

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Issue No 3 Volume 11

Lanchester, March 2010

For contact information, see page 2

MINESHAFT?



What appears to be a mineshaft has been seen by walkers near the footpath between Lanchester Valley Walk and Newbiggen Lane. This may have been caused by unstable land due to extreme winter conditions. Warning notices by the Coalboard, who are dealing with the situation, indicate that the ground surrounding the 'shaft' is unstable and people should keep away.

8 MONTHS IN AND WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

Your local Area Action Partnership (AAP) is in the process of developing a number of projects. These include: improved support for local residents wanting to save or borrow finance; a small grants fund for voluntary and community groups; free come and try it sports and leisure sessions for young people; and improved village entrances that address speeding and improve

pride in the community. The Mid Durham Rural West AAP Board has met eight times since its inaugural meeting in July 2009. The Board task groups, who were given the task of developing projects to meet the needs identified by local residents, are in the process of bringing forward nine projects. Three of these have already received Board approval and are in the process of being

finalised for delivery commencing in April. Further projects include children's play, young people included in local decision making and the further development of our cycle and rail trails. The AAP Project or Area Budget of £150,000 will be used to develop these projects and potentially lever in a further £200,000 as matched funding into the area.

Continued on Page 5

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE - VILLAGE LITTER PROBLEMS

Dog lovers everywhere, and there are so many in the village, would be appalled at the injuries recently suffered by Peppa, a young Dalmatian, owned by Steve and Christine Darke.

Peppa had been out for a 6 mile walk early on a Sunday morning at the end of February. Nearly home she bounded down the side of Valley Walk near the Green Bridge close to the Playpark. Within seconds she was yelping with pain and blood was pumping out of her leg. Steve managed to carry her across his shoulders back to his house, and immediately phoned the Ashfield Veterinary Surgery.

The surgeon cannot be praised more highly. A

few more minutes and Peppa would not have survived. She had a severely lacerated leg with two arteries and tendon severed, as well as cuts on her pad.

By the shape of the injuries the vet deduced they had been caused by the neck of a broken bottle! By the state of the ground in this area people gather there on a Saturday night and drink leaving their debris, litter and dangerous bottles in the undergrowth.

The harm done to Peppa is frightening and it could easily happen to other animals or even small children as it is quite near the park. It is despicable that the people who frequent this site are so carefree, careless and have no

thoughts for animals or other people. Is there an answer? Are the police able to visit the site at appropriate times? Have

the Council or the Rangers the time or money to clear this and other dangerous sites? Something must be done

to avoid this sort of dreadful occurrence happening again, with possibly an even worse outcome.



Peppa back at home, laying down and nursing her badly lacerated leg



Dear Village....

THE VILLAGE VOICE

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

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

Dear Village Voice, I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped to make my special birthday such a happy occasion. A special thank you to Joan Osbourne for the behind the scenes help and support she gives to me. So many of you have been there for John and myself, too many to name, but you all know who you are.

All the cards and flowers were much appreciated. The donations I received for Parkinsons Research reached £650 which was wonderful. I presented a cheque to Professor Burn on 27th February. Thank you so much. Phyllis Reed

Dear Village Voice, With reference to the letter concerning the village speed limit on the A691. Having made several phone calls to the Highways Action Line (HAL) along with e-mails and a letter, I eventually received a reply to my concerns about the speed limit past St Bede's School and the lack of a suitable pedestrian crossing at this point on a very busy road. I pointed out that the A691 now has a constant stream of traffic because of the major housing increases in Consett. I also discussed speed limits past other schools and other stretches of roads within the county that have 30 mph limits on stretches of roads without schools or nearby houses, examples being the stretch of road at the bottom of Delves Lane past Elddis Caravans and a similar stretch past the South Causey Kip Hill to Sunnyside road.

The response received to my letter was extremely disappointing because, although the Department for Transport have mandated a review of all A and B roads it appears that

little change will be made to the A691. A copy of the letter I received from Durham County Council has been sent to the Village Voice and direct quotes have been added to this letter, as follows:

"The A691 has been previously reviewed on a number of occasions in conjunction with Durham Police and unfortunately our opinion has been that the speed limit should be de-restricted, but due to the presence of the school the 40 mph speed limit is more appropriate and should remain."

"Unfortunately the setting of speed limits can be quite an emotive issue with residents generally demanding lower speed limits on roads. However, in many cases when these people become motorists a converse stance is often taken. We therefore have a difficult task in striking a balance and providing a compromise based upon the national and local strategies and also taking local factors into account. As is often the case, a speed limit which lacks credibility results in a significant proportion of motorists ignoring the limit

and driving at even higher speeds, and can also lead to greater risk taking. In addition the imposition of non-credible lower limits can raise residents' expectations that the speeds of vehicles will suddenly reduce but this is seldom being achieved in practice."

Having witnessed students trying to navigate through traffic when I return home from night shift, I cannot believe the risks they have to take both on the A691 and equally at the bottom of Maiden Law bank.

Sharon/Chris Gardiner, 2 Prospect Tce, Lanchester.

Dear Village Voice, I am writing on behalf of all the family to express our gratitude for the kindness shown to us following the recent death of Edith Holmes after a short illness. We were overwhelmed by the friendship extended to us and took comfort from the fact that it reflected the high esteem in which Edith was held by so many in the village and beyond. We would like to express special thanks for all at Lanchester Methodist Church, and in particular to Rev Gavin Hume for a lovely and touching service and to the Ladies, who provided a wonderful tea. A staggering £850.00 was collected at the funeral, which will be shared between the Special Care Baby Unit at the RVI, where Edith worked and Lanchester Methodist Church. Lucy Holmes

LOST EARRING

An earring was found on the Valley Walk in the middle of February. If anyone has lost this and would like to claim it, contact the Village Voice.



COMMUNITY DRAW

The winning number in the Community Draw for February is 50. The draw was made by Bill Eckford of 'Computers for All'.

TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE VOICE

By email: lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk (please include Village Voice in the Subject line).

By post: The Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0JQ.

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BETTY HARDMAN - THE PARTY OF A LIFETIME!

Saturday, March 13th dawned with the sun splitting the skies - a very suitable beginning - it was Betty Hardman's 100th birthday.

