffee in the Parish Centre before going off to watch the Manchester derby.

At the time of writing this the Peruvians were unbeaten at football matches at all the Secondary schools visited throughout the area (Newcastle, Sunderland and Man Utd sent scouts to some of their games).



*The Peruvians in their tribal costumes*

## WINE AT NINE



*Paul Jackson, Tom Stokel and Phil Flint, thoroughly enjoying the wine*

Lanchester Wine Club members hosted the 'Wine at Nine' night to raise funds for Willow Burn Hospice on Friday 18th September at the Catholic Church Room. The evening followed the usual format of tasting a variety of wines, refreshments, raffles,

fund raising games, quiz and an auction. Lanchester Wine Club have decided that they will host the night on an annual basis as part of their diary of events. The sixty or so people that attended the night thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gave

very generously in that early indications showed that approximately £1000 was raised for the hospice. Make a note in your diaries for next year and be sure you get your tickets early as numbers will have to be limited.

## THE MISSION AT ST BEDE'S

The Mission Team aims to spread the Christian message and St Bede's School and Sixth Form College welcomed them wholeheartedly. The team were at St Bede's from the 1st to the 9th, working with all year groups but using different activities depending on the age of the pupils. For the younger year groups, there were warm up activities such as 'hot bagel' and 'max factor' to get people interested as it led on to the bible story of the prodigal son. The Team also introduced the topic of the death penalty through the cases led by Sister Helen Prejean to show how the prodigal son can be related to modern day issues. For the higher year groups, the Mission taught about forgiveness relating to the death penalty and they focused on the case of the Oklahoma City bombing. Despite his daughter being

killed in the blast, Bud Welch managed to forgive the bomber Timothy McVeigh for his crime and even petitioned to save Timothy's life. It was an inspirational story and provided a serious note on the events. There was a final celebration on Friday, as well as a coffee morning in the conference room on Thursday hosted by the year 11 health and social care class. T-shirts were distributed to all the pupils in the school which were hugely popular and sported the Mission slogan, "Life, Live it, Love it". The Mission team managed to reintroduce religion to children through the activities that got them personally involved, their lively approach helped to remove stereotypes and they showed how it can be current by relating it to serious modern day issues. Claire Hogarth

# TABLE TOP SALE AT ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

Saturday 10th October saw a very busy scene in the hall of All Saints' Primary School, as their Table Top Sale moved into full swing. Various stalls displayed toys, bric a brac, books, videos and a good range of festive greeting cards for early Christmas shoppers. The event was organised by the Parent Teacher Association, and Margaret Doyle, Chair of the organisation, was delighted by the amount of local support which

had been offered. She explained that this had been a real family effort, with many children involved in this fund raising occasion, as well as parents and school staff.

The Sale was part of a fund raising programme, following on from a very successful similar event in the summer. Margaret, and Sarah Barker, Treasurer of the PTA,

were confident that this day would prove equally popular, and indeed, a steady stream of shoppers arrived, all on the lookout for bargains.

Margaret and Sarah were pleased to report that the PTA's forthcoming Christmas event is to be supported by the Lanchester branch of Barclay's bank, who have offered

to match-fund the popular Tombola stall. In these less prosperous times, support and fund raising for schools becomes even more important, and such events also provide a valuable focus for community involvement. Future date for your diary - All Saints' Christmas Fair, December 5th, from 10 am!

## YEAR SIX LEAVE ALL SAINTS'



*Year 6 pupils enjoying their lunch at Bella Italia*

The sixteen Year 6 children from All Saints' RC Primary enjoyed a busy last two weeks of term before they moved on to St Bede's.

Monday 6th July saw them visiting St Bede's for the day. The children met their new form teachers and other year sixes from the feeder Catholic schools. They had an enjoyable time, and ended their day with a Celebration of Holy Mass, where their Year Six teachers formally handed over their spiritual care, on behalf of the feeder schools, to their new form tutors.

The next day all sixteen children eagerly opened the envelopes that contained their SAT's results. Their results were fantastic, and their teacher, Mrs Conlin, was very proud of them all.

Monday the 13th July saw the PTA funded Treat Day for the Year 6 children. A coach took them to Durham where

they enjoyed lunch at Bella Italia, followed by Ten Pin Bowling, then, to end a perfect day, a trip to the Gala Theatre to see the movie Ice Age 3. Mrs Conlin and Mrs Summers, who accompanied the children, said that they were a credit to the school.

