

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 12 Volume 11

Lanchester, December 2010

For contact information, see page 2



A MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR
READERS



SNOW BRINGS CHAOS TO LANCHESTER



Jammed! Difficult conditions and abandoned cars coupled with deliveries caused some considerable chaos in the centre of the village.

Good neighbours Michael Carr, Ray Mosley and Tom Stephens clear snow in Burnside



Mike Stoddart with his sledge full of papers

Mike Stoddart, Distribution Manager for The Village Voice, transported papers to many of our deliverers (30) on foot pulling a sledge as he could not use his car. We print 2,700 copies so it is a huge distribution task. Thanks are due to those deliverers who walked to Mike's house to collect their Village Voices, thus easing Mike's task considerably.

STORY>>P4

CHRISTMAS SWITCHING ON LIGHTS CEREMONY



Lanchester Brass Band played carols at the switch-on of the Christmas lights on the Village Green



Sue Charlton (centre) with children from the Primary Schools switch on the Christmas lights on the Green while Cllr Johnson looks on.

On 27th November there was a thick covering of snow on the Village Green for the switch-on ceremony for the lights.

STORY>>P5





Dear Village....

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

Dear Sir,
Disabled Access in the Village

Are the public buildings and shops in the village reasonably accessible to people with disabilities? Do you think some simple improvements might be possible?

The Lanchester Partnership has been asked to look into these questions, but we will only do so if a substantial number of you, the village residents, want us to. Please ring or email me to say whether you think it would be a good idea.

Yours,
Mike Gladstone

Tel: 528 114

Mike.Gladstone@dsl.pipex.com

Dear Village Voice

On Thursday 2nd of December around 6 am my son in law was digging out my daughter's car, which had been parked in Broadoak Drive.

He then proceeded to take her car towards Newbiggen Lane to ensure she drove away safely. On returning to his vehicle, he discovered the spade he had been using had vanished.

One can only assume that someone must have borrowed it in order to dig out their own car. He would appreciate a speedy reunification with the said item as it is needed in order to ensure that my daughter, (who is a nurse at the RVI) can get to work on time each day.

If you have the spade perhaps you could kindly phone me on 07889 037102 in order to arrange collection.

Many Thanks
Ian Tute

Dear Village Voice

A service of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial, Burnhope, on 14th November. Mrs Doreen Park read the Bible reading and Mr Stan Collins the prayers.

After the outside service, a short service was taken by Mr David Wilson in the Methodist Church.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the services.

Sadly a big village, but poor attendance. A collection of £51.12 was taken for the Royal British Legion.

Many thanks
Stan Collins, Langley Avenue, Burnhope

Dear Village Voice

I am a home care worker in Lanchester and I felt I just had to write to thank two gentlemen from Valley Grove, Ken Graham and Bob Burton, who cleared snow away on several occasions so that I could reach a lady who lives in Valley Grove.

I would also like to thank the staff in Spar and Peters who were able to provide a regular order service for bread and other basics for some of my clients.

Yours sincerely
Brenda Jefferson
Deneside, Lanchester

ALCOHOL AWARENESS FILM

A group of teenagers in County Durham have produced a short film to raise awareness of alcohol related harm to young women. **TEENWATCH**, based on a well known wildlife programme, has been made by The Hoody Project and was created entirely by young people for young people. The film, or infomercial, which aims to reach as many teenage girls as possible during the Christmas period and beyond can be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUQte-72b40>

The Hoody Project's young film crew were responsible for all creative aspects, both in front of and behind the camera with no input from professional filmmakers. Using humour and "fly on the wall" drama, three fictitious presenters provide a commentary on the behaviour of two groups of teenage girls getting drunk over the weekend, so that factual information is delivered in a practical yet entertaining way.

Dear Village Voice

I would like to thank family and friends for making Mam's day (Betty Calland) a very special day. Mam's day started with a call from granddaughter Zoe in Australia, it was very emotional. Mam hasn't seen Zoe for two years. Then the arrival of my brother (George) and my son Barnaby and partner Kay. There was a steady flow of party revellers and a good time was had by all. Air Ambulance and Society for the Blind were Mam's chosen charities and donations for these reached a grand total of £200. A big thank you to you all. Ann Rowe (See article opposite)

From December until February 2011 a competition will be run for young people who visit the 4Real website <http://www.4realcountydurham.co.uk> to win one of a limited number of flip-camcorders used in the making of the film.

For more information about The Hoody Project, contact Jane Williamson, Tel: 07549219329 or 01207 502989 or email thehoodyproject@gmail.com

COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for November 2010 is 63. The draw was made by Mrs J Burns of the Gym.

Merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy 2011
to everyone
from members of
Lanchester Lions Club

To contact the Village Voice
By email:
lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line).
By post:
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LESOTHO LINK CHARITY NOMINATED FOR AWARD

Edith Pierce, who is aged 94 and who took up the Great North Bus Challenge for the Durham Lesotho Link, as we reported in our May issue, was nominated for an award as she reached more than 20 points travelling around the north east using her bus pass.

In recognition of her success the charity received a commendation in the Alexander Dennis Innovation Category, of the UK Bus Awards 2010, held at the Hilton Hotel, London, on Tuesday the 16th of November.

Edith had a great time travelling down to London that day by train and enjoyed the ceremony, and the

speeches, the different award categories, but probably most of all a superb lunch at the Hilton Hotel. She met up with Alex Nelson from Durham who organised her visit, along with Rob and Margaret Bianchi, Link Executive Officers from the Durham Lesotho Link. The only blip on the day was that whoever organised the literature omitted Edith's details from the programme. It didn't really matter. She was nominated - that in itself was a fine achievement. Edith, a truly very remarkable person, made it a really busy full day by returning to Durham on the train the same evening.

BETTY CELEBRATES 90th

The big day was Saturday 20th November. Relatives and friends were invited to a 'drop in' at Betty Calland's house where a superb buffet was ready for them. Born in Annfield Plain, Betty has lived in Lanchester for 50 years. She did spend part of her early working years as a Nanny in London and on her return to this area began her long nursing career, and met her husband Fred. Sadly he died 5 years ago after 58

happy years of marriage Betty has a son, George, now living in Scunthorpe, who has three children, a son and two daughters. Betty's daughter, Ann, who lives locally, has one son and a daughter. One of Betty's grandson's lives in Germany and there is a granddaughter in Australia. Betty also has one great great granddaughter who lives in Scunthorpe!

