

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 4 Volume 11

Lanchester, April 2010

For contact information, see page 2

## ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN



*Some of the 104 helpers at the 'Spring Clean Lanchester Day' with their grabbers, gloves and bags all at the ready.*

You will remember last month's article about Peppa who was injured by broken glass.

At least 104 people picked up litter and broken glass on 29th March, the Lanchester Partnership's 5th annual "Spring Clean Lanchester Day". They came to the 'HQ' tent on the green to collect their grabbers, gloves and bags and set off to pick between them over 250 black bin-bags of litter, completely filling a big skip. They are a fantastic group of volunteers and they have made a big

difference to the appearance of the village. The particular area of broken glass where Peppa was so badly hurt was cleared up by Jen and Peter Smith who found a half-buried window frame with jagged broken glass in it. A lot of bottles, some broken, were found in other places as well. The Shepherd family picked up 30 bags full of litter, including over 20 vodka bottles and countless cans from the verges of the road from Hollinside down Cadger Bank.

*Continued on page 4*

## CAST YOUR VOTE - MAY 6TH

On May 6th we are invited to go to our respective Polling Stations and cast our votes for the Durham North-West Constituency. Hilary Armstrong, the daughter of Ernie Armstrong who was our MP for 23 years, has been our MP since 1987 and has just retired. In the 2005 General Election she was returned with a majority of more

than 13,000. Although there have been boundary changes since the last election, NW Durham has lost Bishop Auckland and Tanfield, these are not considered to directly influence our result (BBC Election 2010 Website). The candidates for the election are:

Pat Glass, Labour; Andrew McDonald, UK Independence Party;

Watts Stelling, Independent; Michael Stewart, British National Party; Michelle Tempest, Conservative; and Owen Temple, Liberal Democrat.

In the last election in 2005 Labour polled 54% of the votes cast, Liberal Democrat, 20%, Conservative 16% and Independent 10%.

## EASTER SERVICE



*The glorious Easter cross in the Parish Church*

'Triumph to Tragedy' was the theme of the Easter Service which was held in the Parish Church at the end of the spring term. Canon Waterhouse welcomed the EP School and many parents and family very warmly as he always does, and then everyone settled down to the lovely service which the pupils presented. They traced the events of Holy Week from the Triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, riding on an ass, through the

darkness and tragedy of the cross to the glorious Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

Central to the presentation was the large wooden cross standing at the steps leading to the Chancel, and from where the children read in turn, the biblical story of Easter. At one point the cross was 'dressed' with symbols of the crucifixion. Amongst these were, bread and wine to

*Continued on page 4*

## SPRING COLOUR



*As you enter Lanchester on the B6301 from Cornsay, what a beautiful sight of the blossom and daffodils - a riot of colour and a lovely welcome to into our Village.*



# Dear Village....

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

## IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

Dear Sirs

I would like to trace relatives who lived in Lanchester. My father was called William Keenan, and he was born in Willington, but moved to Yorkshire with his parents when he was a boy. His aunt and uncle, named Matt and Tansie Ward, also came to Yorkshire and settled in Hemsworth. I remember relatives from Lanchester visiting them there in the 1960's, particularly a niece named Edith, who was a hairdresser in Lanchester. I think her surname was Pearson. I would be very pleased to hear from her, or anyone else in her family who may be able to help me fill in some details of my family tree. Please write to me if you think you may be able to help.

Yours faithfully, Mrs Susan Townsend, 35 Mount Vernon Road, Barnsley, Yorks. S704DJ

Dear Village Voice

The family of the late Bob Flynn would like to thank everybody who sent cards, flowers and letters of condolences at the sudden loss of Bob. We would also like to thank all the nurses who made the last 8 months so much more easier to bear. Thank you to Macmillan nurse Maureen Brown, Dr Davison, all the girls at Park House surgery and Lanchester chemist who were always on hand for advice and support. A thank you to all the staff at Willow Burn Hospice who made Bob's last few weeks very special and dignified and made me and my family feel more than welcome. To everyone especially the men from DLI, Chris Short and Robbie Selby who made Bob's send off a very personal affair and everyone who made a contribution to our 2 chosen charities at the end of the service and last but by no means least Canon Spence for all his visits in rain, hail, snow and sunshine. Bob used to look forward to your visits and you never failed to put a smile on his face even if Bob was having a bad day. Pat Flynn, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester

Dear Village Voice

I am writing on behalf of myself and my daughters Victoria and Rosie to thank the people of Lanchester for their support and kindness following the death of my wife Carolyn Wyatt.

I would like to thank Fr. Spence and the SVP from All Saints Catholic church for their support along with Kath and all the staff at the Grey Horse in Consett that put on such a nice spread and looked after us after the funeral.

I want to save a special thanks for the friends we have made in Lanchester since we moved here from Derby in 2005 and especially our neighbours and people local to Humberhill Drive who have been so supportive to both me and my girls during Carolyn's short illness and the difficult weeks since she passed away.

A collection after the funeral raised the fantastic amount of £812 which as Carolyn requested will be split between St Cuthbert's Hospice and Ward 34 at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle that looked after her so well.

Pete Wyatt, Humberhill Drive, Lanchester

## PGA CLASS A PROFESSIONAL - MARK GRADUATES

Mark Ridley, who lives in The Close, Lanchester, attended his graduation ceremony on Friday 16th April at Birmingham University. He is now a fully fledged PGA Class 'A' Professional Golfer. Mark, who turned professional five years ago at the grand old age of 38, has spent the last three years studying for

his PGA qualification as well as working as assistant professional at South Moor Golf Club. Mark, who has a handicap of +2, played golf at County level for many years before deciding to turn his hobby into his career. Wife Michelle and children Grant and Alex attended the ceremony along with Mark.



Mark and his children Grant and Alex at the Award Ceremony of his graduation from the University of Birmingham.

## BABY BURDON

Congratulations to Mark and Anita from Lanchester Pharmacy on the birth of Matthew John, born 25th March, weighing in at 6lb 14ozs, a brother for Kate.



## COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in draw was made by Mrs Lesley Anderson of The Thursday Art Group. The March 2010 is 17.

## 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 0PB.

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## KEEPING FIT AT 80

Jenny Robson from Stanley became 80 years old on 8th April. Where was she, what was she doing? It does take some believing unless you know her personally but she was at Lanchester Community Centre teaching ladies from the village at their Thursday morning keep fit class for the over 50's. Jenny also teaches Keep Fit at Burnopfield and Dipton Community Centres which keeps her active for the full week. Today it was same as usual in the morning, but enjoying a Chinese meal with friends later, at the

Pavilion. Saturday will be spent with some of her family at the Equestrian Centre, Stanley, for another meal.

Jenny has been a Keep Fit instructor for many years. Before coming to Lanchester about 10 years ago she worked at the Louisa Centre, Stanley, and Belle Vue at Consett, before being forced to retire at the age of 60.

When she is not working, Jenny likes to travel and regularly visits her son Kenneth, his wife Sarah, and her grand children Louisa and Christina,



Jenny Robson 80 today, (front 2nd right) takes her usual keep fit class at the Community Centre. She is holding the gift given to her by class members.

who live in Australia. Jenny is truly a remarkable person, very popular and an excellent

teacher. She plans to carry on with her work as long as she possibly can. In the opening sentence

Jenny was described as 80 years old. It should have been 80 years young!

## MATT BAKER TO LAUNCH OUR LOCALITY MAP

The Parish Council and Lanchester Partnership are delighted to announce that Matt Baker of BBC Countryfile and formerly Blue Peter has agreed to launch the Lanchester Locality Map on SATURDAY MAY 29th AT PARK HOUSE AT 11.00 am.

Matt has very kindly agreed to do this since his family farm is just over the Parish boundary and he is very committed to the North East and its countryside.

The Locality Map is the third in the series of publications prepared jointly by the Parish Council and the Partnership, the Village Design Statement, the Parish Plan and now the Locality Map. It follows from the second in the series - the Parish Plan. The survey questionnaire carried out for the Plan had a very high response rate and almost everyone who responded indicated how very highly they valued the whole landscape of the Parish and wished to see it preserved from over development. The Parish

Council recognised that the key people involved are the farmers and landowners whose livelihoods depend on it. They therefore asked a local farmer who is also a Parish Councillor, Keith Harrison, to chair a working group to explore ways in which that community could be supported in maintaining a viable countryside. Keith has brought together representatives from the farming, wildlife and environment interests who have worked with Steve Scoffin, of Steve Scoffin Associates, as advisor to produce a publication where the broad theme is "What makes the Parish Landscape? How should

change be managed for all who live in it, work in it and enjoy it"?

The group has produced a series of proposals to be taken forward in partnership with everyone involved (and that probably means all of us) and which will take ten years or more to achieve. As a first step funding is being sought to pay for a part-time development officer to start to take things forward. In the meantime all households in the Parish will receive a summary of the report during the next month and the opportunity to come and learn more when Matt Baker speaks - SATURDAY MAY 29th 11 O'CLOCK IN THE

PLAY AREA BEHIND PARK HOUSE Refreshments, displays, the opportunity to ask

questions (and perhaps get your Locality Map summary autographed by Matt!).