The last day of term for the Year sixes began with Holy Mass at All Saints' RC church. The Mass was concelebrated by Canon Spence and Father Caetano, who was visiting the Parish from Goa. Year Six planned the Mass, chose hymns, did readings, carried out the offertory procession and ended the celebration with a beautiful movement piece - "The Irish Blessing". At the end of Mass a PowerPoint slide show of pictures spanning all of the Year sixes' school career was shown amidst many smiles, laughs and tears! Good luck at St Bede's, All Saints' Year 6.

## Gardening in November

One of the things that has enjoyed the wet weather that we have had is the weeds and at this time of year they soon seed which can produce an even worse problem. Seek out weeds in either your borders or vegetable plot and be sure that you continue weeding even after you have dug over a plot.

November frosts and strong winds will soon bring down any leaves that are left on the trees - and the winds will bring into your garden loose leaves that have been left in the neighbours' gardens. These can result in a soggy lawn for you and slippery paths as they rot down. So compost them which will convert into valuable leaf mould. A simple way of achieving this is to put them in an old black bin bag and stack it in a corner. Punch a few drainage holes in the bottom and, if the leaves are dry, moisten them well prior to sealing the bag. You can also mix a few leaves with your general compost.

### Borders

November is the time to finish tidying up your borders. Pick up any fallen leaves from the roses but put them in council rubbish bin to

stop any spread of blackspot disease. Also prune the tops of your standard roses to reduce wind rock which loosens the roots and lets in the frost. If you are replacing any roses, now is the time to buy bare root roses which are available in November from growers. You can leave the flower heads on Hydrangeas as they fade nicely for a winter display and some say that they protect the young shoots as they appear next year. When frosts have blackened the foliage of Dahlias the tubers should be carefully lifted from heavy soil and stored in a frost-free place. If the soil is free draining you may have success in leaving the tubers in the ground. I've done this successfully for the past three years just covering the area with a thick mulch of leaf mould.

### Vegetables

Autumn is the time to improve your soil by digging in lots of garden compost or manure. You can use the compost from your old growbags dug into heavy soil which will help to make it lighter. If you haven't time to dig it in, just lay it on the surface and worms will work it in for you. If you have yet to clear away your runner beans there are sure to be a few pods that you did not

see. These should be at the right stage now for picking and saving the seed for next year. Clear away dead or yellowing leaves from brassicas and draw up soil around the stems to provide some protection. You can still have mint in winter if you lift a root and put it in a pot of compost, water it and place it in a cold frame, greenhouse or conservatory where it will grow until March when it can be planted out again.

### Lawns

As suggested above, continue to remove dead leaves from your lawn as they appear. Also, it may need a final cut before winter but do not mow it with frost on the ground or if it is too wet and remember to set the blades higher than normal.

### General

November is a good time to send away for seed catalogues. You might also want to clear out old material from nest boxes. Blue tits will be exploring sites for next year during the winter so put up new boxes in November for them to explore or just for them to shelter from the winter cold. You won't be needing your watering equipment again this year so store it under cover rather than letting it deteriorate in the open.

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Book your consultation appointment - you will be assessed during the examination on your suitability for Smilestrips, if all is in order a prescription will be authorised for the purchase of Smilestrips.

## MOTHERS' UNION

Wednesday, September 16th, was a special service for a number of the members of All Saints Parish Church. It was the Annual Deanery Eucharist Service of the Mothers' Union and this year the service was held in the Parish Church with Canon Peter Waterhouse presiding at the Eucharist. Other members of Mothers' Union branches in the Lanchester Deanery had been invited and the very dedicated and hard working branch Leader of All Saints' Mothers' Union, Mrs Margaret Brown, welcomed all the

visitors very warmly at the beginning of the service. About 80 Mothers' Union members in total attended and the retiring Deanery President, Mrs Kathleen Webster gave a short address. She was also there to present awards to members who had completed 25, 40, 45 and 50 years of service in the Union. These ladies were Mrs Jill Finlayson, Mrs Rosalie Gent and Mrs Sheila Waterhouse (25 years) Mrs Bella Faulkner (40 years) Mrs Peggy Atkinson and Mrs Margaret Brown (50 years). An excellent buffet had

been prepared at the back of church by Mrs Brown and other members of our Mothers' Union and it was obvious that everyone enjoyed the fellowship and indeed the whole occasion. It was a rather dull day outside but the Light of Christ shone indoors with the Mothers' Union whose aim it is to take the Light of Christ to every corner of the earth as well as in the better known ones.