Betty is a popular, lively lady who attends the

Methodist Church and belongs to the Fellowship. Two of her favourite pastimes are flower arranging and making cards. She enjoys travelling about by bus to Consett, Durham and Newcastle. Some years ago Betty enjoyed flower arranging at Durham Cathedral.

At her birthday celebration, Betty raised £200 for charity. One hundred pounds will be donated to the Great North Air Ambulance, and the other £100 to the Blind Association at Sunderland - a charity very dear to her heart.

(See letter opposite)



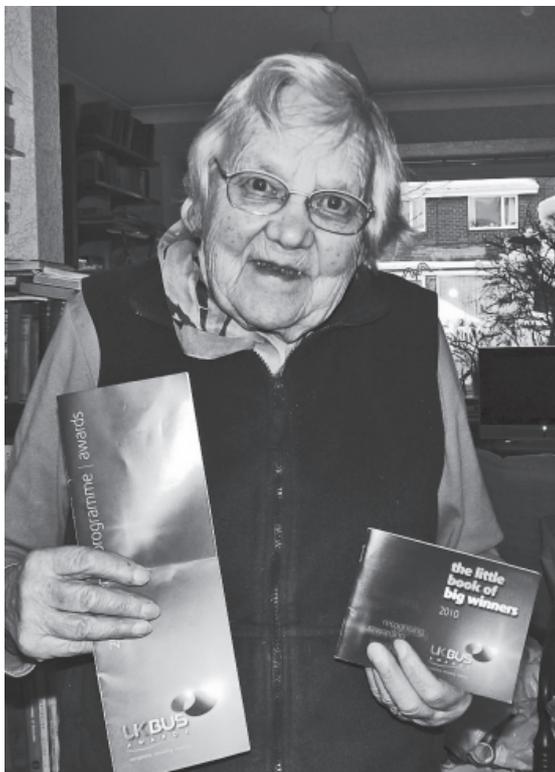
Betty cuts her birthday cake with George, her son, and Ann her daughter alongside.

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Edith, photographed with the literature provided at the National Bus Awards Ceremony in London, which she attended as a nominee for an award as she reached more than 20 points travelling around the north east using her bus pass.

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SNOW BRINGS CHAOS

More than a full week of heavy snow, thunder, lightning and hailstones with temperatures as low as -15 degrees has caused chaos in the village.

The first sign of snow was on Wednesday, 24th November, and at the time of writing there is still little improvement in road conditions, especially on hills up to the estates and on the housing estates themselves. Cars have been abandoned all over the village by those who need to get to work or simply cannot get them back to their homes. Life has become a constant dig for many people which has been a bit like painting the Forth Bridge - never ending. The main road from Consett to Durham has also been particularly difficult at times. Buses have been intermittent, withdrawn early and certainly were off the road for two full days. On the positive side the community spirit in the village has shown through on so many occasions. People have got together to push vehicles and clear



Council workers clearing the snow on Front Street

pathways and roads. Many younger people have helped the elderly with shopping and made sure that they were warm and secure. In the village the schools have been closed for most of the period and even the banks have not always been able to get sufficient staff in to open every day. Shops have remained open and have really done their best for customers despite depleted stocks and some panic buying. Fred, the Link Bus driver has as usual been kind, helpful and busy, travelling wherever the roads have allowed him to drive with a measure of safety. Many events due to be held at schools and other venues have been either postponed or cancelled. Some of those which would normally be

reported in this issue were a talk by Dr David Wilkinson, at the Methodist Church, Christmas Open House at the Parish Church, Fairs at the EP and All Saints Primary Schools, as well as several other school events. For the first time ever the Lions Senior Citizens Party has had to be cancelled for safety reasons which was very disappointing but essential. Durham CC workers have done a good job in clearing pathways in Front Street but there has been little action by the council on the estates or on roads leading to them. The Postmen, minus their trolleys, have been excellent in getting out the mail in these atrocious conditions, as has Roy Sunley from Lanchester Pharmacy, who has delivered essential medicines and equipment on foot to those who need them. Praise too for those hardy volunteers who deliver the Village Voice and those who collected them from our Distribution Manager who was not able to use his car to carry the 2700 copies for distribution. Whilst most people are now fed up with the situation the children have certainly had fun sledging on Paste Egg Bank and any other slope they can find. Sixth Form students at St Bede's have had some enjoyment but have been concerned about forthcoming examinations. However, many have been sent homework by email from their school to keep them busy and up to date. Life can only get easier or can it? After all we are at the beginning of the winter.



The snow seen through the Church gates



Residents of Foxhills and other estates were grateful for the snowploughs that turned up towards the weekend to clear the roads.

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON CEREMONY

Who would have thought that it would have been such a truly Christmas scene, when on 27th November there was a thick covering of snow on the Village Green when the annual ceremony took place? But there the snow was, adding to the feeling that Christmas will soon be here. Lanchester Brass Band played carols and there was a good crowd, in spite of the weather, who with Parish Council Chair Ossie Johnson did the usual countdown to the moment when the lights were switched on

and the Christmas tree and trees on the Green were lit up. This year the switching on was performed by our newly-appointed Development Officer, Sue Charlton, assisted by five children from the EP and RC schools, Sam Grimes, Laura Gerry, Lara Whitton, Adam Butler and Meghan Williams-Hall.

Councillors and guests then went to the Chapter House where Cllr Johnson presented the children with selection boxes and thanked them and Ms Charlton. He also

warmly thanked the guests, farmers, councillors, Lanchester Partnership and other advisors who had worked so hard to produce the Locality Map, launched in May, and to procure the grant to employ Ms Charlton. In addition, thanks were given to the Church ladies who had provided the magnificent spread.

It is lovely to see the trees and Christmas tree on the Green when illuminated at Christmas, bringing cheer and welcome to residents, visitors and passers-by until the New Year.



Cllr Johnson presenting four of the children with their selection box.