Betty Hardman was born in Blackburn and came to Lanchester in 1997 to be near her daughter, Dorothy. She still looks after herself in her own home. On her actual birthday she had a drop-in session at home for friends and neighbours. She was delighted to receive a card from the Queen and from the Ministry of Pensions. Amigos had held the celebrations for her one day early and it been a case of, as the song says 'Congratulations and Celebrations'. She arrived with daughter Dorothy and son-in-law Robert amid a chorus of 'Happy Birthday' and once all the cards, kisses and hugs had been given we were straight into party time with quizmaster Robbie Gowland taking us on a journey of remembrance through the last 100 years, ingeniously starting out with a very special person's birth and culminating with her birthday a 100 years later. Then, Arthur Maughan arrived to present Betty with a lovely basket of flowers and congratulate her on her 100th birthday and on being the oldest member of the Community Association. Next came one of Betty's favourite people, Sonia

Farthing, to give a gift on behalf of the Amigos group. It was a fiery red Chanel lipstick. In case you're in any doubt, Betty is the person who never goes through the door without applying her lipstick (no mirror required). Recently at an Amigo meeting we were having a general discussion on the secret of longevity and Betty quick as a flash gave the answer 'contentment'. Entertainment came courtesy of the Lantones with Harry Carr on piano and they were amazing, singing a selection of songs which fitted the occasion perfectly and very obligingly singing a requested 'Thank heaven for little girls', especially for Betty.

By 11.30 am it was lunch time, all prepared by the Amigo helpers, Betty Reed's famous 'Potage de Crecy' soup with crusty bread, a selection of sandwiches, trifle and finally after another rendition of 'happy birthday' and cake cutting and photo opportunities, birthday cake. We then listened to an impromptu speech from the birthday girl herself, thanking everyone for such a really wonderful party enjoyed by all.

Finally there was a Bucks Fizz toast to one indomitable little lady - Betty Hardman, Centenarian.



Betty cuts her cake with daughter Dorothy and son-in-law Robert



A very contented birthday girl



The Lantones - a singing sensation - perform for Betty and all of her guests

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LANCHESTER GARDEN CENTRE

Situated on the old Lanchester Nurseries site, the Lanchester Garden Centre is looking to open its doors in Mid-April. The semi derelict site was acquired by ELG Developments Ltd, owners of the highly successful Busy Bears Children's Day Nursery in Bearpark, back in November last year and since that time a huge amount of time and a lot of effort has gone into restoring the once derelict site. David Morgan, Director, says "the snow during December and January delayed progress but we are fully committed to opening as soon as possible. We are already stocking up, with the focus very much on quality plants at a fair price." Since the gates were opened to allow construction access to the site, David says "we have been

inundated with visitors enquiring when the Garden Centre was due to open. I only ask that you bear with us and, when we do open, come back and see the quality of many of our products and enjoy a coffee and the fantastic views from our fully refurbished coffee shop. Our sincere hope is that all of the people of Lanchester and from the surrounding areas will once again see the

garden centre as a great place to visit. The Garden Centre Manager, Mr Ian Maccallum has an excellent background in plant management and horticultural skills, one of his many great achievements being the restoration of the gardens at Crook Hall, Durham." Longer term plans, which are at an early stage and subject to planning permission,

very much revolve around the experience the group has in childcare. Emma Graham, multi award winning director of Busy Bears, would like to develop the site to also cater for young children, in particular to create an adjoining activity centre with an educational theme. This will enable children to experience and explore the world of plants and horticulture.

Lanchester Garden Centre

Bargate Bank, Lanchester
DH7 0SS



Opening Mid-April Incorporating "Potters" Coffee House

Excellent selection of stock shrubs and trees. Huge variety of bedding plants, baskets and tubs coming soon.

Enjoy a coffee and a snack in Potter's Coffee shop and some of the best views in County Durham.

Gardening in April

In your garden it's all systems go this month as the days get both longer and (hopefully) warmer. It is time to prepare in terms of sowing in both the flower beds and the vegetable plot, potting-up seedlings and getting your lawn in shape. All this preparation is for what we hope will be a super summer. Remember, April showers bring forth May flowers.

Lawns and Borders If your lawn is looking like mine, then it will be looking rather sad after all that winter has thrown at it: frost, snow and rain. April is a good time to provide it with a little TLC. You can first give it an application of moss killer and I find Lawn Sand a useful

and cheap method for this. After a couple of weeks you should be able to rake out any dead moss and at the same time you can dig out any perennial weeds. Then give the whole lawn a feed of either granular or liquid feed to help its growth and regeneration.

It is hands-on in the borders this month. You need to dead head spring bulbs and provide support for tall perennials. This support can be provided by peasticks or by circular wire supports.

Although the latter are, at least initially, more expensive, they will last you for years and support your perennials much better. A further option if you have large herbaceous borders is to stretch netting over the area where the herbaceous plants are growing so that they grow through and are supported by the net. Prevent your daffodils wasting their energy producing seeds by pinching off the swelling seedheads. This encourages them to send food, produced in the leaves, down to the bulbs to help building them up for next year. April is the time to sow hardy annual flower seeds (eg Aster, Calendula, Clarkia, Helichrysum, Lavatera, Nasturtium, Pansy and Petunia) either under glass or in your borders. Any

seeds planted last month will need to be potted-up now and slowly hardened off.

Vegetables If you did not plant your onion sets last autumn, then April is the time to do it. It is also the time to start planting early potatoes. Any old compost bags can be used for this. Roll down the bag and plant up to 3 chitted seed potatoes in six inches of compost at the bottom. Unroll the bag as shoots appear and add more compost to cover the shoots. If you plant potatoes in the garden, you should remember to earth up the new shoots as they appear above the ground and bury them to protect them from frost. Similarly, if your broad beans are up their new shoots provide the perfect place for blackfly. Spray any that you see with a soap-based insecticide. If you have not already sown tomato, courgette, sweet pepper and chilli under cover then now is the time to do so but still in a frost-free environment.

General Tasks Plug plants of vegetable and summer bedding that have been ordered earlier will be arriving shortly. You need to open the packs as soon as they arrive, give them a drink and transplant according to the instructions without delay.

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WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

Continued from Page 1

Outside of all of this your local County Councillors have been very busy working very closely with the local community to develop a variety of projects, ranging from the arts to parking and from football to footpaths. There are also plenty more projects in the pipeline between now and the end of the financial year including traffic calming and speeding

measures, village appraisals, youth activities in general and children's play.

All the Area Action Partners throughout County Durham have been asked to nominate a maximum of three new play sites for potential Playbuilders monies (Government initiative to improve play provision throughout England). Those nominated will then go into a larger pot with

the most appropriate ten or possibly eleven sites each receiving £50,000 of 'kickstart' funding. Mid-Durham Rural West have nominated Addison Park in Brandon, Cornsay Colliery and Waterhouses.