Brenda Craddock



The long service ladies with their awards - left to right, Jill Finlayson, Margaret Brown, Sheila Waterhouse, Peggy Atkinson, and Bella Faulkner (seated)

## PARISH CHURCH OPEN HOUSE

On the first Thursday of the month a light lunch of delicious freshly made sandwiches, with a cup of tea or coffee, is served in the Chapter House of All Saints Parish Church. It is

an occasion which has been enjoyed for three years by a number of people. The average attendance is 50. Our church is also open so that a quiet, peaceful, prayerful

time can be spent there if required.

We have welcomed people from each of our village churches and beyond. We would again like to invite most warmly any people who belong to the community of Lanchester. We will look after you very well. You could perhaps meet a friend there for lunch. We would love to see you. There is no charge but we do ask for a donation and any profit is sent to a main charity or other worthy cause, eg The Village Bus. or a National Emergency Appeal. Brenda Craddock



The ladies of the Church Wives preparing sandwiches

## WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members, one new member and WIA Audrey Dinning to the October AGM. She read out a thank you letter from Dorothy Cavanagh for flowers she was given for her Golden Wedding. Maureen Clarkson then gave a reading called "Days To Be Thankful For" - the title says it all. Jennifer reminded us of the 2010 subscription rates which will be £29.50 due in January. Members were informed that the bus for the birthday meal on Monday 2nd of November leaves Peters at 9.00 am.

Treasurer June Wallis presented the financial statement and once again she has done a wonderful job, the accounts were very clear and easy to understand. June also gave a big thank you to Breda Branscombe without whom she would find it very difficult to manage. June then put on her other hat as secretary and gave the committee's annual report - we have 6 new members which takes our numbers up to 32.

Jean Forster was complimented on the very varied programme she had arranged and everyone was thanked for the support given to our two very successful coffee mornings.

Jennifer then gave her President's address in which she thanked all the members of the committee for their work, friendship and support. She then also thanked the members and invited them to join the committee. Jennifer asked if anyone could consider taking over the Treasurer's job from June as it is a lot of work for June holding both posts. Ann Carr thanked Jennifer on behalf of everyone for all the hard

work and enthusiasm she puts in as president of our WI.

The calendars and diaries are now available for those who have ordered them. Mrs Muriel Gibbons won the raffle.

Four members tied for first place in our annual competitions and all were presented with a £5 Knitsley farm shop voucher. Next year the points system will change with everyone who enters being awarded 1 point, with 2 for 2nd and 3 for 1st.

One of our members Mrs Nancy Walker celebrated 60 years as a member of our WI, a wonderful achievement. She was given flowers to mark this occasion and told us she would like to give something back to her WI so Nancy is donating a new competition cup which will be called the Nancy Walker cup and we would like to thank her very much for this very generous and thoughtful gift.

Mrs Dinning then presided over the election of the president and Jennifer was nominated again and accepted. All of the committee agreed to continue. Audrey said that rules were like a piece of pink elastic which could be stretched in many ways so members can be within the rules but still really enjoy themselves. She also told us about some of the new posters and leaflets being produced to encourage new members and looking at ideas to celebrate 100 years of the WI in 5 years' time.

Eileen Curnow then gave a vote of thanks and the evening finished with tea and biscuits.

Wednesday 23rd September saw 17 members attending the group meeting hosted by Castleside WI. This was

also attended by WIA Mrs Audrey Flanagan who along with members enjoyed a talk by Mr Stelling who spoke about Edward Jenner. This was followed by a delicious plated supper and entertainment by the husband and wife duo TAKYABACK.

Four members attended a DCFWI event at Spennymoor Town Hall on 30th September called DRESSING VICTORIA, which gave an intimate insight into the clothes Queen Victoria wore and included a display of original examples of mid-19th century clothes. There

was also, as at all WI events, good food, this time an excellent buffet.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our October coffee morning. Members were as always very generous with their giving for the stalls and thank you for all the visitors who supported us.