TRADITION CARRIED ON FROM FATHER TO SON

For over 35 years Hal Brown (H & J Brown Wholesale Fruit and Potato Merchants) has donated all the vegetables for Lanchester Lions Senior Citizens' Party. Now Hal has retired, the tradition is being carried on by his son Jonathan. The Lions would like to give a great big THANK YOU to Hal for his years of support and Jonathan for his continued support. The Lions have held a Senior Citizens' party for over 40 years and it was with regret it was necessary for them to cancel this year's party due to such extreme weather conditions.



Lion President Martin thanking Jonathan Brown watched by his father Hal.

Lanchester Lions regret the unprecedented cancellation of the Senior Citizens Lunch on Saturday 4th December, but the weather conditions made it impossible for the Lions to provide transport from Burnhope or Langley Park, never mind the village. And the Lions felt the conditions

of the pavements meant it would not be safe for those who normally walk to the Community Centre to do so. We hope that next year the weather will be better. The Lions are already planning for Saturday 10th December 2011. Lion President Martin Durkin

Talking
Heads



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BROTHER AND SISTER MARRY!

Andrew and Caroline Kilburn who grew up in Lanchester and went to All Saints RC School and St Bede's were both married this year.

Caroline was married on 23rd July to Mark Butterfield of Shotley Bridge at Minsteracres Monastery. Caroline's bridesmaids were Thalia Mitchell from London and Lindsey Robinson, Louisa Olivere and Emma Stephenson all from Lanchester. To the delight of the bride and guests Emma sang Eva Cassidy's 'Songbird' during the signing of the register. After the service the guests had a champagne reception on the Monastery lawns. The bride and groom then

went to Slaley Hall in a horse and carriage, where their guests had Pimms on the hotel terrace while the photographs were taken. The wedding breakfast followed and celebrations continued into the small hours. For their honeymoon the bride and groom went on a Mediterranean cruise. Andrew was married on 20th November to Abby Sayers of Billingham at Hardwick Hall Hotel.

The groom arrived in the "A Team Van" with his two best men (James Quigley and Michael Hoban) both of Lanchester. After the ceremony the wedding reception was held at the hotel where festivities with family and friends

continued into the night. The bride and groom honeymooned in Paris travelling there 1st Class on the Euro Star.

Guests travelled from as far afield as Australia, Spain and Devon to attend the weddings.

Andrew and Caroline are the son and daughter of Sheila and Kel Kilburn who lived in Lanchester for 26 years before moving to Shotley Bridge 4 years ago.

Lots of family friends from Lanchester, who have known Andrew and Caroline since they were children, attended the weddings including Tom and Margaret Stone who now live in Spain and who travelled over on both occasions.



Caroline and Mark



Abby and Andrew



Sheila and the "Ladies of Lanchester" at Abby and Andrew's wedding (left to right - Sue Somersall, Ann Stephenson, Margaret Ballard, Judith Wilkinson, Mary Slane, Sheila, Phyllis Reed, Glenys Gibbon and Joan Osborne)

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE ...

Parliament is getting ready for Christmas so in between work, the staff of the House are putting up the Christmas trees, the decorations and preparing for the carol services. There is a huge Christmas tree in New Palace Yard which can be seen from outside and a lovely one in Westminster Hall, the oldest part of Parliament which dates from before 1066. There will be several carol services with well known leading choirs and lots of religious services including those held in the famous and very beautiful Westminster Hall crypt. Like everywhere else people are busy organising a secret Santa or a bran tub.

I had my first Westminster Hall debate this month. Draws are held weekly for debates. My debate was on Breast Cancer in Young Women. I am campaigning to bring down the age of routine breast screening from 50 to 35 because despite great strides in defeating this disease breast cancer is still one of the biggest killers in this country, 125 women will be diagnosed every day and many of these will be young women under 50. If anyone would like to join with me in this campaign please contact me on the details below.

There have been many important debates on the floor of the chamber this month but two stick out for

me in the calendar - school sports partnerships and tuition fees (later this week). No one who spoke, on either side of the House, felt that school sports partnerships are a bad thing. Everyone said that they were the best thing that ever happened to school sport; all schools now have up to nineteen sports to choose from including dance, aerobics, table tennis, trampolining, on top of the usual football, rugby and hockey, and in the future children will be healthier as a result. I am really pleased that No. 10 has now 'called this one

in' from the Department for Education as a result of that debate.

The tuition fees vote is going to be hugely important. I disagreed with the previous Labour government on the introduction of top up fees and campaigned against the move. In order for the Coalition government to be defeated it is vital that Lib Dem MPs vote is against, abstaining will not be enough. MPs are put in Parliament to make decisions and that is exactly what they should do at all times.

The snow has been incredibly difficult for everyone, myself included. As I look out of my window I can see three foot of snow and my husband and I have spent a great deal of time trying to dig out our drive.

Anyway, as this is my last 'message from the House' before Christmas I want to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and ask you all to look out for your elderly neighbours in this very difficult weather.

Pat Glass MP
Tel: 01207 501782, e-mail pat.glass.mp@parliament.uk

WRIGGLY NATIVITY



Nativity scene from Wriggly Nativity at the EP School

It was quite amazing that this wonderfully themed Wriggly Nativity ever took place, with school closures and enforced staff changes. Nevertheless, it went ahead with 65 children from the Nursery and Reception taking part in the afternoon performance, in front of an absolutely packed hall of parents, grandparents and childminders all clicking away with cameras and camcorders.

It was impossible to pick out groups or individuals as special. They were all special. Their smiling faces, their happy and very tuneful singing and enthusiastic animation

made it a super beginning for Christmas, for the children, and those who were watching. The costumes were magnificent, with the addition of black and white cows and red and yellow chickens to the usual sheep and donkeys. The Narrators from the Nursery did very well for what must be a daunting task. The Angels and Stars looked beautiful, the Inn keepers and Kings looked very appropriate, while the principals remained very patient throughout and certainly looked the part. All the wriggling was good too, and enjoyed by the whole cast!