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will launch  
the  
Lanchester  
Locality Map  
at Park  
House on  
29th May.

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# ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN

Continued from page 1  
 Many organisations and people helped:  
 The Parish Council let us use the village green;  
 The County Council provided the skip and lent us a lot of grabbers and gloves;  
 Kit Bartram from CPRE Durham came from Heighington with 40 hoops (for holding bags open);  
 Action Earth, which is supported by Morrisons, gave us £50 for expenses;  
 LEAF visited the primary

schools to speak to children about litter, brought information, bags and beakers and painted some super faces. There is much less litter in the village than there was 5 years ago. Credit is due, of course, to the 100 plus people who turn out every

year, but also to Dave the Parish Council handyman, to the County Council litter-picking teams and to those residents who pick regularly in their own areas.

We owe a big thank you to all of them.



*A group starting off on the Village Green for their Litterpick*

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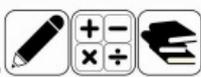
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# EASTER SERVICE



*Symbols of the crucifixion placed on and around the cross by the pupils*

descended upon the earth at the crucifixion. Then all the symbols were removed from the cross and everyone in the church was given a daffodil. In turn each person took their daffodil to the wooden cross and with a helping hand from the staff it was attached to the cross. The cross became a blaze of glorious colour, symbolising the victory of the cross because although Jesus died upon it He came back to life and His Resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday. Triumph to Tragedy and now

Triumph again. The wonderful story of the first Easter had been so well shown, through word, action and songs. The songs had been specially written for the Easter Story presentation and all the pupils sang them. Indeed the whole school were involved in some way and for everyone present I am sure Easter was made much more meaningful. It is not just about chocolate Easter Eggs but I hope the pupils get plenty of those too! They certainly deserve them!  
 Brenda Craddock



*Daffodils placed on the cross by children and adults in the congregation*

# EGG DISPLAY AND COFFEE AT LANCHESTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

An ancient symbol of Easter is an egg, and there is a long tradition of decorating hard boiled eggs in celebration of this spring festival. On April 1st, children and staff from Lanchester EP Primary School invited their families and friends to a coffee afternoon, marking the end of term. This was also the opportunity for their visitors to view the large number of Easter eggs which had been decorated by children, staff, parents

and grandparents. The school hall was crowded as students accompanied their families, happily pointing out their favourite creations. There were many comments applauding the care, humour and imagination shown in the presentation. Fairy tale characters such as the Queen of Hearts, Rapunzel and Alice met up with 'gangsta' eggs, boxing eggs, and 'Bling Bling' and 'Rock Chick'

characters. The topical 'Compare the Meerkat' TV advert was portrayed, and 'eggs hausted' made an appearance - lying down for a rest, of course! Transport from racing cars to rockets were shown, and a whole menagerie of animals. Refreshments were provided by the school kitchen staff, and this was an enjoyable, family event, crossing the generations and showing the flair and imagination of our young people.

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Part of the display



Charlotte pointing to her 'best' egg

## Good Friday

*They came from North and South, East and West  
To assemble on the village green  
Where three wooden crosses could be seen  
Three denominations were gathered there  
And Canon Spence led the prayer.  
He led our thoughts and gave time to reflect  
Christ's torturous death we held in respect.  
B.W.C.*



Canon Spence leads the prayers on the Village Green

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 13TH APRIL 2010

**Annual Village Conference.** The Minutes of the Annual Village Conference held on 14th April 2009 and the Audited Accounts of the Parish Council for the financial year ended 31st March 2009 were received and approved by Members. As there was no other business, the Ordinary Meeting began.

**Police Report:** Rowdy Nuisance 6, Theft 3, Burglary 3, Vehicle Nuisance 0, Vehicle Crime 3, Criminal Damage 0.

PACT Priority: There have been regular foot patrols in Front Street at the junction with Woodham Court regarding a complaint of vehicles allegedly parking on the white lines causing problems with driver visibility at the junction.

Between 9th March and 9th April patrols including

traffic police observed only 4 incidents of vehicles parked on the white lines. All incidents consisted of one small but different vehicle parked at the far end of the junction on white lines, ie adjacent to the legal bays. Drivers were spoken to or left advisory warning notices.

Next PACT Meeting: Tuesday 20th April at 7.15 in the Community Centre.

Community Police Inspector David Turner and colleague Julie Brown were present at the Meeting and discussed several issues including Farm Watch, which will soon recommence after problems due to two coordinators leaving. Inspector Turner stressed that people need to inform them of anything suspicious and take vehicle registration numbers. Several small cameras (attached to the police themselves) have been purchased for use in the area to record incidents for use as evidence. In addition, Julie demonstrated a portable speed monitor which is to be used from immediate effect in the village entrance roads. Before they left, the Chair thanked the police for attending the meeting and their assistance.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th March 2010 were approved, as were those of the Planning Committee on 9th March 2010, the Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee on 31st March 2010 and the Recreation Committee on 31st March 2010.

**Correspondence:** Letters were received from Lanchester EP Primary School, Lanchester RC Primary School and

Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club thanking the Parish Council for donations.

The Chair remarked how pleasant it was to receive these letters.

**Flood Wardens Scheme.** Two officers from the Civil Contingencies Unit and the Environment Agency were present to give information on this scheme, which is aimed at prevention where possible, and detailed action to be taken should Lanchester be flooded. 8 to 10 people who are interested in taking part in the scheme are needed and a public meeting to publicise the scheme was requested. This was fully supported by Members and Cllrs Jackson and Glass volunteered, Cllr Glass also giving the telephone number 0191 3706000 for reporting blocked drains.

**Energy Saving in Lanchester Public Buildings.** Letter had been sent to the owners by the Partnership Environment Group and the Parish Council and 6 replies have been received. It was agreed that these should be forwarded to the Environment Group for further action.

**Area Action Partnership/ Parish Councils Committee.** A Meeting of the various organisations involved is to be organised to discuss facilities for young people. The speed cameras have not yet arrived - on hold until after the Election. It is hoped that the roof of the Bowls pavilion, which collapsed under the snow, can be repaired through the AAP and the Neighbourhood budget in time for the new season as it is used almost daily throughout the summer. The AAP is to

part-fund the purchase of the small cameras referred to in the Police Report.

**CPRE Litter Warden Scheme/litter-free Durham.** A reply was sent last year stating that the Parish Council has its own litter scheme, but Cllr Glass informed Members that the County Council has its Litter Picking and Graffiti Removal Schemes as Members expressed concern at the amount of litter on the roadsides approaching the village. Concern was also expressed at the amount of litter around the garages and it was decided that a letter should be written to St Bede's School drawing attention to it.

**Consultation on proposed closure of Care Homes by Durham County Council.** This closure includes Lynwood House, Lanchester, and Members considered the County Council's Cabinet Report and also the document 'List of Questions for Key Stakeholder Organisations' which had been completed on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllr Wardle, for which he was thanked. Alternative Community use of the site of Lynwood House if it is closed was mentioned as it is thought that there is a covenant on the use of the land.

**Financial Information and Accounts for Payment.** These were approved.

**Planning.** Members considered the following applications:-

i. Felling of two cypress trees at Greystone, Crow Hall. **RESOLVED:** that Members raise no objection subject to the felled trees being replaced with a suitable indigenous alternative.

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# LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED AND PLANNING MEETING

ii. Erection of single storey rear extension at 4 Woodlea, Lanchester. RESOLVED: that Members raise no objection subject to the erection complying with the guidelines in the Village Design Statement.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next Ordinary Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 11th May, following the Annual General Meeting, at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Station Road, Lanchester. An Officer from Durham County Council will talk about speed restriction measures at the Meeting.

## LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 9th MARCH 2010

Members considered the following applications:

i. Erection of detached garage at Middle Newbiggen Farm, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester. RESOLVED: that Members raise no objection to the application.

ii. Felling of one silver birch tree, crown thinning of two silver birch trees at 11 Woodlands, Lanchester. RESOLVED: that members raise no objection but request that the felled tree be replaced with a suitable alternative.

iii. Erection of extension to rear, construction of pitched roof over existing flat roofed elements at front and rear, alterations to driveway, installation of roof light to rear and replacement doors and windows at White Leas, Crow Hall, Lanchester.

RESOLVED: that Members raise no objection subject to the development complying with the guidelines in the Village Design Statement.

iv. Proposed replacement bridge across the River Browney, Malton. RESOLVED: that Members raise no objection to the application.

v. Proposed change of use of one dwelling into Takeaway at ground floor and create flat to first floor at 21 Front Street, Lanchester. The application was discussed and it was resolved that Members object to this development for the following reasons

(a) the application is in the article V conservation area.

(b) this development will have significant impact on the character of Front Street.

(c) there is concern over the extent of the proposed opening hours and the effect on other nearby residential properties.

(d) the development will adversely change the mix of shops and houses in this street.