WIA Mrs Audrey Dinning with competition winners Ann Carr, Jennifer Macdonald, Pat Cotrell and Heather Muir

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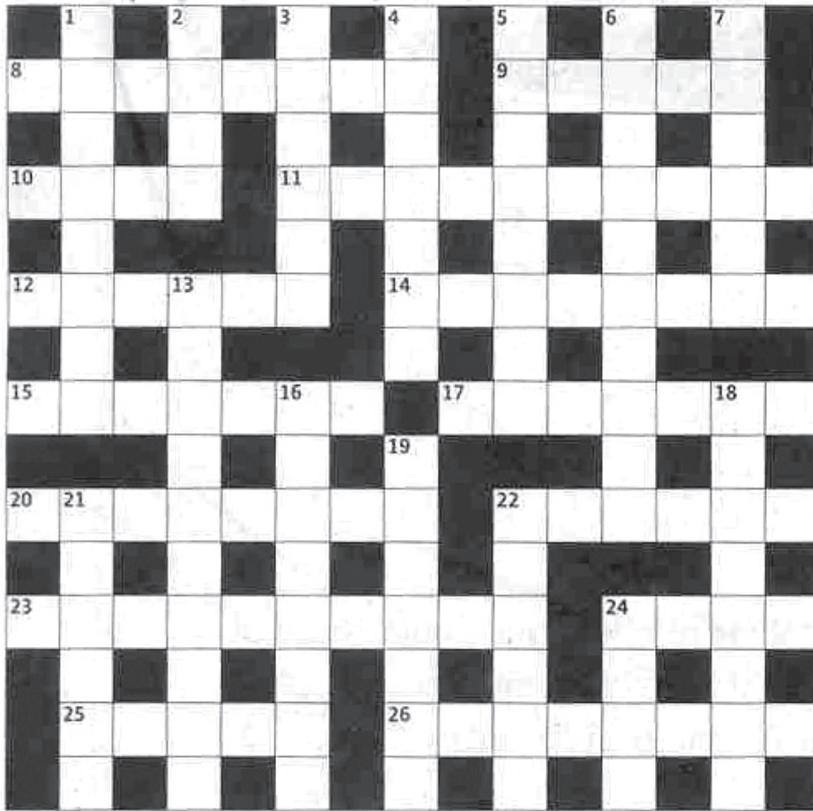
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# CROSSWORD 42



- ACROSS**
8. Expression of gratitude (5,3)
  9. Practical joke (5)
  10. Tribe from Antarctic landmass (4)
  11. From now on (10)
  12. 16th Century Venetian artist (6)
  14. Rabid anti-communist American senator (8)
  - 15,20. Boondocks cook then fed baby (3,4,2,6)
  17. Incipient beard (7)
  20. See 15
  22. Greek god of darkness (6)
  23. The dragon's obstinate (10)
  24. Pitfall (4)
  25. Tenor from Australia and New Zealand in the French connection (5)
  26. Second (6-2)
- DOWN**
1. Infantile (8)
  2. Soon to be found in a nonsmoker (4)
  3. Large snake called Monty? (6)
  4. Personal identifier from a RN muse (7)
  5. Jaw lifting punch (8)
  6. Blue for Ava is advantageous (10)
  7. Point to boat draft (6)
  13. Diner being cause of stock degeneration (10)
  16. Citizen of Zagreb? (8)
  18. Applaud a numbskull tested for opium (8)
  19. Postpone round? Ja (7)
  21. Weak (6)
  22. Goes with fire, search and railway (6)
  24. Pour down (4)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 41

- ACROSS**
1. draconian
  6. oath
  8. portable
  9. Gothic
  10. closet
  11. intimate
  12. rennet
  15. near miss
  16. doghouse
  19. emblem
  21. alopecia
  22. parish
  24. see 20
  25. millions
  26. Utes
  27. nostalgia
- DOWN**
1. drool
  2. artisan
  3. orbit
  4. Iberian
  5. nightmare
  6. optimum
  - 7,23. trip to see Santa
  13. emollient
  14. truncheon
  17. hippies
  18. Erasmus.
  - 20,24. burning desire
  22. Palma
  23. See 7

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 41

There were 16 entries in last month's crossword competition.

The winner in the draw was Martin Joyce of Oakwood who will receive the £10 prize.

Maybe you could be a winner in this month's challenge by John Wilson.



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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.