A decision on the final sites will be made by April.

The one proposal that did not quite make it into the 3 nominated playbuilder sites is now being developed into a

much larger proposal that will look at developing focal points (possibly themed around play, leisure, health, environment or heritage) along the three railway paths throughout the AAP area. The focal points will be linked to a nearby village and its community.

The AAP staff team are also involved in advising a number of other local projects and initiatives, linking these

up with support from various partners and funding streams. For more information on your AAP contact the staff team on 01207 529085 (based in Park House, Durham Rural Community Council building, Lanchester) or check out our website at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=6511> Andy Coulthard, Area Action Partnership Coordinator

IAN GIBSON CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY

Ian was born in Blackhill on 13th March 1930. He has only ever lived in two houses having moved to Lanchester with Brenda in 1967 and remained there ever since. Ian is a fitter by trade. He spent National Service from 1951-3 in the RAF and later spent 10 years at JS Robson in Consett and 20 years at the Consett Iron Company.

Ian has always been interested in vintage cars and motorbikes and has also done plenty of

walking and photography in his time. He spent his birthday with Brenda and they enjoyed dinner and an overnight stay at Whitworth Hall. The following day, Mothering Sunday, was spent at daughter Claire's house in Spennymoor with her family, where they enjoyed lunch. They were joined by son Neil and grandson Charlie, who had travelled over from the Isle of Man for the occasion.



Ian Gibson sitting back and relaxing on his 80th birthday before setting off for Whitworth Hall

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LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 9TH MARCH 2010

POLICEREPORT

Rowdy nuisance 11, Vehicle nuisance 0, Theft 4, Burglary 3, Vehicle crime 0, Criminal damage 2.

After the report had been read by the Lead Officer in the absence of PCSO Gray, Members discussed where and how often future PACT meetings should be held. It was thought that meetings might be better if not attached to Parish Council Meetings and that if held too often residents might lose interest; the Police themselves should publicise the meetings.

Minutes

Those of the last Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th February and of the Planning Meeting held on 11th February were read and approved.

Correspondence

A letter has been received from Teesdale AONB North Pennines regarding wind farms at Hamsterley, but more information will be received in the Spring. Lanchester Lions had written requesting the use of the village green for the 2010 Carnival and this was agreed.

Erection of seat on Cadger Bank

Members considered responses of residents, both written and in person (4 residents attended the meeting) to the proposed erection of the seat. Respondents' views included objections such as: the seat was unnecessary, a waste of money, on a very busy road, would affect privacy, the patch too narrow, etc. After much discussion it was agreed that a site further up the bank would be looked into and that the Lead Officer would write to the residents who had

requested the seat explaining the decision.

Post Box on Ford Road

Although the Lead Officer had written to Royal Mail about damage done to the turf surrounding this post box and Royal Mail had replied to the effect that the letter had been reported and logged and van drivers informed, there is still damage. It was stated that not all damage was done by the Royal Mail drivers and that other people pulled on to the turf to post letters. However, hard standing would cost about £2,000 and bollards £1,000.

County Councillor Young, who was attending the meeting, stated that he and Councillor Ossie Johnson could use their Highways budget to reinstate the grass and provide some means of preventing further damage.

Maintenance Progress Report

The report prepared by the Lead Officer for Dec 09 to Feb 10 was received and it was agreed that Handyman David Maddox should be thanked for all his hard work in performing his regular duties and additional maintenance work.

Kitswell Park Bike Track

Cllr Harrison reported that the remaining hedge had been planted but there was some damage to the existing hedge due to breakage, being ridden over etc. It was agreed that quotations would be sought for reinstating the hedge and protecting the young plants. As the maintenance period for the track ends in April it was also agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the Project

manager before this time and that it would be referred to the Recreation Committee.

Annual Review

Details of the Annual Review Process relating to employees were given to Members. Cllr Nairn said that this should be a two-way procedure and Members agreed.

Annual Training Plan 2009/10 and 2010/11

Details of various courses were given to Members and Members were asked to identify their training needs. Both the County Council and the Area Action Partnership offer courses throughout the year and further details of these would be sent out later with forms.

Review of Internal Audit Arrangements, Review of Risk Assessment, Financial Information

These three reports, prepared by the Lead Officer, were considered by Members.

Schools - Distribution of Newsletters

It was agreed that £75 be given to each school.

Grants/Donations

Members considered applications and it was agreed, after considering the amount remaining in the donations budget, to donate £200 for the maintenance of the Church clock, £100 to the Lawn Tennis Club, £120 to Churches Together for Sound Systems and £100 to Butterwick Children's Hospice.

Accounts for Payment

These were approved.

Question from Members

Information was given relating to Rural News CPRE fund for grants for Community Litter Wardens, namely £100 a year for the next 3 years. The Parish Councils Committee is also proposing a yearly award

PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED

to schools in the Parishes. It was also agreed that some more information would be sought for this and that these items would be put on the Agenda for next month's Meeting.

Mike Gladstone of the Partnership reminded Members of the Litter Pick Day to be held on Saturday 27th March and it was proposed that the Council support the Partnership in this.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Village Conference, to be held on Tuesday, 13th April, 2010 starting at 7.15 pm in the Conference Room, Park House, Lanchester.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2010

Members considered the following **Planning applications:**

i. Erection of agricultural building to land to the West of West Newbiggen Farm, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester. Members were of the opinion that the already approved is sufficient for the size of the farm and therefore adequate for farming needs. **RESOLVED:** that Members object to this application as unacceptable development in the countryside;

ii. Erection of single storey rear extension at 3 Greenwell Park, Lanchester. **RESOLVED:** that Members raise no objection;

iii. Erection of two storey rear extension, installation of rooflights at 3 Cecil Crescent, Lanchester. Members discussed this and raised concern over the front and rear rooflights, referring to the Village Design Statement. **RESOLVED:** that Members object to the roof lights as this is out of keeping with the other buildings in the conservation area. In addition, Members considered the roller shutter door to be unsuitable;

iv. Crown raising of overhanging branches

of various trees at West Grange, Cadger Bank, Lanchester. Members raised concern over the number of trees involved and the height of which they were to be crown raised. **RESOLVED:** that Members request that the County Council's arboriculturist visit the site to assess the proposed work and that Members object to the proposed work due to the excessive height of the crown lift and the impact this would have on the wooded shoulder on Cadger Bank;

v. Demolition of existing hospice buildings, erection of a replacement six bedroom hospice with associated offices, day care facilities and a wellbeing spa with associated landscaping at Willowburn Hospice, Maiden Law Hospital, Lanchester Road, Maiden Law. **RESOLVED:** that Members raise no objection.