(e) Members refer to the Village Design Statement page 20 with particular reference to 4J-40.

vi. Enlarge existing window opening in front elevation at 21 Front Street, Lanchester. Members discussed the application and resolved that they object to this development for the same reasons as in v. above.

vii. Extension to existing garage to be used as additional bedroom, pitched roof to existing garage at 55 Foxhills Crescent, Lanchester. RESOLVED: that Members raise no objection to the application.

**Decision of the Planning Authority:** The following applications have been approved by Durham County Council.

Erection of replacement porch at Newfield Lodge, Ford Road, Lanchester.

Erection of agricultural building at Square House Farm, Quebec.

Crown raising of overhanging branches of

various trees at West Grange, Cadger Bank, Lanchester.

Pruning of one ash tree at 7 Front Street, Lanchester.

Erection of single storey rear extension at 3 Greenwell Park, Lanchester.

Demolition of stable building and workshop, erection of three holiday cottages and creation of five parking spaces (resubmission) at Forest Lodge, Knitsley Lane.

Erection of two storey rear extension (amended

description) at 3 Cecil Crescent, Lanchester. Durham County Council – Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document.

Members considered the Issues Paper which formed part of the consultation process for the above document. RESOLVED: that a copy of the Village Design Statement be sent to the County Council and suggest that the issue of intrusive lighting in the countryside be in the document.

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# EASTER MONDAY AT PASTE EGG BANK

The steady rain early on Easter Monday did not put off almost 70 people attending the traditional Egg Bowling at Paste Egg Bank. A record 37 eggs were dyed.

Burt Hunter and Rachel Jackson began peeling onions to use the skins for dyeing well before the majority had arrived. When the crowd had gathered Burt explained the format of the morning. Then it was time to look

for the 'cows parsley' and the small yellow flower petals from the whin bush. On returning from this expedition families prepared the eggs. They finished the preparation by wrapping their egg in traditional cloths used by Burt every year. They were labelled before Burt placed them inside the two large pots boiling away on a hob in his van.

Whilst waiting for the eggs to boil, it was time to

climb Paste Egg Hill to hunt for hidden 'tags' which Elaine Williams had placed around the perimeter of the field. Children ran excitedly to all sides of the field, returned at full speed to the centre clutching their tag, which was exchanged by Elaine and helpers for sweets. One would have thought the children had been given the earth, such was their enjoyment.

It was then back down the hill for the judging. Noel Jackson explained the criteria for the best eggs and the tension began with children crushing forward to have their egg examined. The judges - Noel Jackson, Burt Hunter and Dr Brunt, got down to a short list of eight eggs, then eventually decided on the best three, announcing the winner and the reasons for the selection. Benjamin won the competition with a Bantam egg! Zac came a close second.



*Burt and Rachel peeling onions to use the skins for dyeing. The task was completed well before the majority of the participants had arrived*



*Burt explaining to attentive children what is about to happen and how to prepare the eggs for the dyeing process*

By this time the rain had stopped and it was back this time to the top of Paste Egg for the bowling. Apparently, the idea is for each contestant to challenge another but this soon went out of the window and children and adults were soon bowling and hurling eggs as far as they could. Being left handed seemed to be advantageous as all the left handed adults seemed to throw or bowl the furthest. The winner of the Egg Bowling was

Aidan whose egg belonged to Zac (coincidentally which won the dyeing category as well). Bantam eggs must be a bit exceptional perhaps! Will there be more of them entered next year? Zac produced the second best egg and Aidan again threw it for the second best distance. Despite the inclement weather, wet and cold, it was a great morning for families who have now kept this tradition going for more than 25 years.

## Gardening in May

In May the longer days and warmer weather boost growth of both your plants and the weeds. During the last few weeks of spring, manual or chemical weeding becomes an essential weekly task in both the vegetable patch and the borders. The manual method is, of course, the cheaper. There are several ways that you can save cash in your garden including: recycling your kitchen waste as a boost to your compost heap; using plastic milk bottles with tops cut off and drainage holes in the base to make perfect pots for sowing and potting on your plants; using old plastic pots which can be cut-up to make labels for seeds and cuttings; using egg

boxes which can be used in your compost heaps or as seed trays for your larger seeds like courgette; using larger tubes from kitchen paper or toilet paper rolls to make ideal sowing containers for peas and beans. Both the egg boxes and the cardboard tubes can be planted straight into the ground as the roots will go through them as they decompose; using old large plastic bags to grow potatoes, rolling down the sides and planting tubers in the bottom and then gradually unrolling the sides and adding more compost as the plants grow.

### **Lawns**

Continue to cut your grass regularly and it is still a good time to apply

selective weedkillers and fertilisers if you did not do it last month. May is a good time to dig dandelions, daisies and other weeds out of your lawns.

### **Borders**

Many of the old roses are very susceptible to blackspot and rust and greenfly find the new shoots irresistible. Don't wait until these problems recur but spray this month. Give your spring bulbs such as daffodils and tulips a good water with liquid feed to help them build up their reserves before the foliage dies back. This month is the time to sow hardy annual flower seeds in your borders and grow hardy perennials in pots. Once conditions have warmed-up later in

the month, you can plant out half-hardy summer bedding like dahlias, begonias and petunia, after they have been hardened off. However, keep the fleece handy and watch the weather forecast for late frosts.

### **Vegetables**

Our climate is perfect for the growing of brassicas including Cabbage, Sprouts, Cauliflower and Broccoli. The seed are easy to grow and from late spring to early summer this can be done directly into the ground transplanting them into their final positions in early summer. I plant my runner bean seeds this month in rootainers and in warmth so that they can be planted out in early June. You should not plant tender crops

like tomatoes, marrows, runner beans and courgettes outside until all risk of frost has passed. Low night temperatures can give young plants a shock so I keep fleece handy to provide extra protection. Generally it is June in the north-east before risk of frost had passed.

### **General**

Spreading a covering of bark or dark compost on borders gives them a neat finish, helps stop water loss and suppresses annual weeds. Tie climbers like clematis and honeysuckle to their supports before any winds can spoil them. You might also consider increasing your capacity for making compost by investing in another bin.

# VILLAGE VOICE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Village Voice held its 10th Anniversary celebration at the Community Centre on 20th March. The Management Council decided to invite Advertisers, Deliverers and regular Contributors to the paper and those who have helped the publication during the period since its inception. As sponsors of the Lanchester Brass Band, it seemed fitting that they should be invited to perform a short concert as a way of opening the event. They were delighted to do this and a fine concert was thoroughly enjoyed by guests, especially with a glass of wine which was available to them as they entered the hall. On behalf of the Village Voice, Chairman, Brian Oram introduced the Band, led by Conductor, Dom, from Durham University, and described

them as hard working ambassadors for the village who also play at all major events that take place in Lanchester. He explained the format for the evening. This included an exhibition of front pages of Village Voices from each of the ten years, compiled by John Hurran, and a Powerpoint display of archive photographs which had appeared in the paper during the same period, researched and organised by Editor, Christine Monaghan. Following the concert, Brian made a personal tribute to Malcolm McKenzie, founder member, Director, former Editor, and Chief Reporter, who died on February 3rd. After the tribute everyone stood and gave a hearty round of applause in Malcolm's honour. The speech continued with a brief resume of the Village Voice so far, and

the possible future of the paper. Then it was time for thanks to Deliverers, the Contributors and Advertisers without whom there would be no Newspaper. There were special thanks to Lanchester Wine Cellars for supplying excellent wine from their extensive fine range, and for donating 12 bottles. Lanchester Dairies gave a large quantity of Bill 'n' Geoff's ice cream (probably the best in the world), to go with the splendid buffet provided by Sarah Allison and her team of ladies from the Parish Church. So it became an evening of relaxation with good food, copious amounts of fine wine, excellent social interaction - an appropriate way to celebrate 10 years of the Village Voice with friends, and those who have always supported the paper.



*Lanchester Brass Band helps the Village Voice celebrate 10 years of operation*



*A selection of the advertisers, deliverers and contributors enjoy the Brass Band at the start of the 10th Anniversary celebrations*

## BRIAN AND ELSIE'S GOLDEN WEDDING

On Friday 19th March, Brian and Elsie Cuthbert held Open House at Prospect Terrace to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Over 100 friends, neighbours and relatives turned up to offer their congratulations. From as far away as Germany, England and many local people as well, there was

a steady stream of visitors throughout the day to greet the couple and partake of the delicious buffet provided. Elsie and Brian were married at Lanchester Methodist Church by Rev Frank Mercer. Elsie's sister Lilian and Brian's sister, Eva were bridesmaids, Ronnie Dixon was best man and Keith Harrison was page

boy. They were all present at the Golden Anniversary as well as Elsie and Brian's 3 daughters and 4 granddaughters. Elsie and Brian had requested

no presents, but asked that donations if desired could be given in aid of Willowburn Hospice and a grand total of £700.00 was given. Elsie and Brian wish to thank

everyone for cards, flowers and for the generous donations. On Saturday evening the family enjoyed a celebratory meal at The King's Head.