		<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>			
				<b>1</b>		<b>5</b>		
<b>7</b>					<b>4</b>			<b>8</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>					<b>8</b>		
			<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>			<b>2</b>
			<b>7</b>			<b>6</b>		
					<b>6</b>			<b>9</b>
			<b>2</b>			<b>4</b>		<b>7</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>7</b>			

# MARGARET RUNS AGAIN FOR THE BUS

*continued from page 24* and in itself raised £112 to add to the generosity of friends and fellow parishioners who separately pledged £127 in sponsorship. The total amount raised was a massive £845. Thanks too to Anne and Karin's friends, for their practical support on the day. It's enormously boosting when you're getting tired after the first 9 miles or so, and you can picture the scene in the Parish Centre back home. It gives a tremendous 'lift' of support, worth a few extra miles. Several local

businesses, including Barclays bank staff, Lanchester Hardware, the Pharmacy and the King's Head have all contributed personal donations, as have many bus users, All Saints Parish Church (kindly coordinated by Edith Pierce), the Methodist Church (Margaret Hughes), the Art Club (Jill Gladstone) and many far-flung, generous family members. This year we've tried to raise awareness and so increase passenger numbers, by distributing large numbers of route cards and timetables.

These were expertly produced by Mike and Jill Gladstone, constant encouragers of such village efforts. Most importantly, this has been a real Village effort for a real Village need. A huge thanks to all for their support. Karin would like to say to people in the village, that they do not have to cross the road when they see her approaching! She is extremely grateful though, for all those who gave her a positive response when she asked for sponsorship during the build up to the run. Margaret Doyle

## LCC JUNIOR AWARDS NIGHT

The Cricket Club was packed to the rafters on the 17th October with members of the four junior teams and their proud parents for the end of season presentation night. The under 18s were disappointed to finish runners up in the league, losing out mainly due to the weather. The awards went to Graham Brinton - Batting, Ashton Hughes - Bowling, Haydn Petch - Catches and Kieron Taylor - Coaches award. Graham featured in the first team whilst Haydn, Kieron and Ashton saw plenty of second team action and some occasional first team duties. Ashton took a

remarkable 5 wickets for one run against Crookhall. The under 15's - Lee Murray - Batting, Andrew Elsbury - Bowling, Dougie Patterson - Catches and Alex Harrison - Coaches Award. Lee and Dougie made several appearances for the triumphant third team. Andy Elsbury took five wickets for 10 runs against Consett and included a magnificent hat trick in that spell. The under 13's - Lee Murray - Batting, Jack Ramshaw - Bowling, Dan Smith - Catches, Lee Murray - Coaches award. Under 11's - David Selby - both batting and bowling. Chris Tully - Catches.

David Selby also managed to hit a six during the season, which is no mean feat for that age group. Kieron Jewitt received the most improved player award, whilst James Robson picked up the personality of the year award. It was a tremendous night for those involved with a big thanks for all the hard work by Bob Gardiner, Andy Smith, Vicki Kennington and Robbie Selby in the organising of the teams throughout the season. The challenge now is to make sure that these rising stars get the opportunity to progress into the senior teams.

## BELLY DANCERS NEEDED



Angela Peacock (foreground) with her Belly Dancers, at the Community Centre. With her are Helen, Bridie and Katherine. They need more ladies to join in. It's a real fun night, good laughs, good music and a great way of keeping fit. Call in on a Wednesday evening or ring the Centre on 521275 for further information.

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### ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

## Film Club

Sunday November 1st at 7.30pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre. **THE POPE'S TOILET** This critically acclaimed, award winning film is alternately heartbreaking and hilarious. A small impoverished border town community in Uruguay awaits the influx of the 50,000 people expected to attend a visit from Pope John Paul II. Some of the citizens dream about their needs being fulfilled and their lives transformed by the money that will, hopefully, follow. Do come, all welcome, £2 entry for members, £3.50 non-members.

## Open House

You are warmly invited to Open House for lunch and a quiet time at the Parish Church on the following Thursdays: November 5th and December 3rd, from 11.30 am - 1.00 pm.

## WI

Our next meeting will be our 84th birthday meal at Northallerton with the coach picking up at 9.00 am on Monday 2nd November outside Peters. There are lovely places to have coffee including Bettys and lots of nice shops for Christmas gifts and treats for yourselves so come prepared.

## Wildlife Group

On Tuesday 10th November at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Noel Jackson will present more fantastic and unusual photographs taken on his travels in Cuba and Brazil.

## Village Voice AGM

This will be held on Sunday 15th November at 7.00 pm in the Dining Room of the Community Centre. Everyone is welcome.

## Lanchester Library

On Thursday 5th November at 7.30 pm, Mr Ken Coates will give a talk on Prints of the Local Area and Beyond. Admission Free. Collection for Willow Burn Hospice.

## Ghostly Tales

On Thursday 29th October from 6.00 - 7.00 pm, local author Maisie Raine (author of "The Summer of the Witch" which is available in the library) will be telling "Ghostly Tales" in Lanchester Library.