DECISIONS OF THE P L A N N I N G AUTHORITY

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

(i) Installation of one roof light and the

creation of one window to the side elevation at Woodlands Hall, Knitsley;

(ii) Listed building consent to replace two windows to the rear at Number 1 Hollinside Terrace, Hollinside.

(iii) Change of use from woodland and pasture land to that of horiculture and to the erection of one wooden stable block at Newfield Hall, Lanchester.

(iv) Erection of replacement conservatory to rear at 22 Broadoak Drive, Lanchester.

(v) The removal of leylandii, hawthorn and of elder bushes, the crown reduction works to two holly trees, pruning works which involve the removal of the lowest branches and the dead wood from the property to one horse chestnut tree and one lime tree, reduce the weight from the lower limb to one horse chestnut tree and the removal of one small low branch from one lime tree at Prospect House, Cadger Bank, Lanchester.

(vi) Installation of extraction system on to roof (retrospective) at Kings Head Hotel, Station Road, Lanchester.

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ODE ON A PLASTIC BAG

*I wandered lonely as a bag
That floats on high o'er hill and vale,
When all at once I felt a snag;
A thorny branch doth me impale.
Upon the hedge, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*
Apologies to William Wordsworth, who wrote the very well-known inspiration for this ode. He lived during the very optimistic Age of the Enlightenment, but sadly many of the technological

advances that have followed have not been of benefit to the natural world which he loved so much. Over 150 years later, every year 17 billion carrier bags are being given away free in the UK - that means an average of 300 carrier bags for every man, woman and child. Most of these are only used once. Plastic takes about 1000 years to degrade - that's a whole millennium! What a wonderful legacy for the future. Every carrier bag that has ever been

produced is still on the planet, in landfill, hedgerows, or floating in the sea. Plastic bag litter is lethal, killing over 100,000 seabirds, dolphins, seals, whales and turtles in every year. On behalf of the Lanchester Environment Group we are urging Lancastrians to do their bit to reduce plastic waste and take shopping bags with you when you visit the local shops and supermarkets. Shopkeepers in Lanchester are already

doing their bit - Lanchester Hardware, E m e r t o n ' s Greengrocers and Spar all use biodegradable bags. However, alternatives to plastic are expensive and in these difficult economic times many local shops are struggling to stay in business - the loss of business made by a decision not to provide bags could make some businesses unviable and we don't want to lose our local shops. **So, if you haven't already done so, invest**

in some sturdy reusable bags. Develop the habit of taking some bags with you when you go shopping - and next time you find yourself out and about with a plastic carrier bag ask yourself this question - would Dorothy Wordsworth have been seen dead with one? The Lanchester Bag Ladies STOP PRESS - The Lanchester Partnership is currently working on the idea of a 'Lanchester Bag'. More news in the next Village Voice.

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ENVIRONMENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH

Shoplocally: A weekly trip from Lanchester to the supermarket, even in a small car, adds an amazing 112kg of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

You can find more advice from the government website "Act On CO2" at <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html>.

THE MOLE OF NEWBIGGEN LANE

Have you seen the holes that suddenly appear
Up and down the lane.
They come and go all alone and give us drivers pain.
With bollards placed and warning signs and sometimes traffic lights,
You can go up and down then look around,
then try with all your might,
But
No one ever seen digging them or filling them back in,
No one ever seen working there, no men fat or thin.
Could there be a Mole around here, a mole of massive size,
A mole that digs and fills the holes, away from prying eyes.
Please keep your eyes wide open when you drive up the Lane,
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SUNFLOWER CLUB



Children of Satley at the launch of the new Sunflower Club, looking really proud and splendid in their new bright yellow jackets

A Sunflower Club has been launched in Satley by a local resident, Karen Hodgson. As Karen said, "There are no play facilities in Satley and it would be good for the children of the village to socialise, develop good habits, create a community spirit and at the same time to improve the village". The first get-together took place on Sunday the 7th of March and 10 children, about 50% of the child population, turned out with splendid yellow

jackets and similarly coloured brand new spades and rakes. Some of the activities planned are:

- tidying the village;
- planting the village tubs;
- hanging baskets;
- habitat boxes and bird feeders;
- bulb planting;
- leaf collecting;
- a picnic;
- sowing potatoes and onions at their homes;
- making a miniature garden; and
- the inevitable sunflower growing competition.

The group plans to meet on Sunday afternoons, every two weeks, for about 2 hours, so long as the weather permits. Parents are asked to supervise their own children. The children really seemed to enjoy their first activity which was planting flowers in the village tubs. They looked really beautiful and they certainly enhanced the look of village. Karen is being well supported by parents in this project which has been funded by 'Grants for Groups'.

LANCHESTER ARMS



The picture shows the newly smartened-up Lanchester Arms in the centre of the Village. We hope that this is not just surface dressing.



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ELIJAH by Mendelssohn



Lanchester Choral and Operatic Society, conducted by David Hughes, with the four main soloists, Graeme Danby, Richard Woods, Susan Jordan and Gail Davies, entertaining a large, appreciative audience



Graeme Danby singing the part of Elijah

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When I heard what the Choral and Operatic Society were going to perform as their Spring offering, I thought "Elijah - surely they have bitten

off more than they could chew". I was wrong, very wrong. The Society bit, chewed and produced a magnificent evening of fantastic music and song.

From the introduction by Graeme Danby (I have never heard him sing better) to the last chorus, we, the audience, were spellbound, enthralled, captivated and entertained by the quality and content of the evening.

Praise must be given to Graeme Danby (Bass), Susan Jordan (Soprano), Gail Davies (Alto), but extra praise given to Richard Woods (Tenor) who not only sang the tenor part extremely well, but sang with the chorus also.

The audience were well informed about the story of Elijah with pictures and explanations on the Power Point screens (thank you Paul), entertained by enthusiastic and accurate conductor (thank you David) and astounded by the organ music (thank you Lilian).

Every item was superb - but the two highlights of an excellent show were the trio sung by Susan Jordan, Gail Davies and our own Sharon Murray, and the song 'O rest in the Lord'.

The choir deserves a rest after Elijah but I hear they have already begun to practise their next offering, as well as supporting the joint church choir singing part of the Messiah for Palm Sunday.