*Brian and Elsie cut the cake to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary*

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## POLITICAL MEETING AT LANCHESTER

A meeting of some of the Candidates for the forthcoming General Election, for the North-West Durham constituency, was held in the Methodist Church on Thursday, 15th April, at 7.30pm. Organised jointly by Churches Together and the Environment Group of Lanchester Partnership, the meeting was attended by some 70 to 80 people, in spite of the 'competition' on National TV!

Candidates present at the Meeting were Andrew McDonald (UKIP), Watts Stelling (Ind), Owen Temple (LibDem) and Dr Michelle Tempest (Con). Pat Glass (Lab) was not present but was represented by her brother, Martin Gannon. In the Chair was Arthur Maughan, OBE.

The meeting was opened by Sonny Shepherd who welcomed and introduced the candidates, Mr Maughan and welcomed the audience. Questions had been sent in earlier and edited, but those people whose questions had been chosen (time was limited) were there to ask them personally.

Everything was very well organised, with microphones for each individual candidate and a 'roving mike' taken to the person asking the question. In addition, the written question appeared on the screens on the wall of the Church, on a screen in front of the tables and also each candidate was given a copy of the question. Everyone, therefore, knew what was being asked and could also hear the replies easily. Each candidate was given exactly two minutes to answer a question, when they were given 'the red card' warning, which created amusement and a relaxed atmosphere.

After giving their backgrounds, the candidates answered the questions in turn. Their answers were honest, straightforward and mostly very positive, each promising, if elected, to work hard and do as much as possible for the local community.

Questions asked were: 'How would you personally benefit the electors', 'What is the truth about the economic

woes of the country and how are we going to sort it out' and on the subjects of Care for the Elderly, Carbon Tax, Employment for Young People, Transport (public and private) and finally the candidates were asked about their own mission. Those of Watts Stelling (Ind) are to create a good neighbourhood and encourage family values, Owen Temple (LibDem) seeks to increase a level of fairness, Dr Tempest (Conservative) sees responsibility as her role, Mr Gannon (on behalf of Pat Glass, Lab) stated 'Each according to needs and ability' and Andrew McDonald (UKIP) wants to take Christian values to Parliament.

One or two related additional questions were asked from the floor, but unfortunately time ran out and the meeting was closed with thanks from Arthur Maughan to the organisers and the audience, from Sonny Shepherd to the participants, the Methodist Church and Mr Maughan.



Left to right: Andrew McDonald (UK Independence Party), Dr Michelle Tempest (Conservative), Arthur Maughan OBE (Chairman), Watts Stelling (Independent) and Owen Temple (Liberal Democrat).

# LYNWOOD HOUSE CONSULTATION MEETING

A Meeting was held on Wednesday the 17th of March at 5.30pm in Lanchester EP School in conjunction with a meeting of the Mid-Durham Rural West Area Action Partnership. The presentation, entitled 'Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Seven Named In-house Residential Care Homes' was presented by Peter Appleton from Durham County Council to a large number of people, including our two County Councillors Ossie Johnston and Richard Young and some of the Parish Councillors, who are concerned about the possible closure of Lynwood House, which is named as one of the seven. The Meeting was chaired by Kathleen Currie who stressed that the Consultation was still in progress, that questions were to be addressed to the presenter and asked people not to 'shoot the messenger'. Everyone present was given a sheaf of papers which included the background to this Cabinet decision, Members' Working

Group's Principles, the County Council's Older People's Strategy, services provided, the supply, quality management and occupancy of the care homes. Details were also given of the costs of providing beds in care homes and costs involved in modernising 12 In-house residential care homes; in general, 'It is cheaper to rebuild than adapt'. Graphs showed that the number of bed days in both In-house and Independent Sector homes had declined and that Home Care provision in ALL Sectors has risen since 2003. An analysis shows that there is significant overprovision in the supply of residential care and that in June 2009 over 1000 beds were available at any time across the County. The cost of an in-house place is much higher than the cost in the independent sector. The County Council states that the reason why there is 50% under-occupancy is because people are given a choice. According to the information given, older people want an increased range of



The people on the Top Table at the meeting regarding the possible closure of Lynwood House. The group consists of Area Action Partnership members, County Councillors and County Hall Executives.

services and support to help them live at home and to stay in the community, as well as more information on health and leisure options, better transport and continuity, reliability and flexibility in home care and more support for carers. However, when it came to question time, many people in the audience, representatives of residents of Lynwood House, stated that they were being given no choice. Many people agreed that the residents of Lynwood House want to stay there, where they

are happy and secure and do not need updated accommodation as they are quite comfortable as they are. Comments were made to the effect that some people who are employed in the County Council totally disagree with the figures and costs given and Terry Scarr, of the GMB said that an Independent body had been brought in, at a cost of £10,000, who had made a full report to the Authority. Questions asked included how can quality of care in the person's own home be guaranteed without extra

money being spent on training, transport, continuity? What about care during the night for people who are in their own home and frightened in case they need help? As time was limited as the scheduled AAP meeting was due to begin at 6.30 pm, Mr Appleton asked people to fill in the Response Forms which had been given out and to write with their concerns to The County Council as the consultation period did not end until 30th April. He promised that all letters would receive a personal reply.



Terry Scarr, who spoke on behalf of the GMB Trade Union workforce members, involved in possible closure of Lynwood House.

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# FRENCH FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS

Nomore da-da and ma-ma for children in the North East. It is 'papa et maman! Angela Sterling has lived in France, Switzerland and Dubai but has decided that the best place to start her French for Babies & Toddlers Courses is right back home in Co Durham! Angela has been a modern foreign languages teacher for many years and has worked in schools around

the world, but it was becoming a mum that triggered the idea for Lingotot, Languages for Babies & Toddlers.

*"I didn't read any pregnancy books when I was expecting my daughter, I spent all my time reading research into language learning! The more I read, the more I realised that not only could I raise my child*

*speaking two languages but that I could put my years of experience as a languages teacher to good use and support others who are keen to do the same thing."*

The sessions are fun and interactive. Each session is based around a theme and new language is introduced through songs, stories, games and play in French. Children

gain much more than language skills by attending the sessions. Angela says "Research suggests that *children who know a second language have an academic edge over those who speak only one. It can help increase scores in English, Maths and IQ tests!*"

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## FILM EXTRAS FOR GEORGE GENTLY

Irene and David Rees spent three days earlier this month as extras in various scenes filmed in and around Durham in the BBC crime drama George Gently, starring Martin Shaw. This should be on screen during the autumn. The picture shows Irene 'warming up' in police overcoat prior to filming the sentence of a Court. In this instance Durham Crown Court was closed for normal business on a bank holiday and was used for filming, and doubled as a 1966 court. Other scenes filmed included an 'act' in a local men's club - near Durham. 'Watch out for the actor playing a very poor ventriloquist', said his dummy! One extra was heard wryly observing



*Irene Rees as an extra in George Gently*

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that they promised me an exotic film location and of course I had the likes of Malibu in mind, yet here I am listening to an unknown mime artist getting heckled off the stage in a N East club! How's that for surreal?' The dummy agreed!

The episode in production is a whodunnit, the outcome of which remains a closely guarded secret with nobody on location revealing very much other than the end is believed to be mysterious. The previous three series of George Gently have been filmed in the Dublin area, and so it has been a

welcome move for cast and crew to relocate production to the place where lies the root of the story, in the North East. Its return here has also helped provide a much needed boost to local TV/film production after a very quiet eighteen months or so in this part of the country and in this area of work.

Other local locations have included the Co Durham coast, Durham University, and also a disused building in the area which was used as the base during filming. Part of the building was converted into a police station.

# MALCOLM McKENZIE REMEMBERED

Former Village Voice editor Malcolm McKenzie has been commemorated in the spring edition of Country

Walking Magazine. Malcolm wrote walks for the magazine for many years initially covering walks in Nottinghamshire and later, after he moved to Lanchester, in County Durham. Our picture shows Anne McKenzie receiving a copy of the magazine from Paul Monaghan who took over writing for the publication with much appreciated assistance from Malcolm.



## COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM

The 42nd Annual General Meeting of Lanchester Community Association was held on 17th March and the twenty people in attendance were welcomed by the President, Dr. Ian Brunt. In his Annual Report the Chairman of the Association, Arthur Maughan MBE, reported that 2009 had been a good year for the Community Centre, with room rental income increasing by 34% and income from the Exercise Centre increasing by 6% and he thanked the staff and volunteers for making this possible. He went on to report that work on the damaged drains at the rear of the building was carried out and the wall was removed in the Car park to improve parking and access. John Wilson, the Manager, reported that some

activities had ceased to operate during the year but they had been replaced. There was a substantial increase in the number of one-off bookings and this accounted for the significant increase in revenue. He reported that the Main Hall had been decorated and a new fridge, computer and photocopier had been purchased. The Treasurer, Bill Waite, gave a detailed presentation of the accounts for the year and after answering questions, recommended that Miah & Co Accountants be appointed as Auditors for 2010. Representatives of the five Sections of the Community Association had submitted reports and all appeared to be in good shape and looked forward

to another successful year in 2010. All of the Officers were re-elected and the Secretary, Harry Taylor, then explained the procedure to be adopted to appoint up to 12 Elected Representatives, 10 of whom had agreed to stand for re-election and were appointed. Peter Innes was appointed as the 11th representative leaving one vacancy to be filled during the year. The President closed the meeting by commenting on how fortunate that Lanchester was to have such a well managed and vibrant Community Centre that is kept in good shape, largely due to the dedicated staff and volunteers who give up so much of their time to ensure that the Community Centre is such a pleasant place to visit.