All welcome! Adults and children. Admission free.

## Remember the 'Land of Childhood'?

This is the title of an afternoon in the Library with the Lanchester Creative Writing Group. It will be from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Tuesday, December 1st. Young and old are welcome and a number of school children will be joining us. There will be audience participation and it promises to be a very enjoyable afternoon. Please try to come. You will receive a very warm welcome. Brenda Craddock

## Remembrance Service

There will be a Service of Remembrance on the Village Green on Sunday 8th November, at 9.30 am.

## Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 7th November, SONIA MICHELLE, Sensational Vocalist  
Saturday 14th November CONNOR, Knockout Male Vocal  
Saturday 21st November KARAOKE  
Saturday 28th November AMY SAXON, Top Girl Singer

# WHAT'S ON?

## Lions Village Bonfire

Winter is almost here and so is the Village Bonfire and Firework Display. It will take place as usual at Kitswell Park on Saturday 7th November, with the fire being lit at 6.30 pm followed by a spectacular display of fireworks which cost in the region of £2000. Light sticks will be available at £1 each from sellers in Kitswell Road and at the entrance to the field. Although there is no entrance fee to the show, donations will be very welcome at the gate so please have your money ready as you approach. The money all goes to good causes and will help fund future village events.

Lions Ladies and Friends will be active on the field with appropriate refreshments at reasonable prices.

The fire will be built to safety standards with pallets, and no other wood, trees, bushes or household items will be accepted from the general public.

Parents and children are asked not to bring their own sparklers or other fireworks to the field as lighting them may be hazardous in the dark crowded surroundings, with toddlers being particularly vulnerable. It is hoped that everyone has a very enjoyable time in, hopefully, rain free, mild weather, without a single accident.

## Christmas Fair

Satley Residents Association will hold their Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th November from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm in the Parish Hall. Entry 50p featuring Tombola and Refreshments.

## Lanchester History Society

New Photographic Discoveries of Durham City

Long lost historical artefacts are constantly being unearthed, quite often in the most unlikely places, and old photographs are no exception. But finding them is one thing, identifying and cataloguing the subject matter, usually from faded images, is another.

Mr Michael Richardson, an expert in this field, will explain all when he displays his latest discoveries of old photos of Durham in the Community Centre on Friday 6th November, at 7.30 pm.

## Taize Worship

A service of Taize Worship will take place at the Parish Church on Sunday 15th November, at 6 pm. For those who wish to familiarise themselves with Taize music there will be practices in church on Thursday evenings 6.00 - 7.00 pm. ALL WILL BE WELCOME - no experience necessary.

## Thursday Club Reminder

The November meeting is the outing to Matfen Hall. The bus will leave the village from outside Peters at 9.30 am on WEDNESDAY 18th November.

Do remember that there will be **NO** meeting in the Community Centre on Thursday evening, 19th November.

## MP Surgery

Hilary Armstrong will hold her next advice surgery on Saturday 14th November at 11 am in St Patrick's. Consett.

## Floristry Workshop

Learn how to create beautiful floral designs

**£30 per person**

Lanchester Community Centre

Saturday 14th November 10 am to 2 pm

**Ring 01207 529359 for details**

## Alan Madrell Coach Tours



## Turkey & Tinsel at Weston super Mare

Nov 30th - Dec 4th £215 per person

## Loads of festive fun

### DAY TRIPS

Tues 3rd Nov Heighleygate & Boundary Mill £9

Sat 21st Nov Wakefield German Christmas Market £12

2010 TOURS & SHORT BREAKS BROCHURE OUT NOW!!!!!!!

**For brochure ring 0191 3733145**

3 Ivy Terrace Langley Park Durham DH7 9XW

## Short Circuits Walks

14th November, linear walk from Wallsend to Newcastle Quayside, starting at Segedunum Roman Fort, NZ302661, best accessed by Metro to Wallsend. 4.5 miles.

28th November, coastal walk meeting at Shiremoor Metro Station, NZ317715, to Tynemouth Station for the Saturday Market. 6 miles.

## Concert for NSPCC

'An Evening with Lanchester Male Voice Choir' will take place on Saturday 14th November at 7.30 pm in Lanchester Methodist Church, starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £5.00 and are available from NSPCC members and members of the Choir, or you can pay at the door. For further information, tel 01207 520175.

## Mothers' Union

At the next meeting, Wednesday 11th November, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, Jeff Bryant will give a talk about policing in Iraq.