Roll on both events. C.



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10 YEARS OF "COMPUTERS FOR ALL"

This year sees the 10th anniversary of the opening of the free "drop-in" computer facility in the Community Centre.

The service was set up when home computer ownership was "mushrooming" and there was a need for a public facility which could offer help and advice, particularly to beginners, but also to provide computer usage to people who did not own one of their own. Nowadays computer ownership is much more common but many people still only have limited knowledge of the potential of their equipment. The drop-in sessions are an ideal informal way to improve your skills.

The service is staffed entirely by volunteers; the current team consists of Christine Monaghan, Frank Redfearn, Neville Hartley, Liz Smith and Bill Eckford (eagerly anticipating his long-service medal!). Five computers are available, including 2 laptops. The machines have recently been upgraded and have a fast broadband connection, so can handle most applications comfortably. In addition, anyone wanting to use their own laptop can link into our wireless broadband. The team not only provide help and advice, but run classes on basic computing and digital photography whenever there is sufficient demand. These are informal and

totally "hands on"; size is limited to 5 people, thus a computer for each person and nearly a "1 to 1" teacher:pupil ratio.

Classes are suitable for absolute beginners as well as those wanting a refresher course and everyone has found them to be friendly and enjoyable with many becoming regular "clients" at the centre.

The number of people using the facility is a little disappointing, however, and the team would welcome more customers. It is, after all, a similar facility to that in the library and it is FREE! Computers for All is open on Monday and Thursday from 9.30 to 11.30 am and on Tuesday from 3.30 to 4.30 pm.



Judith Lund, Jean Woodward and Marjorie Raper, some of the "clients" of Computers for All, with volunteers Christine Monaghan and Neville Hartley in the background

LANCHESTER HISTORY SOCIETY Aerial Surveillance

Another entertaining talk for a Friday evening. Arthur Dodds kept a large audience enthralled when he gave a talk on Aerial Reconnaissance, delivered amusingly with a wry sense of humour. His knowledge of the subject was unquestionable. We learned about early balloon flights and their

manned use in wartime as front-line intelligence 'spotters', a hazardous and very short career apparently! Arthur also presented a short history on the sophisticated improvements in photographic material, equipment and techniques, which led to the use of high speed cameras in aircraft and



satellites, giving improved intelligence gathering. Aerial photography undoubtedly helped to shorten World War II, the identification of the German rocket site in Pennemunde being just one example. Needless to say, the evening was most enjoyable and very informative.

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MURDEROUS MATHS

March 3rd was 'World Maths Day' and March 1st-5th was National Book Week. The EP School always makes the most of any yearly landmarks which can be used in an educational way and Mrs Davis had invited an author into school who belonged to the two afore-mentioned landmarks. The name of the author was different, being called Mr Kjartan Poskitt and his style of presentation was different, but the pupils from Years 4-6 loved him. He is the author of the 'Murderous Maths' books. In the beginning, he said he was asked to write one book which promoted Maths and made it fun, but in the end he has written over 20 of them and is still writing! He combined his talk with excellent visual aids, drama, humour, and magic. The latter was

very skilfully done with his own hand-made props and he involved his audience all the time, establishing a rapport with them instantly. It might have looked to the outsider as a fun presentation without any learning at all, but the brilliance of it was that it was absolutely a numeracy learning experience. Some quite difficult answers to Mr Poskitt's questions were required from the pupils but they all tried to get the answers which all required knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Mr Poskitt was always given the correct answer from his enthusiastic audience. He said afterwards that he was thrilled to get so many correct answers from these obviously very intelligent children. He was very impressed with the pupils' response



Years 1 and 2 with Mr Poskitt

to the presentation and with their good behaviour throughout it. Meanwhile I am still trying to work out some of the answers! He kept the children (and staff) enthralled for a whole hour and it is true to say it was magical. The same was true when he next visited Year 1 and 2 pupils. He adapted his talk to suit these

younger children and they too enjoyed it immensely, especially the magic visual aids. Who would have thought that children so young would be introduced to symmetry and understand it. Mr Poskitt of course! The surprising thing was that he was not a teacher and so had not practised his presenting skills in a classroom. He actually was a man of many parts. He had an engineering degree, but maths was his 'first love' and he wanted to work in this field. As part of

his journey to achieve this goal he had served his time as a stand up comic and pianist in pubs, until he encountered someone who saw his genius and promoted his mathematical skills. She introduced him to the publishing world and the rest is history. What an inspiration to us all. Believe in yourself and persevere until you achieve what you want to achieve. Do not give up! Why not buy one of his books available in our bookshops? Brenda Craddock

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MAGIC MARVIN



Magic Marvin enthusing the children with his love of books

A real life “magician” flew into Lanchester on the morning of February 18th. “Magic Marvin” has practised his skills for the past ten years, and his shows covered various themes relating to

children, including the importance of recycling and other green issues. His “Feel Good, Feel Magic” show stresses the value of healthy eating and taking regular exercise. Marvin also

presents a series of workshops and delivers story telling sessions to young people. This show, based in Lanchester Library, was, of course, “Book Magic”. Over thirty

children and their parents were entertained by Magic Marvin’s blend of comedy, juggling, puppetry and sleight of hand, all connected by the theme of books and reading. Marvin told us his love of books started when, as a very young boy, he realised that libraries were not just places for adults, but also offered enjoyment and excitement for children. His interest in magic tricks actually began when he found

a library book about the subject. He brought some friends to meet the children-Schoolboy Sid, Billy the Bookworm, and Naughty Bird all joined in the songs, games and tricks, carrying the message “Books are Magic”. The young people all agreed that reading is important and a fun thing to do. At the end of Marvin’s time, we were still wondering how his tricks had worked!

MOTHERING SUNDAY LUNCH

All Saints RC Primary School held a lunch on the Friday before Mothering Sunday so that children would be able to have their school lunch alongside their mothers. It was a lovely idea and one could see

the joy and excitement on the faces of the children as they tucked into a appetizing looking meal. Fifty eight mothers arrived for two sittings for a choice of Bolognaise,

Roast Pork, or Cheese Flan and Salad as a main course, with Apple Sponge and Custard, or Yoghurt to follow. Special biscuits were then given to the mothers to celebrate their day.