## PARKING RESTRICTIONS?



Another example of irresponsible parking in Lanchester. I wonder if they are going to the Library for a copy of the Highway Code; if not they should.

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# VOCAL DELIGHTS (IN AID OF MERCY SHIPS)

The 18th of March saw another concert at Lanchester Methodist Church in aid of the Mercy Ships charity, as ever diligently supported by Mel and Sue Somersall. This time the concert not only featured Andrew Fowler and friends from Durham Cathedral but also the Lanchester Male Voice Choir.

The concert began with Andrew Fowler singing two humorous songs linked by the "Beguine". Next the full ensemble (Eight Voices, one a countertenor!) sang two part songs by Robert Pearsall.

The rendition of Lay a garland was particularly fine due to the rich eight part voice writing full of suspensions and delayed cadences.

Next came a very impressive selection of solos mainly from a young bass not heard in Lanchester before, Nicholas Morton. He sang John Ireland's I have twelve oxen and also the darkly romantic Die Mainacht full of moonlight and remorse by Brahms. A Schubert song with a difference followed, namely The Shepherd on the Rock for soprano, clarinet and piano. This



*Lanchester Male Voice Choir performing for a large audience*

lively late Schubert number with the slight klezma clarinet challenging the concept of the traditional lieder brought the small ensemble pieces to a close in the first half of the concert. The Lanchester Male Voice Choir performed next. As always with the choir there is something old, something new and generally something rather different.

The choir plunged into the deep hymn like harmonies of Rachie and then effortlessly into the lighter Lennon and McCartney Yesterday.

The surprise was My heart will go on from the film Titanic. This started with a high, tenor line working up to an emotive full chorus. More Lennon and McCartney followed but the first half ended with a delicate rendition and some fine tenor singing of Can't help falling in love.

During the interval pictures of the School and children funded by the concerts were displayed.

Mel gave a short speech of thanks and also a summary of what had been achieved by the concerts. So far a school had been built capable of educating 200 pupils. The school also presented equal opportunities for boys and girls and was proud of its newly appointed headmistress. The money from the concert would go directly to support the salary of the teachers currently working at the school.

The LMVC then began the second half of the concert with some lighter standards moving into the uplifting You raise me up and a thoughtful rendition of Silent Worship (based on an Aria by Handel). The set ended with the stirring Anthem from the final of Act one of Chess.

This proved to be a satisfactory conclusion to the LMVC contribution to the concert.

Then followed a series of British and American folk songs arranged by Britten, Copland and McCabe. Sticking out, despite the high quality of the others, was the humorous I bought me a cat set by Aaron Copland.

The ensemble of eight voices sang a lilting arrangement of another American folksong Shenandoah and a more lively arrangement (by Andrew Fowler) of the American "folk song" Frankie and Johnnie, full of vernacular and American accents.

The concert then ended quietly as if drifting back in time to a Victorian drawing room with two settings of part songs designed to end an evening of pleasant company.



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# PRESENTATION BY CENTURIONS

A special night was held at the Cricket Club on 24th March to present a cheque to Great North Air Ambulance

The money was raised at a Rock Fest organised by Centurion members, Robbie and Sarah Madden, at the Social Club on 6th February. An amazing amount of £1695.69 was raised on that day which included entertainment from four rock bands. The Centurions added about £300 from their own funds to round the figure up to £2000 and the Prisoners Charity Fund donated £1000, to make the total donated to £3000. The cheque was presented by Sarah Madden, to fund



Centurions and Air Ambulance personnel displaying the cheque for £3000 donated by the Centurions. Left to right: Robbie Madden, Helene, Alan Seymour, (all Centurions); Lynne Simmons, Robert Colgrave, Air Ambulance; Sarah Madden (Centurions); Ray Bennington, Chairman, Centurions.

raiser for Air Ambulance, Lynne Simmons, who responded with a lovely speech of gratitude with a comprehensive talk on the organisation. Coincidentally, their new helicopter was available to fly from Teesside on the following morning. The cost of the aircraft was £2.1 million!

An emotional Alan Seymour, Secretary of Centurions, presented a cheque to Lynne in memory of his dear friend, Arthur Rice, late of Alderside Crescent. This

was in lieu of flowers at his funeral. The amount was a staggering £525.00, which indicated the popularity and respect that Arthur had enjoyed from his friends and family.

The Centurions go from strength to strength and they currently have 74 members. It has been calculated that since the club started they have donated approximately £40000 to charity, mainly

Great North Air Ambulance. Fortunately, they have only been called out twice to

local members. Centurions are now looking forward to their Annual Rally on

7th May, when they will no doubt be raising money for charities once again.

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Alan Seymour presents a cheque for £525 to Lynne Simmons, Air Ambulance, in memory of the late Arthur Rice

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## FUN AT THE RACES



*The bookies taking the bets*

What a great night for pupils, parents and staff of the EP School at their race night, organised by 'Friends of the School'. It

was simply impossible to decide which group enjoyed it the most. The smell of the food, garlic bread and pizza, wine, lager and beer on the tables, brought in by 'the punters', coupled with the noise, was reminiscent of Valentino's. However, the build up on the microphone by teacher Mark Stephenson, ensured that it really was a superb race night with shouting and cheering the horses on and the encouragement to place bets between races.

The races themselves were a simple system with the aforementioned groups mentioned acting as winders, with wooden brightly coloured horses and jockeys being pulled



*The horses nearly there getting great encouragement from the onlookers*

along the course. The bookies were a mixture of parents and teachers who worked really hard between races taking the bets. There were 14 races which included two extra being run by popular

demand, with six horses in each race. Names and owners of horses were displayed on a screen. It really was an exciting

night for all involved and raised a total of £215.00 which will go towards maintenance of the grounds.

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## CEILIDH NIGHT SUCCESS

On Friday 26th March a charity Ceilidh was hosted at St Bede's and people spanning all age groups enjoyed the music, dancing, food and drink. The event was organised by Margaret Doyle of All Saints' Primary PTA in conjunction with the Pastoral Parish Council. The money raised is to go towards the Church car park resurfacing scheme and the School PTA fund.

The music was provided by 'The Steel String Band' of which there are 5 members: Martin Matthews on tenor banjo; Paul Archer on fiddle; Sandy Still on guitar and vocals; Frank Porter on bass guitar and Tony Martin who was the caller, as well as playing the harmonica and octave mandolin. The band on other occasions plays as a steel string swing band

in 1930's style, also Hot Club de France Jazz a la Django Reinhardt and Stephan Grappelli. The ceilidh night at St Bede's was a charity night, one of the ten the band does every year.

The organisers were very grateful for all those who volunteered including Patricia Dixon, Margaret McCabe and Avril Quigley who were in charge of hot dogs. Also thanks go to Greencroft Bottling Company for providing the drinks and running the bar. There was also a prize quiz and raffle.

All in all the evening was a success and the enthusiastic dancing went on for hours, in the welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. Dances included the traditional 'Falling Masonry', 'Cumberland Reel' and, my favourite, 'The Mad-Dash Polka'.  
Claire Hogarth

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## LEAF PROJECT - LANCHESTER LIBRARY

During their Easter break, some Lanchester children thought about the huge problem litter is causing in our environment. Melanie Howd presented a workshop on this theme in Lanchester Library, on behalf of LEAF. The Litter Education and Awareness Focus Project uses creative learning to illustrate the damage litter brings to our world. The Leaf Project works

with local businesses, shops and schools to encourage everyone to change their behaviour by disposing of litter responsibly, and to recycle rubbish whenever possible. Litter can travel enormous distances, carried by wind and water, causing damage to our environment, and to animals and people.

The children thought about the "B" word - "BIN"

and considered how vital it is to recycle our waste material. To illustrate this, Melanie demonstrated how old CD cases can be converted into attractive photograph frames. All the children became involved in their task, using colour, feathers and stickers to embellish their work. The point was simple - think carefully before disposing of any "rubbish" - so much can

be used for a completely different purpose!

Everyone ended the session by signing the LEAF pledge, promising always to put litter into a bin, to recycle whenever possible, and to spread the message widely.



*Busy at work making picture frames*

## PLAYGROUND GAMES

Playground games were on the agenda for the full school at All Saints' Primary on Wednesday, 31st March, one of the coldest mornings this month. Jo James, from Durham Music Service, has been training pupil leaders for one hour a week for ten weeks, to learn songs and games to be used in the playground. The songs and games, old and new, were spread

across different countries and cultures so the programme was learning, fun and exercise all at the same time. Children were divided into groups and each group had 6 leaders from years 5 and 6.