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CENTURIONS AWARDS EVENING

It was a night of snow and blizzards as people travelled to the Awards Evening at the New Board Inn, Esh, on Wednesday 24th November. This may have kept the numbers down but did nothing to detract from the atmosphere. The Centurions are one of the best organisations in the area for raising

money for charities. On the night, first to receive a cheque was Robert Colgrave, representing the Great North Air Ambulance. He received a cheque for £1000 from Centurions Chairman, Roy Bennington. In his acceptance speech Robert explained that the organisation now owned two helicopters but they always needed funds to keep them flying.

A relatively new charity to receive money was Heel & Toe. This is a charity which supports children with cerebral palsy and dyspraxia. Jane Long and Michelle Wallis received a cheque for £500. The latter explained that the charity was founded 2 years ago and is based in Spennymoor. They began with 4 young children and now cater for 50 children of varying



All recipients of cheques and Centurion Club members join together for a photograph. All those who received cheques from Centurions Chairman Roy Bennington were Michelle Wallis, Jane Long, Zee, Trevor Atkinson and Robert Colgrave. The cheques are proudly held aloft for the photograph.

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ages. The charity provides Conductive Education. They now need to expand their premises and replace their Sensory Tent with providing a permanent

Sensory Room. They do not receive any government funding. Trevor Atkinson along with Zee, raised money for 7 to 7 McMillan Cancer Support by riding motorbikes with six other biker friends around Europe. Going over via the Eurotunnel, they rode to Paris, then passed through several countries including Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, finally reaching Prague. One rider had to give up en route due to a breakdown and other riders suffered from soreness and sunburn. Their journey took about a week, visiting

the Nuremberg Ring, Germany, on the way back. The round trip was 3200 miles! Trevor and Zee gratefully received a cheque for £100 from Roy Bennington. Very bad weather conditions prevented Jill Swift from being at the function. She represents the charity, 'Integrated Children', and a cheque for £500 will be presented at a later date. In addition to the above, the Centurions intend to present the Tree Tops Children's Ward at University Hospital Durham with £500 worth of electrical goods which will include television sets and X Box controls.

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MOSS ALERT!

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SAFER OFF THE STREETS - URGENT APPEAL

Thanks to welcome funding from Durham County Council, the national homelessness charity Depaul UK is extending its Nightstop service in Durham, and is making an urgent appeal for new volunteer hosts who can offer a vulnerable, homeless person a bed on a night-by-night basis. Those who volunteer will be

helping people like David. David found himself homeless aged 16. He spent a long time staying between friends' houses and various hostels. He didn't settle in any of these as he didn't feel safe and got into some financial difficulties resulting in him having to leave. Then on the streets, he travelled to London

where he sold 'The Big Issue' and again stayed in some hostels. He couldn't settle there either and returned to the North East where he found himself sleeping rough.

A chance meeting with a friend, who mentioned Nightstop, resulted in David contacting the project to ask for help. David stayed with several Nightstop hosts over a couple of weeks and as a result has now secured a room in one of Depaul UK's supported housing projects where he receives support from a key worker who will help him to move on to independent accommodation.

David says 'Nightstop Durham were great, they helped me out when I really needed it. The hosts were all lovely and

welcoming and through them being so good I have gone from my life being in pieces to having a roof over my head and I am now working. Thanks for everything.'

For many people the transition to independent

living can be challenging, while for some it can also be frightening and potentially dangerous. To find out how to help them, contact Jackie.Hall@depauluk.org or 07850515204.



David who found 'Nightspot Durham welcoming and helpful when he was in need.

Gardening in January

In January the regular visits of blue tit, great tit, coal tit, will come to your bird table and feeders if they are regularly well stocked. Additionally you may get a flock of redwing and fieldfare for winter berries or fruit on your lawn. Of course robin, thrush and blackbirds are year-round visitors who welcome additional 'TLC' when days are short and it's cold. Such TLC comes from: (a) providing food of seed, buds, berries, fruit and nuts as well as insects; (b) creating a water supply with a clean birdbath or pond; (c) helping with nests by hanging up materials that they might use like fur, fluff, bits of wool and moss (the fluffy outsides of my hanging basket' liners are decimated at this time of the year), (d) giving them the shelter where they can hide like evergreen ivy and holly in hedges; and (e) providing an area of short grass where they can dig for the worms and grubs that live below the

surface. Such care in winter can provide benefits throughout the year.

Borders
Pick a bright, dry day for working on your borders. You can collect seeds, tidy your borders and protect any tender plants. January is the month to carry out pruning on overgrown shrubs and hedging. Shrubs that can be cut back hard now include buddlia, dogwoods and willows which will help the new spring growth. You also need to continue your weeding regime and spreading a layer of compost over bare earth and around the bases of established plants.

Vegetables
January is a planning time in your vegetable plot. You need to order seeds finish your digging and manuring and inspect any stored crops. You can also plant new rhubarb or force established ones and plant shallots.

Bulbs and Indoor Plants

You need to check on any tubers (dahlia and begonia) that you are overwintering to ensure that they are not rotting. They should feel firm, not soft. Continue your watering regime for your indoor pot plants and remember that some plants like poinsettia, amaryllis and Christmas cacti can be killed with too much water. You need to water once a week and let them almost dry out before giving them more. However, houseplant azaleas like to be in permanently moist compost. Cyclamen need a regime between these two extremes - they will wilt if they dry out completely so keep them damp but not waterlogged.

General Tasks

Keep on picking up leaves and give your paths, patios and steps a sweep so that they do not become slippery. Avoid walking on your lawn when it's either very wet or frosty and get your petrol mower serviced.



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MID DURHAM AAP PRIORITIES

Over 600 mid Durham residents provided feedback to their local Area Action Partnership (AAP) to help choose the priorities for the coming year. The top ten priorities were ranked at a Public Forum event held recently

at Ushaw College, with the following results:

1. Children and young people
2. Traffic, highways and road safety
3. Older people
4. Crime and community safety

5. The environment
6. Employment and job prospects
7. Health and wellbeing
8. Public transport
9. Affordable, decent housing
10. Community aspirations.



This photo encompasses the two main priorities that came forward for 2011/12 AAP priorities: children and traffic. It shows pupils from St Bede's School and Sixth Form College carrying out a speedwatch survey of vehicles entering Lanchester.