Mothers and children from All Saints RC Primary enjoying school lunch together to celebrate Mothering Sunday


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There is a network of 'Carer Centres' throughout the country, (143 in total) which were set up 10 years ago by the Princess Royal Trust and there are centres at Consett and Lanchester. The latter is held in 'Park House' on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The centres do excellent work in offering support both practical and emotional to carers across Derwentside. These include people who live alone or who are full time carers of a close family member, or friend.

It was a privilege to attend one of the carers meetings on February 24th in Park House. The Durham Rural Community Council allow use of the premises. Mrs Dawn Mallows is based at the Consett Centre, and is the key person for this valuable work, her correct title being 'Carers Support Co-ordinator Generic'. She is very well respected and revered by the people who attend the centres at Consett and Lanchester

and the people who were at the meeting I attended praised the work that she and her staff do for them. 'Nothing is too much trouble for her' they said. 'Some of us live alone and we so much enjoy the company of one another at these meetings.'

'Everybody is so friendly and it is something to look forward to twice a month.' 'We always try to look after each other and we can come here and have a laugh and talk about things. Things don't seem so bad when you can have a laugh.'

'Dawn and her staff are wonderful. They always attend to our needs.' Obviously the meetings are a lifeline to these people, who care for and dedicate their time to those with physical and mental disabilities and who themselves need practical and emotional support. On the day I visited the group in Lanchester, Mrs Mallows had brought people from the Consett Carers Centre to share a

special activity with the Lanchester Carers Centre. The ladies and gentlemen were taking part in a four week cookery course, funded by Durham Rural Community Council, entitled 'Healthy Eating on a Budget'. People in the group help to produce the meal, and it is a wonderful way to get to know one another while sharing and enjoying a meal together from their own efforts. Recipe booklets are given to each, which enable them to cook the recipes at home. Mrs Mallows also arranges outings to the theatre or to other interesting places and shopping trips are not forgotten! Ideas are always invited for leisure activities and there is no doubt the carers are very appreciative of all that is done for them.

June 14th is the beginning of National Carers Week and various activities are planned for that week. Watch this space!
Brenda Craddock

VILLAGE LINK BUS - CLARIFICATION

An article entitled 'FUN RACING NIGHT FOR THE BUS' appeared in the February issue of the Village Voice on the 'What's On?' page. It seems that the final sentence in the article - 'Support is needed

continuously for this valuable service for the elderly and infirm residents who live in the village' may have misled some people. The bus is not confined to the elderly or infirm. Everyone is welcome to use the bus and is encouraged

to do so. There is a charge of 60p for those under 60 years of age while those over 60 may travel free. Voluntary donations are readily accepted from anyone who travels as the bus does continually need funding.

*This advert has been
withdrawn because of
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BREATHE EASY

The Breathe Easy group is proud to have been running for 10 years. We meet in the Community Centre on the second Wednesday of every month from 2.00pm until 4.00 pm, and welcome anyone who has respiratory disease (and their relatives).

We have speakers, outings, activities and a lot of friendship. We go out for a pub lunch once a month. This photo was taken just after we had a keep-fit session. Breathe Easy groups form a network of self-help groups, run under the auspices of the

British Lung Foundation. We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Lanchester Lions who have recently given the group £50. For any information please ring Jill Gladstone on 01207 528 114.



Members of the Breathe Easy Group with their certificate for running for 10 years

JOHN DEAN INSPIRES WRITERS

Mr John Dean, a crime writer, who lives in Darlington, returned to Lanchester Library to meet the Creative Writers' Group on Tuesday, March 2nd. He was very interested in the work of each individual and began by asking how each of us had begun writing, who or what had ignited the spark in us for the written word.

Everyone had a different story to tell showing how very individual the art of writing is. As a writer John told us how he used everyday happenings, sounds and sights to give him ideas as well as his imagination. He gave us a writing task which we had to complete in a certain time and (no pressure!) we all finished in the given time. After reading our

efforts out to him John gave his opinion and advice about our writing and encouraged us to carry on writing. It was a very good afternoon which we enjoyed immensely and thus encouraged, we can look forward to the day when we complete our first successful novel (in our dreams, I think). Brenda Craddock



Lanchester Creative Writers entertaining crime writer John Dean. Left to right: Betty Whaley, Brenda Craddock, John Dean, Kathleen Devine, Ron Lane, Mary Bonney and Peter Andrews.

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COMMUNITY CENTRE TABLE TOP SALE

Once again the Community Centre coupled with Lanchester Country Markets held a successful Table Top Sale on Saturday March 6th. Although less tables were rented out than usual, those that were there were extremely busy. The goods were mainly bric a brac which moved very

quickly with some visiting dealers being sharp off the mark. An addition to the hall was the 'Friends of Longovicium' table which created an interesting diversion for the bargain hunters. Members of the organisation were giving out information about Roman artefacts on

display and explaining progress the group have made with recent geophysical surveys. Martin Hutchinson and his daughter Gina, dressed in Roman attire also received much attention. The sale raised a total of £155 for the Community Centre funds.



Martin and Gina Hutchinson dressed as historical Romans for the occasion



Arthur Maughan, as usual, heading the Community Centre table

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Our latest foray took us to the magnificent Lumley Castle where we dined in the mediaeval splendour of the Black Knight restaurant. Just walking through the castle and inner courtyard is a joy in itself before ever you get to the dining experience. Lunch is a set menu with a price tag of £25 per person, unless you

happen to have a voucher (and we had a few) which entitles two people to dine for £25 - an absolute bargain! We sampled, for starters, duck and orange pate with melba toast, a vegetable terrine with autumn chutney and wilted greens, and a prawn and smoked salmon salad. Main course was chicken chasseur, sea bream, and roast pork. For puds we

tried bread and butter pudding, lemon tart, and the cheese board which included grapes, celery and chutney, followed by coffee/tea with mints - all totally delicious. Attentive staff, warm and comfortable, a feast for the eyes plus good food - the whole experience was a delight - we do hope to go again.

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

WHAT'S ON?

Family Wildlife

On Easter Monday, April 5th, there will be the usual Paste Egg morning. Meet at 10 am behind Derwentside College, Lanchester, and bring an unboiled egg which we will show you how to dye in the traditional way. You will be surprised at the wonderful patterns that appear once the wrappings come off. You can then bowl your egg down Paste Egg Bank.

On Sunday 25th April, there will be a visit to Witton le Wear. Meet in the Community Centre car park at 9.30 am.

Wildlife Group

At the meeting on Tuesday 13th April at 7.30 pm in the small hall of the Community Centre, Rachel Jackson will present 'Tees Valley Pondscape'.