The children were excited, enthusiastic and energetic, as they sang, did the actions, walking and dancing to songs from the UK and around the world.

This type of learning is great fun for children. Many older people will know playground chants and songs from many years ago which they can pass on to youngsters. Information on this subject may be obtained from [www.singup.org](http://www.singup.org) or [www.nycos.co.uk](http://www.nycos.co.uk) (National Choir of Scotland) who have published a range of extremely accessible books of singing games.



*All Saints' children enjoying their newly learned 'Playground Games'*

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## THE THURSDAY CLUB - 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



*A toast to 30 years as the Thursday Club*

At our March meeting this year we were 30 years old and all set to party. A full day's outing to Kielder is planned for May when we can be out and about in warmer weather but for our meeting last month it was all about making the actual day special. Carolyn Blenkinsopp had been invited to come along with one of her very entertaining table top treasure hunts (evenings which we always enjoy and this one was no exception). The fiendishly difficult clues finally led the winning team to Shotley Bridge and a sword, sword-making once being a major industry owing to the quality of the steel. Our very clever winning ladies were Margaret Graham, Connie Moore, Mary Murray, Sue Ward and Kath Richmond, and they found themselves being

awarded M&S chocolate bars.

After the treasure hunt it was time for the fizz and birthday cake which this year had been made by myself and seemed to have been enjoyed by everyone. Alma Taylor had put together a lovely Easter raffle with the 1st prize going to Joan Pinkney who chose an Easter Egg. I amazingly won the 2nd prize, a

beautiful pink azalea. Forty five Thursday Club members came to the anniversary meeting, the hall was buzzing with fun and laughter, what a wonderful time we all had - a night to remember.

Roll on the next 30 years!  
Olive Simpkins

PS - catch up with all our party photographs online at [www.communicate.co.uk/ne/lanchestercommunitycentre](http://www.communicate.co.uk/ne/lanchestercommunitycentre)



*Olive proudly cutting the birthday cake*

## LIONS BOOK STALL REOPENS



*Lion President Ian Murray and Treasurer, Martin Durkin open the 'Book Stall Season' in glorious weather. Lions hope to run the Book Stall on as many Saturdays mornings as possible, from now until the Autumn*

# HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR VISITS ST BEDE'S

St Bede's had a unique opportunity on 23rd March as they hosted Mr Harry Bibring, a holocaust survivor, who gave a talk to students and parents on what he, as a Jewish child, experienced under Nazi rule. Organised by Miss Riches and the London Jewish Cultural Centre, the talk was a success, with a high turnout, and many people will have benefited and be better educated from hearing his life story.

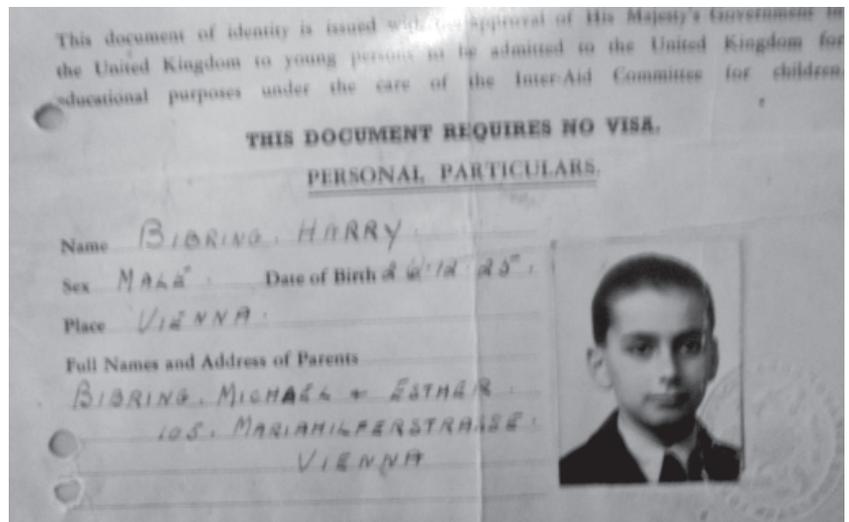
Born on 26th December 1925 in Vienna, Austria, Mr Bibring is Jewish and so was threatened and restricted by the harsh Nazi regime which took hold of Austria after the German Anschluss of 1938. He was just a normal child in a middle class household and he can recall the changes occurring in society, at first the most significant adjustment for him was being banned from the ice rink where he practised speed skating. As he was so young, losing the ability to skate was a huge atrocity and his parents tried to protect him and his sister Guerta from the true extent of the difficulties they faced. Since he was just 12-13 at this time he qualified for the transportation programme 'Kindertransport' and was lucky to be evacuated from Greater Germany just 12 months after Anschluss with

his sister, leaving his parents behind. Mr Bibring moved to England as one of 10,000 Jewish refugee children that 'Kindertransport' managed to save. The British government negotiated terms with the Nazis so that they could transfer all these Jewish children from Germany to European countries such as Britain, which were considered to be safe. After moving to England, Mr Bibring was separated from his sister, which at first was very difficult, as he had planned to rely on her to translate, as he spoke no word of English. School was a tough experience as he could not communicate well and the other children were unable to understand what he had been through. During the talk Mr Bibring managed to keep the mood from being too sombre through recounting some amusing stories of how he managed to settle in and his troubles in learning English. While in England he managed to stay in contact with his parents in Vienna, even once the war had started, through sending the letters to friends, who had emigrated to America, who then sent them on to Germany. Then after a while, they only received replies from their mother and it took her many attempts to tell them of the death of their father,

who suffered a heart attack on the way to a concentration camp. Mr Bibring has preserved her tear strained letters. After Pearl Harbour and the USA's entry into the war, communication was even more limited but through the Red Cross Mr Bibring and his sister could send 25 words each per month to Austria. Despite not hearing back, Mr Bibring and Guerta continued writing to their mother for six months before fearing the worst and it was not until 1991 when searching through the Austrian national archives that Mr

Bibring discovered that his mother had been taken to the concentration camp, Sobibor, where she ultimately died. Despite facing such trials Mr Bibring never lost his faith in God and is often questioned on where he believed God was during the Holocaust. His reply is that "God in his divinity gave humans free will" and so did not interfere with the horrific events but was always present "operating through organisations such as the Kindertransport" and so eased some people's suffering.

Through the London Jewish Cultural Centre, Mr Bibring travels around many European countries to share his experiences with as many people as possible in order to educate them and also to prevent such terrible events from occurring again. Six million people were killed in the Holocaust for their beliefs and way of life and yet according to Mr Bibring "we have not learnt from this" as there is still discrimination and prejudice all over the world. That is why hearing his story was so important, and some might even describe it as "incredible".  
Claire Hogarth



The Nazi's did not allow the children of "Kindertransport" to have passports as they believed that Jews were not full German citizens, so this was Mr Bibring's travel visa.



Mr Bibring with reporter Claire Hogarth

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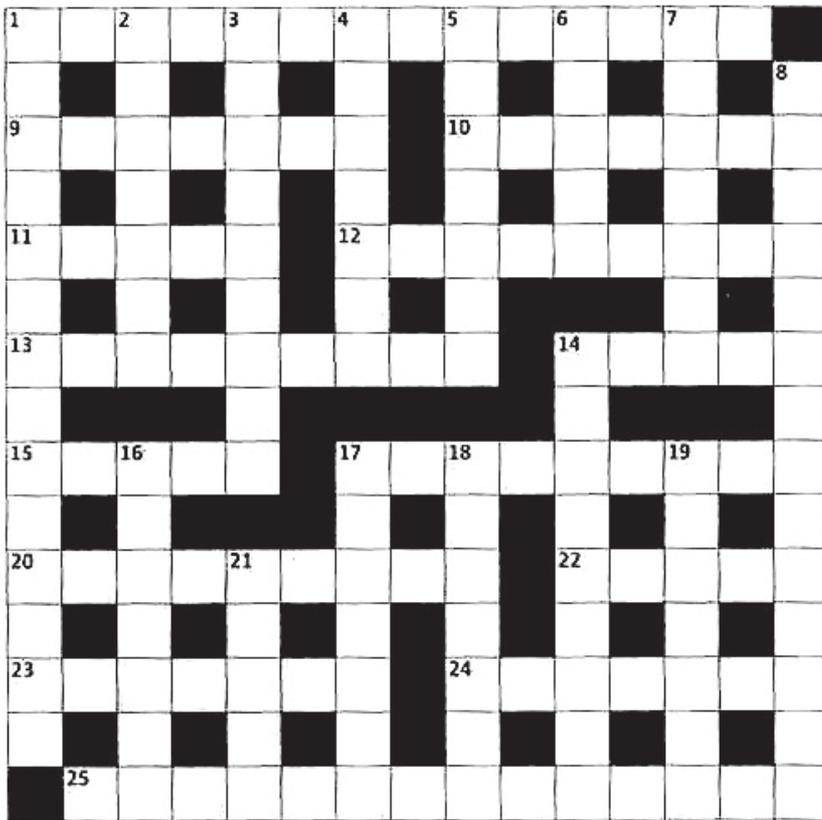
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# CROSSWORD 48