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ALL PATHS LEAD TO BROOMPARK

Over the Christmas period and into the early part of 2011 various communities throughout mid Durham will be engaged in the development of a master plan to improve parts of the 3 railway paths that cut through their area. The Mid Durham AAP and Durham County Council's Countryside Service have commissioned the development of this master plan, which aims to work closely with local community groups,

schools and parish councils to develop focal points linked to their respective villages and get groups to take more of an ownership of the paths. Those interested and involved will be asked to work closely with consultants d3 associates and southern green to develop ideas and designs to give their part of the path a localised slant, be it related to play, recreation, education, health, art, culture or heritage.

The master plan will be developed over Christmas and up until March 2011 and involve the following villages; Rowley, Lanchester, Langley Park, Waterhouses, Esh Winning, Ushaw Moor, New Brancepeth, Brancepeth, Brandon, Meadowfield and Langley Moor. Those who are interested in getting involved in this initiative should contact d3 associates on 01434 610434.



Cyclists enjoying a ride on the one of the railway paths that cut through our area.

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WILLOW BURN CHRISTMAS FAIR

On November 20th, Willow Burn Hospice held its Christmas Fair in St Bede's School, and as always, the crowds came along to support this popular local organisation.

Visitors gathered early, browsing around numerous stalls selling books, greeting cards, toiletries, jewellery and perfumes, plus a mouth watering selection of home made jams, chutneys, cakes and pies. A 'Jamie Oliver at Home' outlet attracted keen cooks, and a Bioflow stall offered information about magnotherapy techniques for people and their pets. After a hard session of retail therapy, there was a welcome opportunity for rest and refreshments served in the school hall.

Lanchester Art Group was represented by Harry Turnbull and Barbara Anderson, displaying attractive prints and original paintings produced by members, and 'The Biggest Tombola in the World' did a roaring trade, with a massive amount of prizes donated by the supporters of Willow Burn.

In the summer, Willow Burn launched a range of merchandise and the extended selection of well priced goods was on sale at the Fair. There really is something for everyone - gardening and household gifts, fashionable 'hoodies' and beautiful jewellery - excellent ideas for Christmas presents. Merchandise can be seen and bought online, at



Claire, Laura and Margaret Toberty, all part of the fund raising team at Willow Burn.



Harry Turnbull, representing Lanchester Art Group at the Christmas Fair.

www.willow-burn.co.uk, and gifts can be delivered or collected.

Margaret Toberty, who heads Willow Burn's fund raising team, paid tribute to the large number of helpers and volunteers who support the Hospice in so many ways. Willow Burn will always give a warm welcome to anyone who could offer their time and skills.

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PAM'S PARTY



A gracious lady thanking the Theatre Group for their gift

Fun, Food and Fellowship could be found in abundance on Monday, November 25th in the Community Centre. It was the evening to which the Theatre Group look forward every year and it is organised by Pam Bygate. It is welcomed by the Theatre Group as a chance to show Pam how much the work she does for the group is appreciated. Liz Smith, second in command, made the presentation of vouchers to this lovely lady, who insists that she needs no thanks because it is a pleasure to organise the theatre outings. However the group insist

that they do thank her, because once a month, a full coach of people have a lovely evening at the 'Little Theatre' in Gateshead (near Saltwell Park). We have seen a wide variety of plays written by many different authors and they are always very well rehearsed and performed. (How do they learn all those lines?)

The party and buffet supper were excellent and the games were great fun. Remember that Mars Bar game when you have to dress up in hat, scarf and gloves before cutting the Mars Bar? You can only dress up if you throw a six with the dice. The game is very good fun and there was a lot of merriment. On a more serious note, requiring concentration, was a cleverly devised quiz about film and theatre!

Thank you Pam for your kindness and for everything you do for us, not least for organising the party, which we all enjoyed so much!

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ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Mrs Gill Stringer, the headmistress of Villa Real School in Consett, opened the Autumn Fair of All Saints Parish Church on Saturday November 27th. She expressed her thanks for the excellent support which the church gives her school. You will remember from previous copies of the Village Voice that a number of staff from that school spent two weeks last July in India helping to build classrooms for Deepti School which is being set up for children with cerebral palsy. Cath and Steve Bailey from Lanchester were part of that team. Mrs Stringer wished the church well in their

fundraising, and encouraged people to be generous in their spending. She then declared the Fair open and Edith Pierce our oldest church member (94 years young!) presented a basket of flowers to Mrs Stringer. Stall holders were kept busy for two hours and there was a wide variety of goods to choose from and to suit all tastes. Delighted shoppers went into the small hall for a cup of tea or coffee and some eats. Then we became aware of a group of 'Victorian' ladies and gentlemen entering the Community Centre Hall. Their Choirmaster David Hughes, looking every inch the handsome Victorian Gentleman, directed the best performance of well known carols from his Operatic Society and it made a splendid closure to the morning. Isn't Lanchester



Edith, Gill Stringer, Sheila and Peter Waterhouse



Hampers of goodies to raffle!

a lovely place to live! Mrs Stringer's invitation to spend really bore fruit as £2,300 was raised. Thank you to all those who in any way contributed to this splendid total. Brenda Craddock

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ANNUAL VISIT TO 'KNIT AND STITCH EXHIBITION' HARROGATE

This took place on Thursday 25th November. It has never snowed in all the years we have been going to Harrogate, but snow is no deterrent to determined Lanchester Ladies. It took longer to get there but it was well worth it. The exhibition takes place in the huge Conference Centre in Harrogate. The needlework

items on show were exquisite as were the samples of knitted goods and other hand-made items. The talent and creativity which surrounded us everywhere we looked, was awe inspiring and of great encouragement to those of us not so handy with a needle (that's me). Everything a needle-person or knitter could ever

want to purchase was there and there were crowds to take advantage of these great resources. Thanks are due to Elaine Williams, a very talented lady herself, who organises this outing. Everyone always enjoys it and we are looking forward already to next year - without the snow we hope.