Lanchester Social Club Entertainment

Saturday 3rd April, KENNY, Superb Vocal Entertainer

Saturday 10th April, CHRIS SMALL, Superb Male Singer

Saturday 17th April, KARAOKE

Saturday 24th April, GAYNOR MARIE, Superb Vocalist

Lanchester History Society

The Freeman of Durham

An old friend of the Society returns to give another welcome talk. Mr Roger Norris, retired researcher from Durham Cathedral, will be giving another talk, this time his subject will be 'The Role of The Freeman of Durham'.

The talk will take place on Friday, 9th April at the usual time of 7.30 pm in the Community Centre Dining Room.

Country Market

The April market will be held in the Community Centre on the second Saturday, 10th April, from 10 am. Be there early for the usual cakes, jams, vegetables, etc.

Short Circuits Walks

10th April, Craster, 6 miles, visiting Dunstanburgh Castle, Embleton Bay and Newton Pool Nature Reserve. Meet in the NT car park, NU258201 at 10.30 am.

24th April, Roman Wall, 4.5 miles. Meet at Once Brewed Visitors' Centre on the Military Road, NY753669 at 10.30 am.

Ramblers' Association Derwentside Group

25th April, Corbridge, 7 miles. Meet in Corbridge Market Place at 10.30 am. Non members most welcome. For further information, contact Rob Green, 01207 235032, Rob.Green@talktalk.net

L.E.A.F. Craft Session

Litter Education Awareness Focus Thursday 15th April, 11.00 am - 12 noon in the Library. Free Admission. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

Mothers' Union

At our next meeting on Wednesday 14th April, 7.30 pm in the Chapter House, Dorothy Nicholas will give a talk with DVD on the History of Bellingring.

MP Surgery

Hilary Armstrong's next advice surgery, when she will be available to discuss constituents' concerns will be on Friday 16th April at 6 pm in Consett Civic Centre.

Film Club

The next film to be shown on Sunday April 11th at 7.30 pm in the Main Hall of the Community Centre is: **LOOKING FOR ERIC.** Directed by Ken Loach and starring Eric Cantona. The film verges on comedy as well as showing the shadowy side of the football world.

....A middle-aged postman suffers a nervous breakdown brought on by family trouble and an immoderate consumption of his stepson's 'weed' supply. He forges an imaginary relationship with his hero Eric Cantona, (who has, since retiring from football, discovered painting, playing the trumpet, philosophy, acting and producing films!) Eric becomes his life coach and inspiration in helping him to find himself again. Wonderful shots of Cantona's finest football moments drift into the film as the high points of the postie's life....

Do come, all welcome. Members £2, Young persons 15 and over £2, Non-members £3.50.

Croft View activities

Croft View halls are primarily used by the youth of the village such as the Boys' Brigade, Guides, Youth Club and Brass Band but a weekly indoor Bowls and Badminton club are also active in the halls. Several sporting facilities are available including Table Tennis, Pool, Badminton, Netball, Football as well as meeting rooms, kitchen facilities and internet access. These are available for hire by organisations or individuals and anyone interested should contact either Eric Hepplewhite on 521323, erichepplewhite@btinternet.com or Glyn Davison on 521853, glyndavison@hotmail.com.

Any questions?

No doubt by now election fever is taking a grip of the country and the politicians are full of promises ... always for a better future for us all. But what are the issues that concern you? Who would you like to see represent NW Durham now that Hilary Armstrong is retiring? What changes would you like to see in our community and our country?

Making up your mind on the day of the election is never an easy task. So why not come to Lanchester's very own ANY QUESTIONS.

The Environmental Group (Lanchester Partnership) and Churches Together have joined forces to organise an open evening with your local politicians, a time when you can meet most of the candidates who will be standing for election in this constituency and hear them answer questions on matters that concern YOU.

The meeting will be held on Thursday 15th April, at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church.

Everyone is welcome but come early to ensure a seat.

If you would like to ask a question at the meeting please email your question to: paulandsonny@globalnet.co.uk or leave it in the box at the Post Office before Tuesday 6th April. (Please include a telephone number so that we can contact you nearer the time.) Hopefully after the event we'll all find it that bit easier to make up our minds.

WI

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 12th April (2nd Monday due to Bank Holiday) in the small hall of the Community Centre at 7 pm. The speaker will be Bill Teasdale on "My Music" and the competition is "My favourite music and why". The deposit of £5 or the full amount of £14 is due at this meeting for the Summer trip and contributions for the sales table and raffle for the coffee morning can be brought to the meeting with cakes and fresh produce brought to the Coffee Morning. Visitors are always welcome the £1 admittance includes tea and biscuits.

WI Coffee Morning

The Spring Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday 14th April in the Community Centre 9.30 - 11.30 am. Cost of tickets is £1 which can also be paid at the door and the coffee will be served with a delicious homemade scone. There will be a Sales Table and a Raffle so please come and join us. Everyone is welcome.

Flower Club

On Wednesday 28th April at 2.00 pm there will be a demonstration entitled "Wonders of Nature" by Margaret Earl of Winlaton.

Kids are Quick

Teacher:

John, what do you call a person who keeps talking when people are no longer interested?

John:

A teacher.

WI NEWS

President Jennifer Macdonald welcomed members to our March meeting before sharing with us verses celebrating mothers and the love they give; these verses were very appropriate with Mothering Sunday coming soon. Secretary June Wallis then read out the record of the last meeting. The correspondence included leaflets from Yorkshire Tea for members and a new chart for the tea tokens we collect. County News contained a number of interesting items including a visit to Nidd Hall, June has sent for booking forms. Tickets were available for the April coffee morning and members were asked for contributions for the sales table and raffle to be brought to the next meeting. Our Summer Outing to Northallerton and Kiplin Hall will take place on Wednesday 30th June.

The cost is £14 and includes a coffee stop at the Croft Hotel, entrance to the Hall and Gardens and the coach and tips. It is market day in Northallerton and there are lots of lovely places to have lunch including Betty's. A deposit of £5 or the full amount is due at the April meeting with the balance due in June.

Our guest for the evening was Miss Margaret Walters who gave a audio/visual presentation called Nature in Focus. Margaret has many qualifications and areas of expertise which include being a member of the Royal Photographic Society and the lovely slide show of her wonderful photos set to music was indeed a joy at a time when the weather and news have been so awful. The photos which included flowers, scenery, birds and animals spoke for themselves, no words

were needed. We saw the seasons in all their glory and the scenery mostly of the Lake District was breathtaking.