- ACROSS**
- Not on your life -----(4,2,4,4)
  - covers with curtains (7,2,5)
  - African capital (5)
  - Typo (1,8,5)
  - More than just some (5,1,3)
  - Popsy from Connecticut i.e. the US (5)
  - See 12
  - Ermine with TNT perform the final act (9)
  - Seductive 14 across? (9)
  - Top grade (5)
  - Liar not being tested (2,5)
  - Bleeds (7)
  - Not exactly a one-liner (6,3,5)
- DOWN**
- Moot (4,2,8)
  - Title of Turkish male (7)
  - Remind Les to produce faint curl of the lip (4,5)
  - Wool carrier held in Methodist affection (7)
  - Sailor I cultivate makes for brouhaha (1,3,3)
  - Half a German spa town! (5)
  - Is dirt a necessity for record keeper? (7)
  - Novel by F Scott Fitzgerald (3,5,6)
  - Author of Don Quixote (9)
  - Repeat fixture (7)
  - In a perfect world (7)
  - Fix (inf.) (2,3,2)
  - Grass from horse's part of field (7)
  - Hertfordshire market town (5)

## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 47

- ACROSS**
- ephemeral
  - liver
  - femoral
  - rampant
  - cocky
  - tourneyer
  - island of despair
  - north star
  - tacit
  - groupie
  - Dresden
  - Greer
  - Guatemala
- DOWN**
- perfection
  - chemical elements
  - smarmy
  - oral
  - all-rounder
  - see 2
  - aviary
  - fret
  - to outweigh
  - Ruritanian
  - no-hopers
  - Arcadian
  - Rhodes
  - Thebes
  - gaga
  - drab

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 0PB.

## CROSSWORD 47

There were 15 entries in the March competition. The first correct entry in the draw was N Hartley of Foxhills Crescent who will receive the £10 prize. Test your skill and see if 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.

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

## WI NEWS

Samples of L'Oreal Age Re-Perfect Intensive Re-Nourish were handed out to each member at the 12th April Meeting.

Mr W Teasdale from Middlesbrough played 14 snippets of tunes each of which brought back fond and inspiring memories to himself and his audience. He judged the Competition "My Favourite Tune and Why". Jean Foster was first; she wrote "The Best of Andrea Bocelli - Vivere contains much of my favourite music, especially 'Time to say Goodbye' - a duet with Sarah Brightman which I have dedicated to a dear friend, Tommy Caine, recently departed

from this world." Maureen Clarkson was second; she wrote "My favourite music is Big Band sound, loads of brass and mellow saxophones. Ted Heath and Count Basie were the finest in this field. I may be slightly biased as I was married to a trumpet player for over 50 years. Ah, sweet memories of dancing the night away."

The following day 4 members went to the DCFWI AGM at Bishop Auckland where they met many ladies from other Durham WIs. Yorkshire Tea donates tea and tokens to all WIs and is celebrating its 20th anniversary. A representative told us

about the latest tree planting and reminded us to collect the tree tokens. Matthew Clark from the Meningitis Trust explained the work of the charity and the symptoms to look for. This disease annually affects over 1000 adults and kills more children under 5 years than any other illness.

In the afternoon Lesley Smith gave an extraordinary and magnificent portrayal whilst wearing an £8000 costume of 'the Captive Queen', Mary Queen of Scots. Details of her life were accurately described, sometimes with humour. History was brought to life.

## KIDS OF GOD COFFEE MORNING

Luke and Ellie Crowe with Naomi Morton, wash up in the kitchen during the KOGS Coffee Morning, which included a cake stall, bacon sandwiches and Beauty Treatments. Money was being raised for the food at the Harvest visit to Hutton Rugby later this year.



## LADIES WHO LUNCH

Our last outing took us to the newly opened, innovatively decorated Black Horse at Beamish - the female Johnny Depp type pirate figure which stands by the serving hatch is very welcoming. It has cosy intimate corners in the bar area, floor to ceiling windows giving panoramic views all around in the light and airy restaurant, an upstairs room with an outside terrace and for when the weather is warmer, outside tables. The food choices are equally extensive - they have set menus of 2 courses for £9.95 and 3 courses for £12.95, a specials board, plus the

main menu and we sampled EVERYTHING. For starters there was fishcake with chilli sauce and chips, mains were lamb casserole with parmesan mash, haddock with chips, salmon in a prawn butter sauce, steak and ale bombardier pie with 'root and shoot' mash, and beef stroganoff. Puds were tiramisu, sticky toffee pud with custard, a trio of ice creams, and treacle tart with a caramelised topping and clotted cream - a most decadently rich dessert which was absolutely scrumptious - I could become seriously addicted. We were most impressed - loved the ambience, delightful

views, all our meals had been a feast for the eyes plus they had been pretty full when we arrived without a booking and a table was organised for us in no time at all.

On the inside cover of their menus you find quoted 'One of the very nicest things about life is the way we regularly stop whatever it is we are doing and devote our attention to eating' taken from Luciano Pavarotti - 'My Own Story' - we couldn't agree more!

We look forward to visiting again in the summer and dining out on the upper terrace.

**The Gourmet Girls**

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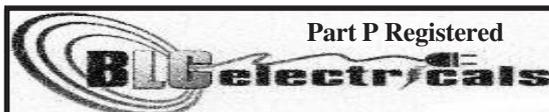
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## ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

## Country Market

The next country market in the Community Centre will be on Saturday 1st May at 10 am. The usual array of cakes, eggs, jam, plants and other delights will be on sale.

## Open House

All are welcome to Open House at the Chapter House on the first Thursday every month except August. A sandwich lunch is served between 11.30 am and 1.00 pm.

## Short Circuit Walks

8th May, 10.30 am, Kibblesworth, 6 miles, a countryside walk with 2 or 3 steep climbs. At Pit Wheel in the centre of Kibblesworth, take the left fork. At the top of that street turn left and park.

22nd May, 10.00 am, West Dipton Valley, 4.5 miles. Park opposite Dipton Mill Inn (NY929609).

## Ramblers' Association, Derwentside Group

9th May, 10.30 am, Bowes, 7 miles. Meet Bowes Village Hall.  
23rd May, 10.30 am, Brignall Banks, 7 miles. Meet Brignall Church.

## Lanchester History Society Irish Engineer and Gentleman, The Family, Life and Times of Alexander McDonnell (1829 - 1904)

Once again we welcome back an old friend, Mr Andrew Everitt, who entertained the Society two years ago with his biography on Sir Vincent Raven.

In the process of working on his biography he came across the fascinating history of Alexander McDonnell, an Irish Civil Engineer who specialised in railway engineering, and who is to be the subject of his talk to be given on Friday 7th May at the usual time of 7.30 pm in the Community Centre Dining Room.

Andrew Everitt lives at Ushaw Moor and has had a very interesting career, culminating with a post of Senior Lecturer in Community Nursing and Mental Health at Newcastle University. One of his many hobbies is, of course, the history of railways, particularly North Eastern railways.

Another interesting presentation in prospect.

## Film Club

The final film of the season will be shown on Sunday May 9th in the Main Hall of the Community Centre at 7.30 pm.

### TRANSSIBERIAN

An award winning film with superb photography, full of drama, suspense and well acted by a starry cast. It tells the story of a train journey from China to Moscow which becomes a thrilling chase of deception and murder when an American couple encounter a mysterious pair of fellow travellers. Take the trip!! All welcome, members £2, non-members £3.50.

## W I

The next meeting is at 7 pm on Monday 10th May in the Small Hall when there will be a vegetarian cookery demonstration. Members are reminded that the full amount of £14 is due for the 30th June Summer Outing. The 7th June meeting will be an Open Meeting with a charge of £1 (as agreed by members) for both members and non-members. There will be a Strawberry Supper and hand-crafted jewellery will be for sale. Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning on 14th April.

# WHAT'S ON?

## Wildlife Group

The meeting on 11th May, 7.30 pm in the Community Centre small hall will be a talk by Rachel Jackson on "Tees Valley Pondscape", Third time lucky!

## Junior Wildlife

The May meeting will be at Malton Picnic site at 10 am on 23rd May. This will be family friendly - please come along.

## 86th Consett Music Festival

This year's Consett Music Festival will be at Consett Community Sports College at Blackfyne on the weekends of 14th-15th May and 21st-22nd May. The first Friday session begins at 6 pm and the second Friday is at 7 pm. On both Saturdays, the sessions start at 9.15 am, 2 pm and 6 pm. The first weekend is for Instrumental Classes and the second is the singing weekend including school choirs. Lanchester Male Voice Choir is hoping to compete on the evening of Friday 21st May and Lanchester EP School Infant and Junior Choirs will also be taking part. Refreshments and afternoon teas are available.

## Learn bridge

Bridge lessons are going well, held in the Community Centre on Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm. If you are interested to learn don't be shy, give it a go, you will be given lots of help and have a laugh or two into the bargain. Contact Jan Vasey on 01207 521948 to arrange your lessons.