Brenda Craddock

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Joan and Brenda setting off from Briardene for the bus

KOGS CHRISTMAS FAIR

Heavy snow and extreme cold did not detract from good numbers turning out for the KOGS Christmas Fair on Saturday 27th November at the Methodist Church. As usual everyone was made welcome with tea/coffee and refreshments during the morning with the opportunity to have a lovely lunch of soup,

quiche, and sausage sandwiches later. There were various stalls including, cakes, cards, toys, games and gifts made by children. There were many items for Christmas shoppers to choose from. Santa Claus made his first appearance in Lanchester this year enjoying the company of a demure looking elf as a helper, and

lots of happy children to chat to. The grotto looked very attractive with a splendid red theme. The highlight of the day was the Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society, attired in Victorian costume, who gave a wonderful rendition of carols and seasonal songs. An excellent total of £515 was raised at the event.



Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society looked fabulous in their Victorian garb and sang splendidly.



One of several Christmas Stalls with plenty of stock to choose from.



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ROMANS IN LANCHESTER

On a cold autumn evening, Rodney Hawkins took a fascinated audience in Lanchester Library back to a time when this area formed part of the Roman Empire. Mr Hawkins, Chairman of the Friends of Longovicium, described the construction of this local fort, and talked about recent discoveries made there.

The fort was planned in the shape of a playing card with rounded edges, the typical pattern for forts across the Empire. A gateway was located in each wall, and interior buildings would include military headquarters, granaries, barracks, stables, and a bath

house for the troops. Outside the fort, a civilian settlement, a 'vicus' provided the support services required by any military site.

There have been major advances in archaeology recently, and the Friends of Longovicium, working with Durham University, have made exciting discoveries about the fort and its vicus. During geophysical surveys, the remains of at least 50 houses, sturdy and well built, have been identified. Some of these were of two storeys, with a shop at the front and a workshop and living

area behind. A cobbler's shop has been located, complete with nails and boot studs, and fast food outlets and wine bars provided comfort to troops in what would have been a cold and windswept posting.

It appears that much of the Roman construction was still visible in the 1800's, but the fort provided a good source of stone for local farmers and people building houses in the village, and little remains today. Mr Hawkins told of the research going on to track down and catalogue stonework and artefacts from Longovicium - a real life detective story!



Rodney Hawkins shows a plan of Longovicium fort

SATLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Rodney Hawkins of the Friends of Longovicium also gave an evening talk at Satley to about fifteen members of the Satley Local History Society. Normally there would have been a greater attendance and Rodney thanked the members present for turning up on such a bad night. Introduced by Mr John Gall, Rodney spoke about

the work of the friends of Longovicium, explaining the results of their geophysical surveys of the vicus or civilian settlement surrounding the Roman fort at Lanchester. Rodney explained that the results of the surveys were being used to produce a booklet describing the settlement. Moving on

to Roman artefacts found in the area, Rodney asked the Society members that if they had anything, or knew of anyone that did, could they please get in touch with either Anne McKenzie on 01207 521427 or Rodney Hawkins by e-mail at Hawkins_15@o2.co.uk. In conclusion, John Gall thanked Rodney for a most interesting talk.

OPEN FLOWER EVENING

Lanchester Flower Club held the second of two Open Demonstration evenings in Lanchester Community Centre on Friday 26th November. Attendance was very good despite the terrible weather.

The Demonstrator was Malcolm White of Washington, a retired florist. The theme was "Magic and Sparkle".

All enjoyed a most entertaining and magical evening with some

fabulous arrangements and great ideas for us to try at home.

The entire evening's flower arrangements were raffled on the night. Maureen Barker and Betty Reed had an abundant home produce stall. There was also a stall with some beautiful hand crafted jewellery by Janice Suddess.

Thanks once again to all who supported and helped on the evening.



Malcolm White with his wonderful arrangements



Maureen Barker and Betty Reid with their overflowing produce stall

RED CROSS FUNDRAISING



Looks like a winner here with smiles all round at a Coffee Morning at the Red Cross Shop with Bric a Brac on sale. Total raised was £100. Brenda Gibson, Shop Manager, on the Tombola Stall with Betty Walton and happy customers. A Household Sale was held during the worst week of the year for weather but customers did turn up and a total in the region of £300 was raised.



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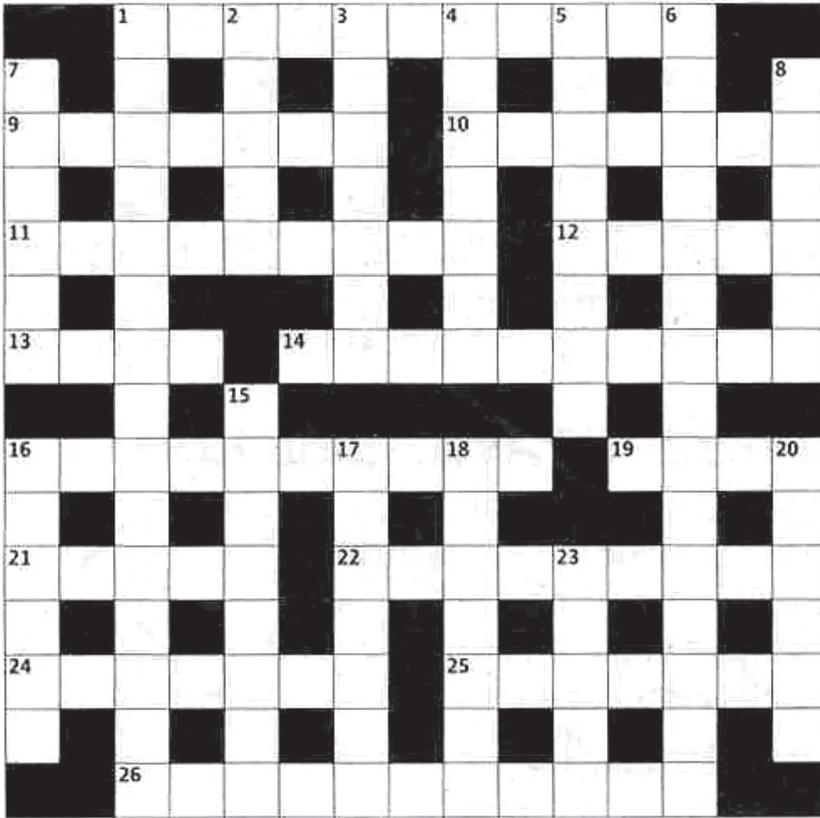
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CROSSWORD 56