You could hear a pin drop in the hall as everyone just sat back and enjoyed this opportunity to escape the outside world for a short while. Margaret waits to capture whatever she is taking a photo of at its peak and this could be clearly seen, whether it was a flower with the early morning dew or the wonderful colours of a peacock's tail. After the show Margaret answered questions then Jennifer gave the vote of thanks and Margaret joined members for tea and biscuits.

The winner of the raffle was Jennifer Macdonald and Maureen Barker was first in the competition for a flower photograph with Maureen Clarkson second.



Members Maureen Barker and Maureen Clarkson with their winning photos

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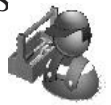
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VALLEY WALK CONSERVATION/ ACTION GROUP

The Birdbox SPRINGWATCH event led by Groundwork went very well and hopefully there will be many happy birds in Lanchester.

It was attended by around 18 adults and 20 or so children, the hammering and banging

went on until 2.30 pm with some superb hammering skills being demonstrated!

Several boxes were installed on the line near Malton picnic site on the Sunday but most boxes went home to gardens.

The next action day for the Valley Walk Group

is planned for Sunday June 6th. This will fall in 'National Volunteer' week and we hope this will encourage more volunteers to join the group and become involved in keeping our Valley Walk spruce and pleasant to enjoy!

THE MIDWEEK WALKING GROUP, LANCHESTER

Ian Andrew is pleased to report that the target figure of £135 has been raised from the sale of his booklet of walks and a cheque was sent to Willow Burn Hospice on 4th March. Since then,

more copies have been snapped up. There are still a few left, so if anyone else would like a copy, please contact Ian on 01207 520664.

The group meets at Lanchester Methodist

Church on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month to start walking (if not too wet!) at 10 am for local walks, or 9.30-9.45 am for walks which involve taking either bus or car to the starting point.

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CRUFTS 2010 - THIRD TIME LUCKY?

Taking Freya, my Norwegian Elkhound, was not really on the Agenda this year. In late summer 2008 I was unable to go to Championship Shows, and somehow I got out of the way of showing. The travelling and waiting are sometimes off-putting and none of these Shows is less than an hour away. When I bought Freya as a rather headstrong 10-month-old she had already qualified for Crufts 2007, where, handled by a friend very experienced in Elkhound showing, she was third. The following year, after winning five out of the six Shows we had been to, she was again third at Crufts with me handling her. I was given a lift to one Champ Show last year at Harewood House, Leeds, and she qualified for this year's Crufts. I entered, without much hope of being very successful as the judge was the one who had not given her first prize in 2007. However, there is no doubt about it - Crufts is amazing.



Freya, who did so well at Crufts, with Mavis Datta, Owner and Handler

Held over 4 days in 5 Halls at the NEC Birmingham, it is the biggest dog show in the world, with 22,000 dogs there from all over the world, competing in pedigree show classes, obedience and agility. There is also Discover Dogs, where each breed has a stall showing a live representative of the breed.

As usual we went on the coach which takes Hounds and Terriers, leaving Bowburn service station at 2.15 am! We arrived about 7.30 am. The place is vast. There are hundreds of stalls, selling all manner of canine products (outfits like baby-grows, sweaters and tee-shirts are in

fashion for the small dogs). The dogs are supposed to go on wooden benches, but Freya won't, so I sit there. It seemed hours before we went in the ring. I had noticed that the judge asked everyone to run round together before she looked at the dogs individually, so I went first. Freya moves better fast, so I wanted to set my own pace. Then it was my turn, more running round a very big ring. I was out of breath by the time the judge went over Freya. Again a wait while she examined all the others and then looked at us all in a line. I knew Freya looked lovely and had moved well but was still surprised when we won. Next was the Open Class, most of the entries being Champions, then I was in another class restricted to bitches who have a Kennel Club Good Citizens (Obedience) award. Freya has her Gold award and she won that class too, so we then had to go in the final line-up

of class winners to choose Best Bitch and Reserve Best Bitch in Breed. I have been in this position before and found that the winner is usually the Open class winner and very often the Reserve is the runner-up in the Open, the highest class. However the award went to the Veteran (over 7 years old) winner, who is a Champion. As she came back towards the line, I was certain the judge was going to give the Reserve to the Open Class winner, another Champion, but no, she gave it to me! I was absolutely amazed. A lot of people came up to congratulate us and make a fuss of Freya, who enjoyed it all. Who would have thought that my little pet would have achieved this! She was given a big chew as a reward and slept on the seat beside me all the way home, but I was too excited to do much sleeping and still haven't quite come down off cloud nine.

DON'T LET THIS SUMMER PASS Play your tennis on grass!!

Following a successful season in 2009, Lanchester Lawn Tennis club is gearing itself up for another busy year. With five junior teams entered in the Aegon sponsored leagues and the under 16 boys in the Northumberland and Durham league, it promises to be quite hectic at the courts on Ford Road. The seniors are not left out, as they have three veteran teams in the N and D league also. The club is about to begin its summer coaching programme. It will commence at the college courts on Monday 12th April for 3 weeks then transfer to the grass courts on Ford Road from

Monday 10th May for 10 weeks. All sessions will start at 5.30 pm (up to 10 years old) and from 6.30 pm (11 years upwards). The cost will be £2.00 for members and £4.00 for non-members. There will be box-league competitions (round robin) held for the juniors as well as the annual club tournaments for all members. A full social programme is also planned, with the ever popular BBQ and Strawberry Tea top of the list. As the club is approaching its centenary year in 2011, the Committee are busy finalising plans to celebrate this fantastic achievement. If anyone has any photographs or

historical information about the club, please contact the Secretary, Dennis Laycock, to enable him to compile a record of the last 100 years. It would be most appreciated. If anyone would like details about the club, please ring Dennis on 01207 520278 or email him at den.lizjane@googlegmail.com Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club - the place to be this summer!

NEXT DEADLINE

Please send any articles for the next edition of the Village Voice by 20th April. The deadline for adverts is 18th April.

SUCCESS FOR LANCHESTER BOWLERS

Four members of Lanchester Bowling Club were surprised to be drawn together as a team in the Women's Indoor League at Consett Sports Centre.

Despite being the least experienced, the Lanchester team came out winners. Well done Judith Collins, Anne Hurran, Christine Monaghan and Pat Rose.

LANCHESTER BOWLING CLUB SPRING MEETING

The pre-season Spring meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st April at 7.30 pm in Lanchester

Social Club. All current, former and potential new members, men and women, are welcome.

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