## Wine Tasting Evening

Do you enjoy a glass of wine? Why not come along to the Community Centre on Thursday 19th November at 7.30 pm for a "Wine Tasting Evening". If you enjoy wines and would like to find out more about them, now is your chance. You will taste 10 different wines from around the world at the same time hearing all about their vintage. The evening is being organised by the Community Centre in conjunction with Lanchester Wine Cellars. Tickets cost £10 each, which includes wine and a light snack; tickets can be obtained from John Hurran 01207 520288.

## Flower Club

On Friday 27th November at 7 pm in the Community Centre, there will be an open evening, a Christmas demonstration entitled "Lights, Holly, Action" by David Ryland of Armathwaite. Tickets £5 including refreshments. Please ring 01207 503667 or 01207 528243 for tickets. Everyone welcome.

## Parish Church Autumn Fayre

Lanchester Parish Church Autumn Fayre will take place on Saturday, 28th November, at the Community Centre, beginning at 10.30 am and will be opened by Lead Officer/Clerk to the Parish Council, Sally Laverick. Admission is free. There will be many inviting stalls for your Christmas bargains, along with refreshments at £1 per head. Everyone is welcome.

## Valley Walk Conservation Group

Advance notice of WINTER event planned for Sunday December 6th.

**EXERCISE AND EATING ON OFFER!**

Come and meet the Countryside Ranger and other volunteers at Malton Car Park - rendezvous 9.45 am. Get warmed up doing clearance work and cutting back on 'The Line' between Malton and the village. All hands welcome! We will be in action from 10 am - 2.30 pm (with a coffee break!), and then plan to finish with an open air winter BBQ at 2.30 pm. Bring whatever you fancy cooking.

For more information contact:

Deborah.Ferguson@durham.gov.uk  
michael@horsley.me.uk  
Carolyn Wardle Tel: 01207 521622

## EP Primary School Community Open Day

Lanchester EP School is holding an Open Day on Friday 20th November 2009 between 9.15 am and 11.15 am and 1.15 pm and 3.15 pm. We are warmly welcoming all of the community to come back into our school for part of the day, enjoy a tour of the building by some of our wonderful children, before enjoying some entertainment and refreshments, again served by the pupils! We are sure that there are many of you in the village, who perhaps had children of your own come to the

school many years ago, or who even came to the school yourselves (!) who would enjoy coming back to see how the school has changed and to witness first-hand, what education is like in the 21st century!

The children will gladly welcome you all. Refreshments will include tea, coffee and scones or you could sample some of our delicious home-made soup and crusty bread.

We look forward to seeing you all on Friday 20th November.

## Partnership's 10th Birthday Party

Celebrate with Lanchester Partnership on Saturday 21st November from 6.00 - 10.00 pm in Lanchester Social Club. See advert page 12.

## Fiddler on the Roof

South Moor Musical Theatre Group present this popular musical on Tuesday 17th - Saturday 21st November at 7.00 pm at the Lamplight Arts Centre, Stanley. Tickets £10 (Concessions £8). Tel: 01207 218889.

## TABLE TENNIS TASTER



Anna Crowe and Sadie Densham put enthusiasm and fun into their table tennis at the taster session at the Community Centre on Wednesday evening 14th October. Five youngsters and four adults had an enjoyable time with varied games organised by Frank Clarke and Adrian Evans. The tables will be available on most Wednesdays between 7 and 9 pm. See details below.



## TABLE TENNIS

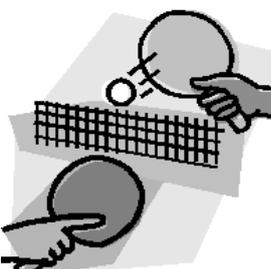


**At Lanchester Community Centre**  
**On Wednesdays from 7 - 9 pm**  
**starting 28th October 2009**

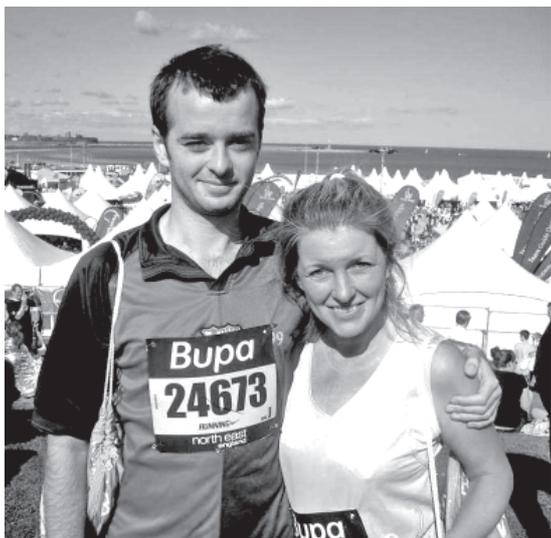
*Come along and have some fun and receive professional coaching*  
**Up to 16 years old £1 per session**  
**Over 16 years old £2 per session**