ACROSS

1. Olympic gold heptathlete (6,5)
9. International organisation in feral ceremony (7)
10. A gender mix-up is used as weapon (7)
11. Harmonious (9)
12. Follow in green suede shoes (5)
13. Yorkshireman (4)
14. Cavort sensuously (5,5)
16. Food comes with belt I change (10)
19. Second-hand (4)
21. Discharge from colossal volcano (5)
22. Kept to ones self (3,6)
24. South American country (7)
25. Where is Annapurna? (2,5)
26. Results from arms akimbo (5,2,4)

DOWN

1. You must be joking! (4,4,2,5)
2. Cardinal point (5)
- 3,15. Speech is silvern - - - (7,2,6)
4. Reasonable (7)
5. Kew's Eden for days off (4-4)
6. Old Glory (5,3,7)
7. Cancel out (6)
8. Expunge (6)
15. See 3
16. Pamper (6)
17. Guts (7)
18. Citizen of Riga? (7)
20. Short-change (6)
23. Indian language (5)

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD 55

ACROSS

- 1,5 across icing on the cake
5. see 1 across
9. hydrant
10. abridge
11. means test
12. Yemen
13. Neath
15. abstainer
17. disappear
19. Satie
22. plaza
23. see 8 down
25. old-hand
26. upright
27. Ecuador
28. expired

DOWN

1. inhuman
2. Indiana
3. grass
4. Notre Dame
5. trait
6. early days
7. abdomen
- 8,23 across Eleanor of Castile
14. haphazard
16. stricture
17. deplore
18. Spandau
20. trigger
21. erected
23. order
24. strap

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 55

There were only 5 brave people who managed to trudge through the snow to deliver their crossword entries.

Congratulations to Mary Hole of Lee Hill Court who was the winner in the draw. She will receive the £10 prize.

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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.

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

EXCITING ADVENTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

continued from back page
Youngsters from Lanchester and beyond, most of whom come to the Youth Club, have been having a variety of exciting adventures throughout this past year: 54 have been involved, their ages ranging from 11 to 18.

They have kayaked, canoed, walked gorges, snowboarded, climbed, surfed, and during a bush craft weekend they stayed a night in shelters that they built themselves, cooking their own meals. They have faced real challenges such as bivouacking for two nights on an island in Loch Lomond, having canoed there first.

They described these activities as "amazing", "mint", "cold but great" and "brilliant" and they have proved themselves to be cheerful and self-reliant members of a group. Confidence has grown with mastering new skills. They are a great group of youngsters. The Lanchester Partnership



was awarded funding by Awards for All and the activities were then arranged and run by Lee Robson of Consett YMCA. Jill Gladstone of the Partnership coordinated them. It has

proved to be a really worthwhile collaboration, so thanks are due to all concerned. The final activity, see above, was a trip to ice skate at the Centre for Life, followed by a motion ride and supper.

BE PREPARED

The Scouts in Derwentside began preparations for a Gang Show in September. The show was planned for the first week in December and the Lamplight Theatre was booked. Rehearsals were held each Saturday and Sunday at Croft View Halls in the village and in Scout Headquarters within the District during the week. The programme was prepared, songs were chosen and dances and sketches were written and choreographed. Auditions were held and the hard work began. We were prepared but the weather was not. Meanwhile a crew was assembled to build props, scenery and design

special effects. The wardrobe department began to beg, borrow and sew costumes to clothe the forty two members of the cast who ranged from eight years to eighty. The orchestra was assembled. During the final stages of rehearsals when the cast was beginning to get excited about performing on a real stage, the weather began to deteriorate and worsened as we neared the time for a dress rehearsal in the theatre. This had to be postponed 'til the night of the show and the following night the theatre was closed. We did manage to present four shows out of the six proposed.

The cast attended every show aided by helpful, if rather anxious parents and the show was a tremendous success. We were 'Riding along on a crest of a wave'. The Scout District will have suffered a loss in revenue and prospective audiences lost out on seeing a magnificent, enjoyable, fun filled and commendable show which was highly acclaimed by the Scout Association examiners. The Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (several from Lanchester) rose to the challenge and are richer for being part of a successful stage appearance and character building exercise.

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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU

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

New Year's Eve Ceilidh

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

Wildlife Group

At the next meeting on Tuesday 11th January in the Small Hall of the Community Centre at 7.30 pm, Noel Jackson will give a talk on 'Dragons and the Old Men of the Forest'.

Junior Wildlife

The group will meet again on Sunday 23rd January at 10 am at Malton car park, when the subject will be Tracks and Signs.

Open House

All are welcome at the Chapter House on Thursday 6th January when hopefully it won't be snowing. A sandwich lunch is served between 11.30 am and 1.00 pm.

Paradiso Club

Apologies to all for having had to cancel the last social due to circumstances beyond our control - the weather! The next Social will be held in the Main Hall of the Community Centre on Sunday January 9th at 7 pm, £2.50 entry. There will be the usual refreshments and a raffle. Anyone can become a member of the club, the membership annual fee is £5.

We will also be screening the film 'Bright Star'. This much acclaimed film, a biopic based on the life of the poet John Keats, is directed by the award winning Director, Jane Campion, and stars Abbie Cornish and Ben Wishaw. The film opens in London 1818, a secret love affair begins between the struggling poet and the respectable girl next door, Fanny Brawne. Described as, 'a vivid, sensual, deeply moving romance and a feast for the eyes and emotions'.

It is possible that the new equipment will be installed by then so it promises to be a great evening!

WHAT'S ON?

WI

Our next meeting is our New Year party which will take place on Monday 10th January (second Monday) in the small hall of the Community Centre at 7 pm. The speaker is Janet Tulip on 'The Gift of Life', we also have very special act to entertain you called 'Eastern Promises' (once seen never forgotten) and the competition is an 'Eastern Souvenir'. Subscriptions of £30 will be taken at this meeting.

Other meetings in our 2011 programme include Lanchester Dairies (with samples of ice cream!!!), silversmithing, a demonstration on how to make real bread and there will of course also be our trips, coffee mornings and special WI events.

We look forward to welcoming all our members to our first meeting of 2011 and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year that brings you all you hope for (starting with good weather for our New Year party!!!).