## Flower Club

On Wednesday 12th May, there will be a visit to Lintzford Garden Centre (make your own transport arrangements). Gerard Humble will give a demonstration of "Hanging Baskets".

## Mothers' Union

The meeting on 12th May is the musical evening when the Young At Heart Singers will perform, starting off in the Chapter House and then into church for 7.30 pm.

## Event cancelled

The Lanchester's Got Talent event which was due to be held by Lanchester Lions on Saturday 22nd May has been cancelled due to a lack of support.

## Coming Shortly

The Parish Church Summer Fayre will take place on Saturday, June 12th from 9.30 am - 11.30 am. All the usual tempting attractions will be available.

All Saints Summer Fayre will take place at the school on Saturday 26th June from 11.00 am - 1.00 pm.

KOGS are organising 'A Family Disco' to be held at the Social Club on Saturday, 10th July, beginning at 7.00 pm. Tickets will cost £3.00 per person, or £10.00 for a family (two adults plus two children). These are available from Eddie Hughes on 521874.

## Lanchester Community Centre

*Having a meeting, party or function?*

*Your Community Centre is available to hire*

**3 FUNCTION ROOMS AND 3 MEETING ROOMS AVAILABLE TO HIRE**

**STAIRLIFT ACCESS TO ALL 2ND FLOOR ROOMS**

**WE CAN ALSO ARRANGE CATERING AND A LICENSED BAR**

**FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHENS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SELF CATERING**

*For more details contact John Wilson (Community Association Manager)*

**Phone: 01207 521275**

*Become a Friend of Lanchester Community Association*

**SHOP AT LANCHESTER'S ON LINE COMMUNITY SHOP**

**[www.buy.at/lanchestercommunitycentre](http://www.buy.at/lanchestercommunitycentre)**

## CRICKET CLUB TIDY-UP

The village was a hive of activity on Saturday March 27th. On a lovely spring morning the Litterpick was attracting many families to make the village litter free and at the same time the Cricket Club members decided to have their annual tidy up for the new season. Led by chairman, Neil Graham and first team captain, Stuart McPhail, members did some indoor maintenance and decorating, whilst outside one gang were shifting rubble while Neil



*Chairman, Neil Graham, varnishing a seat*

was varnishing seats and Stuart was painting the sight screens. There was a good camaraderie among the players for this essential annual job.

## LANCHESTER LIONS 2010 FA CUP DRAW Opening of Envelopes

At Lanchester Social Club at 9pm on Friday 14th May Lanchester Lions hold a sealed envelope in the name of each of the 92 participants in the draw. Each envelope contains the name of a team in the Premiership, Championship, Division 1 and Division 2 Leagues. Come along on the Friday night to open your envelope and see the name of your team. (If you cannot make it, your collector will open the envelope on your behalf.) On the night the Lions will pay by cheque the following:

Losing teams round 4  
16 x £50 prizes  
Losing teams round 5  
8 x £75 prizes

Losing quarter finalists  
4 x £100 prizes  
Losing semi-finalists 2 x £200 prizes  
We will then know the two teams in the final the next day. After the final we will pay out £1,000 in respect of the winning team and £400 in respect of the losing team.  
After giving out a total of £3,600 in prizes, the Lions will be left with £1,000 to use for their charitable purposes. We hope that those of you who have participated in the draw this year will wish to do so again for next year. We will be taking names on the night.  
Lanchester Lions

## CRICKET SEASON STARTS

Finally the sun has come out and the cricket season is underway. Mind you, it was a close thing, the first week of fixtures have been cancelled and are set to be played later in the year as clubs struggled to get their grounds ready for the season's start. It's an exciting year with all three senior teams starting a division higher than last time. The First team entertain Ashington on 24th April, with the seconds going the other way. The 1st May sees the firsts at Percy Main with the seconds hosting Newcastle City. 8th May both teams face Sacriston with the firsts having home advantage. Stu McPhail continues as first team captain and he has a new overseas pro in Mike Hampson, a 20 year old South African batsman/wicket keeper from Pietermaritzberg. As part

of the deal, Mike will coach the junior players twice a week so if you want to learn the game bring your son or daughter along on a Weds and Fri night. It will cost you a couple of quid but it will be worth it. Starts 6.30 pm. Steve Murray leads the seconds again and Andy McConnell is the new third team captain. The thirds start on 25th April with a home game to Brandon, followed by trips to Shotley Bridge and Felling. Haydn Petch will captain the under 18s who must have a great chance of improving on last year's second place. Lee Murray will captain the under 15s, Greg Patterson the under 13s and David Selby the under 11s. The club will be entering a team in an under 9s competition but we could do with a few new faces so call in at the club and leave your details

for Bob Gardiner or Andy Smith. The harsh winter caused problems for the club financially so to raise some vital funds the club is holding a family fun day on Monday 3rd May between 10 and 12. There are all sorts of cricket fun with a bowling competition, parents v lads game and much more. The day rounds off with a free BBQ, so bring along your kids and join in the fun. Off the field there is a fund raiser night for the British Heart Foundation with singer Steve Mann on Friday 23rd April and it's free to enter so even more reason to come. The club is always available free of charge for parties so please get in touch if we can help. Finally huge thanks to Stanley Taxis who have sponsored the club's shirts this year.

## TENNIS - IT MUST BE SUMMER!

The 2010 season began on 12th April, with the first coaching session at the college courts being very well attended by juniors of all ages. After a break for the bank holiday, the sessions move to the grass courts on Ford Road on Monday 10th May. At time of writing, there are three hour long lessons planned from 5.30 pm, but due to increased numbers so far attending, this may

change. Provisional times are as follows:  
5.30 - 6.30 pm 5 to 9 year olds  
6.30 - 7.30 pm 10 to 16 year olds  
7.30 - 8.30 pm 17 to Adult  
The final hour will include "Returning Rackets" for those people who may not have played for some time and would like an easy re-introduction to the game. Costs for all sessions are £2.00 for members and £4.00 for

non-members and equipment is available. Another theme that coach Michael Hume would like to run is "Cardio Tennis", which is a way of keeping fit, with exercises built around the game of tennis. Watch this space! The official grass court season at Ford Road begins on Saturday 1st May. Please contact Dennis Laycock on 01207 520278 for full details.

## CYCLISTS LURED BY NORTH PENNINES CHALLENGE

Forty four intrepid cyclists had the benefit of a fine frosty morning when they pedalled up Newbiggen Lane from the Community Centre on Sunday, 21st March. Their task was to complete a gruelling 100 kilometre "Grimpeur" ride, over some of the hilliest terrain in NE England, in

under 8 hours. The annual event organised by Houghton Cycling Club, is the third of its kind, but years one and two were blighted by rain and gales. This year was third time lucky. Each rider was issued with a route card which has to be stamped en route at four

well spaced control points, and returned at the finish as proof that the whole course has been completed. The route is quite demanding and involves over 1800 metres of climbing, taking in: Rowley; Muggleswick; Edmundbyers; Blanchland;

Hunstanworth; Rookhope; Allenheads; Nenthead; Killhope Law; Upper Weardale; Crawleyside; then back to Lanchester for a well earned tea in the Community Centre. Ages ranged from 14 to 74 and all but one completed the course. A cyclist fell at Edmundbyers cattle grid

but continued undeterred, even cycling from Lanchester to East Boldon after the event! Thanks to the efforts of Dave Cummins, Joe Applegarth and Mike McGeever of Houghton Cycling Club, the event was a great success and will be repeated next year.

## CYCLISTS LURED BY NORTH PENNINES CHALLENGE



*Fred Hepple of Lanchester in red at Bay Bridge near Blanchland, part of the gruelling "Grimpeur" ride. Full story, page 23.*

## ALL GO FOR BOWLS

It has been a race against time to get the bowls members, in particular Ken Raper and Joe Newton and season after the roof collapsed under the weight of this winter's snow. All being well it should be up and running for the first match on 5th May. Thanks go to members, in particular Ken Raper and Joe Newton and builders, J Lillie & Sons, for their hard work in making this happen. The green will be open from 28th April for practice. New members welcome.



*Working on the roof of the pavilion*

## CRICKET CLUB TIDY-UP



*First Team Captain, Stuart McPhail, painting a sight screen*



*The first Cricket Club practice in the new nets on a very cold Easter Sunday afternoon.*

More cricket news, page 23.

## LANCHESTER BOWLER DEFENDS TITLE

Malcolm Rose, a member of Lanchester Bowling Club, has become four woods champion at Consett Men's Indoor Bowling Club for the second year in succession. Well done Malcolm.

## FUN ON NEW PIRATE SHIP



*The new Pirate Ship arrived in the yard at All Saints R C Primary during the Easter holidays. The children are seen here really enjoying the ship provided through fundraising by the PTA.*

## NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by 18th May. The deadline for adverts is 16th May.

Published by Lanchester Publications Ltd, 49 Lintzford Road, Rowlands Gill, NE39 1HG and printed by InPrint, Unit 2C, Hownsgill Park, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7NU.

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