Supported by Leisureworks and coaching by  
English Table Tennis Association

**For more details phone**  
**Phone: 01207 521275**



## MARGARET RUNS AGAIN FOR THE BUS



Margaret Doyle and son, James, looking very relaxed and pleased at the end of the Great North Run, which raised £840 for the Village Bus

The strong late September sunshine was a shock, and led to many sunburned faces, but it was a fabulous day to be out and about on the roads of Newcastle, Gateshead and South Tyneside. As ever, the atmosphere was terrific, with fellow runners mutually supportive all along the route and encouraging crowds lining the route. This year I was overtaken by *slightly* fewer Loch Ness Monsters, camels and flower pot men than last time, managing a time of 2 hours and 26 minutes. My son, James, kindly drove up from Manchester, (where he studied for his degree, and now works for a criminal law firm), to run with me, a gesture I greatly appreciated. For the first time, I was allocated a race number that I could actually remember - 24680! Highlights were: touching Sting's hand at the start line, being handed water

by one of my all-time heroes, Tanni Grey-Ledger about half way and being distracted by the incredible sky patterns of the red arrows as we laboured up the John Reid Road around miles 11 - 12. We didn't really expect to raise as much as before due to the credit crunch, but we were wrong! In spite of everything, people still wanted to give something. Also, sponsors came in greater numbers than ever before. This more than made up the difference. Also, the credit crunch hadn't trekked on the formidable and tireless efforts of resident bus 'champion', Karin Bravington, who attended the Bus Support Coffee Morning after Mass at All Saints RC Parish Centre on the morning of the Run itself. This was generously organised and led by Margaret's friend, parishioner Anne Hayes,

*continued on page 21*

## LANCHESTER RUNNER PICKED FOR ENGLAND

Mark McNally, local resident, has been selected to run for England Veterans in the four way Home International Cross

Country races against Scotland/Wales/Ireland to be held at Perry Barr, Birmingham on Saturday 14th November.

Mark trains on the railways lines around Lanchester and will be a regular feature to many local walkers and dog owners!!

## BIG BIKE RIDE FOR SIR BOBBY

Peter Heppell, like his dad, Fred, is a very keen cyclist. When he suggested to his father having a ride from Land's End to John O'Groats, it seemed like a good idea. And what better fund to support than the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

The duo planned for the journey to be completed in about 12 days. However, the weather was fairly kind with a tail wind from the start to the River Severn, and the rain, mainly drizzle, didn't begin until they reached Aviemore.

The ride was completed in 10 days. The distance was 900 miles so they averaged 90 miles a day. They must have been pretty saddle sore!

Their longest journey was from Kendal to Galashiels (107 miles) and the shortest quite near the end, from Aviemore to Carbisdale Castle (74 miles).

Bodmin Moor saw them have a slight altercation with a bull, when there was a degree of panic - much to the amusement of a couple of walkers. Four nights were spent in Youth Hostels and the remainder in B & B's. The problem with the hostels were the snorers, and Peter and Fred certainly needed

their rest on this epic journey.

During the ride they dispelled traditional rumours of mean Scottish people which in their eyes is a complete myth. All donations on route came when they were in Scotland! Money donated to them was completely unsolicited and they were amazed to be given £55. One B & B owner reduced the bill by £20 and said 'give to Sir Bobby'.

They did manage to avoid Yorkshire! It was not deliberate - their shortest route took them through Lancashire! Reaching John O'Groats

two days early meant they could go for a bike ride! Orkney seemed like a good idea but the ferry was full, so it was off on another bike ride to Dunnet Head, the most northerly point in the UK. This took about an hour each way with time to look around before joining the next ferry to Orkney, where they enjoyed a relaxing ride around the island - just for a change.

They returned home a bit saddle sore, pleased with themselves, and not too tired. The bonus was that Peter raised £1000 for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.



Cycling duo, Peter and Fred Heppell, after their epic bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats. Peter (foreground) raised £1000 for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

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## NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by 17th November.

The deadline for adverts is 15th November.

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