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 8th January, DAVID WALTON, Voted best newcomer 2010

Saturday 15th January, KARAOKE

Saturday 22nd January, AMY SAXON, Top Girl Singer

Saturday 29th January, TONY WASHINGTON, Top Class Vocalist with a touch of comedy

Flower Club

The next meeting is on Wednesday 26th January at 2.00 pm in the Community Centre. There will be a film/talk, to be arranged.

Walks, Ramblers' Association Derwentside

9th January, Greenside, 8-10 miles. Meet outside Pack Horse pub, NZ 139622.

23rd January, St John's Chapel, 5.5 miles. Meet outside village post office, NY 885379.

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For any enquiries please contact

Tracie on 0191 375 4933

tracieconlan@newdur.ac.uk

New College Durham reserves the right to amend information at any time.

CHILDREN IN NEED



At All Saints Primary, children asked to come dressed in pyjamas on 'Children in Need Day'. They made cakes in the morning to sell in the afternoon and had a Pudsey Bear raffle. Here we see Mrs Conlin and her year 6 class who all wanted to be in the picture. The total raised on the day was £290.03

THURSDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS OUTING TO MATFEN HALL



Thursday Club ladies in the sumptuous dining room

Last year we so enjoyed our day out for Christmas to Matfen Hall that we decided to repeat the experience. The date for our trip this year was November 24th, as it turned out, the last day before the big freeze really took a hold of the region.

We saw a few snow showers during the day which quite added to the effect of a Christmas day out, the scenery looked stunning. Not so by late afternoon as we came into Consett, the flakes were coming down thick and fast and we were pleased

to be back, safe and sound in Lanchester. The day itself was as delightful as before - Matfen Hall is a lovely venue, the staff are extremely pleasant making everyone feel most welcome. The day started with morning coffee and freshly baked,

melt in the mouth, Danish pastries. A fashion show courtesy of John Lewis followed in the Great Hall and then it was on to lunch, a glass of wine with a chicken main course followed by a scrumptious raspberry crème brûlée, finishing with coffee and mints. A really good way to start off the Christmas season

and we were so lucky to enjoy it all just before the bad weather closed in. Our last meeting of the year will be on December 16th when we shall be having a Christmas workshop to produce our own floral decorations. Joan and I look forward to seeing you all there, whether to take part or just to be an observer.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Last month saw us heading for a double extra special treat - we were off to the Bistro and we had vouchers for £5 off each meal, be it from the express lunch time menu or the à la carte. They had been pretty full when the booking was made - would we mind having a private room? Not at all, we could chatter away to our hearts content - in between eating of course. Bistro 21 at Aykley Heads is an absolute joy, lovely setting, attentive staff and food for the gods - EVERY time you go. We sampled for starters beetroot and goats cheese salad with walnut and blue cheese dressing, warm ham salad

with mushroom, potato and mustard dressing and home smoked mackerel with pear and celeriac roulade and horseradish cream. Main courses were smoked haddock and spring onion fishcake with buttered spinach, slow cooked egg and mustard cream or red wine braised beef stew with root vegs and a potato gratin. Our puds were blackberry sorbet, pear belle hélène with choc sauce and vanilla and cinnamon rice pud with plum compote. And it was just lovely - if you've never given the Bistro a try it's to be recommended. We most certainly will be back.

The Gourmet Girls

WI NEWS

It was with great reluctance that the decision was taken to cancel the Christmas party but the weather conditions and the forecast were so bad that it was felt the safest thing to do. However our New Year meeting is now to be

a New Year party, there will be a faith supper with wine and soft drinks to greet the New Year. We will have the Chinese raffle, the speaker will be Janet Tulip on 'The Gift of Life' and no expense has been spared to bring you a very special act called

'Eastern Promises', never before seen in Lanchester. I am sure they will delight and entertain you. The competition is an "Eastern Souvenir". We look forward to seeing you all on the 10th of January for this special party evening.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Quick-mix chocolate fudge

Make a gift or make and enjoy. Makes 18 pieces.

Ingredients

350g/12oz castor sugar
170g can evaporated milk
140g/5oz butter, cut into large cubes
100/4oz white marshmallows
175g/6oz plain chocolate, broken into small pieces
1 tsp vanilla extract
25g/1oz shelled pistachios or use raisins.(optional)

Method

1 Line the base and

sides of an 18cm square cake tin with baking paper. Put the sugar, evaporated milk, butter and marshmallows in a medium saucepan. Warm on a low heat, stirring once or twice, until everything has melted together and you have no grainy sugar left. Increase the heat and boil for 9 mins, stirring constantly, until thick and a toasty brown colour. Remove from the heat.

2 Add the chocolate and vanilla extract to the pan and stir with a wooden spoon for 1-2 mins until the chocolate melts and the mixture begins to thicken. Stir through the pistachios or raisins, if using.

3 Working quickly, spread the mixture into the prepared tin. Chill for at least 4 hrs or overnight until set. Cut into squares to serve. (Will keep in an airtight container for up to a month).

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WRIGGLY NATIVITY



Joseph, Mary and Jesus with their Special Donkey in the first of the village Nativity plays held on 8th December at the EP School. Full story page 7.

KOGS CHRISTMAS FAIR



Jacob Murray, very happy to be telling Santa what he would like for Christmas. The Christmas Elf sits demurely alongside. See page 13 for more.

EXCITING ADVENTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



The photos above and right show just three of the many exciting activities undertaken this year by young people of Lanchester. Story and more pictures on page 17.

CHILDREN IN NEED DAY



Children at the Nursery at All Saints School with Mrs Hume - all had their faces painted for 'Children in Need Day'. They made spotty biscuits for sale. Pupils in the rest of the school dressed down for the day, some with spotty headgear. The total raised was £295.81. Another photo, page 18.



NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any **articles** for the next Village Voice by 18th January. The deadline for **adverts** is 16th January.

Published by Lanchester Publications Ltd, 49 Lintzford Road, Rowlands Gill, NE39 1HG and printed by Durham County Council, Design and Print, Comeleon House, Tanfield Lea Industrial Estate North, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 9NX. Tel: 01207 217167.

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